

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

For the Love of the Empire Ranch

The Empire Ranch holds a special place in my heart, and I am so proud of the Boice family's contributions to its remarkable history. On October 15th a long-held dream was realized when Jared McCabe and I were married in the south doorway of the Adobe Haybarn.

The steadfast long-term commitment of ERF members and supporters, and the stewardship of the BLM made our special day possible. The 25-year ERF/BLM partnership ensured the protection and preservation of the historic Headquarters buildings and developed the outreach and educational programs we enjoy today.

It was wonderful to be able to host all our annual events in 2022, along with monthly volunteer workdays, and bi-monthly docent-led tours. The newly interpreted Tack Room opened for visitors at the Cowboy Festival (see article on p. 3). We reached over 5,000 people at our events and outreach activities, and we gave formal presentations about the Empire Ranch to almost 150 listeners.

Please read and respond to the appeal letter enclosed with this newsletter. Your generous support will help us accomplish our mission and undertake important projects such as the New Ranch House renovation. The enclosed return envelope can be used to send a check, or you can donate securely on our website (www.empireranchfoundation.org).

I am so grateful to each one of you who contributes so much to the Empire Ranch and shares my love for this special place. Thank you!

Faith-Boice McCabe, ERF President

Cowboy Festival Weekend Enjoyed by All



The Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival, held November 5-6, 2022, continued the Foundation's 22-year tradition of hosting an annual celebration to raise public awareness, funds and friends. The first event, called the Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House, was held on September 16, 2000. Over 500 visitors attended, and a fundraiser BBQ prepared by Steve Boice and his sisters Sherry, Carol, and Kitty was well-attended. Almost 2,000 participants enjoyed the many offerings of the 2022 Festival. "I love experiencing the history of this place," commented one visitor.

Saturday morning, after B Troop 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Memorial) presented the colors and Sonora Schmitt sang the national anthem, ERF President Faith-Boice McCabe led the ribbon cutting for the first public opening of the newly interpreted Tack Room (article p. 3). And then the headquarters came alive with the sights and sounds of music, animal demonstrations, presentations, and conversations.

In the Arena Sarah Ogilive's working cattle dogs herded cattle and Joel Eliot and George Masek's horsemanship and cattle handling talents were on full display. B-Troop soldiers provided exciting precision riding, jumping, and shooting performances. Regi Richter demonstrated horse training techniques. The historic Spanish Barb horses performed under the direction of the Spanish Barb Horse Association. The Charros y Modelos de Tucson demonstrated the art of Mexican horsemanship, wearing the colorful traditional attire.

(continued, p. 2)

Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Donations to the Foundation may be sent to: P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637-0842.

Cowboy Festival (cont'd)

Traditional Western music was provided throughout the day by Jay Faircloth, duo Greg Morton & Jim Stanley, and Way Out West. Western skills demonstrators included Ken Kurtz (blacksmithing), Bill Schock (branding), Brad Faulkner (saddlemaking), Byrd Moss (silversmithing), Joe Mortimer (electrical telegraphy), and Jeff Eppley (vintage engines).

Almost all the slots for the 45-minute trail rides of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area were sold and the Saturday night chuckwagon dinner was sold out. EZ Cattle Company Cow Camp Café and Chuckwagon served up NY strip steak, chicken, potatoes, vegetable, biscuit & cobbler for dessert. Singer/songwriter Janice Deardorff entertained the diners.

First-time speakers in the Cowboy Conversation tent included Bill Cavaliere "The Chiricahua Apaches of Southern Arizona" and Alison Bunting and Chip Fears "The 1890 Cattle Drive from the Empire Ranch to California."

Western film lovers always enjoy hearing Bunker DeFrance, Marty Freese, and Gene Freese's tales about Western movie making, and learning about movies filmed in Empire Ranch territory. Gary Turner returned to talk about his great-grandfather, Empire Ranch foreman Tom Turner, and JJ Lamb told the story of Vail, AZ.

Doug Hocking entertained his audience with tales of train robberies in southeastern Arizona, Faith-Boice McCabe spoke of the Boice family legacy, and Ian and Addie Tomlinson described current ranching operations on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Western authors included John Buzzard, Bill Cavaliere, Gail Corkill, Doug Hocking, and John McLaughlin. The 16 nonprofit organizations and 19 vendors reported lots of activity at their booths throughout the two days.

We are so grateful for the 200+ presenters, demonstrators, authors, and volunteers whose efforts make the Cowboy Festival possible. And special thanks are due to the sponsors and silent auction donors listed on the right for their generous support.

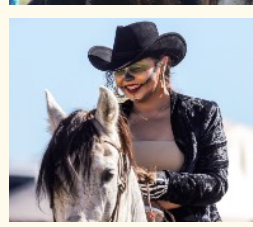
Photos: K. Jones; MaureenKirkArt; Missy Blair/As Is Photography; Nicole Damian Photography; P. Packard; Through the Hoop Photography; Whispering Cricket Photography



*Tumacacori National Historical Park & Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
Mounted Color Guard riding in from Hwy 83.*



*Plenty to see and do for all!
Photo credits below left.*



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Tack Room Interpretation



Cowboy Festival participants were among the first to enjoy the newly interpreted Tack Room. Located on the east side of the Empire Ranch House, it was most likely constructed about 1915 by Banning Vail. The Vail family primarily used the Tack Room as a farrier's shop though some tack was kept there. The Boice family and later the Donaldson family used the Tack Room to house tack, farrier tools, horseshoes, and veterinary equipment. From 2008 to 2021 the Tack Room was used by BLM and ERF for a variety of storage purposes.



Early in 2022 BLM approved ERF's proposal to interpret the Tack Room to reflect its original uses. The saddle racks that line the wall now house saddles; bridles, bits, and other tack hang on walls above the saddles. An 1880s chuckwagon box, complete with coffee grinder, is on display, surrounded by cast iron Dutch ovens used for chuckwagon cooking.

Blacksmithing equipment includes a portable forge and several branding irons. An early 20th century carpentry tool chest sits next to a built-in shelving unit where all manner of carpentry tools is displayed. The Tack Room will be open during docent tours and special events

Dedicated Gifts

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received
In Memory of:

Bob & Miriam Boice,

A Special Day



The Adobe Haybarn provided a wonderful background for the wedding of ERF President Faith Boice and Jared McCabe on October 15, 2022. Congratulations Faith and Jared! It was a lovely ceremony and a special day.

Welcome Colleen & Clint

ERF welcomes new BLM Tucson Field Manager Colleen Dingman and Archeologist Clint Dalton.



Colleen Dingman started as the Tucson Field Manager on October 23, 2022. She has B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology and worked as an archaeologist for several years in the private sector.

As a college student she worked as a BLM fire dispatcher in Carson City, NV. In 2004 she was appointed archaeologist with the BLM Rock Springs Field Office and then worked as the Carson City District Project Manager. "I look forward to forging positive working relationships with our partners and managing the diverse landscapes within the Tucson Field Office," said Colleen.



Clint Dalton came on board on May 22, 2022. He has B.A. in Anthropology and graduate training in Cultural Resource Management. Clint's federal archaeology career started in 2007 as an archaeological technician on the Pike National Forest in Colorado. He subsequently held positions at the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas, and the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. "I am excited to learn more about the history of Southeastern Arizona and its cultural resources" shared Clint.

Mary Vail Boland,
Barbara Ann Cech,
Steve Culler,

Edward Newhall Vail,
Mary Brownie Vail

In Honor of:

Faith Boice/Jared McCabe Wedding



"Gunfight at OK Corral"

Viewing classic western films on the big screen at The Loft Cinema is a special experience. The Sunday matinee showing of "Gunfight at the OK Corral" on September 11, 2022 was preceded by a panel presentation featuring author Gene Freese; stuntman Bunker DeFrance; and Mark Sankey, Mescal Movie Set.



The trio told stories about the filming of the 1957 movie featuring Burt Lancaster as Wyatt Earp and Kirk Douglas as Doc Holliday. Did you know that the gunfight scene took four days to film, lasted five minutes on screen, and 34 shots were fired in 30 seconds? The Earp brothers all had mustaches in real life, but no mustaches in the film.

The Foundation greatly appreciates The Loft Cinema's sponsorship of these movie showings, and the support they provide for the preservation of the historic Empire Ranch.

Departed Friend Van Fowers

Van A. Fowers, ERF docent and volunteer, died in the summer of 2022. Van loved and studied southeastern Arizona history and was a wonderful story-



teller and re-enactor. He became an ERF docent in 2012 and provided many tours of the Empire Ranch House.

Van was a popular speaker at the Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival. One of his talks featured Van as Walter Vail. Another presentation was about the history of Old Tucson.

Working Calendar

Note: Please check our website to confirm event details (empireranchfoundation.org). Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829. or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

December 2022

- 3 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org
- 10 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, reservations required by 5pm of the day prior to the tour.
- 10 Christmas at the Ranch**, 10am-2pm. Empire Ranch House. Free, open to all.
- 15 ERF Board Meeting**, 6-8pm. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.

January 2023

- 7 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

14&28 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, reservations required by 5pm of the day prior to the tour.

February 2023

- 4 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

11&25 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, reservations required by 5pm of the day prior to the tour.

- 16 ERF Board Meeting**, 9am-11am. Call 888-364-2829 for location.

March 2023

- 4 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

11&25 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, reservations required by 5pm of the day prior to the tour.

Save the Date!

**Spring Trail Ride
April 1, 2023**

Christmas at the Empire Ranch

Join us for our **2022 Christmas at the Empire Ranch** event on Saturday, December 10th, from 10am to 2pm. The Empire Ranch House will be decorated for Christmas, and we have lots of fun activities planned for the day.



Plan to do some Christmas shopping at the Foundation gift shop and local vendors. Enjoy presentations, music, and demonstrations. And be sure to bring your Christmas wish list to share with Santa. See the enclosed flyer for more information and the ERF website for the most recent program updates [www.empireranchfoundation.org].