



Spuria News

Fall 2021

The Spuria Iris Society is a section of the American Iris Society



'IBEX IBIS'

2021 Eric Nies Winner (shared winner)

Brad Kasperek - 2012

(Kate Brewitt photo)



'Steely Don'
2021 Eric Nies Winner (shared winner)

J. T. Aitken - 2012

(C. Coleman photo)

Board of Directors

(terms expire 2023)

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Gower, MO 64454-8613
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E-mail: jim@comancheacresiriris.com

Spuria Iris Society e-mail address: spuriairissociety@gmail.com

President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected officers serving 3 year terms and take office at SIS Annual Board Meeting at the AIS Convention or July 1 if no AIS Convention. The current terms expire in 2023.

The Spuria Iris Society is a section of the American Iris Society and holds a Board of Directors meeting each year at the AIS National Convention. As an affiliate of the AIS, the Spuria Iris Society is a tax exempt organization, group exemption number 3686. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

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Membership Rates

Annual Domestic (includes Canada)	\$12
Tri-annual Domestic (includes Canada) .	\$30
ALL E-Members* - Annual . . .	\$ 6
ALL E-Members* - Tri-annual .	\$15
Annual Overseas	\$15
Tri-annual Overseas	\$40

* E-Members receive an electronic copy of the Spuria News and **must have a current e-mail address on file with the Spuria Iris Society.**

Membership Renewals

For memberships that are expiring, the renewal due date is

located in the upper right hand corner of the address label. Membership renewals may be made by:

1. Electronically through the Spuria website (www.spuriairissociety.org) using PayPal via the membership page.
2. Electronically through the AIS website (www.irises.org) using either Visa, Master Card or PayPal.
3. By mail sending the appropriate funds (check made out to "Spuria Iris Society") to the Membership Chair, include your name, mailing address and E-mail address if renewing as an E-Member (required).

Article Submission

For articles, information, or photos to be printed in the Spuria News, please submit to the Editor, Darol Jurn (spuriairissociety@gmail.com or djurn@prodigy.net). Publication deadlines are:

Spring edition: February 28
Fall edition: August 31

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The Spuria Iris Society can be found online at:

www.spuriairissociety.org and
www.facebook.com/spuriairissociety
e-mail: spurisirissociety@gmail.com

President's Message

by Andi Rivarola



Dear spuria iris lovers,
 Summer is winding down and fall is entering with a new opportunity for our plants to develop and grow.

What an incredible experience we've had so far in 2020 and 2021. Stories to tell our grandchildren! This pandemic has not only woken

up a mean virus but also some dormant societal diseases like nothing before. It has also brought to life the use of technology in so many ways. It is now acceptable to Zoom for any purpose, and it has saved us humans to continue to communicate with one another. I hope you are zooming with others in your iris club, and that you have watched the interesting webinars on gardening, irises and nature that have been available and still are.

Are you acquiring new spuria, have you found new introductions that you like? I've had several spuria iris in pots that I've carefully filled with good soil to the rim. Each 5-gallon pot saved my plants from the ravaging grasps of gophers who pretty much have devoured my other plantings. What to do? There are so many of them and so few of us? I've created a new bed, where by putting down some chicken wire I'm hoping they will not enter. Have you tried this before? I'm following this process slowly, trying not to lose more plants.

In case you haven't heard, the Spuria Mini-Convention in conjunction with the Louisiana Mini-Convention have been moved to 2024. The exact dates are posted somewhere else in this newsletter. Spuria hybridizers are encouraged to send their spuria rhizomes to Bonnie and Hooker Nichols this fall. We will appreciate it since we love seeing new spuria introductions.

I wish you a fantastic fall season, and then also a happy holiday season.

Andi Rivarola,
 President Spuria Iris Society

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Debbie James
 Report date 02/01/2021 through 09/01/2021

Beginning Balance	\$8,126.74
Income	
Checklist:	45.00
Membership:	
Annual e-membership:	6.00
Triennial e-membership:	75.00
Annual domestic membership:	84.00
Triennial domestic membership:	<u>300.00</u>
Total Income:	\$510.00
Expenses	
Newsletter costs:	171.38
Website	135.04
PayPal Fees:	<u>10.35</u>
Total Expenses:	\$316.77
Ending Balance:	\$8,1319.97
CD Balance:	\$1,214.41
Total Assets:	\$9,534.38

New & Returning Members

The Spuria Iris Society welcomes the following new and returning members:

- Deborah Rutledge, Burkburnett, TX
- Blanche, Reine, Hockessin, DE
- Florence Darthenay, Courbevoie, France
- Crystal MacDonald, Attleboro, MA

Spuria News

Board of Director Minutes

No Board activity has been conducted since the 2021 spring edition of the Spuria News (the previous board action was taken January 10, 2019).

Spuria News Archive

Historic editions of the Spuria News can be found in the AIS online Hager-DuBose Memorial Iris Library of Iris Literature located at: <http://wiki.irises.org/Hist/ArchiveSpuriaNews>

Spuria Mini-Convention

Mark your calendar, the Louisiana & Spuria Iris Joint Mini-Convention has been set for April 25-27, 2024 in Dallas TX.

Spuria Iris Society - A Call For Rhizomes

A new date for the Spuria and Louisiana iris mini-convention to be held in the Dallas area is set: April 25-27, 2024.

The convention host would very much like to get guest plants for this event.

Please send your rhizomes this fall to:

Hooker T Nichols, Guest Iris Chairman
3365 Northaven Road
Dallas, Texas 75229

214-676-9892

We really appreciate your help and support.

Digital Program

The Spuria Iris Society is happy to bring you the 2013 Digital Presentation for your iris or garden club.

Please order the digital program via Paypal or send a check made to the Spuria Iris Society to our Treasurer:

Debbie James - Spuria Iris Society Treasurer
6634 Gaviota St.
Lake Balboa, CA 91406-5943

The current price is \$10.00.

Once the payment is received, an E-mail note will be sent to the buyer with information about downloading the program online via Goggle Drive. (If for some reason you do not have access to Goggle Drive, please let us know.)

Andi Rivarola
andinsky@gmail.com

Spuria Checklist

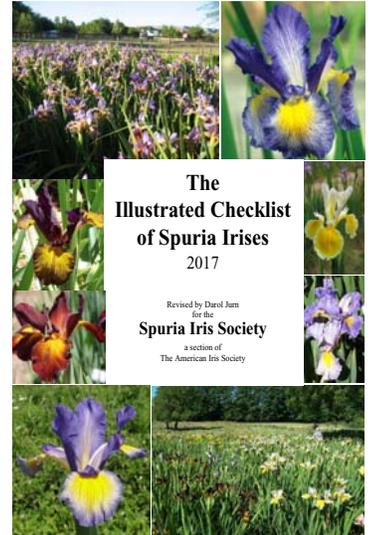
The 2017 Spuria Checklist is currently available. This checklist includes many *new* and *updated* photographs including registrations through 2017, 265 pages. The price including postage is:

- \$45 for domestic orders,
- \$55 for Canada orders (US dollars),

- \$65 for International orders (US dollars)

To purchase perform ONE of the following:

- Visit <http://www.spuriairissociety.org/books> using PayPal.
- Send a check to the Treasurer, Debbie James, made out to the Spuria Iris Society.



Include the following information with your order: Name, Address, State, City (and country for international orders). Please include an e-mail address or phone number so that we may contact you if necessary.

Visit the Spuria Iris Society "store" where anyone can purchase spuria items such as clothing, coffee mugs, and various other items. Visit <https://www.cafepress.com/spuriairissociety> to view available items.

Spuria Membership

Total Memberships = 146
 Total Memberships last year = 161
 Members who belong to AIS = 68
 Life Members = 39
 E-Memberships = 27

Complimentary Memberships:
 New Zealand Iris Society - newsletter exchange
 AIS Bulletin - Jane Milliman
 AIS Library
 AIS President - Jody Nolin
 Dave Niswonger - Honorary Life

Overseas Members:
 France = 1 Hungary = 1
 New Zealand = 1 Russia = 1

Domestic Membership by State:
 AR = 3 AZ = 7 CA = 34 CO = 3
 DE = 1 FL = 1 GA = 4 HI = 1

IA = 3	ID = 2	IL = 2	IN = 1
KS = 2	MA = 2	MI = 3	MN = 1
MO = 4	MT = 1	NC = 3	ND = 1
NE = 3	NM = 3	NV = 4	NY = 1
OH = 3	OR = 7	PA = 1	SC = 3
SD = 3	TN = 3	TX = 21	VA = 1
WA = 6	WI = 1	Canada: = 2	

Spuria Symposium

By Darol Jurn

It is that time of year to find out what spuria are your favorites. How was your spuria iris season? Here in Sedona we had below average rain and average temperatures through our summer dormant season, so far this fall has been cooler and wetter than normal. Last spring my spuria bloom was delayed well after the TB bloom.

In spite of the type of season you may have had we hope you will share your list of favorite spuria irises from this year's growing season. It will be interesting to see which ones each of you enjoyed. Will 'Line Dancing' be the top iris again this year?

Remember, each member can select up to 10 irises. Your TOP favorite should appear in the first position. The remaining should be listed in descending order of preference. Points will be awarded as follows,

- 10 points are awarded to the first Spuria listed
- 9 points are awarded to the second Spuria listed
- 8 points are awarded to the third Spuria listed
- And on down the list so that 1 point is awarded to the tenth Spuria listed

The top 10 Spurias will be determined based on the total number of points earned by each of the cultivars selected.

Don't forget to indicate the location of your garden and/or your USDA zones. Varietal comments are always welcome. Your input could assist others in deciding which ones they may want to grow.

Return your list to Darol Jurn **NO LATER THAN November 16, 2021.**

E-mail: djurn@prodigy.net

Mail to: Darol Jurn
100 Sedona Vista Dr.
Sedona, AZ 86338-6017
USA

AIS Spuria Awards

(numbers listed are votes cast)

The Eric Nies Medal (Total votes cast = 161)

- 32 - Ibis Ibis (Brad Kasperek - 2012)
- 27 - Steely Don (J. T. Aitken - 2012)

Runners Up:

- 25 - Hot Chili (J. T. Aitken - 2014)
- 23 - Ode To A Toad (Brad Kasperek - 2012)
- 22 - Some Say It's Pink (Lee Walker - 2009)
- 18 - Going Wild In Missouri (O. D. Niswonger - 2012)
- 14 - Comanche Moon (Charles Jenkins by Jim Hedgecock - 2008)

Award of Merit (Total votes cast = 137)

- 19 - Adriatic Memories (Kevin Vaughn - 2009)
- 18 - Red Warlord (Lee Walker - 2016)



'Adriatic Memories' - Kevin Vaughn photo



Red Warlord - Lee Walker photo

Runners Up:

- 13 - Banned In Boston (Kevin Vaughn - 2012)
- 13 - Lemon Shortcake (O. D. Niswonger - 2013)
- 12 - As The Tern Turnz (Brad Kasperek - 2013)
- 12 - Ross Island (Nancy Price - 2012)
- 11 - Cast Of Walnut (J. T. Aitken - 2013)
- 11 - Mahogany Ember (Lawrence Johnsen - 2013)
- 11 - Wichita Lineman (Jim Hedgecock - 2014)

Honorable Mention (Total votes cast = 78)

- 9 - Hawthorne Bridge (Nancy Price - 2015)
- 8 - Apache Butte (Jim Hedgecock - 2017)
- 8 - Mister David (Anna Cadd - 2017)



Hawthorne Bridge - Nancy Price photo



Mister David - Anna Cadd photo

Runners Up:

- 6 - Other Side Of Pluto (Anna Cadd - 2017)
- 6 - Royal Coat (J. T. Aitken - 2015)
- 5 - Evangelist (Jim Hedgecock - 2015)
- 5 - Small Endeavor (Jim Hedgecock - 2017)
- 5 - Zippy Zebra (Brad Kasperek - 2015)



Apache Butte - Jim Hedgecock photo

Missouri Ramblin

By Jim Hedgecock

Hello Spuria Enthusiasts,

I hope this spuria bulletin finds you all well. Interest in spurias have exploded for us in the past 2 years.

Our problem in the Midwest is growing enough stock to supply the market. Spurias simply do not grow as fast as they do in the western states. When we do a new planting, we figure it will be at least 3 years before we will have enough increase to sell.

I would like to encourage you, if you are a spuria hybridizer and you have new breakthrough in color or patter, please share it with us in the bulletin or maybe on the spuria website. I am told that new

orange spuria has been introduced. I have tried to contact that grower and I got no response. You can't win awards by keeping your introductions a secret.

I always try to remind you to tell me or the society when you get a new breakthrough in colors or patterns. A hint here is to make crosses using different species. New things will happen by mixing the gene pools.

Have a great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. God Bless you and your families and gardens.

Respectfully,
Jim Hedgecock

Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

This past year I had a good spuria bloom. I previously shared issues with my disappointing 2020 iris bloom. For the 2021 bloom season I replaced my drip lines due to clogging of some emitters. I also changed my fertilizing behavior applying fertilizer by hand around the clumps vs. using a broadcast spreader (the previous couple years I used the broadcast spreader and may have been a little stingy with the fertilizer application). Anyhow I had a much better 2021 bloom season and for some unknown reason I had an overwhelming bee pod crop, now am overwhelmed with seeds. With that being said I recall in a previous "Blast From the Past" that Dave Niswonger once speculated if there was a connection of bloom related to seed color (dark colored vs. light colored seeds). While harvesting my bee pods I noticed a few pods that had a mix of light and dark colored seeds. I retained a couple of the bee pods with plans to plant them noting the seed color. This will make for a little experiment that will hopefully produce interesting results.

A Blast From the Past

By Darol Jurn

This column is only possible with the support of the members and clubs who have provided historic

Spuria newsletters to the Spuria Iris Society for electronic capture. With this being said here is the continuation of "A Blast from the Past."

Sixty years ago (1961) - In the fall edition Eleanor McCown had experimented with cross pollination between louisiana and spuria using the spuria as the pod parent. She reported: "*I was concentrating on the spuria for seed and gave the louisiana no protection from natural pollination. However, the only three pods that were set on louisiana's were those I had hand pollinated with spuria pollen.*"

This is an interesting statement, the editor did a light search to see if Eleanor had reported any outcome of this cross, none was located.

Fifty years ago (1971): From the cover of the July edition which presented a photo of Karol Hansen with a bouquet of orchids and spuria iris provided by Archie Owen, the caption noted that the spuria in the photo were *I. ochroleuca* grown unattended in a horse pasture. The interesting tidbit also noted in the caption is that "horses do not like the blossoms and foliage of spuria iris"..... I found this interesting as on occasion we have a deer or two visit my garden on occasion and help themselves to a bloom or two during the bloom season.

Forty years ago (1981): The fall edition has an article contributed by Dr. George Rodionenko of Russia. His article discusses the native spuria found in Russia, *I. halophia*. An interesting tidbit in the article notes: "In Moldavia, e.g., along the River Kagilnik *I. halophia* makes continuous colonies many kilometers long. In Steppe regions, *I. halophia* enjoys the presence of salt in the soil which accounts for its specific name "salt-loving."

Thirty years ago (1991): This was a busy year for spuria registrations and introductions with a total of 25 cultivars. Charles Jenkins had 8 on the list, Barry Blyth: 3, Pierre Anfosso: 3, Joe Ghio: 2, Ben Hagar: 2, Hector Collins: 2, Dave Niswonger: 2 and John Wight, Richard Sloan and Floyd Wickenkamp with one each.

The Rescue of Dark Dutchess

By Darol Jurn

Many spuria lovers may recall the name of hybridizer Larry Johnsen. He has hybridized nine spuria including 'Midnight Rival' (introduced 1993), 'Lemon Dilemma' (introduced 1993), 'Seriously' (introduced 2010), 'Mahogany Ember' (introduced 2013), 'Silver Sonata' (introduced 2018), 'Bella Blue' (registered 2012), 'Mulberry Waltz' (registered 2012), 'Kristi's Chorus' (registered 2012), and 'Dark Dutchess' (registered 2015). This story is about on one of these spuria, 'Dark Dutchess'.

A Spuria Mini Convention was planned for 2017 in California by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society with the support of the Spuria Iris Society. The guest gardens were The Huntington (Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens) in San Marino and The Descanso Gardens in Flintridge. When a call for rhizomes was made for the planned Spuria convention Larry submitted spuria seedling MD-3 which was later registered as 'Dark Dutchess'. At this time the only cultivars of 'Dark Dutchess' in existence were in Larry's garden and The Huntington. It was near the time of the convention or shortly thereafter Larry experienced a die off of his entire spuria bed. It is suspected that the die off may have been the result of the careless introduction of a herbicide by landscapers or perhaps some other unknown cause (Larry's bed may not be capable of supporting spuria). It was shortly after Larry lost 'Dark Dutchess' that the Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS), under the direction of then PAIS President Dennis Luebkin, was establishing iris beds of Arizona hybridizers in Prescott College's sculpture garden. In the club's quest to acquire a rhizome of Larry Johnsen's 'Dark Dutchess' PAIS requested a rhizome of 'Dark Dutchess' from The Huntington which they obliged. Knowing that Larry had lost his spuria bed I requested a rhizome of 'Dark Dutchess' from the PAIS garden when an increase became available (actually it was in Dennis Luebkin's garden which would be transferred to the PAIS garden at the Prescott College Sculpture Garden). Unfortunately that plan was unsuccessful and it is unknown the status of 'Dark Dutchess' in the PAIS garden. It was not until 2021 I realized that 'Dark Dutchess' may not be available from the PAIS garden and pursued getting another rhizome of 'Dark Dutchess' from The Huntington. Having no contacts at The Huntington, I contacted Spuria and San Fernando Valley Iris Society President Andi Rivarola for assistance.

Andi connected me with a representative at The Huntington who indicated they were down to a single rhizome of 'Dark Dutchess' as a result of the spuria bed becoming home to gophers..... Thanks to the generosity of The Huntington they provided me their only rhizome of 'Dark Dutchess' where it is now in my garden and starting off well. So I will see what the future will bring for 'Dark Dutchess'. My intent is to eventually get this cultivar introduced. Larry is now in his 80s, and that is another reason that I went on a hunt to rescue this beautiful spuria .



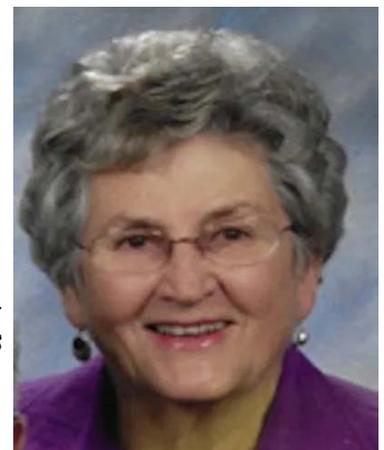
'Dark Dutchess' - Larry Johnsen photo

Maxine Perkins Obituary

Sourced from the Las Cruces Sun News Obituary column

Lillie Maxine Perkins, resident of Autumn Blessings in Logan NM, passed away on September 9, 2021. Maxine was born on January 22, 1928 in Tucumcari, NM.

Maxine was past president of the Spuria Iris Society during the years 1989-1993. She also served as American Iris Society Director and Regional Vice Presi-



dent. She loved judging, hosting conferences, and growing the most beautiful iris. Maxine was a woman of many talents and hobbies but her most cherished hobby was her flower garden. People traveled from all over the United States to see Maxine's flowers.

Additional details may be found in her obituary at: <https://www.lcsun-news.com/obituaries/tnm052285>.

Iris Pseudonotha

By Rodney Barton

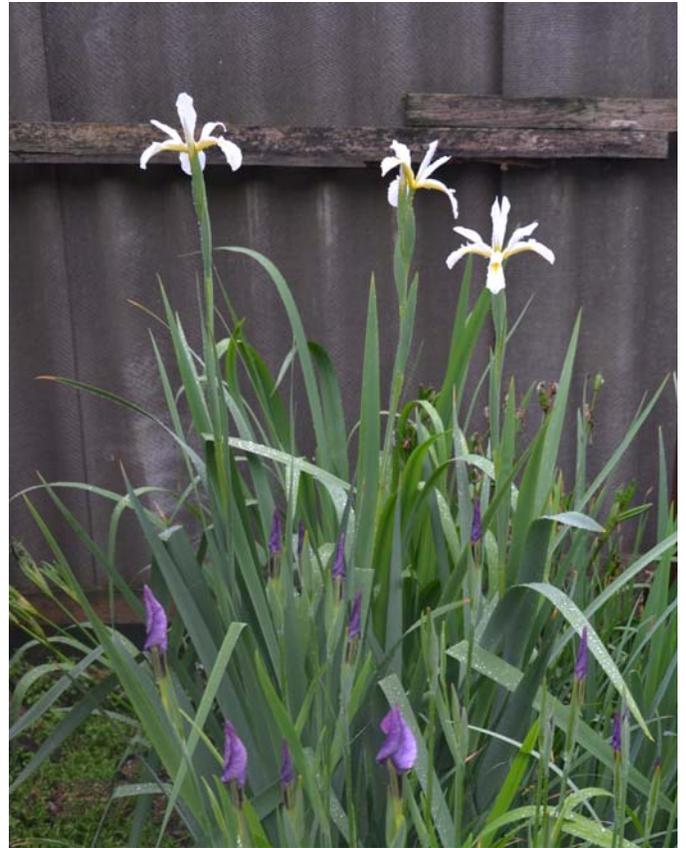
(sourced from the LA & Spuria species Google groups)

Here's a photo of *I. pseudonotha* grown from SIGNA seed lot 13SP224 originally from Russia. It's obviously one of the spuria species. It's about 20 inches tall and has very fine foliage. This is my first bloom but I don't remember when I started it.

Rod.



I. pseudonotha - Rodney Barton photo



'Frigiya' - Sergey Strogonov photo



'Frigiya' - Sergey Strogonov photo

From the World of Facebook

From Facebook Iris Lovers (Russia)

Sergey Strogonov from Russia posted the following photos with the caption: 'Frigiya' (*I. monnieri* X *I. orientalis* by Georgi Rodionenko' 2001/1985)

Spuria Sources

Abbey Gardens (Nancy Price)
32009 S. Ona Way
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E-mail: flags711@gmail.com

Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens (Terry Aitken)
608 NW 119th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685-3802
Phone: (360) 573-4472
Fax: (360) 576-7012
E-mail: aitken@flowerfantasy.net
Website: www.flowerfantasy.net

Cascadia Iris Gardens (Patrick & Margaret Spence)
P.O. Box 1062
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
Phone: (425) 770-5984
E-Mail: Patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com
Website: www.cascadiairisgardens.com

Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden (Anna Cadd)
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Healdsburg, CA 95448-4209
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E-mail: caddsisiris@comcast.net



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Toll free: (855) 414-4747 (orders only)
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Website: www.comancheacresiris.com



Kary Iris Garden (Ardi Kary)
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4224
Phone: (480) 949-0253
E-mail: ardikary@aol.com

Quail Hill Gardens
2460 Compton Bridge Road
Inman, SC 29349-8489
Phone: (864) 472-3339

Wildwood Gardens (Will Plotner)
P.O. Box 250
Molalla, OR 97038-0250
E-mail: gardens@molalla.net
E-mail Will Plotner for a PDF catalogue.



If you have a commercial garden that sells Spuria and would like it listed in the Spuria News, please contact the Spuria News Editor, Darol Jurn at one of the following e-mail addresses: djurn@prodigy.net or spuriairissociety@gmail.com

For advertising in the Spuria News, rates for two editions of the Spuria News are as follows:

Full page: \$30
Half page: \$20
Quarter page: \$15

To submit advertising send the appropriate amount to:
Debbie James
6634 Gaviota St.
Lake Balboa, CA 91406-5943

E-mail: dbabski1962@yahoo.com

Send a hard or electronic copy of the advertisement to the Spuria News Editor:

Darol Jurn
100 Sedona Vista Dr.
Sedona, AZ 86336

e-mail: djurn@prodigy.net OR
spuriairissociety@gmail.com

We request you provide a copy (electronic JPG or PDF format) of your desired advertisement. Please ensure the resolution is sufficient for the size of the advertisement.