

Verde River Days Civil War Event

at

Dead Horse Ranch State Park
675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

September 25-26, 2010

The annual Verde River Days weekend honors one of Arizona's most beautiful and well preserved riparian habitats with ongoing live entertainment, recreational activities, environmental exhibits, and of course the Civil War reenactment. In contrast with Picacho Peak, Dead Horse Ranch State Park is not historically connected to any particular Civil War theme, and elements of its landscape are more suggestive of Civil War sites farther east.

The Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce is overall event sponsor and coordinator, with Dead Horse Ranch State Park the host. Actual reenactment planning will be coordinated by the Southwest Civil War Association, with new Board member Stan Kobjek the primary contact. Living in the Verde Valley, I will continue to function as liaison and facilitator. As last year, we will utilize areas west and north of the West Lagoon on both sides of the main park road. Verde River Days exhibits and entertainment will be located in the Jay Loop area, while recreational activities utilize lagoons, the river, and local trails.

The Dead Horse Ranch elevation is 3300 feet. In late September, afternoons can be quite warm, and early mornings quite chilly. There is an outdoor potable water tap and a rest room building within reasonable walking distance from the camps, and we are again hoping to have two port-a-johns and a hand wash station conveniently located. Firewood will also be provided.

Setup can be as early as Thursday, the 23rd, and reenactor vehicles may be parked in the encampment areas for unloading throughout Thursday and Friday, then removed to the specified reenactor parking area.

Spencer & Jackson will again be setting up on the grassy area just to the west of the rest room building. A few exhibitors or sutlers may also use that general area, with the stipulation that there can be no campfires, vehicles, tents with floors, nor other ground use that could damage the grass. Sufficient space without such restrictions will remain available across the road.

Verde River Days Steering Committee meetings, will likely start sometime in June, and I will keep you periodically informed of developments. You can also access azstateparks.com then go to *Dead Horse Ranch*. The Cottonwood Chamber, cottonwoodchamberaz.org will eventually have information about this year's VRD, as will the Southwest Civil War Association, swcwa.com. Registration materials will be made available in the not too distant future, and schedules for Verde River Days and Civil War reenactment activities will be sent out in September, when pretty much finalized.

Wade Cox
VRD Reenactment
2316 S. Sunset Drive lwcbuck@aol.com
Camp Verde, AZ 86322 928-567-7435