Trail Riders Of Today
TNOT News July 1999
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Editor: Suzanne Anderson
TNOT Information
301-596-9425
301-829-3883 FAX

NEWS

July 1999 | Electronic Edition | Number 117

Irving Abb Memorial Trophy Awarded to Grand Champion Shirley Hovermale!

Shirley Hovermale of Hagerstown was the first winner of the Irving Abb Memorial Trophy at the June 6 Judged Pleasure Ride sponsored by Trail Riders of Today (TNOT). The ride was held in the Catoctin area of Patapsco Valley State Park.

Shirley and her Quarterhorse, no Bold Venture, packed the Grand Champion top score from among a record 81 entries. Shirley and No Bold Venture's horse and rider team had to complete a 10-mile trail ride on which there were 12 test obstacles. Each horse was judged on how well it behaved at each test. This year horses encountered such things as a low lamb, spray bottles, strobe lights, and even a large toy shark floating in the North Branch.

Shirley's championship ride was especially remarkable since she suffered a broken leg in a riding accident only 3 weeks before the ride. "I was told by my doctor last winter that maybe I wouldn't be able to ride again," she writes in a lovely thank you note to the ride organizers. "We have always enjoyed your rides and the good fellowship. Hope to continue riding with you all for a long time."

The Irving Abb Memorial Trophy was presented for the first time this year in memory of Irving Abb, well-known trail horseman, who passed away in 1998. Mr. Abb was credited with establishing many of the trails throughout the Catoctin and introducing hundreds of budding riders to the joys of trail riding.

Mr. Abb enjoyed hosting rides from his home on the outskirts of Frederick into the Catoctin Mountain Park. His property bordered the park at the top of the Sugarloaf Mountain area. He also served in the Catoctin Mountain Park as a volunteer for trail maintenance and as a member of the Horse Patrol, checking trails for safety. He was a charter member of TNOT and served as TNOT's first president. Mr. Abb often volunteered his land for rides, including the rides of the President and his guests.

The award was donated to TNOT by the Carroll Maryland Saddle Club and other friends of Mr. Abb to be presented to the Grand Champion at the annual Judged Pleasure Ride. It will be passed along from year to year to outstanding Grand Champions as a perpetual memorial to Mr. Abb.

County Coordinator Comments

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMENTS

by Harriet Rhee (301/874-3648 hawes@intr.net)

Frederick County Bikeways and Trails Plan:

This is the most significant initiative that has developed in the nearly five years that I've been involved with trails in Frederick County. The plan is dedicated to identifying a countywide network of bikeways and trails. The draft plan identifies nearly 200 miles of potential new, multi-use or natural surface trails, many of which would be suitable for horseback riding, and 316 miles for on-road bikeways. The plan was developed by Frederick County Planning and Zoning staff with the help of a Trails-based Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). TNOT was represented on the CAC.

This plan is conceptual in nature and is a very important first step in a long-term process to enhance trails in Frederick County. The purpose of the plan is to: 1) identify potential trail corridors; 2) develop design standards; and 3) identify implementation strategies. Once the plan is finalized (it has not yet been fully approved), further study will be needed for each proposed trail corridor, including the identification of specific funding sources. The plan identifies a number of trails that would be suitable for equestrian use, as well as a few that are primarily roads. The remaining trail match can either be used or in-kind contributions (e.g., volunteer hours or donated materials).

Eighteen new linear trail corridors are proposed, several of which link to other recreational areas in Frederick, Montgomery, Howard, and Carroll counties. Following is a summary of the proposed off-street trails:

- Hall Trolley Trail (4.6 miles, Thurmont to Frederick)
- Ballenger Creek Trail (4 miles, Ballenger Creek Park to Monocacy River)
- Rock Creek Trail (2 miles, Stonegate Park to US Rt. 15)
- Carroll Creek Trail (3.5 miles, Rocky Springs Rd to Monocacy River)
- Tuscarora Creek Trail (4.5 miles, Yellow Springs to Monocacy River)
- Monocacy River Greenway (39 miles, MD 77/Little Pipe Creek to Potomac River)
- Sugarloaf-Little Bennett Trail (5.5 miles, Little Bennett Regional Park to Monocacy River)
- I-270 Transitway (9 miles, along I-270 corridor)
- Linganore Creek Trail (3.5 miles, Hockley Road to Montgomery County line)
- Linganore Creek Trail (17 miles, Monocacy River to Carroll County line)
- B&O Trail (1 mile, Mt. Airy)
- Walkersville-Woodsboro Corridor (up to 24.5 miles, Monocacy River to Woodsboro)
- Middletown-Myersville Trail (9.5 miles, Frederick to Myersville)
- Middletown Greenway (5 miles, Middletown)
- Catoctin Trail (4.5 miles, Middletown River to Myersville with 6.5 miles of extensions to Catoctin Trail and Appalachian Trail.)
- Catoctin Trail Extensions (2.3 miles south to the H&W Trolley Trail and 3 miles north to the Appalachian Trail)
- Emmitsburg Railroad Trail (6.5 miles, Rocky Ridge to Emmitsburg)
- Emmitsburg Greenway and Trail (5 miles, Emmitsburg)

Five proposed corridors are identified as priorities for the initial detailed feasibility studies: Hall Trolley Trail, Sugarloaf-Little Bennett Trail, Rock Creek-Carroll Creek Trails, and the Monocacy River Greenway.

The first of two public hearing was held before the Frederick County Planning Commission on June 16, 1999. Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the hearing or submit written comments, the horse community was well represented. Approximately 30 people attended the hearing. The Commission's meeting and most of those who spoke supported the program. Some of the concerns voiced by those not in favor of the plan included property owner rights, costs for development and maintenance of trails, potential impacts on sportsmen, and lack of compatibility with other types of existing zoning. In addition, 15 letters were received by the Planning Commission (a number of written comments (letters and e-mail) described as being "four-inches-thick."

At the conclusion of the public testimony, the Planning Commission voted to keep the written record open for another week (until June 23) and to solicit from the Frederick County Council of Governments, the elected officials from Frederick's municipalities, and the Frederick County Board of Commissioners, their input and vocal in their opposition to the plan on the basis of proposed cost and inconsistency with the Town's plans.) A workshop will be held in late July on the Planning Commission's draft report to the County Council. The date of the Planning Commission is expected to be in late August or early September. Their recommendation will then be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and a final public hearing will be held later this year. Planning staff anticipates that the BOCC hearing will be held in October 1999.

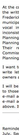
I want to thank all the TNOT members who took the time to attend the hearing, write letters and send e-mail, and pass along the information to other horse owners and groups. This level of networking and show of support is what it takes!

I will be sending out periodic updates (including the date of the BOCC's hearing) to the TNOT mailing list. If you're interested in being on the list, please send your e-mail address to make communicating quicker and easier. Please send me your e-mail address if you have one. My phone number and e-mail address are listed above. If you don't have e-mail, I'll send you the updates by regular mail. Harriet

***TNOT News* Deadline for the September issue is:** August 25

Reminder: TNOT News is published every **other** month, (January, March, May, July, September, November). Send articles to: TNOT News, 5 Bonnie Brae Court, Membership Chairperson, at 8835 Winding Hollow Way, Springfield, VA 22152.

A Fly Update



I need to change some advice I published last year. I had said to add some back to using plain ground lime stone mixed with water in the manure and have stopped using hydrated lime because I found out that hydrated lime kills worms. Well, I've got the right advantage! I thought I had to by using hydrated lime isn't worth it if it kills earth worms. Ground lime stone is excellent for sanding the soil, processing manure and compost, and building top soil.

Ground limestone works just fine. The key to being very successful is to start early enough in the season and to apply it regularly. Daily is best, but 3 times a week would give a noticeable result. This year

I started applying the lime earlier than last year and have had great results and very little problem with barefoot horses stamping their feet.

When worms eat compost and manure they produce an enriched, stable, organic soil. Worms also aerate the soil. Their tunnels allow air, water, and roots to go to grass, and therefore better for the horse. Stable mates that the nutrients will not easily wash away in the next rain and are available for a longer period of time to the plant.

Carol Renee Epshtein

Judged Pleasure Ride BIG Success!

It was a record breaking year for the judged pleasure ride this year. We had 81 entries! The weather was delightful and spirits were high. A fine sense of well being pervaded the day. The ride scores are on page 5.

The "Oldest Rider" prize goes to Carol Sanders. The "Youngest Rider" prize goes to Erin Kidd. There were three twelve-year-olds this year, so we had to go by birthdays. The "Oldest Horse" at the ride this year was "Sam" ridden by Jennifer LaChine. It was a young filly this year. "Sam" is only 24.

Congratulations to all the winners!!

The Judged Pleasure Ride works because so many people give their time and energy to making it happen. I'm sure you join me in thanking the judges who volunteered their time: Jo Ann Hawkins, Jeanne Hall, Sharon Hoffman (new appearance were Carolyn Gardner, Mary Prowell, Cindy Aldrich, Judy Bradbeer, Frank Dietz, Bill Mitchell, Dixie Stumpf, Angela Klinger, Linda Jean Brakeman, Jeanne Hall, Jeanne Hall, Jeanne Hall, and Gale Monahan. They will all get vouchers for a free ride next year.

Pat Oliva was a great help this year rounding up scores on her speedy mount. In the pavilion we had Anne Bancroft and Elsie Cole not only taking in entries but also compiling the information for the score keeper, Laura Guerra decided on the spur of the moment to volunteer to help out with the scores. Laura's daughter, Erin, a merchandiser, Marsha Clarkson and her friend Mike were score keeper and radio handler. Eleanor Pittenger helped out as go-for and parking attendant as did Sharrie Taylor. Sharrie also decided on the spur of the moment to help if she could, and help she did, as we thank her very much. Harriet West was everywhere helping out in the pavilion and on the trail. Thanks to Jeanne Hall and Gale Dobson. She also rode before the ride to make sure all was in readiness. And TNOT president Gale Monahan made the award presentations. An extra special thank you to Gale for her unstinting support of TNOT and for her help in the pavilion when I had to leave for part of the day.** Her assignment for the day had been to watch the trail and judge on obstacle. I know she had been looking forward to this assignment as was only had to get the ride going (a daunting but not difficult task) she then was duly rider. Thank You all for putting together once again to get the ride on the road.

Joan Stewart, Ride Manager

***Ann Suzanne: I apologize to all who got the rough edge of my tongue and temper that morning. I feel I was brusque and even still sergeant-ish, and I hope no one took it personally. Thank you all for your patience!*

Overcome by Kindness?

In keen ceases to amaze me what the news of a lost child will do to a neighborhood. To an entire region! People came from as far away as Washington, DC, to Hughesville, Charles County, Maryland, to help look for a 2-year old Michael Donohue last May 29 and 30. You just don't get this type of response when you live in the city. Or in the suburbs. Alzheimer's, who murdered him with his having facility. Or day hikers who are overdue from the Appalachian Trail.

A lost child touches a chord in everybody, perhaps the child within us who can imagine the terror of being lost, or perhaps the parent within who can imagine the terror of losing one's own child. Yet, the search effort for Michael, while successful, was almost overwhelmed by the kindness and helpfulness of over 200 concerned citizens. As one of the searchers, I experienced this first hand. I arrived at my car for help and woke the night of Michael's disappearance "were we sticks at bees."

The TNOT Search Team did get called out to assist on this search, sending two horses and riders who were assigned to scour the Amish farmlands through the woods behind Michael's house. Our riders were teamed up with three young men from the Amish community who were also looking for Michael. They led our riders to the different ponds and through gates and along the swampy banks of Smooth Pond Run.

I beg to point out that we were called. Any group seeking recognition as a responsible and well-trained search resource does not show up uninvited. And the inviting party must be the responsible authority, i.e. Maryland State Police and their designates. Several search resources were called to assist, including Maryland Search and Rescue, the National Rescue Dogs, and Maryland Search.

The 200 plus citizens who had all been driven away from the search operations by the end of the first day were not a disorganized gathering in the woods at the end of a dirt road, were not called. And most were given no opportunity to participate, leaving many feeling frustrated and angry. And it took several search managers to get the job done. Not one search manager, but several. Not one search dog, but several, but turning most away. These search managers might have been better used at the search command, helping direct the searchers in the field.

There are things that the neighbors of the searchers can do, helpful things that will augment the search effort and not tie up search managers with the task of dealing with dozens of concerned but uninvited parents.

If you live nearby, search your own property. Search all your vehicles. Remember that the child may have been lured into a car by a stranger, driven off the site and off into the neighborhood, and then sneaked into someone's car and went back to sleep! This child was found as soon as the owner of the car came out of the house to go to work. Search your garden shed, search the hatch and the animal pens. Children love animals, and in fact Michael wandered into the woods following the family dog.

If you have a large area close by to the search area, you've got lots more to search. Offer your search effort assistance when you see uniformed searchers appear on your property.

You might stop at the local fire department to see if they are involved in the search effort. Perhaps the auxiliary is feeding the trained searchers, and you can lend a hand.

If you live a small distance away, take a trail ride. Not into the active search area (for Michael, this was perhaps a 2 mile circle around his home), but in your own neighborhood. Ride the trails, ride the roadsides, ride the fields. The more eyes on larger, you'll have the opportunity to meet a group of searchers and describe (preferably on a map) where you've recently ridden and what you've seen or not seen.

Put your concerns into perspective, and realize that there are trained officials who have the responsibility for finding the missing child. Let the search management groups to be called to assist them, and let them do their job. And remember, your prayers work wherever you happen to be, in the field calling a child's name or at home watching reports on TV. *Suzanne & Bob*

1999
Judged Pleasure Trail Ride
Results

Grand Champion

Shirley Hovermale, on her Quarterhorse *No Bold Venture*, with 103 points

Reserve Champion

Janine Hrycek, on her grade horse *Nay Lee*, with 95 points

CLASS RESULTS

Appaloosa Horse Class

1st 95 Arlene Abbitt, *Lacey Jay*
2nd 94 Lisa Hof, *Run Bobbin*
3rd 91 Dan Benz, *Cotton Candy*
4th 78 Diane Thomas, *Sky Blue Dancer*
5th 66 Sharon Hardy, *Snoopy*
6th 64 Kim Weinhold, *Skibbie*

Quarterhorse Class

1st 96 Shirley Hovermale, *No Bold Venture*
2nd 100 Denise Curtis, *Bentley*
3rd 97 Diane Thomas, *Skippers Bay Rum*
4th 65 Lucy Rodriguez, *Petes Eternal Rena*
5th 44 Kristina Johnson, *Ike Bitsy Cajun*
6th 43 Donna Miller, *Rosie*

Arabian Horse Class

1st 79 Barbara Virga, *Sevenzo*
2nd 103 Eileen Keiner, *Quiz Kid*
3rd 30 Erin Kidd, *Sassafrz*
4th 29 Jeanne Hall, *Stiff Pace O Dn*
5th 44 Bonny Smajda, *Jazzy*
6th 51 Ardell Kidd, *Bellacoire's Holiday*

Thoroughbred Horse Class

1st 88 Carmel Wood, *Bert*
2nd 82 Dana Manuel, *Donaldson*
3rd 36 Colleen O'Brien, *South Kent*
4th 31 Cindy Beavers, *Mighty Breeze*
5th 83 Cynthia Liparini, *Sir Dandy Lion*
6th 58 Naomi Manders, *Sprint*

Gaited Horse Class

1st 84 Robert Hawbaker, *Whocasy*
2nd 102 Ann Kisbeck, *Cheeks*
3rd 25 Phil Mendola, *Bonita*
4th 59 Margie Smith, *Sweetheart Topper*
5th 26 Doreen Mendola, *Sugar Reaper*
6th 60 Sharon Brehm, *Minnesota Charlie*

Junior Rider

1st 30 Erin Kidd, *Sassafrz*
2nd 34 Megan McElroy, *Sir Dandy Lion*
3rd 83 Lucy Rodriguez, *Petes Eternal Rena*
4th 44 Kristina Johnson, *Ike Bitsy Cajun*
5th 45 Jennifer Isaemes, *Impressive Andy*
6th 95 John Sezan, *Joy*

Grade Horse Class

1st 99 Janine Hrycek, *Nay Lee*
2nd 97 Gail Ann Nix, *Buckwheat*
3rd 56 Alice Ann Myers, *Sheddin*
4th 79 Barbara Virga, *Kentucky Chief*
5th 71 Amy Grimm, *Sundance Kid*
6th 87 Kim Stark, *Dallas*

Novice Rider

1st 57 Gail Ann Nix, *Buckwheat*
2nd 100 Denise Curtis, *Bentley*
3rd 56 Alice Ann Myers, *Sheddin*
4th 65 Lisa Hof, *Run Bobbin*
5th 57 Luther Myers, *Kentucky Kid*
6th 33 Dan Benz, *Cotton Candy*

Novice Horse Class

1st 35 Michael McElroy, *Sir Dandy Lion*
2nd 102 Robin Carpenter, *Skips Shawnee Bar*
3rd 45 Jennifer Isaemes, *Impressive Andy*
4th 95 John Sezan, *Joy*
5th 34 Tracy Ann May
6th 28 Kelly O'Donovan, *Jays Lucky Charm*
6th 89 Susan Young, *Journey*

Open Rider

1st 66 Shirley Hovermale, *No Bold Venture*
2nd 99 Janine Hrycek, *Nay Lee*
3rd 64 Arlene Abbitt, *Lacey Jay*
4th 79 Barbara Virga, *Sevenzo*
5th 103 Eileen Keiner, *Quiz Kid*
6th 77 Steve Thomas

A Lost Horse Story

As many of you know, on June 5, the day before the Judged Pleasure Ride, my husband Gaelyn was riding our horse, Sam, in the Catoctin area. Sam is a stallion. Gaelyn is a very sensible and obedient horse. At first I suspected he had just bound the bend. Hmm, not there. Just beyond the second bend there was a four-way trail intersection and no way to tell which way he had gone.

After searching on foot for several hours I walked back to camp to get reinforcements. The Park Rangers drove out in their 4-wheel drive vehicles. Kathy Dobson drove to the League of Maryland Horsemen's campground and to other campgrounds in the area looking for Gaelyn. Sam was not found. I went to continue searching. Anne Bancroft called Frank Dietz and Suzanne Anderson who came out to help search.

By midnight we knew there was no sense in trying to look any more that night. Kathy camped out with me, as we hoped Gaelyn would find his way back to the trailer.

The morning of the ride there was more than the usual amount to do. Those of us who had planned to set up obstacles the evening before had been helped by Gaelyn instead. Everyone understood that my top priority was finding my horse. Sam had been found by a neighbor approximately 2 miles from the trailhead. He was put over when we saw a horse trailer behind us, and I asked the man in the passenger seat if he had seen a loose horse with a blue halter on.

He said, "Look in the back there," pointing to the trailer. There was Gaelyn, safe and sound.

The man with the horse trailer was from the Carroll County Humane Society. He had been out looking for a lost dog when he saw Sam and Gaelyn. Sam and Gaelyn had spent a lovely evening and overnight in someone's backyard, where he had just been picked up.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone on the Search and Rescue team who rallied around me. Thanks also to the many people who told me their stories of the quiet obedient horse who got away. It did help me feel better. It's nice to know, in this day of candidly erasing society, that we belong to a community, the horse community. *Joan & Gaelyn*

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to: Suzanne Anderson, TNOT News, 5508 Bonnie Brae Ct., Mt. Airy, MD 21771. The next newsletter deadline is August 25. Type or print your ad, 30 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00.

FOR SALE – Tennessee Walker mare, 14.3 hh, 5 yrs old. Gorgeous! Smoothie. Very pretty, loves people, willing on trails. Needs a confident rider. To good home $1800. Call 410-343-1678.

FOR SALE – Large Pony/Hack, 14 yrs old. Showing 2nd level dressage. Has shown in harness and QT. Great on trails. Good home only. $4000/best offer. Heather 301-838-4672.

FOR SALE –Paragon endurance/trail saddle with fittings. Used 2 years. Pad not included. $500.00. Call Sherry 301-441-4718.

FOR RENT – House: 3 bdrm, 1 bath, CAC, CFA, full walkout basement, 2 car garage, front and rear porch, 2 stall barn on approx. 3 acres, available +/- July 15. $1,200/month. Call Jim Swink 301-972-1919, Germantown, MD

FOR SALE – Reg. Spotted Saddle Horse, bay/white, 16hh, 5 yrs old. Gentle, well-trained, broke to ride, drive and pack. Make people. For sale to good home only. Prefer experienced horse person. Call Ron 301-498-4201.

Trail Riders Of Today

Editor: Suzanne Anderson
301-829-3881
301-829-3880 FAX

NEWS

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

August 1999 **Electronic Edition** **Number 118**

What Really Happened on the Mountain?

Did a horse really fall off a cliff north of Frederick? Was the rider hurt? Why couldn't they get the horse out? Why did they have to put her down? Who's horse was it?

Here are the bare facts: July 10, Saturday, the TROT Pleasure Ride was in the Frederick Watershed, led by Angela Klinger. This ride is over some steep mountainous terrain, and the ride leader sends all interested in coming details regarding times, directions, and the type of trail to expect. Tara Santmire, with her husband Ben Turner, was attending this ride for the second year in a row. They had both enjoyed riding these trails last year on this same scheduled ride.

At 11:00-ish, the group began a steep ascent, after the leader stopped the ride, told everyone of the long climb ahead, and had everyone check the tightness of their girths.

Partway up, Tara horse, Maggie, seemed to stumble with her hind legs (see page 2, Tara's opinion of what happened). She fell, and Tara was able to get off without injury. Then Maggie couldn't get back up. The horse flounder, then slid off the narrow trail and down the slope.

In Tara's explanation on the following pages, the steep trail with its rocky footing did not cause this fall. This was an accident, pure and simple. And the response to try and rescue the horse was phenomenal. But, as you read the accounts reprinted here from the *Frederick News-Post*, the key piece of equipment, a helicopter, was never provided by the "powers that be."

As evening drew upon them, Maggie could still not use her own hind legs. The vets were losing the race to keep her stabilized, and she was beginning to go into shock. Tara made the humane decision to euthanize her, given the lack of a helicopter to do the actual lifting and the worsening condition of her horse.

TROT members have responded in great numbers to this tragedy, sending notes of sympathy to Tara, writing letters to the newspapers, and donating funds to the fire companies that tried so very hard to save the horse. The officers and board members of TROT authorized donations to be sent to the Lewistown Volunteer Fire Dept., the Independent Hose Co. No. 1, and the Advanced Technical Rescue Team.

The final veterinary bill: costs of medical supplies and 1 emergency farm call. For 3 vets in attendance for nearly 8 hours. Thank you Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates.

These are the plain facts. No autopsy was performed, x-ray equipment couldn't be brought to the site to specifically determine what structural injuries Maggie had sustained. We can all continue to wonder and speculate, but I would urge you to do something far more constructive now. Take this incident as a harsh wake-up call.

Review for yourself how prepared you are for a disaster: fire, flood, tornado, hurricane. Review evacuation procedures for your farm or where your horse is boarded. Make a list of supplies (grain, hay, clean water) you need on hand. Get with your horse neighbors and discuss how you can cooperate, perhaps in transporting horses to safety (say in the event of a hazardous spill or gas line leak), or housing each other's horses if a stable is destroyed by fire or storm.

Think about your safety on the trail. Do you carry a cell phone? Is the battery regularly charged? What few items of first aid for your horse might you add to your everyday saddle bags? Consider carrying a copy of your horse's current negative Coggins and list of recent vaccinations sealed in a plastic bag. Include as well your name and address with phone numbers, so should you part company with your horse, some form of identity will be found in his tack.

And if a dreadful emergency did occur, with injury to human or equine, one more small list of emergency phone numbers, i.e. your veterinarian, could prove invaluable.

You can't prepare for every possible emergency, but making some plans will help enormously when the unthinkable happens. So, enough speculation, second guessing, wondering, and supposing. Look to your own preparedness in the event of an emergency. *Suzanne*

Why Did Maggie Fall?

Tara's response to my question follows:

"Maggie did not stumble per se; she actually lost the use of the right hind before she came off of the trail and that is what precipitated her going off of the trail. The only pre-existing condition she had in hind joints was very limited arthritis in both hocks, which was being treated aggressively with Adequan and Legend injections, and glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate in her feed. In Dr. Forfa's opinion this was not the cause of her problems. She has also never tied up, nor showed any signs of patellar lock up.

"My personal speculation, with some support from Dr. Forfa, is that she had a neurological problem. I personally strongly suspect EPM. At the last barn we were at there was a horse that contracted EPM and that had to be put down. Maggie was turned out in the same field as this horse during the time period that this other horse would have contracted EPM. So she could have contracted the disease at or near the same time and not shown signs until now because she was a younger healthier horse.

"She actually lost the use of both hind legs starting with the right hind. After she had been down for 8 hours Dr. Forfa told me that she had at best a 50/50 chance and that only if they could get her standing after getting her out. That chance would decline rapidly the longer that she stayed down and we were told at that point that there was no helicopter available and that it would be at least 3 hours before they could get heavy equipment in that might be able to get her out. These conditions led me to my decision that it was the humane thing to have her euthanized." *Tara E. Santmire*

Tara's Thanks

I would like to express my thanks to many TROT members who helped out on Saturday July 10th when my horse, Maggie, fell off of a trail into a ravine in the Frederick watershed.

First and foremost go my thanks to Angela Klinger for staying through to the bitter end, for her calm state of mind, and for asking her horse to carry veterinarians and much needed medical supplies to Maggie.

Also, many thanks to Jim Brainard for all of his efforts (including much needed cell phone contact with the outside world) and also to his friend Donna who was willing to spend several boring hours with Jim's horse and my husband's horse.

Thanks also to the additional rider who helped guide the initial fire and rescue units to the accident site. I apologize for not getting your name. Thanks also to Linda for continuing to lead the trail ride and the kind words and offers of assistance from many of the other riders. Thanks to Pat for helping ferry all of Maggie's tack down to my trailer.

Given the number of people there helping out I am sure that I have missed some names and some efforts. I apologize that not everyone is recognized here, but I do appreciate everyone's efforts.

I also want to express my appreciation to all of the TROT members who have called or sent cards since the accident. Your support has helped keep me sane through all of this and is greatly appreciated.

Although Maggie was not saved, the equestrian community should be aware that this not because of lack of effort. The Lewistown Volunteer Fire Department, Independent Hose Company No. 1, and the Advanced Technical Rescue Team all did their absolute best to rescue Maggie. (Thank you TROT for your donations to these groups.)

Unfortunately because she had lost the use of her hind end and because of the terrain, we needed a helicopter to get Maggie out and the bureaucrats in charge of a number of different agencies, including the National Guard, refused to ok the use of their equipment. Many people were surprised to discover that day that the state of Maryland does not have any plans for equine rescue in its repertoire of emergency plans. Angela Klinger, Gale Monahan, and Anne Bennof among others from TROT are in the process of working with Chief Chuck Handley from Independent Hose Company No. 1 and representatives from FEMA and state agencies to correct that gap.

It is my profound hope that they will be successful and that no other horses will die because no one could authorize the use of available resources. *Tara*

What follows are excerpts of the published reports and letters to the Editor, taken from the *Frederick News-Post*.

Mountain Trail Ride Ends in Tragedy

Frederick News Post, Monday, July 12, 1999
Susan C. Nicol, News Post Staff

mountaindale—For 7 hours Saturday, volunteer firefighters, veterinarians and citizens tried in vain to rescue a horse that toppled from a trail near here.

Calls went to the White House, the Pentagon, Maryland National Guard, and a power company as rescuers tried to get a helicopter to hoist the mare off the side of an embankment. After promise after promise failed, and the horse grew weaker, her owner decided to allow Dr. Lee Miller, one of 4 vets on the scene, to give it a lethal injection.

The horse slipped off a narrow trail about a quarter mile above Mountaindale Road, about 11:30 a.m. The rider [Tara Santmire] jumped off just as the mare started to go over the rocky incline . . . Other riders in the group of 30 that were on the trail used cell phones to call for help. It took nearly a half hour to get someone to the area to assist, said Dr. Miller.

The county's advanced technical rescue team rigged ropes and harnesses in an attempt to stop the horse from slipping further, said Chuck Handley, chief of the Independent Hose Co.

Chief Handley said he has never been involved in a more discouraging call. "We couldn't get anyone to help," he said. "We tried everything. It was a helpless feeling." The chief said he was told that the county didn't have a resource manual available to locate people who could help with the rescue.

"I'm just discouraged and disgusted over the whole deal," he said. "We've got to be prepared for these things. If we can't handle a horse, what about a disaster?" A Lewistown firefighter, Bud Stull, echoed the frustrations. "We got a lot of promises. Then they canceled," he said. "It was a damn sorry situation."

Delegate David Brinkley, R-Frederick, said when he got the call that a military helicopter crew was willing and ready to go once they got the OK. He first called the White House.

"They transferred me to the Pentagon," he said, adding that the person there immediately had him contact a duty officer, a lieutenant colonel at home. He's not sure if the colonel ever contacted someone at the scene.

Meanwhile, Dr. Miller said his office attempted to call Gov. Parris Glendening to get things rolling. "A very similar thing happened during as ride in Virginia. The governor there sent a National Guard helicopter to hoist the horse out of the area. They set it down in a nearby parking lot where it was checked out, and later sent home," he said.

He said he received a recorded message from Mr. Glendening's office that the office was closed. A call to the health department referred him to the Maryland State Police.

Dr. Miller said, even though they said they wouldn't, the state police eventually relayed a special hoist [sling] from a horse center in Leesburg, VA., to the scene.

"He dumped it off, and he was gone," Dr. Miller said. "While all this was happening, we were told a helicopter was on its way." Dr. Miller said the fire companies and a riders organization, Trail Riders of Today, agreed to pay the $600 or $800 per hour for the helicopter.

The vets were monitoring the 1,200-pound horse and giving it fluids in an effort to keep it from going into shock. Rescue personnel were aiding in keeping it moving or rolling since if couldn't stand on its own.

"All these people kept calling about the horse's condition," Dr. Miller said. "I think they were waiting for us to say it died so it would solve their problem."

Mr. Brinkley said he plans to investigate the response, or the lack of it, to the situation.

Dr. Miller said with the number of horses in the state, he's surprised there is no emergency rescue plan.

Sad Ending for Injured Horse

Letter to the Editor, *The Frederick New-Post*, July 16, 1999

I was on the trail ride when the horse, Maggie, had her accident. One correction I want to make was that Dr. Richard Forfa and Dr. Manuel Jimenez of the Monocacy Equine Clinic in Dickerson, were the attending vets for Maggie.

Dr. Lee Miller was making the important phone calls, trying to get through the red tape when he was trying to get a helicopter for Maggie.

About 25-30 rescue workers were assisting Maggie and the vets. It was a breathtaking sight to see. The hardworking men and women from the Lewistown Volunteer Fire Department, the Independent Hose Co. No. 1, the Advanced Technical Rescue Team, and Dr. Forfa and Dr. Jimenez all working hard and fast.

Many climbed trees and stood on each other's shoulders to rig up ropes and pulleys for the harness that Maggie already had on. IV bags were hung. Many other volunteers were manning the radios and phones at the rescue trucks.

There was definitely blood, sweat, and tears shed this day. With their adrenaline pumping, the rescuers would yell "Come on, Maggie" as they tried to get her to her feet, only to watch this gallant little mare struggle to get up and then fall back down.

Several precious hours filled with promises of a helicopter went by. Maggie started to deteriorate. A fireman took his heavy canvas firemen's jacket and placed it under Maggie's head so she wouldn't bang her head anymore.

Dr. Forfa and Maggie's owner knew what had to be done, because the help they were desperately waiting for was not coming. Maggie's owner fell to her knees and wept as Dr. Forfa praised all the rescuers who stood by Maggie and all their efforts to save her and let them know of the decision that had been made. I don't think there was a dry eye. It wasn't fair, they'd worked so hard. She was put to sleep after almost eight hours of struggling.

On this particular trail ride, all the trail riders were from TROT (Trail Riders of Today), an organization of 900 members that help preserve trails throughout Maryland. They have a specialized group called TROT Search & Rescue. They train once to twice a month, all year long in all kinds of weather. They receive first aid training, search and rescue training along with their horses, and both have to pass testing to become certified through the state of Maryland. They are on call 24 hours a day, 265 days a year.

When people get lost, agencies often call TROT Search & Rescue, and they immediately respond. Unfortunately, when Maggie needed specialized help, certain government agencies didn't come through for her.

Horses have helped make America. In our history, horses have been sacrificed for mankind. They were our sole means of transportation, they were in our wars, they logged out our timber so we could build, they plowed our fields so we could grow crops. They've been used, abused, and misused throughout history. Now they are our animals companions who we love. Maggie did not deserve this.

Angela Klinger

Formidable Task

Letter to the Editor, *The Frederick New-Post*, July 17, 1999

We would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we were to have been part of the outstanding team that tried to rescue the horse Maggie at the Frederick Watershed on July 10.

The spirit of cooperation, professionalism, and enthusiasm for the formidable task we were faced with was both amazing and inspiring.

Those who participated are too numerous to mention in a short letter, but special recognition should go to Independent Hose Co. No. 1, led by Chief C. Handley, the Advanced Technical Rescue Team (Scott Morgan), Lewistown Volunteer Fire Dept. Co. 22 (Bud Stull), the unnamed Maryland State Trooper and his Virginia State Police counterpart who met on the Point of Rocks bridge to exchange the sling loaned to us by the Marion du Pont Scott Equine Medical Center, all of the members of Trail Riders of Today, the members of the fire department auxiliary and the many others who were there lending a hand or much needed moral support.

Contrary to what was originally printed in *The Frederick News-Post*, we were the ones who had to help Maggie's owner make the agonizing decision to humanely euthanize the horse when it became apparent that the U.S. Army helicopter we needed to complete the rescue was not going to be made available to use.

At the time the decision was made, Maggie's physical condition had deteriorated to a point where hopes of a successful recovery were greatly diminished. Despite the IV fluid therapy and the anti-inflammatory drugs we gave her, we could not counteract her increasing shock. Without the ability to move her to a more stable environment, no other choice was left.

Her loss, although deeply discouraging, should not dampen the pride all the volunteers should feel at a job well done. We should all be comforted by the fact that 100 individuals came together, supported each other, and worked towards a great good.

Richard J. Forfa
A. Manuel Jiminez
Monocacy Equine Veterinary Assoc., Beallsville

Trail Riders Of Today

Editor: Suzanne Anderson
301-829-3981
301-829-3985 FAX

NEWS

TRGT Information
301-588-TRGT

November 1999 **Electronic Edition** **Number 120**

Note from the President

The large animal rescue group met for the third time in Frederick on October 13. It was nice to see three counties represented by Fire and rescue (Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery).

What came out of the meeting was that we would go back to our prospective groups and find out who may have equipment, expertise, and/or knowledge of rescuing animals. We are not looking to be the rescuers ourselves, but to be the resource from, whether it be off a mountain, out of a ravine, stuck in mud to the belly, in floor situations, in out of a trailer. We don't need "volunteers" to rescue animals, but we need to know who to call in the event of a large animal in distress, or are located near a high traffic route (like I-95) and have facilities to hold animals freed from traffic accidents or natural disasters, please give me a call. The next meeting will be held in January. The group is also developing a master plans for disaster emergencies, or your local police/fire/rescue department a call to express your interest in their participation in your County's preparedness for equine/large animal emergencies.

The fire and rescue people pointed out they have the knowledge and equipment to get to the animals, but they don't have the knowledge to handle them. We are also interested in what we may do as a group to help out animals further injuring the animal? Dr. Jacob Cooper, who is now retired from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, is going to be a big help to us. He has been working with an organization in New Jersey who teaches rescue workers about large animal rescue.

The next meeting will be focused on road accidents and hopefully will include this organization from New Jersey. *Edie Monahan*

For last annual requests for the addresses of the rescue organizations involved in the August mountain rescue, see the second August issue of TROTNews). Thank you Laurie for faxing them to me. Suzanne

Chief Stull
Landscape Architect Fire Dept.
100 Carroll Creek Bridge Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

Keith Morgan
Advanced Technical Rescue
100 Carroll Creek Bridge
Frederick, MD 21701

Chief Hanley
Independent Hose Co.
310 Baughman's Lane
Frederick, MD 21701

Trail Boss Needed!

Can you keep a calender? A list of ride leaders and their phone numbers? Can you jot down the essential ride information and then organize the bi-monthly newsletter deadlines? We need YOU!

After many years of much appreciated service to the members of TRGT, Terry Ladley has announced her need (not her desire) to step down from the job of TRGT Pleasure Ride coordinator to someone new. Terry will gladly help you learn the ropes. She has all the lists of ride leaders who know the many public equestrian trails in Montgomery and Frederick Counties and our beautiful state and have hosted TRGT rides in the past. She also has the instruction sheets for ride leaders which she mails out as soon as she scheduled them into her calender.

Please, we need you to step forward and take on this important scheduling job for TRGT. Many many of our members joined initially because of the wonderful rides Terry has scheduled for our enjoyment every riding season. Please call Terry (301-434-1174) to offer your services.

And THANK YOU TERRY from all TRGT's members!

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMENTS

by Harriet West (301) 874-3668

I will be stepping down as the Frederick County Coordinator at the end of the year. Please contact me if you are interested in taking over. This is a fun job in Frederick County and I'm hoping that one or more Frederick County TRGT members will be interested in taking over for me. It does require a fairly reliable telephone and answering machine, but I have found that this is a perfect volunteer opportunity for someone who is retired or works part-time. Please call me as soon as possible if you're interested. It has been a pleasure working with you all for the past 4 years. I've met many nice folks and ran riders that I've had the opportunity to host over the past 4-5 years.

Pr. GEORGE'S COUNTY COMMENTS

Mary Angerone (301-937-0014)

WBAA Rail to Trail development progresses rapidly! RUT the construction company has seized bicycle and horse back riders to forego use of the trail until completion. Hopefully, this will be in the spring of 2000. Our group has already had trail head issues resolve that they rework the bases before applying the final topping. PLEASE DON'T RIDE THERE for the next 6 months or so. Thank you!

Access is building on the conversion of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad bed to a trail. PLEASE contact me if you are low or will be a potential user.

The equestrian trails at Jug Bay will have the jumps rebuilt. I have been asked to supply specs, and I plan to give specs for some quite plain and easy jumps like those at Rocky Gorge. If you would like to have a few more challenging ones, call me with specs.

Have you noticed the changes to the Farrland Regional Park trails?

CECIL COUNTY COMMENTS

Karen Reynolds (410-392-4454)

TROT Ride at Fair Hill

A TROT trail ride was held at Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area on Sunday, August 29th. Karen Reynolds, Cecil Co. TRGT, and Volunteer Mounted Patrol Coordinator, led the ride. Eleven riders enjoyed the beautiful weather as well as branches and hikers sharing the scenic trails of Fair Hill.

Our group consisted of 9 riders, including one from as far away as the Annapolis area, and some from as close as 2 miles. A couple came in from nearby Pennsylvania. We signed up a new TROT member too.

It was a hot, humid day, but no Hurricane Dennis! We met at 10:15 am at Fair Hill's Appleton Rd. North parking lot. Our ride lasted about 2½ hours and covered 7 miles. We rode on the Fair Hill Natural Resources Trail, the Big Elk Trail, through tunnels under country roads, saw parts of the cross country course of the Fair Hill International C.C.I.*** event, held each year in October. Our ride took us through the Fair Hill Nature Center (cross country course in contrast to the "Grand Ivy" fences of the C.C.I.).

We visited the remains of the delivered moore set and finished out the ride in some of the fox-chasing country.

Fair Hill's history is a large part of its beauty, as it was originally created from several smaller farms for the equestrian sense of fox hunting, and all of the fence crossings, overhead bridges, tunnels, and trails were designed for this sport. Despite the heat, a great day was had by all!

Sunday Hunting Issue Back?

It appears that the hunters' organizations are trying to get Sunday hunting on the legislative session a bill that would lift the present restriction on Sunday hunting in Maryland. You may recall that Sunday hunting was banned in the last session--thanks to the army of horseback riders, hikers, bikers, birdwatchers, landowners, and others who felt that Sunday should be a day of recreation to enjoy the outdoors without fear of bullets or arrows.

Representatives of those groups are meeting in early November to organize another opposition effort, and of course, TROT will be represented. We will keep you informed. Meanwhile, please call Bill Burch, TRGT's lobbyist, and tell him you will be calling on you to again write letters, make calls, send faxes, or e-mail legislators.

An interesting development: a leader of the hunting coalition has asked whether there are any expanded hunting opportunities that would be acceptable to equestrians. Bill Burch has suggested opportunities that could forestall another fight in Annapolis. Some questions to consider:

1. Would you agree to hunting on Sundays on private land? Public land?
2. Would you agree to any additional hunting, including Sundays?
3. What if it were limited to bow hunting?
4. What if it were limited to deer hunting and not rabbit that may send horses/riders into hunting apprehension?
5. Do you have any ideas that would allow hunters to engage in their sport more without infringing upon others' current activities?

If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you have answered 'no' to these issues and agree that we should continue to oppose any expanded hunting opportunities.

If you have comments, please drop a note to Anne Bennett at 2445 Colts Path Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797, or e-mail: TROTbug@aol.com

Members are reminded that the Fall Hunting Season has begun. The following are important dates to make note of:

Deer Bow Season. 9/15-10/30, 10/25-11/28, 12/13-12/17, 1/3/2000-1/31/2000

Deer-Muzzle loader Season: 10/21-25, 10/29-30, 12/18-1/1/2000

Deer-Firearm Season: 11/13, 11/27-12/11

Trail Tales Wyoming 2000

It's been several months now since I returned from Wyoming and I've had time to reflect on a day that goes by that I don't think about Wyoming--the vast and beautiful country, the wonderful people, the great food, the endless trail rides, the challenging rides, the great food, the new friends, the inhalant jinging of Skip's spurs, the great food, the campfire sing-alongs, the campfire. But the most profound effect was the ability of this place--the wind, the sky, and the land--to make me feel small. I'm not talking in the

"mental sidewalk," the incompetent/put stuff that seems to consume our daily lives, and rediscover what is truly important to each of us.

This is the fourth in seven years that I've done with Skip and Vivian Adkins, owner-operators of Western Encounters (www.horseriders.com). In Lander, Wyoming, Skip and Vivian have created a "dude ranch" that's not. It's a ranch that owns a lady from Canada renowning from a recent broken hip who wanted to see if she could still ride like she used to.) We let the Wild Horse and Wind River Ranges. The trails are not "trails" at all, but rather cross-country rides in open areas, near-perfect--hell, God, not humid), clear blue skies, and an ever-present breeze. It rained lightly two nights in camp, so we moved into the large tent after dinner and gathered around the campfire.

Skip and Vivian have an appetite for a leisurely pace in the morning, then after a long lunch break and rear cleaning is strongly encouraged), we had the choice most days of staying out with Skip or heading back to camp with Vivian. I firmly believe that Skip's horses are the best-trained trail horses in the world. Each morning we covered about 160 miles in six days including 47 miles on the second day with Skip. Each afternoon we covered 12 miles. Skip's horses are unbelievably sure-footed, the terrain never scared me, and I often (thanks to a lot of help from Skip) found myself relaxed, and many other nice long canters through sandy ravines, across the Wyoming plains, and up and down the mountains. Skip's horses are trained to go at a horse relaxed pace and get back a second hours before the rest of us. Once you go back to camp early, you get first crack at the shower and cold beer! :)

Camp accommodations were up to what I'm usually high accustomed to.... plenty of good food (our cook, Anneka, is a fellow rider who moved to Wyoming from Holland and has been cooking for Skip and Vivian for several years), clean and comfortable facilities with limitless showers, and (best of all) a hot shower waiting for us at the end of the day thanks to the portable hot water generator.

Needless to say, I'm hooked and already looking forward to next year's trip. My plans to go to the World Horse and Mule Museum in Texas in the spring of 2000 have been put on hold. If you're looking for a great trail ride vacation, Skip's Ride the following week, August 19-26. If you'd like to join me on either of these rides, please contact me at 201.879.3668 or tweed@fred.net. Just a few weeks of R&R remain....you won't want to go home and you'll definitely want to go back. Harriet West

Book Review

Worldwide Riding Vacations
A Global Guide to Holidays on Horseback

John Nyle & Arthur Sarles

Whether you're a seasoned riding vacation enthusiast or contemplating your first trip, this book is an excellent resource. Now in its second printing, the 1999 directory describes over 111 rides in 7 continents (Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, North America, and South America). The information in each of Each one-page summary includes information on ride dates and prices (subject to change), airports, ride description, accommodations, children's programs, special interests, and more. Each entry also includes a contact person, phone, fax, and e-mail address of the rides and finally shares their personal insights. The book contains lots of beautiful color photographs as the reader gets a real sense of the destinations. Worldwide Riding Vacations is available for $19.95 plus shipping (www.ridingholidays.com) and can be ordered directly from this site or through www.amazon.com. Happy new trails! *Harriet West*

A Little Bit of Psyllium Helps the Medicine Go Down

by
Carol Perine Sphirri

Getting oral medicine into a horse has its little problems, but three can all be solved. You want a method that is easy, does not strain your hands or back, and that the horse cooperates with. The whole pill down a horse's throat can be icky, unpleasant, and risky. Ground up medicine can settle in the syringe and not be pushed out.

I personally don't like pill crushers. They are messy, hard to get the medicine out of, and

medicine is left packed into the crusher's teeth that are supposed to grind the pills. A good mortar and pestle is a better choice and well worth the price. The mortar is the bowl and the pestle is the grinding tool that looks like a short wood with. The problem of ground up pills getting packed into the bottom of the mortar is easily solved by adding a little sugar, or better yet some powdered psyllium. Psyllium is the fiber that is added to many laxatives and cereals. It was that seed Bob's Lobster in a packet like salt. Clay will packs because the particles in it are very fine. Pills when they are ground can become a very fine powder. Adding a little psyllium to the powder will help keep the particles from reducing the dose. Between this and the horse drooling out part of the medicine after you syringe it into his mouth, he may not be getting what he really needs. Psyllium is also a good laxative for him, since it helps the horse's digestive system and can act as an anti-inflammatory.

Now the pills are ground and you need to scrape them into a small dish to mix with syrup and then into the syringe. For most people, this is no problem. But many of us have either carpal tunnel syndrome or arthritis, and lifting the heavy mortar and pestle is painful. Again, the psyllium comes to the problem plus the problem of the medicine drooling horse at the same time.

Use the smallest round Tupperware container you can buy. You know the kind. It holds such a small amount of leftovers, you wonder why they even bother to make it. Put the ground up medicine in, plus ½ teaspoon of **psyllium powder** into the container. Add just enough water to cover the medicine and psyllium. Put the container on a

evenly distributed and does not form a single gelatinous blob. Put on the container's cover and shake it. Now, the pills are finely ground, the psyllium and water create a thick mixture, which suspends the medicine evenly, making it easier to push all the medicine out of the syringe. This works especially well with paste wormer and ace-aid. Add a little syrup for flavor and palatine associations and etc.

The only problem you may have with this dissolving method is that some small chunks may clog up narrow tipped syringes. Use a all-wormig syringe tipped syringe with no.

The next problem is to make the dosing syringe stand up while you scrape in the medicine. Designate a cup that is not too tall for this job. Take a cloth napkin and fold it into quarters and poke a hole in the center. Push the tip of the dosing syringe and put them both in the cup. The syringe will now stand up straight enough and not roll around or tip while you are loading it. Scrape in as much medicine as you can and then add water to the cup with the syringe in it. Suck. Place the plunger into the syringe and remove most of the excess air without squirting yourself in the eye.

Now, go give your horse his medicine. If you have made the mixture thick enough, and also don't try to squirt it too fast, you will find that the mixture will stick to the horse's mouth and not run out.

If you regular give your horse bute or aspirin in his grain with moderate success, try this. Put the medicine in a small dish and add a little water to dissolve the pills. Then, mix the small Tupperware container in the freezer for dissolving the pills, and then pour and rinse the mixture into the grain. If you add psyllium when the pills are ground up, you will find that the horse eats it all and sticks to the grain and be more likely to be completely eaten.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to: Suzanne Anderson, TROTNews, 7928 Bennett Branch Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771
The next newsletter deadline is 12/1/99. To print or print your ad, 98 characters per line, 8 lines = $5.00.
Each additional line = $1.00. Make checks out to TROT.

FOR SALE - 1984 Suburban. Diesel, 4x4. 9 passenger. New batteries, new glow plugs, new fuel pump controller. 188K miles. Great tow vehicle. $3,500. Call Anne, 301-829-3989.

FOR SALE: Elmo Western saddle, 16" seat, matching breastplate, all basket weave, show quality. In excellent condition. $650/negotiable. Sudden endurance 17½-16" seat, great condition. $650. Other tack available. 301-898-3251.

FOR SALE or TRADE: Arabian Gelding, bay, 14.2 hh, 6 yrs old, very gentle, broke to ride and drive, has been shown in hunter pleasure. Experienced rider. $1,500 sale. Lease $120/month. Call 410-379-8332.

FOR SALE: Black Cord Lacrosse saddle w/ fittings. 2 pairs, 2 pads, 17" seat, regular tree width, cut back pommel. $800. Call Melinda, 703-707-0980.

FOR SALE: 1984 Colnar 2 horse log siding trailer. Extra long, extra wide, extra high. Built in storage chest, saddle racks, water tank, etc. $3,000. Call Anne, 301-829-3989.

BOARDING - Quality pastures, feed, tax, morning schedule, safe fencing, locked tack room, bales of trails, lots of rides, and arenas. Near Brimfield, PA. $150/month.

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timgrath@tracksidepublishing.com

For any real estate leads generated by or for a TROT member, I will donate a portion of my fee to TROT. Tim

Bits of Hay, and other notes

From Virginia--The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has just opened a new 40 car parking lot for W&OD Trail users at the trail intersection at Ashburn Rd. (Intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 123) on the south side of the trail. Call the Park Authority at the Fairfax Brothers Store, near mile marker 28.

Helpful Hint--Clifton Horse Society member Ginny Kohls shared this helpful hint. "After spending 2 days trying everything under the sun to remove *Aggressive saturated clothes* (prewash, soaking in detergent), I found the secret: Shampoo!!! Just wet the clothes, apply your shampoo (I prefer L'Oreal's scent of water. All the grass came out, along with the smell!"

Manicripping your face--You've heard about inserting a tiny microchip under your pet's skin as a means of identification. Anne Clark of Virginia has applied this technology to your eyelashes. After an incident at her barn, where a boarder lost her eyelash extensions, Anne has come up with a permanent solution. She's created a small white lace teleloop to wire, where there's an identifying number on the tack. Anne has opened a business called Microflex, providing the service to horse shows, barns, and individuals. Anne can be reached at 540-955-4344, and a registry of registered clients is maintained. Give her a call at 703-754-5146, or e-mail at microtack@cia.com.

TROTNews, the membership newsletter of **TROT**, is published bimonthly in Montgomery County, Maryland, by volunteers and members. Additional copies can be obtained from the Membership Chair, Tara Santorno.

The Editor welcomes submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Pictures submitted will be returned if requested. Deadline is the 1st of the month.

DEADLINE: All materials must be **received** by December 25 for the January 2000 TROTNews. Please send all materials to: Suzanne Anderson, 7928 Bennett Branch Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771 or mail: suzanne@fred.net.

Original articles may be reprinted with the notice "Reprinted from the (month/year) issue of TROTNews."

Trail Riders of Today

Officers	County Coordinators & Contacts			
Dale Monahan, 301-854-3853	President	Anne Bennett, 410-867-5744	Arundel--Kirsten Eisinger	
Vice President Edie Monahan, 301-428-8216	Vice President	Carroll--Jane Dresher 410-861-3176 Carroll--Carolyn Gardner 410-549-5141		
Linda Brakeman, 301-829-3989	Secretary	Frederick--Harriet West 301-874-3492		
Anne Bennett, 410-867-5744	Treasurer	Howard--Jeanne Mellott 410-442-2787		
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		Pr. George's--Mary Angerone 301-937-0014		
Membership		Wicomico--Judy Myers 410-860-0540		

Tara Santorno 703-860-3176

NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Classified ad $5.00
1/8 page $15.00 and $25.00
¼ pg $40.00
full pg $75.00
Insert $50.00

Happy Holidays!!

Remember: Keep the mistletoe out of reach of horses, and the poinsettia too. Decorate the barn with evergreens, the correct, cherry, apples, and holly branches. But don't let your equine friends eat too much.

Also, prevent winter colic. Give the winter blues a holiday. Don't feed your horse coal for a present. Hay, but don't forget the importance of water! If your horse's main source of water is a pond or stream, be sure to provide supplemental water in a tub or trough. Horses can't digest snow well enough to

have a problem. Not just that the water might freeze over and be difficult for your horse to reach, but water that cold is not pleasant to drink. Many horses will drink only a few swallows of water when it is very cold. Feeding extra hay to help you feel might not be digested as well as they should. Some horses even develop mild to moderate impaction of the food stuff due to not enough water to help move things along.

Try to provide your horse with slightly warmed water. It doesn't have to be hot--just a little above the freezing point. It's a nice thing, and you'll see him emptying his bucket more frequently over the winter.

Happy Holiday Trails!

Bye and Suzanne