



## *17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride A Thon Wrap-up!*

Having never been to the Ride A Thon, I was very excited to see what it was all about. I agreed to haul a horse of one of our riders to the site so I already felt like a real cowboy. After riding to Canada, just kidding, I saw the legendary Horses Help signs which made me put down my GPS, 'cause cowboys do not ask for directions, and spotted my ole friend, Roger McLean. Because I am a dignitary, Roger gave me a front parking space, and because he did not want to see me spend hours backing up the trailer. As I opened up the back of the trailer my beautiful Fox Trotter tinkled on my leg. After getting her out of the trailer I slipped and fell on her fresh poop, sooooo now I not only looked like a cowboy, I smelled like one too! I was ready for anything.



We were greeted by our registration professionals, Lucky Hayes, Donna Herbranson, Jan Blake and our own Cindy Ramsey. These ladies made everyone feel right at home; as they checked everyone in and made sure you had some of the finest cookies you ever tasted. Rogers's wife Elena baked the cookies and will never give up the recipe.



After waving good bye and singing the American Family Insurance jingle to Glenn Jordan and his band of riders, the next step was a walk down to the rental horses. Cave Creek Outfitters did an amazing job of loading 50 riders in short order and then they were led out into the Granite Mountain area for a very scenic trail ride. It was great to see a lot of our long time friends and volunteers braving the weather to get closer to nature.



Back at the camp, Tootles arrived with her son to prepare the wonderful lunch for our hungry cowpokes upon their return. When you bite into one of Tootles Brats and close your eyes, you would think you were in the first row dugout seat at a Boston Red Sox game. Nothing could be better. She was helped by Lyn Deneen, and Mary Alice Hegreness who brought the beans and left some in her car.



A big thanks goes out to Christine Nelson and Bill Scott for handling the accounting in the very safe tack shed, Nina Turley and Star Thornton for marking the trail and finally a big thank you to Ralph Hegreness the Board Chair for Horses Helps Fundraising Committee for providing the direction for our very successful event.



**Did you know that there are prizes given out at a Ride A Thon? Well indeed there were.**

- **The youngest rider award went to Colleen Gallagher age 13.**
- **The Oldest rider went to JW White (age withheld at request).**
- **The rider coming the furthest to participate was JW White (Buckeye)**
- **The most money collected from pledges was Rebecca Delaware**
- **The most pledges was Crystal McDonald with 28 pledges.**
- **Most Beautiful: Ralph Hegreness. Only Mary Alice voted for this one!**
- **Cowboy Hero: Glenn Jordan who rescued a rider from difficult terrain!**

**Each winner received a trip to Hawaii!.....just kidding we are non profit ya know.**

**Well, it seems everyone made it back safely. Lots of big smiles and good fellowship. I was proud to be a part of Horses Help on this day. We made some money for our programs and made a few new friends along the way.**

**Horses Help began with a vision, twenty years later, we maintain a vibrant vision for the future, focused on creating special programs with very special partners. We invite everyone to share this experience with us.**

**Happy Trails,  
Gregg Goodman  
Executive Director**