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NEWS
Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT
Number 134

A REMINDER FOR THE

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

Date: February 16, Saturday

Time: doors open 5:30 pm

Place: Howard Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building

Directions: Rt. 144, 1 mile west of Rt. 32 and I-70 exit 80.

Menu: A-E Desserts,

F-L Salads/Side Dishes

M-Z Main Dishes

Come join old friends and meet new ones! Bring your friends! Bring a new member! Meet your county's representatives and fellow riders, share ideas, make plans to ride new trails and revisit old ones. And come with an appetite!! We'll see you there!

The Agenda of the TROT Annual Meeting was detailed in the last newsletter...here are just a few highlights and the announcement of our speaker.

The agenda is informal with several things scheduled to be accomplished, besides eating!

After filling your plate, President Gale Monahan will address any special concerns or news that pertain to all present. The Treasurer and perhaps Membership will give brief reports. The SAR Team will say a few words as to their activities, and we may hear from the Mapping/GPS folks on their plans.

A nomination and election of new TROT Board Members will be held. The final item of the Annual Meeting (well, yes, along with dessert) is a guest speaker. Our guest speaker will be Henry Heymerin, C.J.R., R.M.F. The topic of interest will be "Hoof Health." Mr. Heymerin has 28 years of horse shoeing experience and is President of the Guild of Professional Farriers. He has been inducted into the International Horse Shoeing Hall of Fame! Also an author, you may check out his book ***Hoof Care for Horses***, published by Storey Country Wisdom which sells for about $4.00. He has also written many articles for popular horse magazines.

As a matter of fact...TROT needs MANY MORE VOLUNTEERS! Please give of your time. The rewards will be astonishing...you'll meet new friends to ride with and become more knowledgeable about the entire horse industry in our area...from riding to trails to horse health. Get involved today! You'll be glad you did! Contact Gale Monahan, President 301/854-3852.

HIPAA RULES

The following excerpted information was supplied by the American Horse Council:

The American Horse Council has submitted comments opposing regulations governing the provisions in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA).

As the AHC reads this Act, it was intended to prohibit employers, unions and health insurers from denying health insurance coverage based on a worker's pre-existing medical condition or participation in various recreational activities. The legislative history of the Act states that the law "is intended to ensure, among other things, that individuals are not excluded from health-care coverage due to their participation in activities such as motorcycling, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, ***HORSEBACK RIDING*** [emphasis added], skiing and other similar activities."

It is important that the riding public understand the effect of these proposed regulations. They do not permit an insurer to peremptorily deny claims for riding injuries under existing plans. The new regulations will apply to group health plan years beginning in the future, not existing group health plans. If benefits for riding injuries are covered now, riders should expect that they will remain covered through the life of the particular group plan. Nor is this a federal regulation that prohibits employers or insurance companies from providing benefits coverage for riding and other recreational injuries; any such coverage could continue to be a part of the negotiations between employers and health insurers when plans are designed in the future.

The ramifications of these proposed rules are important. They are a statement by the federal agencies charged with enforcing HIPAA that it is a violation of the Act if an employer, union or health insurer denies participation in a group plan to riders and other enjoying recreation, but it is not a violation of HIPAA if a group health plan includes a provision limiting or denying benefits coverage for injuries suffered in connection with riding and other recreational activities.

The AHC is working with other recreation groups to explore the possibility of seeking Congressional changes to these regulations. The AHC would appreciate hearing from anyone in the industry if their new health insurance policies do not provide benefits coverage for riding injuries because of the new HIPAA rules.

Your comments may be forwarded to Jay Hickey, President of the AHC, at ahc@horsecouncil.org. In any event, it may be worthwhile for you to check your current health insurance coverage!

AFTER A WINTER TRAIL RIDE

When your horse works up a sweat in cold, snowy weather, he's at risk for a chill when he stops exercising. Keep him warm and healthy with these post-ride tips from competitive trail riding veteran Judy Wise-Mason.

- Towel dry. After a ride, your horse's coat may be wet from snow, sweat, or both! To prevent a chill, your first job is to towel him dry. Holding a towel in each hand, rub vigorously over his haircoat in a circular motion, absorbing as much moisture as you can. Rough up his hairs to allow air to flow through his undercoat.
- If you're trailering home after your ride, use a stiff bristle brush to remove snow from legs and hooves before loading. If you can load in an area clear of snow, pick out his feet, as well. Keep a layer of wood shavings on your trailer floor to absorb any melted snow dragged into the trailer. Wet mats can be treacherous.
- Blanket him for the trailer ride. Use a blanket that allows water vapor to pass through. Non-breathable blankets will prevent your horse from drying, leaving him cold and miserable.
- Dry him completely. Once you arrive home, make sure he is thoroughly dry. You can leave on the breathable blanket (if it's cold), remove the blanket (if it's sunny), or use a blow dryer. Brush or curry him again to separate the hairs. If he's unclipped and doesn't wear a blanket, fluff up his coat. The body heat warms the air between his coat and skin, so the more air he can trap there, the better.
- Once your horse has sufficiently cooled down, toss him a large flake of hay. Digesting high-fiber feed will help keep him warm. Grass hay is higher in fiber than alfalfa hay. Allow free access to unfrozen water.

The above tips were reprinted with permission from

EquiSearch.

Local Barn Helps Victims of Pentagon!

By Celeste McGee

Here is something that my barn did to help the victims of the Pentagon that I thought might be of interest. I know we all want to help...

After the September 11 tragedy and the ensuing anthrax attacks, I feel so fortunate to be healthy, alive and riding. As a local Washingtonian and a rider/instructor at Camp Olympia, in Rockville, MD, I wanted to be able to give something back to those who lost so much. So I organized a Ride-A-Thon among my students and boarders. I recruited about 40 riders to participate over the course of three cross country trail rides: October 5, 13 and 14. We had gorgeous weather and lots of enthusiasm!

We are pleased to announce that we raised over $4,200 for the "Survivor's Fund" of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. It is a fund to support the long term educational, health and rehabilitation, grief counseling and general support needs of the individuals and families in the metropolitan Washington region. It is based on a similar fund created after the Oklahoma City bombing.

Camp Olympia and all of our riders and parents are very excited and proud about our contribution! If anyone else out there would like to do something similar, please feel free to give me a call [(703) 734-5092] and I will be happy to share with you my research and experience.

TRAIL NEWS FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY

by Naomi Manders

My apologies for such a long absence from the TROT newsletter. You can be assured that trail construction is proceeding more rapidly than I can keep up with. Without the help of many wonderful volunteers, it would be impossible. Now is the time for you equestrians to become involved; we have plenty of hikers and bikers.

Following is a list of County Park trails projects. Most trails formally exclude mountain bikers but it is hard to hold the line when so many bikers are lobbying and volunteering. From a maintenance viewpoint, horses cause as much damage to the trail as bikes (it's just a different kind of wear and tear). It also matters how many horses or bikes use a trail. Whatever, it costs more to build a trail environmentally correctly for horses.

Seneca Creek Greenway Trail (SCGT)

Approximately 17 miles of trail is in place from the Potomac River to Route 355 built by a coalition of hiking groups for hikers. The "horse trails" from the Potomac up to Black Rock Road were just ignored. TROT (via Tim McGrath) is now trying to formalize some of these paths. This is a STATE PARK so contact Tim (timcgrath@lan2wan.com) to volunteer. Currently no biking allowed on SCGT.

Trail from Route 355 parking lot to Watkins Mill Road (3 miles) is County owned, open to horses and hiking and very beautiful. Please go slow as there are some narrow forested areas. Do not tread on boardwalk or small bridges - both stream crossings can be forded carefully on the west side of the hiking crossings. ***TRAIL MAPS AVAILABLE*** FROM www mc-mncppc.org (Go to "What's new", look under Biking/Hiking Trails to download maps.)

To volunteer for continued construction and maintenance: www Senecatrail.org.

Seneca Trail Hawkins Creamery Road area

New subdivisions, new Park acquisition, new trail. If you ride this area, please get in touch with John Wood (301/428-1138), who is helping with planning and maintenance. We need to get this section under control while the builders and new homeowners are out there. The last piece of acquisition to complete the big SCGT trail up to Route 108 lies due south of Hawkins Creamery.

Rachel Carson Conservation Park / Hawlings River

Several years have passed since the Master Plan some of you worked on was approved. It was recommended in the Master Plan to establish a volunteer monitor and maintenance group and by the time you read this, we will have had our first workday, on Saturday, January 19. Quite a few TROT members have already volunteered and we hope to get the group organized into a formal program to assist Park Staff in maintaining the Park. Only equestrian/hiking use is permitted.

TRAIL NEWS cont'd

We would like to see this "conservation" park look a lot healthier in the future. Several eroded trails have been closed and brushed over; new alignments take you to the same destinations. The new trails need to be stailized but we must wait for dry ground so please do your best to stay off them when wet. The "exercise loop" is completed in the field at the north side of the woods east of Zion Road. You may trot and canter but stay away from the tenant house. I hope to get signs up soon. A trailhead and major bridge are also coming. An access road to the pond will be built this spring and then we must wait for more funds.

Would you like to join "Friends of Rachel Carson Conservation Park"? Call or email me (www Naomi.manders@mncppc-mc.org) with your address, phone, email, etc.

Fairland Regional Park

A short piece of trail was built by volunteers from MORE (mountain bike organization) to connect from the parking area/playground off Greencastle Road down to the ridge across Little Paint Branch. Horses are permitted, signs will go up soon. This trail avoids the bike path and is part of a much larger vision for natural surface trail in this Park. If you have interest, call Mary Angevine, your PG Coordinator (301/937-0014), who is doing a fabulous job of protecting your trail interests.

Muddy Branch and Blockhouse Point Potomac Area

The Master Plan for Muddy Branch contains both hard surface and natural surface trail proposals; the plan is on hold while the County faces opposition to the hard surface. Six field walks open to the public for input are scheduled for February, March and May. If you have concerns about these trails, please call me. MORE has been very actively lobbying for access and the environmentalists argue why bikers should be banned when horses are allowed. Callithea Farms will participate in a volunteer monitor/maintenance program. Park Police Mounted Volunteers: Please put us on your schedule; I'm willing to guide anyone through the park.

Woodstock Equestrian Park

This is a 700 acre tract bisected by Route 28 between Beallsville and Dickerson. It is to be an eventing center, open to the public and hosting all kinds of equestrian activities. The trail system will be well worth visiting and opening it up now rests upon decisions of State Highway about the entrances on Route 28. Again, volunteers including TROT, Potomac Hunt and Potomac Polo, have testified to the Planning Board that they will maintain the trails. What we need first, is a safe entrance, trailhead parking and permission to ride existing trails. Bikes will not be allowed in this park.

Connections to Woodstock from Seneca State Park, Sugarloaf, C&O Canal, etc. are being explored. If you have knowledge which could be helpful with these connections, please call BUCKLODGE FOREST (Tim McGrath 301/428-1050). Connection to BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK (to be accomplished by easement over new subdivision).

Agricultural History Farm Park, Pope Farm, Derwood Area, Upper Rock Creek Corridor, in the Masterplan of Trails '98

Plans for the northward extension of the Percheron Trail are in progress. You should shortly be able to cross the back of the Hoover Property (new subdivision) and be in sight of Route 108. Ultimately you will cross 108 at the light at entrance to the landfill. If you want to see the model for equestrian underpasses in the future, contact Sally Bradbury (301/570-5752) or John Fredlund (301/938-3007) for a guided tour. Although there is no formal trailer parking lot, parking can be arranged by calling the manager, Doug Ludwig at 301/948-5053.

Best wishes for you and your mounts' enjoyment of new trails. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible through the volunteer program!

Naomi

301/495-2543

PLEASE REPORT TRAIL PROBLEMS PROMPTLY TO PARK POLICY...PARKWATCH, call 1/800-825-PARK; Park Police Special Operations 301/929-3010

And I Quote:

"Horses stay the same from the day they are born until the day they die - they are only changed by the way people treat them."

TOM SMITH (1939), trainer of the legendary racehorse, *Seabiscuit*

"The air of heaven is that which blows between a horse's ears."

ARABIAN PROVERB

"Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyways."

JOHN WAYNE

IDENTIFICATION OF THE FEMALE EQUESTRIAN... from a man's point of view!

- **EASY TO LOCATE:** She's either off on the horse or out in the barn
- **UPHOLDS THE DOUBLE STANDARD:** Smooches with the most bewhiskered beast, but recoils when you need a shave
- **OWNS 1 VACUUM CLEANER:** and operates it exclusively in the barn
- **A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY:** providing the party is given by another horsey wife - falls asleep in her soup at all other functions
- **A CULINARY PERFECTIONIST:** Checks every section of hay for mold but doesn't blink when she petrifies your dinner in the microwave
- **OCCASIONALLY AMOROUS:** but never leaves lipstick on your collar, at worst, slight trace of chapstick.
- **EASY TO OUTFIT:** No need for embarrassing visits to uncomfortable little boutiques; you can find all she wears at your local tackstore
- **FEATURES A SELECTIVE SENSE OF SMELL:** Bitterly complains about your sticky-sweet cigar smoke while remaining totally oblivious to the almost visible aroma of her barn boots drying next to the heater
- **UNMISTAKABLE IN A BATHING SUIT:** She's the one whose tan starts at the nose, ends at the neck, and picks up again at the wrists
- **A DEDICATED CLUB WOMAN:** as long as the words "horse" or "riding" appear in its name
- **HAS YOUR LEISURE AT HEART:** Eliminates grass cutting by turning every square inch of lawn into pasture which, in turn, converts itself into mud
- **A MASTER AT MULTIPLICATION:** She starts with one horse, adds a companion, and if it's a mare, she breeds it
- **KEEPS AN EAGLE EYE ON THE BUDGET:** Easily justifies spending six hundred dollars, but croaks when you blow ten on a tie
- **AN ENGAGING CONVERSATIONALIST:** Can rattle on endlessly about training
- **SOCIALLY AWARE:** Knows that formal occasions call for clean boots
- **A MOVING FORCE IN THE FAMILY:** House by house, she'll get you to move closer to horse country (and farther away from your job)
- **EASY TO PLEASE:** A new wheelbarrow, custom boots, or even a folding hoof pick will win her heart forever
- **SENTIMENTAL FOOL:** Displays a minimum of six 8x10 color photos of the horse in the house - carries a crumpled snapshot of you (taken before you were married) somewhere in the bottom of her purse
- **SHOWS HER AFFECTION IN UNUSUAL WAYS:** If she pats you on the neck and says "you're a good boy," believe it or not, she loves you!

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Mary Prowell, (301) 607-8061. A Negative Coggins Test more information is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

Feb 16 Sat **TROT Annual PotLuck Dinner and Meeting**, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, Rt. 144 1 mile west of Rt. 32, off I-70 at exit 80. Doors open 5:30 pm

Feb 20 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**, 7:30 pm, all TROT members are always welcome. Call Gale for place and directions (usually her house on Mink Hollow Road in Howard Co.) This will be the election of officers from the current and newly elected Board Members. 301-854-3852.

Mar 17 Sun **Paint Branch Ride, Mont. Co.** These trails were the beginning inspiration for TROT. Come ride the Paint Branch, the Gum Spring, and the Good Hope tributaries. If time allows, we can also ride the connecting trail to the Rocky Gorge Watershed. Time about 2 to 3 hours, moderate pace (walk, trot, possibility some cantering depending on the group). These are stream valley trails with river crossings and the possibility of mud this time of year. A snack or lunch for after the ride would be a good idea, especially if we go over to Rocky Gorge. Contact Mary Prowell at 301/607-8061 or Boprow@aol.com.

Mar 23 Sat **Morgan Run Park, Carroll Co.** Ride through woods into open fields in this Carroll County park. Call Doris Kulp for the particulars, at 301/271-0226. Rain date Sunday, March 24.

Apr 6 Sat **Patuxant River State Park, How. Co.** These trails are some of the most extensive areas of trails you can ride. They hook up to the lower Patuxant trails and may eventually have a safe access all the way to the Tridelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoir trails. These are also the home trails of the hunt clubs. The pace will be mostly walk/trot and ride time will be up to 3 hours. These are stream valley trails with river crossings. Contact Sue Carbonneau at CharbonneauS@NCIFCRF.gov or 301/865-3399 for maps and info. Rain date April 7, Sunday.

Apr 13 Sat **Little Bennett Regional Park, Mont. Co.** This interesting park has woods, fields, a Boy Scout Campground, and a one room school house with a swinging bridge. This park is a very popular riding destination. Call Mimi Ernst for more information at 301/416-2388. Rain date, April 14, Sunday.

Apr 21 Sun **Union Mills, Carroll Co.** This lovely park has many varied trails - woods, streams, some hills, and expansive views north to Pennsylvania farmland. Ride for 2 to 3 hours at a walk/trot pace. If people want to ride a bit faster will possibly have a group for that too. May have one road crossing. Contact Cathy McElroy at 410/857-3540.

Apr 27 Sat **Rocky Gorge Reservoir, P.G. Co.** Come ride these gorgeous trails! The views are spectacular as each bend and turn yields a new vista of the river stretching away in the distance. These trails will really make you feel you are far from the maddening crowd, with the possibility of seeing deer, fox, beavers, Osprey and even Bald Eagles. There will be a walking group and another faster group when the terrain allows. Contact Terry Ledley at 301/776-2661 for more information. Rain date April 28, Sunday.

May 4 Sat **Potomac Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal, Mont. Co.** This ride leaves Anna's historic working farm and travels over the fields, past the Polo field, through the woods, and down to the C&O canal towpath, and the Potomac river. There are usually three groups - walk, trot, and canter - with a possible snack break at the White's Ferry Store. Anna treats everyone to a cookout at her farm after the ride. Call Anna Slayman at 301/972-8187.

May 11 Sat **Sugar Loaf Mountain, Fred. Co.** These trails should be quite pretty at this time of year with wild flowers in bloom and very nice views. Most of the trails are fine but there may be some rocky places going from one set to the next so recommend front shoes or easy boots. There can be some climbs up the mountain as well. There is the possibility of different groups at different paces, but otherwise expect slow to moderate. Ride time will be 2 to 2-1/2 hours. Contact Monica Breland at 301/972-7454.

Hello fellow trail riders... From Mary Prowell

Participation in the TROT Trail Ride program has been declining for the past two years. Some rides are being well attended and others being basically ignored. So, we'd like to get some input from our membership! Do you have any input on why this is occurring? Is the pace of some rides a problem? Are the trail locations undesirable? Is the time of year bad for you? Or is it just time and weather related? Tell me what you want.

Kudos to the TROT trail ride leaders, who are really great to volunteer. They spend a considerable amount of time ensuring the trails are in, at least, moderately good shape. And their commitment to provide information to the riders, select the location and lead the ride is awesome and greatly appreciated. From the leader's point of view, last minute interest is frustrating. Advance notice would make them feel needed and inspired! Rides frequently depend on weather or work schedules, but without interest from the TROT membership, the leaders may cancel and do something else themselves! And, people who don't arrive on time are equally as frustrating...for the leaders and everyone else waiting. Allow extra time if you're not sure how long it's going to take for you to drive to the trail head. Groom your horse before you leave. If you make it just in the nick of time, saddle up quickly and everyone will appreciate it. If you arrive early, you can be sure the lead rider will already be there!

A note about weather, too. Most of us that lead are perfectly willing to lead these rides even if we don't have perfect riding conditions. Don't think that just because it is calling for possible showers or it is a cloudy or cold day that we won't go. If you don't want to take a chance on the weather, give us a call if you aren't coming...then the ride won't be held up waiting for your arrival.

Our rides are always under control and usually at a moderate pace. This makes them a good place to introduce a green horse or rider to trails and group rides. That does not, however, mean that horses and riders without basic skills are going to fit in. Perhaps a discussion with the ride leader about your, and your horse's, skills would be prudent...especially if any trotting, cantering, mud or water crossing will be an issue for you. While most of us are eager to help with a balky horse at a water crossing, this isn't an appropriate time for a training session over water. Most training of this nature is better accomplished with a trainer and perhaps one other rider.

I hope you will forward me your comments on how we may increase participation in our rides. Please feel free to include your suggestions on improvements. Most importantly, please volunteer to contribute your time to help these improvements get in place!

We are very lucky to have lot of lovely and varied trails in the suburban Maryland area. TROT members should take advantage and ride as many as possible. If you've seen one, you haven't seen them all! The terrain, views, flora and fauna vary from place to place. And, you can meet really nice people that can show you other areas to ride in.

TROT needs more trails and ride leaders. If you ride in a specific park that you think would make a good 2 to 3 hour ride, and we aren't leading a ride there, let me know. Better yet, volunteer to lead it! Or find someone who will.

Lastly, I am planning on retiring from the Trail Ride Coordinator position soon. I'd love to see the job go to an active trail rider. This is the perfect opportunity to get involved with TROT in a way that will be beneficial and fun. It does involve phone calls and some scheduling, but nothing too difficult. Hope you are interested...or know someone who is!

Send your comments to me! Boprow@aol.com. Happy Trails.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to: Debbie Palmer, TROTNews, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is March 25. Make checks out to TROT Type or print your ad, 38 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

HORSE LOVER'S DREAM--2 bdrm, full bsmnt, 1-1/3 acres, separate garage apt. to generate income, 2 car garage, fully fenced, 3 horse barn, lush pasture, miles of trails out your back door. Bowie (301) 262-2666.

SERVICES--Lime & fertilizer spreading, Land clearing and Tree & stump removal, Trucking, hay & straw, firewood, sawdust, Pasture renovation. Call 301-423-5806, lv message. And wanted: cars, trucks, equipment for parts or rebuilding.

FOR SALE--Arab bay gelding, age 13, 15.2 h. ECTRA bronze metal. Looking for a good home. $3500 OBO. Phone 301/432-6853.

FOR SALE--16 h. Dark Bay Thoroughbred/Appaloosa Gelding. Very athletic. Good on trails. Knows dressage. $2500. Call 301/681-6184 day/evening.

KIWANIS HORSE TRAILER RAFFLE

TO HELP CHILDREN

The Woodbridge Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. [501(c)(3)] is holding a raffle of a 2-horse trailer to raise funds that will go toward the purchase of a Mobile Dialysis Unit for Potomac Hospital. The unit will travel throughout Prince William County helping children and adults who cannot reach in-house dialysis facilities.

100 raffle tickets will be given out for a donation of $50 per ticket. The trailer is a 1998, Adam, 2-horse Thoroughbred trailer. The interior height is 7', there is a full escape door in the front, and the center partition on the step up can be removed to accommodate hay or a mare and foal. The trailer has a current Virginia inspection sticker, mats, and comes with a custom waterproof cover.

Please send a check made out to the WKF, Inc., and a SASE to: Trailer Raffle, c/o 1543 Colonial Drive T3, Woodbridge, Virginia 22192-2443. The drawing will take place not later than May 1, 2002, or as soon as all tickets are distributed. (The Foundation reserves the right to cancel the raffle and return donations if all 100 tickets are not claimed.) For additional information, call 703/490-6344 or email kiwanisdeb@newhorizonsfarm.org.

SUNDAY HUNTING IS B A C K

Sunday hunting legislation is back in the Maryland legislature. At press time, January 25, this was the status.

House Bill 9 had been introduced. Among other provisions, it states "The deer firearms season shall be at least 21 days, including three Sundays." The bill excludes certain populous counties from Sunday hunting.

Needless to say, we are opposed to **any** Sundays **anywhere** - if they get three this year, you can bet they'll be back for more next year and even more the year after, etc. The same goes for the counties. There is no doubt that the ultimate goal is for hunting on all Sundays during hunting season throughout Maryland. And, we are certainly concerned about "at least" 21 days of deer firearms season. "At least" could be used to establish firearms for the entire four-and-a-half-month deer hunting season!

On January 18, we learned that the House Environmental Matters Committee would be hearing testimony on the bill on January 23. I testified on behalf of the TROT Board of Directors in opposition to the bill. The Maryland Horse Council also testified, asking that "at least" be changed to "a maximum of" and that all references to Sunday hunting be deleted. We do not know what the final wording of the bill might be or when it will be voted upon. When you receive this newsletter, there may still be time for you to contact Committee members to voice your concerns.

But, in any case, you can certainly contact your own delegate.

There will be a Senate bill, but it had not yet been introduced at press time. You should definitely contact members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, who will be studying it on the Senate side - as well as your own Senator - and let them know your views. **It is extremely important you contact members of the Senate Committee because their vote will be a crucial one.**

Attached to this newsletter you will find a copy of our "Sunday Hunting Alert." The reverse side contains information on how to look up bills in the House and Senate and how to contact legislators. Keep your letters, faxes or e-mails short, direct and factual, and speak from the heart about your concerns. The same with phone calls.

Do come to the Annual Meeting on February 16 to hear the latest. If you need information in the meantime, give me a call.

Anne Bennof 301/829-0949

SUNDAY HUNTING ALERT!

House Bill 9, which will repeal the current prohibition on Sunday hunting, has been introduced in the Maryland Legislature. A similar Senate bill will no doubt be introduced soon. There are many reasons why you should oppose these measures, regardless of whether your county is directly affected. You ride all over, right?

Safety

Many who enjoy the outdoors do not feel safe doing so in the presence of hunters armed with lethal weapons. As one horseback rider put it: "How safe would you feel riding through the woods on a brown animal?" **But**, it is not only **horseback riders** who are endangered. **Bird watchers, hikers, bikers, joggers, Scout groups, canoers/kayakers, families, orienteerers, dog walkers, landowners** - all have expressed the need for at least one day a week when they can safely enjoy the outdoors during hunting season.

Claims that hunting does not endanger non-hunters are unsubstantiated and skewed. No reporting is required. Many people who would otherwise be in the woods, stay away.

Equity

Non-hunters deserve at least **one weekend day to enjoy outdoors** during hunting season. For most working people, weekends are time for leisure activities. Presently, hunters get to enjoy Saturday; everybody else gets Sunday. Organized events & activities - trail rides, hikes, birding walks, bike rides, picnics, orienteering tests, canoe/kayak trips, etc. - are currently scheduled on Sundays to avoid hunters.

The shared weekend system that currently exists seems the best compromise. Non-hunters should be able to at least continue to enjoy the status quo - **one day, Sunday**.

No Need

The statewide deer hunting season lasts from **mid-September through January** (hunting for other species goes beyond). During hunting seasons - some of the most beautiful times of the year - **hunters are out six days a week**.

It has been estimated that knowledgeable deer hunters can take nearly 30 deer each if they hunt throughout the state using various weapons - bow, firearms, muzzleloader - and avail themselves of special hunts, crop damage permits, etc. Therefore, there are **ample hunting opportunities without Sunday hunting**. The Sunday hunting bill has nothing to do with herd management. It is entirely a matter of allowing hunters another day to enjoy their sport.

Don't let them take away your Sunday!

Contact committee members and your legislator (especially if a sponsor) right away.

See the reverse side of this sheet.

HOW TO CONTACT THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

If you have a computer, log on: http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us

HOW TO FIND AND CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Click on: **General Assembly**

Click on: **"Find"** in "Contact or Find a legislator"

Click on: **Look up form** (which will allow you to list your address)

Click on: **Name of your Senator** and your **Delegate** in the MD General Assembly. You will get a full page of information on each and how to contact them. You'll get address, phone, fax, e-mail - use what is most comfortable for you. Just remember, **personal contact means the most**.

* * *

HOW TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF

THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Click on **General Assembly**

In paragraph beginning: "The Maryland General Assembly meets in Annapolis each year for 90 days..."

Click on **Maryland General Assembly**

Click on **Committees**

Click on **House Standing Committees**

Click on **Environmental Matters Committee**

Click on **Senate Standing Committees**

Click on **Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

Click on each **name** for information about that committee member

* * *

HOW TO READ AND FOLLOW PROGRESS OF BILL

Click on **General Assembly**

Insert **HG9** and Click on **Submit** (Watch for Senate bill in Subject listing)

Note bill sponsors. Your legislator? Make extra effort to contact, as well as committee. If full text of bill does not appear, try clicking on **"First Reading"** near bottom

* * *

If you don't have a computer, visit your local library. Library staff will help you look up the information. **Or phone the Department of Legislative Services at 410/946-5400.**

County Coordinator/Contact Membership is for the calendar year. All individuals included in a TROT family membership must be members of the same family living at the same address. *Additional contributions are welcome and help TROT to preserve the trails you ride on.* TROT is a tax exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY and send form and payment to: **Lois Ward-Membership Chairperson, Trail Riders of Today, Outlaw Run Farm, 11838 Ramsburg Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104**

Send Email To: The Webmaster

Editor: Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email: DSPSFARM@aol.com

April 2002

NEWS
Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

Number 135

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT !

(Of TROT, that is !)

Dear Members,

BOY!!! Did we have a lot of people at the Annual Pot Luck held February 16th. There were around 120 folks there! We had lots of good food and an excellent speaker, Henry Heymering. He was not only informative, he was also very enjoyable to listen to. I saw many faces I haven't seen for a long time. I need to see those faces more often. Come on a TROT trail ride. We discussed everything from horse's feet to Sunday Hunting. Those guys representing the company that do trailer repair and maintenance at your home or barn were quite good.

TROT has grown to around 1,000 members, yet there are still only a small handful who volunteer. With all the people at the Pot Luck, it is clear that there are trail riders who still care about trails and this organization. Try volunteering for something. Most things that TROT needs volunteers for do not take up much time and can be done at home. For instance, TROT has an inventory of clothing to sell. We need someone to take over handling the inventory. This would mean taking orders and shipping. Not much work. We are lucky to have someone temporarily handling the membership and need someone permanent. All you need is a computer. We, most of all, need people to come to board meetings. Not necessarily to be a board member, but to share your wonderful ideas regarding all sorts of issues that would be very helpful to running this organization of 1,000 members. Please help TROT. It is **your** organization.

Gale Monahan,
President

Sunday Hunting Unresolved At Press Time

First of all, THANKS to everyone who visited, wrote, called, faxed or e-mailed their representatives in Annapolis about Sunday hunting. This was a hard-fought issue and your contacts made a huge difference.

We had hoped to bring you good news on the Sunday Hunting bill (House Bill 9) and tell you it had gone away for another year. However, here was the situation as of March 24th.

The House Environmental Matters Committee held hearings on January 23. I testified on behalf of TROT, strongly opposing the three days of Sunday hunting, as well as the increase in the deer firearm season to "at least" 21 days. The major portion of our testimony dealt with the Sunday hunting issue. We understand that there was a lot of discussion on the bill, and it finally was amended from three Sunday hunting days to one -- the first Sunday of the firearm season (the Sunday after Thanksgiving). The "at least" 21 days remained. The amended bill passed the Committee on February 15 by a 12 yea, 10 nay vote. It subsequently passed the full House of Delegates on February 22 by a 94 yea, 36 nay vote. Remember, the Speaker of the House, Casper Taylor, was a sponsor of the bill, so the votes are not surprising -- but disappointing nonetheless.

If you wish to know how your delegate voted, give me a call. It would be a good idea to thank those who voted against -- and let those who voted for it know how disappointed you are. Del Hurson from Montgomery County is Chairman of the Environmental Matters Committee and argued strongly for the bill, so those of you in Montgomery need to educate him. We may be back in his Committee next year.

There was no companion Senate bill. Rather, HB 9 moved to the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee. It was announced that hearings would be held on March 19. We found out rather late that, when the Senate is considering a House bill, there are no "hearings" in the traditional sense. Instead, it is customary for them to hear only from the sponsor of the bill. I complained that there would be hearing only from proponents and that opponents should be heard. The day before the hearing, a Committee staffer called to say that Chairman Blount had decided to allow limited testimony on both sides. So, TROT did get to testify on the 19th, together with a mountain biker, a landowner, the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Humane Society and the Fund for Animals. I argued that even one Sunday opened the door and set a precedent and that the hunters would be back for more next year. Chairman Blount was very patient and generous in allowing as many to testify as he did. I have written to thank him. If he is your Senator (Baltimore City), please do likewise.

At press time, there had been no vote in the Senate Committee. I hope you all have already contacted members of that Committee, as well as your own Senator. By the time you read this, there no doubt will have been a Committee vote, and, if it passes there, a vote on the floor of the full Senate. If it passes both, our only hope will be a veto by the Governor. Our hope, of course, is that the Senate Committee will vote it down -- which stops it in its tracks.

* * *

Another issue of interest: Right in the middle of all of the foregoing events, bills were introduced in the House and the Senate which would have stripped all responsibility for management of wildlife (and fish) from DNR and put it in the hands of a Commission composed of -- you guessed it -- hunters! (and fishermen). Scary huh? I submitted testimony and Jane Toal attended and spoke at the House hearing. Following that hearing, there was no vote and the bills were "referred to interim study." I'm told this means they will be studied over the summer and will be re-introduced next year in some form. So, this one is looming for next year.

Anne Bennof
301-829-0949

Vacation Plans?

A recent article in ***Equus*** about horse sitters, made me (the editor) wonder what most people do when they travel, with regard to horse care...do you have a special, professional horse sitter that you engage? Does a neighbor tend to your equines? Or do you just never go anywhere? We'd like to poll our membership...please let us know how you handle vacation plans for you and your horses...email the editor at DSPSFARM@aol.com. Results of the poll will be published in the June newsletter.

Take Your Clippers for a Ride!

Spring is upon us and everybody is getting out on the trails more. But, watch out! Those sticker bushes are also enjoying the fair weather and growing like mad. Now is the time to work on them before they take over the trails.

So, don't go out without your hand pruners. If you don't have a small saddle bag or belt holder for them, put them in a fanny pack. If you clip a little as you go each time, the trail clearing task won't be so overwhelming a month or so from now.

And, of course, make a note of downed trees and other larger projects. Then round up your riding buddies and go back and clear the trail rather than just creating another one around the obstacle.

This is what TROT is all bout -- making sure we have good, safe trails!

And...some Notes from Prince George's County

A Trail and Sign dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 from 10 am to 12 noon for the Henson Creek Hiker Biker Equestrian Trail. TROT will be providing coffee and donuts for early arrivals.

Rosaryville State Park trails are being evaluated for a new, more user-friendly accessing system. Gate-keeping and parking problems are being addressed. Watch this column for updated information.

Work continues on the County-wide Trails Plan update which is to be a part of the new General Plan for Prince George's County. A technical bulletin will be a part of the package.

Prince George's County is also working on its portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail, with current focus on mapping the off-road trails. This Spring looks like it will be a fine one for trail riding!!! Enjoy!!

Mary Angevine
301-937-0014

Helpful Tips for Eyes

The following excerpts are reprinted from ***The Horse Report***, UC Davis Center for Equine Health.

The sensitive eye...**When do you call the vet?** Whenever there is increased discharge (clear or yellowish); Squinting and/or excessive blinking; Cloudy appearance; Vision problems (bumping into fences, walls, etc., and/or performance horses not doing as well in their sports such as jumping, trail, etc., for no apparent reason); Blood in the eye (even a small amount is a sign of trouble); Any foreign object in the eye or eyelids; Any sign of tumor development on the eyelids or eyeball.

Do's: Do seek veterinary advice early, eyes deteriorate rapidly leaving only a small window of time for effective treatment; Only remove a foreign object yourself if it is confined to the eyelids; Flush dirt, ash, sand, or plant materials with water or saline solution if the horse will tolerate it, then see the vet to look for any further damage; Treat chemicals in the eye as you would in humans, by flushing the eyes with copious amounts of water and see the vet immediately.

Dont's: Do not ignore eye problems thinking it's "just a little dust" or an "allergy" (allergic eye disease in horses is very uncommon); Do not use a tube of ointment left over from a previous eye problem, some eye medications will make certain eye problems worse; Do not remove a foreign object yourself from the eyeball itself, get a veterinarian to remove it.

Items of interest:

Did you know... Roy Roger's jewel-studded saddle sold for $412,500? The elaborate show saddle was purchased by an anonymous buyer during an auction in Mesa, AZ. The saddle contains 1400 oz. of silver, 136 oz. of gold and 500 rubies from Czechnoslovakia! The matching chaps and spurs went for $670,000! All the proceeds were said to help Roger's children pay off substantial estate taxes.

TROT Judged Pleasure Ride

Date: June 9, 2002
Time: Registration opens at 10:00 am, closes at noon
Place: Pavilion C. McKeldin Area, Patapsco Valley State Park
Fee: $25 per horse/rider
Rules: Hard hats required -- and -- Current negative Coggins test required

What is a "Judged" Pleasure Ride?

TROT's Judged Pleasure Ride is a 10-mile trail loop starting and ending in the McKeldin area of the Patapsco Valley State Park. The terrain varies from flat lands alongside the river to steep hills (some rocky) and open fields. Each rider may proceed at his/her own pace; there is no time limit. The trail is well flagged with surveyors tape, and safety riders with radios patrol the course until all riders have returned.

Along the trail are set 10-12 stations, each announced by a paper plate sign with the station's number. At each station is a patient and kind volunteer who is spending his/her entire day sitting at that spot watching you ride by. (Please thank them on your way through!) Each station is designed to provide some type of trail obstacle one might conceivably encounter on a pleasure ride anywhere in Maryland.

How the rider and horse negotiate the obstacle is judged. In the past, obstacles have included a wooden bridge to walk across, a bag of trash to throw into a trash can, and a lawn ornament cow standing beside the trail. Each judge has been instructed on some general points to look for, as well as particular actions either good or bad specific to that obstacle.

For a good score (7-9 points), a judge would look for the horse that willingly waits its turn at the waiting place (a paper plate sign announcing the next obstacle), proceeds through the obstacle or chore with attention to its job (ears pricked, looking where its feet are going), and whose rider is cheerful, confident, and patient with his/her mount and proceeds through the obstacle with forethought and safety.

Directions to McKeldin

West-bound I-70, take exit 83 for Marriottsville Road, bearing right off exit ramp

or

East-bound I-70, take exit 82, Rt. 40, to first light. Turn left onto Marriottsville Road.

Marriottsville Road through Marriottsville, where it crosses the railroad tracks and over 2 branches of the Patapsco River.

Less than 1/2 mile, at the crest of the hill, is the park entrance on the right.

The Prizes: Oldest horse, Oldest rider, and Youngest rider; Champion and Reserve Champion according to highest scores, 1st-6th place ribbons for each class (see Entry Form for Class List). Also, this will be the fourth year for the Irving Abb Memorial Trophy to go to the Ride's Champion.

Questions?

Call Ride Secretary **Bette Laug** at 301/972-8442 or e-mail her at olaug@email.msn.com.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Judged Pleasure Ride
June 9, 2002

Please send entry form (1 for each horse/rider entered).

entry fee of $25 (make checks payable to TROT).

a copy of each horse's negative Coggins test to:

Bette B. Laug (301-972-8442)
17500 Conoy Road
Barnesville, MD 20838-9748
olaug@email.msn.com

Name ______________________________

Address ____________________________

____

Phone ( ) ________ - ____________________

e-mail _____________________________

Rider's Age ____________ Horse's Age ________________

Please circle the **TWO** classes you wish to enter, one for the rider and one for the horse (next page).

For the Rider: ***circle one class***

1. Junior (riders under age 18)

2. Novice (adults who've never placed in a Judged Pleasure Ride)

3. Open (adults)

CALENDAR

Apr 6 Sat **Patuxant River State Park, How. Co.** These trails are some of the most extensive areas of trails you can ride. They hook up to the lower Patuxant trails and may eventually have a safe access all the way to the Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoir trails. These are also the home trails of the hunt clubs. The pace will be mostly walk/trot and ride time will be up to 3 hours. These are stream valley trails with river crossings. Contact Sue Carbonneau at CharbonneauS@NCIFCRF.gov or 301/865-3399 for maps and info. Rain date April 7, Sunday.

Apr 13 Sat **Little Bennett Regional Park, Mont. Co.** This interesting park has woods, fields, a Boy Scout Campground, and a one room school house with a swinging bridge. This park is a very popular riding destination. Call Mimi Ernst for more information at 301/416-2388. Rain date, April 14, Sunday.

Apr 21 Sun **Union Mills, Carroll Co.** This lovely park has many varied trails - woods, streams, some hills, and expansive views north to Pennsylvania farmland. Ride for 2 to 3 hours at a walk/trot pace. If people want to ride a bit faster will possibly have a group for that too. May have one road crossing. Contact Cathy McElroy at 410/857-3540.

Apr 27 Sat **Rocky Gorge Reservoir, P.G. Co.** Come ride these gorgeous trails! The views are spectacular as each bend and turn yields a new vista of the river stretching away in the distance. These trails will really make you feel you are far from the maddening crowd, with the possibility of seeing deer, fox, beavers, Osprey and even Bald Eagles. There will be a walking group and another faster group when the terrain allows. Contact Terry Ledley at 301/776-2661 for more information. Rain date April 28, Sunday.

May 4 Sat **Potomac Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal, Mont. Co.** This ride leaves Anna's historic working farm and travels over the fields, past the Polo field, through the woods, and down to the C&O canal towpath, and the Potomac river. There are usually three groups - walk, trot, and canter - with a possible snack break at the White's Ferry Store. Anna treats everyone to a cookout at her farm after the ride. Call Anna Slayman at 301/972-8187.

May 11 Sat **Sugar Loaf Mountain, Fred. Co.** These trails should be quite pretty at this time of year with wild flowers in bloom and very nice views. Most of the trails are fine but there may be some rocky places going from one set to the next so recommend front shoes or easy boots. There can be some climbs up the mountain as well. There is the possibility of different groups at different paces, but otherwise expect slow to moderate. Ride time will be 2 to 2-1/2 hours. Contact Monica Breland at 301/972-7454.

May 18 Sat **C&O Canal, Mont. Co.** This ride will leave Callithea Farm and go through woods and fields and on to the C&O Canal, time permitting. A stop at Poole's store for a snack or lunch is a possibility. This ride is a joint venture with PBHTA and will be led by Naomi Manders. If you have non-TROT members interested remember that they need to join at the ride. There may be more than one group, so call ahead and find out the details from Naomi at 301/279-7994.

June 1 Sat **Catoctin Mountains, Cunningham Falls.** Leader Marilynn Miller--301-898-7274. This ride will take you up into the Catoctin mountains heading west from Cunningham Falls. Come enjoy some of the scenic diversity that Maryland offers with the possibility of some wonderful overlooks. Rain date June 2, Sunday.

June 9 Sun **Camp Waredaca, Patuxent River State Park, Mont. Co.** These great trails traverse farmland fields into the Patuxant River Park. These trails may overlap and eventually connect with the Upper Patuxant River trails you can explore on a future ride. You may have the interesting experience of riding by some of the cross-country jumps at Waredaca. This is a fun trot/canter ride with a few small log jumps on some of the trails. Contact Gayle Ford at 410-552-5372.

June 15 Sat **Patapsco River Park.** Leader Annie Mo Benhoff--410-781-4165. This park, located in Carroll county, is one of the most extensive trail systems that we have. These are very scenic trails that follow the Patapsco river and wander through the adjoining parkland. Rain date June 16, Sunday.

June 22 Sat **Fair Hill.** Come join Karen Reynolds at this expansive horse facility near the Pennsylvania border. Fair Hill is host to world class horse events and is definitely worth a look-see. Fair Hill was previously owned by the Duponts and is a nice ride through fields and woods. Overnight camping is available but limited so if interested call early. For camping contact Carla at 410-398-1246. There is also a $2.00 user fee per vehicle for the TROT trail ride. Karen's number is 410-392-4454. Rain date June 23, Sunday.

June 30 Sun **Potomac Area, Mont.Co.** Sheila O'Donnell will lead a trotting ride from Lisa Gordon's Hunt View Farm on Stoney Creek Road along streets into Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park to the Potomac Horse Center. The ride will also traverse PEPCO power lines and adjoining neighborhoods so horses should be accustomed to walkers, bikes, dogs, and quiet construction equipment, as well as a possible horse show in progress. There will be some steep hills so be sure your horse can manage a few of these. Ride time will be about 2 ½ hours and limited to 10 riders. Contact Sheila at 202-431-9471 or email: scod@erols.com

Hello fellow trail riders... From Mary Prowell

The first TROT trail ride of the season was on a chilly, dank, drizzling day; nevertheless, three hardy souls from La Plata braved the elements to see what Paint Branch had to offer. Shelby Tipton, Susie Saul, and Keith Gardner on their trusty steeds Tango, Apache, and Casey walked, trotted and cantered for 2 1/2 hours over the well cleared (courtesy of mountain bike riders I believe) trails of the Paint Branch. I couldn't have asked for a more pleasant group to start the season with. Let's hope the weather cooperates more on future rides so that more of our TROT members can get out and see the variety of trails available to ride in our area.

I need trail leaders! I've had several that have either moved out of the area or have conflicts that no longer allow them to lead rides for me. I especially need people that know the trails in Greenbelt park, Liberty Reservoir, Black Hills, Rockburn, and the Hawlings River. You're going to ride anyway-volunteer to show your trails to others.

Come on you guys and volunteer for this job of Trail Ride Coordinator. You get to talk to and meet lots of people riding all over the place. You will find places you never even knew existed. Email me @ Boprow@aol.com.

A special Bran Mash recipe: (you can never have too many bran mash recipes!)

Stir together 2-3 quarts dry bran & 2 T salt
add 1 cup molasses (drizzle over top)
Boiling water

Add & stir with wooden spoon until mixture is damp but not sloppy. Cover and steam

Add:
1 quart sweet feed mix
2-3 apples (small slices)

Stir and serve warm. (A tsp of ginger may encourage a poor appetite; wheat germ oil puts a shine on their coats, and some horses like pears as well as apples. Remember to dice all fruit.

Everybody LOVES a Parade!!!

PARADE SCHEDULE:

5/11 Preakness - yellow & black/Black-eyed Susans

5/11 Laurel (new parade) - representing Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club. Call JoAnn Holt @ 301/498-6216 for more information

5/27 Rockville Memorial - red, white & blue

7/4 Severna Park - red, white & blue

9/7-8 Tuckahoe Outlaw Days - western

11/10 Brunswick Veterans - red, white & blue

11/23 Baltimore Thanksgiving - Ravens

12/22 Christmas at the Dairy - holiday

Banner carriers and side-walkers needed at all parades; pooper-scooper needed at 4/6, 7/4 and 12/22 parades. Interested parties may contact the editor for more info.

Do Blondes Really Have More Fun?

A blonde decides to try horseback riding, even though she has had no lessons or prior experience. She mounts the horse, unassisted, and the horse immediately springs into motion. It gallops along at a steady and rhythmic pace, but the blonde begins to slip from the saddle.

In terror, she grabs for the horse's mane, but cannot seem to get a firm grip. She tries to throw her arms around the horse's neck, but she slides down the side of the horse anyway. The horse gallops along, seemingly oblivious to its slipping rider.

Finally, giving up her frail grip, the blonde attempts to leap away from the horse and throw herself to safety. Unfortunately, her foot has become entangled in the stirrup; she is now at the mercy of the horse's pounding hooves as her head is struck against the ground over and over. As her head is battered against the ground, she is mere moments away from unconsciousness, when to her great fortune...

Dick, the Wal-Mart greeter, sees her dilemma and unplugs the horse.

Many thanks to Sandy

Brewer for her many

contributions of jokes!

Coffey Family Relief Update

Many of you heard about the fire on the Coffey's property...Susie and family moved into a house trailer on the property in February. For anyone who wants to donate funds, here is the address: James Coffey, Coffey Family Relief Fund, 13885 Rover Mill Road, West Friendship, MD 21794. Also see this web site for additional information compiled by Lori Shoemake, e-mail address: lori@evonlyequestrian.com - web site: www.evonlyequestrian.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: assorted used horse jumps in excellent condition. Call Ellen Gutow 301/854-3822.

SERVICES--Lime & fertilizer spreading, Land clearing and Tree & stump removal, Trucking, hay & straw, firewood, sawdust, Pasture renovation. Call 301-423-5806, lv message. And wanted: cars, trucks, equipment for parts or rebuilding.

BARN TO SHARE-NO COST-in exchange for help with my horses - Dayton area. 301/596-9334.

FOR SALE-Reg. SSH, 15.1 h black and white 5 yr. gelding. Extremely calm and quiet. Natural gait is a slow walk and smooth canter. Anyone can ride Shadow. $4500. 301/482-0664

FOR SALE-13.2 h Welsh/QH mare. 6 yrs old, gorgeous palamino. Lovely mover, brave and scopey jumpe r. Currently jumping 2'6" cours es in excellent form. Ex tremely quite. 100% sound. $8,500. Call 301/802-4070 or 301/922-1405 or email LTCMEG@hotmail. co m.

FOR SALE--Reg. Morgan Gelding-beautiful chestnut, 14.3, 13 yr., good on trails, drives, jumps. Experienced rider only. $1500 obo. 410/531-9624.

FOR SALE: Reg. QH, 8 yr old 14.3 Sorrel gelding. Very Cute and a *WONDERFUL TRAIL HORSE!* see pics at: **PICS** email Lisa: ldgraff@hotmail.com

ENGLISH SADDLE-Stubben, all purpose with forward flap. Model-Cavalleria II. Size 17-1/2. Mahogany, wide tree. Does not come w/leathers, stirrups or girth. Good condition. $500 firm. Call Debbie 301/854-9763.

AUSTRALIAN SADDLE-excellent condition, medium wide tree, 16 inch seat, $395. Very comfy but does not fit my new horse. I could bring it to a ride for you to try. Donna 301/627-6797 (bigtrot@aol.com).

WESTERN SADDLE-Simco, part synthetic with suede & leather, very lightweight. Size 16, black, good condition. Comes with forward & rear cinches. Medium tree. $350 firm. Call Debbie 301/854-9763.

This is YOUR newsletter...we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to:

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:

dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

AD RATES:

classified ad	$ 5.00
¼ page or business card	25.00
½ page	40.00
Full page	75.00
Insert	50.00

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:

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Tim McGrath, Vice President 301/428-8216

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Anne Bennof, Treasurer 301/829-0949

Directors/Board Members:

Kathy Dobson 410/747-2015

Angela Klinger 301/898-9133

Marilyn Miller 301/898-7274

Jack Monahan 301/854-3852

Deneen Martin

Michelle Rich

Membership:

Linda Eminizer

Trail Ride Coordinator:

Mary Prowell 301/607-8061

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Tim McGrath 301/428-8216

Sear ch & Rescue Team:

Suzanne Anderson 301/829-3881

Archivist:

Karen Alexander

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George Graff 301-898-0107

Newsletter Editor:

Debbie Palmer 301/854-9763

County Coordinators:

Carroll County Howard County

Anne Bennof Gale Monahan

Frederick County Montgomery County

Angela Klinger Tim McGrath

Pat Merson

Prince George's County

Mary Angevine

HEALTH ISSUES ...

RABIES

On March 19th, at a Burtonsville horse board ing facility, a horse was put down due to rabies. All the horses at that farm are now quarantined for 45 days and the boardershad to receive rabies vaccinations.

The horse's symptoms started with "worse than normal" aggression towards other horses and people which at first were attributed to spring (mares in heat). However, the aggression progressed to the point of "mass hysteria" in the horse which caused it to break out of its stall, run through two paddock fences, attack the dirt by biting and stamping and then trying to crash through a pipe gate where it got hung up. Attempts to free the horse were futile as the horse refused to let anyone near it. Sadly, the horse was shot on site and the autopsy revealed the rabies infection.

The Frederick News-Post also reported cases of rabies infected horses in their area: Health department officials again are urging pet and livestock owners to have their animals vaccinated for rabies after a horse died last week and tested positive for the rabies virus. The horse's owners, who live in the Middletown/Myersville area, said the horse had been acting aggressively shortly before it died Jan. 30. "It tore up its stall, then died that night," said Paul Offutt program manager for the community service of the Frederick County Health Department. Although none of the family members had been bitten by the horse, the family is being treated for rabies as a precaution. Officials do not know how the horse contracted rabies. Officials are recommending that horses, cows and sheep have shots, as well as cats, dogs and ferrets.

Most horse owners include rabies among their annual shots, but maybe all don't. You never know what wild animals your horse could come in contact with -- many are nocturnal and could visit your barn or paddock when you would never see them. MAKE SURE YOUR HORSES have current rabies vaccinations!

STRANGLES

Many of you may have heard about the widespread cases of strangles this Spring. At press time, there were five horses confirmed in quarantine in the Highland area. The strangles vaccination has been greatly improved over the past 3-4 years and is quite effective. Ask your veterinarian for his/her recommendation!

Bombproofing Your Horse

with

Rick Pelicano
Saturday, June 1, 2002
Call 410/661-0176 for more information.

Has anyone out there done the "holiday on horseback" (offered by warner guiding and outfitting ltd) in the canadian rocky mountains at Banff, alberta, canada? I've thought of doing this vacation a number of times and would appreciate any input!

Who's vaccinating against west nile virus? Any problems? What do your veterinarians have to say about the vaccination?

Please send all responses to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. Also, any information you would like to exchange with other riders would be most welcome.

A "rider's information exchange" column could be a possibility in the future with enough response.

NEWS
Electronic Edition

Editor: Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email: DSPSFARM@aol.com

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301-588-TROT

June 2002

Number 136

GOVERNOR VETOES SUNDAY HUNTING BILL!!!

WOW! Was that ever a close one!

At the time of my previous newsletter update on Sunday hunting, prepared March 24th, House Bill 9 had passed the House of Delegates and was still in the Senate Committee. (The bill allowed "at least" 21 days of firearm deer hunting, as well as opening the door to Sunday hunting by allowing one such day in most Maryland counties.) The bill ultimately passed the Senate Committee and moved on to the full Senate.

There, four Senators (Haines, Stoltzfus, Baker and Ferguson) offered amendments which added their counties to those already exempted from Sunday hunting. The final bill allowed Sunday hunting for one day in only seven remaining counties (Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's and Dorchester) and continued to mandate "at least 21 days of firearm" for the whole state. That bill passed the Senate on April 4th.

So, having passed both the House and the Senate, the bill went to the Governor. We continued to vigorously oppose it, both because of the "at least 21 days" and also because of the Sunday hunting day. While just one day in only seven counties seems innocuous enough, we all know that, with the precedent established, there will be more days and more counties next year and in succeeding years until there is hunting on all Sundays throughout the hunting season. We made our views known to the Governor through phone calls, e-mails, letters and faxes, and asked that he veto the bill. We were joined in this effort by other horse organizations, Audubon societies, animal rights groups, mountain bikers, property owners, environmental groups, etc.

Finally, on May 15th, the Governor vetoed the bill. After noting that DNR already has authority to establish the hunting season (re: the "at least 21 days"), his letter to Speaker Taylor says:

> "Our outdoor resources should be shared by everyone. Currently, a Sunday during hunting season is the only day of the week when outdoor recreation such as hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, photography, angling, horseback riding and other non-hunting activities can occur in the State's natural areas without the fear of nearby hunting. Many naturalist societies routinely schedule nature field trips only on Sundays during hunting season to be certain they will avoid the interference and potential danger from hunting. I have received numerous letters from persons across Maryland opposing House Bill 9 because they would lose the certainty of having one weekend day during hunting season when their families and children can safely enjoy the outdoors."

I'm sure you're thinking, "Gosh, I could not have said it better myself."

But, according to the Washington Post, Speaker Taylor has vowed to bring the bill back next year. So be ready to do it all again.

In the meantime, let's thank the Governor for his action. Also, any of your legislators who voted against it (I can give you names).

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening - - - 410-974-3901

Governor- - - 1-800-811-8336 (toll free MD)

State House E-mail: governor@gov.state.md.us>

Annapolis, MD 21401 Fax: 410/974-3275

Anne Bennof
301-829-0949

Vacation Plans? Thanks to those of you responding to our poll about tending to your horses during vacation times!

Seems like most of our members don't travel much...putting their horses first and foremost in their lives! But here were a few of our responses:

I have two horses who are home in summer and boarded in winter, which allows me to travel during the cold weather season. During the warm weather months, I mainly stay home but if we decide to go on a summer vacation, I either board them for two weeks or have a house/dog/horse sitter come in.

We very seldom go away because it is so difficult and expensive to get anyone to look after our 3 horses. The last 2 years we have actually taken ***separate*** vacations!

It costs me as much per day to have my animals tended to by a horse/dog/house sitter...as it does to actually travel. So travel is twice as expensive whenever I choose to go. The most important thing for me is finding someone who's reliable...so I don't have to worry about feeding and watering while away...and sometimes you have to trade "horse experience" for reliability, and have a horse person look in occasionally just to make sure all is well. Plus, the whole time away I miss my horses so terribly that I wonder why I went! And, while I'm gone, I do my "darndest" to find a horse to ride wherever I am!

We trade "horse sitting" services for deer hunting privileges on our property. Our neighbors will tend to our horses, dogs, cats and sheep in exchange for the rights to hunt deer on our land, which works for us because there are so many deer around here they starve during the winter.

And...some Notes from Prince George's County

Fairland Regional Park: This bi-county park has had a fine history drawn up by our own Jane Toal who has been riding there both as a member of the Iron Bridge Hunt and as an individual. Those who know Jane may remember that she has kept her horses with Bobby Cook in Laurel, and then also when he moved to upper Montgomery County. It is great to have her archives - still kept in Riverdale, where she lived until very recently. I have faxed a copy to interested parties in both County's Park and Planning Offices.

Oxon Hill Stream Valley Trail: On April 27th, this trail and new directional signs were dedicated in a ceremony arranged by Jim Hudnall of the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club. While horsemen have been enjoying this trail from end to end for many decades, it was just recently that enough pavement was put in place for the bicyclists to enjoy a long ride. It has taken them 30 years of strong effort, connecting with WMATA, the Park and Planning Department and private industry to see this completion. They are continuing to work for another short piece to connect to the subway for their neighbors who wish to hike or bicycle to that transportation hub.

Equestrians were represented by riders from Archer Equestrian Center (located in Fort Washington), the Rough Riders group, two trail riders who brought horses for petting, and a local representative of the Buffalo Soldiers (who educated today's youth in the practice of horsemen for our country's early days). TROT supplied the refreshments.

Senator Gloria Lawlah and Parks Director Marye Wells-Harley came to support the project and to cut the ribbon.

Rosaryville State Park: The Rosaryville Conservancy has just initiated a new user protocol. For an annual fee (paid with a registration form), one will be given gate-opening privileges. Please don't park on the fields, as they are used for hay. Please contact me (301/937-0014) for a registration form. I'm trying to get a map: DNR has a GPS map which you may be able to obtain from their web site.

Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail: An off-road hiker-biker map is in the works. It will show only current segments, which contain very short equestrian portions. There will be a trail head with space for horse trailers in the County. I'm working to extend the horseback components, but bridged sections are currently only for foot traffic, not up to bearing the weight of horses.

Mary Angevine
301-937-0014

Sun Sensitivity and Sun Screens

If your horse has areas of white hair or pink skin, especially on the face, he is likely to be prone to sunburn or sun sensitivity. Sunscreens, creams or lotions, applied to the skin prevent a large percentage of UVB rays from reaching the skin cells. There are, however, a large number of chemicals in sunscreen products that you may want to avoid in order to decrease the likelihood of another kind of skin reaction from those horses with sensitive skin. Active ingredients such as avobenzone, benzophenones, cinnamates, dioxybenzone, oxybenzone, paba and paba esters can cause reactions to sensitive skinned horses. The following "inactive" ingredients can worsen sun reactions in sensitive horses: aniline compounds, benzocaine, bergamot oil, cedar oil, coal tar, fragrance, hexachlorophene, mexanone, musk oil, psba, salicylates, sandalwood oil.

Zinc oxide cream (remember that white stuff that lifeguards at the beach always had on their nose?) is available in most drug stores and your least expensive route for sun protection. Rub into the skin in a light layer, then apply thicker over the top. An SPF of at least 15 is provided as long as you can see a white layer over the skin. To test how well your horse will tolerate a sunscreen product, rub a generous amount into the muzzle at night and check his skin the next morning. If there is no reaction, proceed to a test in the sun. Frequent drinking, grazing and rubbing tend to rub off sunscreens. If your horse is prone to sunburn, consider having the horse wear a safety halter when outside and attach a piece of cloth to the noseband to cover the nose.

Also, if your horse is on a consistent "diet" of "bute" or another nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, he could be more susceptible to sunburn. Always consult your veterinarian when serious sunburn becomes an issue.

The above excerpts are reprinted with permission from The Perfect Horse.

Calendar

June 15 Sat **Patapsco River Park**. Leader Annie Mo Benhoff--410-781-4165. This park, located in Carroll county, is one of the most extensive trail systems that we have. These are very scenic trails that follow the Patapsco river and wander through the adjoining parkland. Rain date June 16, Sunday.

June 22 Sat **Fair Hill**. Come join Karen Reynolds at this expansive horse facility near the Pennsylvania border. Fair Hill is host to world class horse events and is definitely worth a look-see. Fair Hill was previously owned by the Duponts and is a nice ride through fields and woods. Overnight camping is available but limited so if interested call early. For camping contact Carla at 410-398-1246. There is also a $2.00 user fee per vehicle for the TROT trail ride. Karen's number is 410-392-4454. Rain date June 23, Sunday.

June 30 Sun **Potomac Area, Mont.Co**. Sheila O'Donnell will lead a trotting ride from Lisa Gordon's Hunt View Farm on Stoney Creek Road along streets into Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park to the Potomac Horse Center. The ride will also traverse PEPCO power lines and adjoining neighborhoods so horses should be accustomed to walkers, bikes, dogs, and quiescent construction equipment, as well as a possible horse show in progress. There will be some steep hills so be sure your horse can manage a few of these. Ride time will be about 2 ½ hours and limited to 10 riders. Contact Sheila at 202-431-9471 or email: scod@erols.com

July 13 Sat **The Hawlings River Trails**. Leader Karen Alexander--301-774-4499.This ride covers the Hawlings river and its watershed. These are beautiful scenic trails with lots of creek crossings located between Brinklow and Sunshine in Montgomery County.

July 20 Sat **Susquehanna**. This historical park embraces 2500 acres on the West Bank of the Susquehanna River. Trials are beautifully maintained and vary from field to hilly slopes. About a 3 hour ride or longer depending on group at a mostly easy pace. Contact Diane Weiman about this new ride at 410-836-1248.

July 27 Sat **Greenbelt National Park**, **P.G. Co**. Greenbelt Park is a wonderful treasure so close in to the Nations's capitol. There are wide wooded trails, wooden bridges, and lots of shade. For details call Lee Poore at 301-262-1003.

August 4 Sun **Liberty Reservoir**, **Carroll Co**. Come ride the Fire Road trail around Liberty Reservoir. This is a very nice, open trail that follows the reservoir with many nice views of the water. The ride will leave this year from the boat ramp in Eldersburg. Contact Mary Prowell at 301-607-8061 or boprow@aol.com.

August 11 Sun **Savage Mill Park, Howard Co.** These trails have a little bit of everything. Ride along the Little and Middle Patuxent Rivers on wide converted railroad beds, wood chipped with nice canter stretches. There will be some road crossings, some wilder and less groomed trails, along with nice breaks where the horses can splash and cool off in the river. Contact Mary Prowell at 301-607-8061 or boprow@aol.com.

August 18 Sun **Catoctin Mountains, Frederick Watershed, Frederick Co.** This ride will climb the mountain ridge north of Frederick and head eastward. This area will give you a good idea of what mountain riding is all about. Shoes are strongly recommended and the pace will mostly be at a walk. Ride time will be 4 to 6 hours. Contact Doris Kulp at 301-271-0226.

Hi Trail Riders...5/5/02

Just a quick note to let everyone know our ride at Union Mills this year (4/21/02) was wonderful! It started out cloudy with a chance of showers. Luckily, the showers held off till the last 15 minutes of the ride and then we only had light sprinkles.

I got several new memberships and a few renewals. The new memberships said they enjoyed the ride and hoped all the trot rides in their future were going to be as nice. I wished them well and told them that I have encountered very few problems with trot group rides. This is a plus for TROT.

I also wanted to send out a **special** **thanks** to **Curt Meadows** who helped me with this ride this year. He made a wonderful drag rider and kept everything in ship shape in the rear. My daughter usually takes this position for me but was unable to attend at the last minute. Also a big thank you to my husband Michael for leading the ride with me. As far as I know he set a good pace, at least we had no complaints.

Hope to see you all again next year and hopefully some new faces too.

Happy Trails to all

Cathy McElroy

P.S. We also attended the TROT 5/11 Sugarloaf Ride. We had a wonderful time there as well...thanks again to Monica -- JOB WELL DONE!

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

Hi! I live in Carroll County (Manchester), have one horse who is young and not acquainted with the trails yet. I was hoping to find someone with a quiet horse that would accompany us till he is acclimated. I have ridden trails all my life and participated in charity rides, endurance rides, etc...However, about 8 years ago I was in a very bad accident involving a horse, was injured, and sold my horses and stopped riding during a lengthy recovery period. Last year, I imported a lovely gelding from Holland (Rembrandt aka Remy is his name). Anyway, we are doing some 1st level stuff, bending, leg yielding, etc...but no trails!!!! Remy is very intelligent and level headed most times, but being young and inexperienced he has his little shy moments. It would be great to be able to get him out around some quiet horses to desensitize him. Please contact me if you could rescue us from our seclusion! At a very slow pace that is! Contact Fran Scott via email at spectresville@ix.netcom.com.

• • • • •

Hi! I live about 4 miles from The Union Mills Trails but prefer riding at Colorus State Park near Hanover, PA. It is about ½ hour drive from The Union Mills trails. As it is a Pennsylvania State Park, you don't have to worry about ATVs, etc. The trails are well maintained with many nice views of the large lake. Anyone interested in being introduced to this area could give me a call at 410/374-4736. Just leave a message on the machine...Carol.

• • • • •

Hi! I live 4 miles from Morgan Run, and Martz Road, close to Freedom Park and am willing to haul. I have a 33 yo mare who has been everywhere, done everything (my 8 yo daughter rides her) as well as a 4 yo mare who is new to EVERYTHING (and two horses in between). I prefer long & slow to short & fast. Walking is wonderful, trotting is great, I love cantering - don't get me wrong - but I do appreciate having time to admire the scenery and talk to my mount and fellow riders. Weekends are best, particularly Sunday as I am trying to work as many Saturdays as possible. But that isn't set in stone. My barn buddy has a 16 yo gelding who is a quiet trail companion as well. She & I (and her gelding and my stallion) also enjoy NW Branch, between Kemp Mill Road & Route 29. Good bridges, and my stallion has just gotten over his intense phobia about bridges while on that trail. Looking for folks who know Patapsco, Patuxent & Freedom Park in particular. Contact me, Dawn, via email at dawn@in.nimh.nih.gov.

• • • • •

Thanks to Danielle and Carob (her brand-new "first" horse) and Lee and Velvet (a very sweet mare) who joined me and Jax (my most favorite palomino) on trail rides at Schooley Mill Park. It's so nice to meet new horse people to ride with and I hope we can do it again! Debbie

CLASSIFIED ADS

HORSE CART: Beautiful, hand made oak, 2 cushion seats, full size horse cart. Used 1 time. Excellent condition. Harness Included. $850/OBO 301/972-6172.

FOR SALE: Horselover's Dream: Sear's classic country cottage, 2 bdrm, finished basement, 1-1/2 acre lush pasture, 3 stalls, detached oversize 2 car garage w/income generating 2 bdrm apt above. Miles of great trails. Bowie. $185,000. 301/262-2666.

SADIE LANE FARM -A full care boarding facility in Howard County. 12x14 stalls, hot & cold wash stall, indoor & outdoor arenas and miles of trails. Riding-horsemanship courses specializing in dressage and pleasure. Leasing, sales and clinics. Call or come by for a visit. 16061 A.E. Mullinex Road, Woodbine, MD 301/604-5388.

HORSES AVAILABLE FOR PARTIAL LEASE: Gray QH gelding. 15.1h, great trail horse, likes to go FAST! Int. Rider. Liver Chestnut **Morgan gelding**, 15.1h, professionally trained, Park, shows, jumps and trails. Int. Rider. Bealsville. Trails across the street. Tack Available. Price negotiable. 301/972-6172.

PARELLI - This is a copy of Pat Parelli's audiotape called "Understanding Natural Horsemanship". High quality tape, only been played once. $10. 301/854-9763.

This is YOUR newsletter...we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

AD RATES:

classified ad .... $ 5.00

¼ page or business card 25.00

½ page 40.00

Full page 75.00

Insert 50.00

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:

Gale Monahan, President (301/854-3852); Tim McGrath, Vice President (301/428-8216); Pat Merson, Secretary (301/898-3251); Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301/829-0949)

Directors/Board Members:

Kathy Dobson (410/747-2015); Angela Klinger (301/898-9133); Marilyn Miller (301/898-7274); Jack Monahan (301/854-3852); Deneen Martin; Michelle Rich

Membership: Linda Eminizer

Trail Ride Coordinator: Mary Prowell (301/607-8061)

Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (301/428-8216)

Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301/829-3881)

Archivist: Karen Alexander

Web Page Master: George Graff

County Coordinators: *Carroll* - Anne Bennof; *Howard* - Gale Monahan; *Frederick* - Angela Klinger & Pat Merson; *Montgomery* - Tim McGrath; *Prince George's* - Mary Angevine

AND FROM OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE SOUTH!

Several areas in Virginia are experiencing horse thefts, or nearly successful attempts at horse thefts!

From the Fairfax area to Spotsylvania to nearby rural areas...thieves are attempting to steal horses in the middle of the night by cutting fences, luring horses out and attempting to load them onto trailer.

Beware of unfamiliar rigs, especially from dusk to dawn. Do not assume something normal is going on if it isn't a regular happening! Call the police and animal control. At least four reported incidents of attempted theft have been confirmed, some successful, some not. Do not take any chances with our beloved companions. Help out a neighbor if you see something unusual.

Once horses are stolen, the thieves commonly take them to auction. Time is short. Be on the look out.

This Month's Recipe: Carrot and Apple Horse Cookies

1 cup sweet feed
2 cups bran
1 cup flax seed
4 large carrots, shredded
1 cup molasses
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup applesauce

Mix molasses, brown sugar, carrots and applesauce in one bowl. In another, mix the dry ingredients. Slowly combine the molasses mixture with the dry ingredients. Add only enough to form a thick dough, add more bran if necessary.

Line cookie sheet with aluminum foil or waxed paper. Using a tablespoon, drop batter onto cookie sheet and flatten slightly to form portions about the size of a silver dollar.

Bake at 300 degrees for about 1 hour, flip and bake for an additional 45 minutes, until they are dried out. Check often to make sure they don't burn.

HEALTH ISSUES ...

NEUROLOGICAL RHINO

Fox Chase Farm in Middleburg, VA has had three horses show severe neurological signs and collapsed - all three had to be euthanized. The farm implemented a self-imposed quarantine (not the state); no horses in or out until problem is resolved.

There is no vaccination for this form of the Rhino Virus; it is the same Rhino virus that horses are vaccinated for (respiratory and abortion problems) but is an extremely rare and unusual manifestation that the vaccine does not protect against) and it is contagious. It is said to be spread through direct horse to horse contact (i.e. nose to nose) but there is no certainty except that it is not an airborne virus. The virus cannot live without a host for very long so quarantining horses and taking proper precautions with clothing/shoes/etc (and bleaching to kill) is prudent). Good housekeeping and barn hygiene are imperative - no sharing of equipment between horses. The virus takes about a week to incubate before the horse shows symptoms.

The earliest symptom is elevated temperature, followed by lethargic or dragging [hind] limbs as the virus affects the nervous system and ultimately paralyzes the hind end of the horse. If the horse can survive or work through the virus without suffering permanently from the side affects (damage to internal organs from laying down too long due to hind end paralysis, colic, etc.) They can potentially recover. The veterinarians focus on treating the inflammation. Apparently most hoses have been exposed to this virus at some point in their lives and are likely carriers. It could take stress, poor general health or the introduction (from another horse) of an active form of the virus to cause the horse to fall ill.

The above information was gathered from several emails received with specifics provided by Fairfax Equine Service, Middleburg Equine, Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Richmond, VA) and Morven Park Equestrian Center.

From Our Members!

The Information Exchange

West Nile Vaccinations

My two mares were vaccinated for West Nile this Spring because my vet said there have been positives in horses in Carroll County. There were no ill effects. Carol Sanders.

Rabies Vaccination

My horse was vaccinated in Aprill for rabies (Forte Dodge) and it almost killed him (major panic). He had the vaccine before and had a slight reaction to it, but this time it was really bad. I was told by the Vet and Forte Dodge, not to use that particular brand anymore and not to vaccinate him without the results of a titer test (blood test to determine if there are antibodies for the disease already present). If there are, then the vaccine is not needed at that time. I think this is good sense for all vaccines, the test is fairly inexpensive and could save your horse's life. Also, it insures that the horse isn't over-vaccinated, which after a time can weaken their immune system leaving them open to all sorts of other opportunistic diseases...I do titer tests on my dogs now too. Just thought I'd share. Happy trails! Fran.

Recalled Medication

My friend who sort of heads the Maryland Search Team Task Force, of which TROT SAR is a member, sent me this note on a equine medicine recall.

Equine Miracle Corp. Has Recalled Miracle Leg Paint Veterinary Drug

Reason: Because the product contains a mercuric chloride blistering agent, a poison to animals and humans. Distribution: Nationwide.

http://www.safetyalerts.com/recall/f/02/f0000830.htm

from: Suzanne Anderson

Cost effective handling of the "wet spot"

Baking soda, air and sunlight will do wonders for controlling that wet-spot ammonia area in stalls without using lime. Clean the stall and let it air out while your horse is exercised or at pasture. Sprinkle with baking soda when dry. You can purchase baking soda in large quantities at warehouse clubs and restaurant supply outlets.

Buff Bottom!

My elderly (28 yo) horse has a problem with watery diarrhea from time to time...thus creating an itchy fly problem on the ol' behind. I found this cleaning method to be really effective in keeping him clean and itch free: Wash with ½ c. baking soda in a 2 gallon bucket of warm water. Shampoo with baby shampoo; rinse thoroughly. Apply 1 TB aloe vera gel to the underside of the tail and other previously soiled areas. Liberally apply A&D ointment to these same areas so he's visibly greasy. This provides a protective barrier and prevents future manure smears from adhering to skin and hair.

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301-854-9763. And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

ELECTROLYTE LORE?

A Few Myths - Or Are They?

With electrolytes, it's better to err on the side of excess?

Your horse's body knows exactly how much of each electrolyte he needs; anything beyond this is superfluous. Too many electrolytes only make the kidneys work harder and are urinated away unused. If a horse is healthy and consumes a well-balanced diet, there is probably little need for electrolyte supplementation. A routinely hard working horse that sweats heavily could benefit from a trace-mineralized loose salt with an electrolyte preparation before, during and just after competition.

Horses can overdose on salt?

Very unlikely. If salt is readily available, it'll be consumed as needed. Horses that chomp on the salt block are likely craving stimulation, not salt. Horses who truly seem to crave salt may need to be checked for kidney disease.

The pinch test shows if a horse is dehydrated?

In theory, the slower an inch of pinched skin flattens, the lower the horse's body fluids. However, thinner skins have less fat and will both pinch more easily and stay folded up longer. If the pinch response time suddenly increases by one to two seconds, there is dehydration to some degree. Other signs of dehydration include muscular weakness, dry mucous membranes and decreased urination.

We would like to know your experiences with salt (plain vs. mineralized)and electrolyte supplementation. Loose salt vs. blocks? Dehydration? How do you get your horse to drink when you're away from home? Send us your input for the next newsletter.

Email to: dspsfarm@aol.com

use "TROT salt" in your subject line

or mail to:
TROT c/o
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129

call: 301-854-9763

Membership participation is greatly appreciated!

Editor: Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email: DSPSFARM@aol.com
August 2002

trot NEWS Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT
Number 137

THE JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE!

left to right, top to bottom: Marilynn Miller (ride manager)
the Grand Champion, 16 year old Jeremy Cox
the Reserve Champion, Jo Ann Kricker
Youngest Rider (9 years old) Jessica Custer

The TROT Judged Pleasure Ride held on Sunday, June 9, was a big success. We had a lovely day and 85 enthusiastic riders!

Junior rider, 16 year-old Jeremy Cox of North East, MD, and his horse Titan's Casey, took top honors and the Irving Abb Memorial Trophy. His instructor, Jo Ann Kricker, and her horse Blackhawk Spirit, won Reserve Champion. Those folks in North East must be doing something right!

Specialty trophies went to 9 year-old Jessica Custer, Youngest Rider. (Actually, we had two 9 year-olds, but she was the youngest by a few months.) Elsie Cote won for "Oldest Rider" ***GO ELSIE***! At press time we had confirmed the "Oldest Horse" award went to a 31 year old ridden by Linda Oland. The first six placings in each class appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made the ride possible. Anne Bennof was in charge of the 11 judges. Each one got a description of his/her obstacle, how to get to the judging station and what to do. The judges who patiently judged those 85 horses were Pat Merson (she got to judge them twice – wow, Pat), Carol Hysong, Kathy Dobson, Michelle Rich, Dineen Martin, Larry Raskin, Lorri Chorozy, Karen Alexander, Bill Mitchell, Jeanne Pieper and Larry Pieper. Special thanks to Carol and Karen, who filled in with only a day's notice when assigned judges were forced to cancel.

Safety riders were Tomi Finkle and Steff Lowry from the TROT Search Team. David Barnard handled the parking (we had trailers everywhere!), then drag rode after the last rider and still managed to win two ribbons. Good going, David. Louis Barnard helped secretary Betty Laug, sold sodas, cookies and T-shirts, and helped with awards. She was everywhere at once!

JPTR Results

Going through an obstacle! Judge: Pet Merson; Rider: Geneva Loczi

Melinda Meador of the TROT Search Team made a weekend of it, helping me to mark trails on Saturday, then camping with her horse overnight. On ride day, she was busy at the computer entering and calculating all those scores. Her horse was also busy that day, as he carried Search Team manager Suzanne Anderson, our point rider, around the course ahead of the competitors to make sure all was in order.

My job as manager was made easy by all these nice folks and a few not mentioned that we recruited on the spot. Thank you all.

I got a call the following week from a competitor who was so thrilled with how well her new horse did on his first judged pleasure ride, she can hardly wait for next year! It speaks well for our ride that it grows each year with so many repeat competitors bringing their friends.

Marilynn Miller

And thank you, Marilynn, for all your hard work as ride manager. We couldn't have done it without you.

******LOST KEYS******

Car keys were found on a table at the end of the TROT Judged Pleasure Ride.
Call Gale Monahan (301-854-3852) to claim!

Ride Results

To see a complete list of scores, please click here: **Results**

The following article is reprinted with permission from Barb Crabbe, Horse & Rider & Equisearch.

What to do if your horse is wounded on the trail

by Barb Crabbe

What to Watch For:
Bleeding; swelling; sudden lameness; an obvious defect in the skin or underlying tissues.

What's Happening:
The following guide will help you classify the wound for treatment.

- Abrasion: a surface injury that doesn't penetrate all skin layers.
- Puncture: a deep tract extending into tissues, caused either by a sharp object, or a sudden blow.
- Full-thickness skin wound: one that penetrates all layers of skin.

What to do:
Step 1: Evaluate the wound carefully, to determine whether it's an abrasion, puncture, or full-thickness skin wound.
Step 2: Clean the wound with Betadyne solution and fresh, cold water. (Note: For a mild abrasion, in which the skin is intact and only hair has been peeled away, no further treatment should be necessary.)
Step 3: If the skin has been broken, but can't be separated (as in the case of a nasty rope burn), apply antibiotic ophthalmic solution.
Step 4: For a puncture, flush the wound with diluted Betadyne solution (10 parts water to one part Betadyne). If the wound is near a joint, and you see "bubbly" yellow joint fluid seeping from it, apply a protective wrap, and get your horse to a vet as soon as possible.
Step 5: Administer a does of bute, to relieve pain, and reduce inflammation/swelling.
Step 6: If your horse suffered a puncture or full-thickness skin wound, slowly lead him home or back to camp, and summon your vet. If he's unable to comfortably walk, send your buddy to the nearest phone for help.

Risk Factors:
Obstacles, such as fallen tree branches; Overgrown trails, hiding barbed wire, or other such debris; water crossings, which could hide submerged branches, rocks or debris; riding too close to other horses, resulting in a kick or bite; improperly taking out/tying horse, resulting in entanglement (a common cause of rope burns, which can vary from abrasion to full-thickness skin wounds).

Preventative Measures:
Ride only on well-maintained trails, and stay on the trail. Stay a horse-length behind/beside other horses. Stick to clear/shallow water crossings, watching the bottom carefully to avoid submerged rocks/debris. Ask a reputable, experienced horse camper to demonstrate to you proper in-camp restraints for your horse.

Barb Crabbe, DVM, is a contributing editor at Horse & Rider. Her advice can be found monthly in the Horseman's Handbook section of the magazine. She is an Oregon-based equine practitioner. We are pleased that she, and Horse & Rider, gave us permission to reprint this article in August's issue of the TROT newsletter.

Mason Neck Horse Coalition Position Statement on BLM Use of Meadowood Farm

The Mason Neck Horse Coalition (MNHC) membership includes residents of Mason Neck who support horses on the Neck, and persons, most all being residents of Fairfax County, who board their horses on the Neck, and those horsemen who trailer their horses to ride the trails in the area. For many months now, MNHC has worked diligently to research the issues concerning horses on Mason Neck. We have consulted with civic groups, environmental groups, and sport and hobby groups to ascertain what part the horse plays in this unique corner of Fairfax County, and what positive and negative effects their presence has on this environment.

Each and every member of this growing organization recognizes the horse as an integral part of the community - historically, aesthetically, and environmentally. Meadowood Farm has been the centerpiece of the horse population here, both because of its size (800 acres) and as a result of excellent management over the years. This is one of the few land treasures left in Fairfax County for the simple reason that it has escaped development and has maintained its environmental integrity.

If you would like to receive further information on Management Objectives, Land-Use Allocations and Management Actions, I would be happy to email you the documents that were submitted to TROT regarding Meadowood for publication in our newsletter. The document was fairly lengthy but is available at your request, especially if you want to get involved! No email? I could also print it and mail it to you. Contact the editor: DSPSFARM@aol.com or 301-854-9763.

Maryland to Conduct First-Ever Horse Census...Horse Owners Encouraged to Respond

A complete count of equine animals in the State of Maryland has never been conducted. That is about to change. The first official horse census is slated to begin in August and all horse owners and stable operators are urged to respond to the questionnaire when it arrived.

The statistics service is currently testing the questionnaire and will mail the final version to 21,000 horse owners in August. "Anyone concerned about submitting personal or financial information, requested in the questionnaire, should know that by law, all such information is strictly confidential", said Gregory W. Gingery, chairman of the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

The reason for gathering and developing accurate equine statistics is to measure the size and impact of the industry for public and private decision-making purposes, not to be part of any licensing, testing, or other regulatory activity. The final report will be available in November. Anyone who owns a horse or pony of any breed, mule, donkey or burro should receive a questionnaire. Anyone who does not receive a survey should request one from the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service at 410/841-5740 or 800/675-0295.

For more information about the MASS, log on the www.nass.usda.gov/md. The purpose of the Maryland Horse Industry Board is to promote the horse industry in Maryland and to license boarding and rental facilities in the state. To learn more about the organization and its activities, visit www.marylandhorseindustry.org

Dear Friends,

This year, Montgomery County voters have the opportunity to elect a County Council that will be far more responsive to the public's desire to slow development and preserve green space than the current Council.

The opportunity is unprecedented and should not be missed by any Montgomery County voter. Why? Because communities all across the County have organized to help elect qualified slow-growth candidates and in unity there is strength. I have the honor of being one of the At-Large Candidates endorsed by Neighbors for a Better Montgomery (www.NeighborsPAC.org) and the only horse person running for election in Montgomery County. I am a long-time member of TROT and a member of the USEA and the Potomac Hunt. Because I am running At-Large, anyone in Montgomery County can vote for me no matter where you live. I am writing today to ask for your support on September 10.

I am currently a City Councilwoman in Gaithersburg, the largest municipality in Montgomery County. My platform includes as its foundation the necessity to slow growth to stop the deterioration of our schools, roads and quality of life. Please check my web site at www.annsomerset.com and participate actively in this critical election. Your contributions and votes are essential to help maintain open space in Montgomery County.

Because of the lack of Republican candidates, the election will effectively be decided in the Democratic Primary on September 10th!!! If you are a Democrat, please come out to vote in the Primary. If you are a Republican or Independent, please alert your Democratic friends to vote in the Primary. Your e-mail lists can be a force for change!

The time to help is TODAY! County Council members are elected every four years. There are no staggered terms. Think of the harm that can be done in four years with the fast growth team in place!

Thanks to all of you for your work to preserve trails and open space!

Ann Somerset

Calendar

August 11 Sun **Savage Mill Park, Howard Co.** These trails have a little bit of everything. Ride along the Little and Middle Patuxant Rivers on wide converted railroad beds, wood chipped with nice canter stretches. There will be some road crossings, some wilder and less groomed trails, along with nice breaks where the horses can splash and cool off in the river. Contact Mary Prowell at 301-607-8061 or boprow@aol.com.

August 13 Tues **TROT Board Meeting** at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

August 18 Sun **Catoctin Mountains, Frederick Watershed, Frederick Co.** This ride will climb the mountain ridge north of Frederick and head eastward. This area will give you a good idea of what mountain riding is all about. Shoes are strongly recommended and the pace will mostly be at a walk. Ride time will be 4 to 6 hours. Contact Doris Kulp at 301-271-0226.

August 24 Sat **Sandy Spring/Ashton/Brookeville, Mont. Co.** The Sandy Spring riders are going out for a trail ride...come & experience our lovely trails. Contact Kyle Jossi at 301-570-3860. Rain date Sunday, August 25.

Sept 10 Tues **TROT Board Meeting** at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

Sept 14 Sat **W & OD Rails to Trails, Leesburg, Virginia** This ride will follow the old rail bed in Virginia toward Leesburg. You will ride from developing suburbia into the country on the converted rail bed of the Washington and Old Dominion Rail Way. There is a paved hiker-biker trail with a parallel stone dust bridge trail. This ride should last about 2 hours with a stop at a small store for a snack or sandwich midway. Plan to be ready to ride at 11 AM. Contact Ardell Kidd at 703/777-1598 for details.

Sept 28 Sat **Great Falls Park, Virginia** Come ride along the Potomac River with a view of Great Falls in this suburban wooded park. There is the possibility of riding on up to River Bend Park as well. There will likely be two groups to accommodate those that like a more leisurely ace as well as riders that prefer to go a bit faster. Contact Wilma Kime at 703/222-8253 for more information. Rain date Sunday, September 30.

Oct 8 Tues **TROT Board Meeting** at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

Oct 12 Sat **Rock Creek Park, Washington DC** Come and explore the trails of Rock Creek Park with Laury Lobel. Enjoy the woodland trails and Rock Creek, located in the heart of the Nation's Capital. This ride plans to leave at 11 AM. Laury asks that you call about this ride no later than Thursday, October 10 so she can be sure about the number of riders coming. Contact Laury Lobel at her Email address, Laurylobel@ix.netcom.com (If you need a phone number, she can also be reached at 301/774-9595). Rain date Sunday, October 13.

Oct 19 Sat This ride will either be in **Rachel Carson Regional Park** or on trails in the adjacent area in Montgomery County. The park has lovely trails that take you along the Hawlings River; the alternative ride will consist of both woods and fields. Call Rona Bloom at 301/622-7662 for more details.

Oct 26 Sat **N.E. Branch Anacostia River, P.G. Co.** These trails are a tribute to trail preservation and Mary and John Angevine's efforts. They wind through parks and playgrounds, tunnels, bridges, and wide open levees. Contact John Angevine at 301/937-0014.

Nov 10 Sun **Camp Waredaca, Patuxant River State Park, Mont. Co.** This ride was rescheduled from June due to a conflict with the TROT judged pleasure ride. These great trails traverse farmland fields into the Patuxant River Park. These trails may overlap and eventually connect with the Upper Patuxant River trails you can explore on a future ride. You may have the interesting experience of riding by some of the cross-country jumps at Waredaca. This is a fun trot/canter ride with a few small log jumps on some of the trails. Contact Gayle Ford at 410/552-5372.

Nov 12 Tues **TROT Board Meeting** at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

This is a story about four people, Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done (Trail Ride Coordinator) and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did (which is what will happen when Mary Prowell's term is over).

Somebody got angry about this, because it was Everybody's job (where is the entire TROT membership when they are needed?).

Everybody thought Anybody could do it (and they could, it just takes a few phone calls, some coordinating, a love of horses and a desire to help riders get together to enjoy our WONDERFUL trails!), but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it (which, unfortunately is what is happening because ***NOBODY*** is volunteering for this position!).

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

And, next year we will be without any coordinated rides unless somebody volunteers NOW...take advantage of working with Mary for a few months before she hands the reins over...PLEASE, we need you now!

Contact Gale Monahan (301/854-3852) or Mary Prowell (301/607-8061) right away if you are interested in taking over this position. It would be a shame not to have any organized rides next year!

A message from the President

Did you know we have lost trails in our area because of the lack of respect?

People think that since there is a trail and people allow us to ride on their land that we can do what we want (mark trail, have organized rides, bring in large groups, etc.).

We can not do that without the specific permission from the landowners. If anyone tells you that they have permission to do such things, tell them you need to see it in writing or contact me with each landowner's phone name and phone number and I will check to see if it is ok.

It is important to maintain the position that we are "guests" on peoples land and respect that fact.

Help TROT so we do not lose any more trails.

Thanks!

Gale Monahan

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

Nobody sent any information in this month for this column...but we do know that those of you have participated have not only found new riding partners, but made new friends as well.

I, myself, met two nice people, Barbara and Lee and their horses Missy and Misty! We met at Greenbelt Park. The trails at Greenbelt Park are surprisingly secluded for being in the middle of Greenbelt! In the woods, out of sight, out of mind of the rest of the world. Just us and our horses. The bridges there, however, were another story. TROT was actually the "builder" of these bridges at Greenbelt Park years ago...and they are awesome but in need of some repairs in order to remain safe. Once TROT's P.G. County Coordinator, Mary Angevine, learned of the disrepair, she contacted the park's management and we understand repairs underway! Way to go Mary!

Also, "Dawn"...people are trying to contact you from the last ad you ran...your email address is returning mail!

This Month's Recipe

Birthday Cake

4 cups of oats
1 cup of molasses or honey
2 carrots, cut into carrot sticks
1 apple, cut into slices

Mix the honey and sweet feed or oats together in a big bowl. When fully mixed, place the mixture on a plate and shape into the form of a birthday cake. Use the carrots as candles and apple slices as decorations.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY:
Freestyle Equine Services
Custom Photography
Bobbin Kreider
(410) 489-5988

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROTNews, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777.
The next newsletter ***deadline is September 25***. Make checks out to TROT.
Type or print your ad, 38 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

This is YOUR newsletter...we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

AD RATES:

classified ad .... $ 5.00

¼ page or business card 25.00

½ page 40.00

Full page 75.00

Insert 50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers:

Gale Monahan, President (301/854-3852); Tim McGrath, Vice President (301/428-8216); Pat Merson, Secretary (301/898-3251); Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301/829-0949)

Directors/Board Members:

Kathy Dobson (410/747-2015); Angela Klinger (301/898-9133); Marilyn Miller (301/898-7274); Jack Monahan (301/854-3852); Deneen Martin; Michelle Rich (301-482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer (410-661-0176)

Trail Ride Coordinator: Mary Prowell (301/607-8061)

Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (301/428-8216)

Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301/829-3881)

Archivist: Karen Alexander (301-774-4499)

Web Page Master: George Graff and Lisa Graff

County Coordinators: *Carroll* - Anne Bennof (301-829-0949); *Howard* - Gale Monahan; (301-854-3852)*Frederick* - Angela Klinger (301-898-9133) & Pat Merson (301-898-3251); *Montgomery* - Tim McGrath (301-428-8216); *Prince George's* - Mary Angevine (301-937-0014)

HEALTH ISSUES ...

The following article is reprinted, with permission from The Clifton Horse Society and Juliet Hedge, DVM, Fairfax Equine Service

Healthy Horsekeeping Protocols

After the recent episode with the Neurological Rhinopneumonitis panic, I thought it might be a good idea to review some housekeeping and maintenance protocols that will minimize the risk of disease transmission in your horses. Whether you are traveling with your horse to shows or trail rides or staying in your local area, healthy horsekeeping habits should always be on your agenda and practiced on a daily basis.

The first consideration is vaccination status. Your horses need to have all their vaccinations current. While most vaccinations need only be given once yearly (EWE, Tetanus, Strangles, Rabies), some need to be given more frequently. Potomac Horse Fever Vaccine is recommended twice yearly. Rhino/Flu should be given at least twice yearly and quarterly if you are showing or traveling frequently with your horse. West Nile Virus Vaccine and EPM vaccine require an initial series of two injections followed by annual revaccination. Vaccinations will minimize the risk of your horse contracting serious diseases. A Coggins test is required for all show and sanctioned trail rides. While backyard horses are not required by law to have a current Coggins test if they are not leaving the property, I recommend that all your horses be tested annually.

When traveling with your horses, you should bring your own supplies of water, feed and hay. This will minimize your contact with outside contaminating sources. Each horse should have his own grooming box, tack, halter and lead, feed and water buckets, that are used only on him. At the show is not the time to be sharing equipment. You could be risking your horse's health. At the showgrounds, horses should be maintained at or in the trailer or their assigned stall when not working. Contact with other horses should be minimized especially the nose-to-nose kind. They do not need to know their neighbors that well. Do not graze your horse on grass areas that other horses are using. You don't know who or what has been there. Keep your horses on the hay you brought with you. Traveling with your horse can be great fun but don't forget the essentials of good healthy habits.

In large boarding barns the exposure risks are a little different. Generally horses are kept together as a herd. Whatever one horse has he shares with the rest of the herd. Ideally, to minimize risk exposure, traveling horses should be maintained in a separate barn or barn area from the stay-at-home horses. Herds should be kept separate on the same basis. Maintenance of individual stalls, equipment, grooming supplies, water and feed buckets is key to decreasing risk. No sharing. New horses coming into a barn should arrive with all shots current, current Coggins, and health certificate issued within 30 days. Isolation of these newcomers for 30 days before placing them in the barn or herd will protect the herd from unnecessary exposure to disease.

Small barns are usually a little less risky. These are generally maintained as a closed herd. Exposure from outside is minimized. All the same health protocols should be maintained, however, as anywhere else. Individual equipment, grooming supplies and water and feed buckets. Current vaccinations and current Coggins test. Traveling horses should be herded and stabled separately from non-traveling horses. Use diligence in barn cleanliness and hygiene.

Both large and small barns need to make every effort to minimize mosquito breeding grounds. Eliminate standing water – it only takes 4 days for mosquitoes to start a breeding center. Remove cat and dog food from open areas at night – or larger predators and rats will think you are inviting them in. Monitor grazing areas for the presence of dead birds as indicators of West Nile Virus and for opossums as carriers of EPM.

HEALTHY HORSES ARE HAPPY HORSES.

Do our best to take care of your equine friends.

For questions or comments visit our web site – fairfaxequine.com – or e-mail ffxequine@acninc.net

From Our Members!

THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Fly Sheets?

Who uses 'em? Our readers want to know! Do they really keep the flies off? Do they really protect against UV rays? Do they protect the horse's coat from fading out during the summer? What brand or line do you prefer and why? Any other fly control methods you want to pass along to other TROT members?

Cell Phones

I have been congratulating myself on always carrying a cell phone on my person when riding alone...just in case! Well, something I hadn't thought about was reception...until a time when I needed to use it out in the woods and discovered there was no service in that area! Something to think about!

Banff with Warner

If you are interested in an organized group of TROT members going on this Warner Guided ride in Banff...contact Laura Guerra 301/972-4599.

Have You Heard of the Online Radio for America's Horse Lovers?

The Horse Show with Rick Lamb is kind of neat if you haven't listened to it yet. Go to www.thehorseshow.com

Electrolytes

My gelding is on full board, but he's at pasture 22/7 – in other words, all the time except for twice-daily meals in his stall or in case of really bad winter weather. There is a white salt brick in his stall and he's given supplementary salt mixed in with his feed.

I also give him additional electrolytes in these situations: every so often in the winter to make sure he's drinking enough; after strenuous exercise in warm weather; and before and after strenuous exercise in hot weather, and during the ride itself if it's a long one.

My gelding is generally a good drinker, and he's not fussy about strange water or buckets. But I can, guaranteed, get him to drink a bucketful of water if I make up his electrolyte "lemonade" – seven or eight scoops of Perform 'N Win (from Buckeye) in a full bucket of water. On the trail I use Lyte Now.

Some horses don't want to eat after being electrolyted, but this has never happened after giving him P'NW – but then, that could be because he'll generally eat anything in sight! Cindy Eyler

and, the following is offered by Judy Lorimer, newsletter editor for the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association

I agree that most horses with an adequate diet and light to moderate work do NOT need extensive electrolyte supplementation. Any company that tells you that you need to give daily electrolytes during hot weather is just trying to fatten the company's bottom line.

Every horse is different, of course, but when I was actively competing I only gave electrolytes before, during, and after a ride. On a 25 mile ride in weather that wasn't too hot and humid, I wouldn't even bother giving them at the mid-point hold. On a 3-day 100 miler in July, yes, I'd carry some with me and give them at mid-point on 40 mile days, and a couple extra times on a 50-mile endurance ride.

Fussy drinkers can be enticed with a little cider vinegar in the water at home and then the same with water at a new location, but sometimes a horse just won't drink much on trail when you think they need to. You can lead a horse to water, etc. etc.

If you're a serious endurance rider, most of the research shows you need to supplement electrolytes every hour during a ride, but most pleasure trail riders don't stress our horses anywhere near that much. If you're going to do a fairly long ride in hot weather (15 miles or more at walk-trot), it certainly doesn't hurt to give some the night before, morning of, and after the ride, but even that is no guarantee your horse will drink as much as you think he ought to.

You CAN get into trouble, though, if you give electrolytes every day, because a horse's body gets lazy about extracting and utilizing these chemicals from his daily diet. If he's given more than he really needs – then, under stress, his body is slower and less efficient at mobilizing them from his reserves. A horse that was developing muscle tremors after rides had been given electrolytes EVERY DAY; and when daily does of electrolytes was discontinued, the tremors stopped.

Bottom line is "know your horse." Know how to check vital signs so you can monitor closely – and avoid dehydration colic...which IV fluids may be necessary for (mineral oil is NOT an appropriate treatment for dehydration colic)!

Have a happy summer of trail riding. Sincerely, Judy Lorimer

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

CLIFTON HORSE SOCIETY

Judged Pleasure Ride

September 22, 2002
9:00 am
BULL RUN REGIONAL PARK, Centreville, Virginia

Contact Mary Flowers for application and information
703/250-6188 or forhorses@erols.com

CLIFTON HORSE SOCIETY

ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES

WHAT? HOW? WHEN? WHERE?

SPEAKER: LANI NEWCOMB, DVM
Broad Run Vet Service

DATE: August 15, 2002
LOCATION: Clifton Town Meeting Hall
12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia
TIME: 7:30 Refreshments
8:00 Speaker

RSVP by August 13th to Pat Hepner, 703-830-8394

Colorado Horses In Need

The worst forest fire in Colorado history has displaced hundreds of horses and other animals as families have fled homes in the fire's path. The animal refugees are mostly horses, but the holding pens in area public and private fairgrounds or horse facilities also contain ponies, donkeys, mules, llamas and some cattle.

There is an immediate need for feed, especially grass hay. Western Horseman magazine has spearheaded an Animal Feed Fund to help buy hay for all livestock in need at these facilities. Volunteers are on hand to haul and distribute it.

To contribute to the fund, send checks to Animal Feed Fund, c/o Western Horseman, PO Box 7980, Colorado Springs, CO 80933. Western Horseman is matching all contributions, dollar for dollar, up to a total of $2,500 to help get the fund established, according to Randy Wittee, Western Horseman publisher. More information is available at 719/633-5524.

Editor: Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email: DSPSFARM@aol.com
October 2002

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TROT Information
301-588-TROT
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

Trick or Treat!!!

"Animals in Disaster" Training

The following is contributed by Suzanne Anderson
Search and Rescue Team (and former editor!)

Search and Rescue Team member Bill Mitchell attended an interesting training session offered by the ***Montgomery County Emergency Management Group***. He writes some of what was discussed and things all horse owners should consider in this new age of uncertainty.

I attended the training session in Montgomery County, July 30, which included four speakers on reacting to animal disasters. Disasters could be a naturally occurring disease, weather event, or terrorist induced event affecting animals (or animals and humans). Terrorists could use an animal disease to cause economic damage or one that is transmissible to humans, etc. Speakers were as follows:

1. Veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture discussed Foot and Mouth Disease, Mad Cow Disease, West Nile Virus, etc. and what could be done to contain outbreaks. Also talked about disposal methods for large number of animals and a recent avian flu outbreak in Virginia, how it spread, how large a number of poultry had to be destroyed, and Maryland's concerns.

2. Director of Animal Control, Montgomery County, discussed agreements with other counties for cooperation in case of disaster. Each county has very limited staff but could respond to help others.

3. Agriculture Services Representative talked about importance of agriculture and number of cattle, horses, etc, in Maryland (14,000 horses, 12,000 cows, 2000 sheep and pigs).

4. Humane Society Representative discussed animal considerations in catastrophic events.

Montgomery County will form some working groups on these topics. If anyone is interested, they should call Kathleen Hennings of the MOCo EMG (240-777-2300). It would be particularly nice for a TROT member from Montgomery County to become active in these discussions, if we have anyone interested (I have three packages of the handouts I could pass on).

One thing for TROT members to think about is: What would you do if – due to a hurricane, terrorist dirty bomb, hazardous material spill, etc. – you had to evacuate your area? Would you be able to take your animals and where would you go? If you could not take them, were forced to abandon them, would you leave them inside, outside, with halters, without? Sometimes an evacuation might be expected to be for a few hours but could stretch into days. The Humane Society passed out informative brochures on this subject.

Would there be a role for TROT Search And Rescue in an animal disaster? Mounted or unmounted? We have some experience in handling large animals, and we have trailers for transporting animals. This may be getting away from our search charter. Something to consider.

For additional information, Bill Mitchell may be contacted at 410-531-6652 or bmitchell@hst.nasa.gov and Suzanne Anderson at 301-829-3881 or trailsendfarm@pop.erols.com.

Some other good ideas to be prepared for in an emergency...keep 50 gallon water drums of stored water available for your horses (I have even used these storage drums when power has gone out for a week at a time – you know, when you're on a well, no electric, means no water!) and weave an i.d. tag into your horses's mane before leaving them in an emergency. Days End Farm Horse Rescue is a good contact for more information or recommendations on what to do in cases of emergency – phone 301-854-5037.

As another deer hunting season approaches, here are the dates (ugh!)
So, wear your orange vests while trail riding!

Maryland Deer Season 2002 - 2003

Bow
Sept. 14 - Oct. 16, 2002
Oct. 21 - Nov. 29, 2002
Dec. 16 - Dec. 20, 2002
Jan. 6 - Jan. 9, 2003
Jan. 13- Jan. 31, 2003

Firearms
Youth - Nov. 16, 2002
Nov. 30 - Dec. 14, 2002
Jan. 10 - Jan. 11, 2003

Muzzleloader
Oct. 17-19, 2002
Oct. 24-26, 2002
Dec. 21 -Jan 4, 2003

For more information
Toll-free: 1-877-620-8DNR, Ext. 8540

the following article is reprinted with permission from
Barb Crabbe, Horse & Rider & Equisearch

Trail Terrors

by Barb Crabbe

LEARN HOW TO TREAT SNAKEBITES ON THE TRAIL

What's Happening:
A poisonous snake injects venom through his fangs into your horse's tissues. The venom is picked up by your horse's lymphatic system (the system responsible for dealing with foreign invaders), and distributed throughout his body, ultimately causing generalized illness; at the bite site, it immediately causes death of surrounding tissue.

What to do:
Step 1: Stop your horse and keep him quiet. Movement will speed up the distribution of venom throughout his body.

Step 2: Remove your snakebite kit from your first-aid kit.

Step 3: Use Betadyne solution to thoroughly clean the area surrounding the puncture wounds you've identified.

Step 4: With your thumb and forefinger, squeeze together one of the suction cups from your kit; place it over the bite marks and release your fingers' hold. Doing so will apply the suction necessary to draw venom out of the wound. Repeat several times, over each mark. Do not attempt to apply a tourniquet.

Step 5: If at all possible, bring your trailer to your horse. Otherwise, slowly lead your horse home, or to your trailer, stopping every 15 minutes to allow him to rest. (Don't walk him any farther than absolutely necessary.) Summon your vet as soon as you get home, or haul your horse to an equine clinic.

Step 6: If your horse's nose begins to swell, gently insert a 6-inch piece of garden hose from your first-aid kit into each nostril, to keep his airways open.

Risk Factors:

- Riding in an area known to have poisonous snake populations.
- Poorly maintained trails with logs, large rocks, or other such snake hideaways.
- Water crossings/standing water on trails in areas where poisonous water snakes reside.
- Riding near paved roads at night; when the sun sets and temperatures cool down, snakes are attracted to the warmth held in by pavement.

Preventative Measures:
Avoid poorly maintained trails; learn the favorite haunts of your local snake population; stay on the trail, and carefully watch where you're going; in high-risk areas, outfit your horse with protective boots; when you stop for a break, make a lot of noise to chase any snakes away.

Barb Crabbe, DVM, is a contributing editor at *Horse & Rider*. Her advice can be found monthly in the Horseman's Handbook section of the magazine. She is an Oregon-based equine practitioner. We are pleased that she, and Horse & Rider, gave us permission to reprint this article in October's issue of the TROT newsletter.

FORT VALLEY ENDURANCE RIDES

Saturday, October 26, 2002
50/30 Mile Ride
50/30/10 Mile Ride & Tie
2-Day 100 Mile Ride

Sunday, October 27, 2002
50/30 Mile Ride

Further information about the ride may be obtained from Ride Manager Susan Brehm (703) 941-2237, fxn2ryd@rockngb.com.

An Overview of TROT'S Board Meeting

At the July 9, 2002 Board Meeting, the following items were discussed:

- Opposition to the acquisition of trails Montgomery County is trying to obtain and maintain; the Sierra Club introduced the bill. The importance of all groups living and sharing together was discussed, including golf course proponents.
- An agriculture preservation group that is turning in riding stables that don't have special exceptions to operate. A task force of riding stables is being formed to push planning and zoning to make a text amendment to the zoning laws to allow riding stables not to have to obtain the special exceptions; or at least an umbrella that exempts those stables already operating; or, lastly, having horses brought under the agricultural umbrella instead of being considered recreational pets. An equestrian community group will be needed to form an association to lobby Park and Planning and the commissioners for the best interest of equine world.
- A pony division for the Judged Pleasure Ride next year was discussed.
- The Landowners Liability Law is being upheld, thanks to David Scull who is a lawyer, bicycler and a TROT member
- Conditions of the trails in Greenbelt Park were discussed.
- TROT is to receive funding for the GPS trail mapping from the Maryland Horse Council.
- Volunteers are needed for the MHC trails and Greenways Committee.

If you'd like to be involved in the discussion of any of the above issues, you are welcome and encouraged to attend the next TROT Board Meeting! See Calendar of Events.

WHAT A HORSE THINKS?

THE ART OF SNORTING: Humans like to be snorted on. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family horse, to accommodate them.

NEIGHING: Because you are a horse, you are expected to neigh. So neigh - a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting the barn and communicating with other horses. Especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds. There is no more secure feeling for a human than to keep waking up in the middle of the night and hearing you, "Neigh, neigh, neigh..."

STOMPING CATS: When standing on cross ties, make sure you never --- quite--- stomp on the barn cat's tail. It spoils all the fun.

CHEWING: Make a contribution to the architectural industry.... chew on your stall wall, the fence or any other wooden item.

FRESH BEDDING: It is perfectly permissible to urinate in the middle of your freshly bedded stall to let your humans know how much you appreciate their hard work.

DINING ETIQUETTE: Always pull all of your hay out of the hay rack, especially right after your stall has been cleaned, so you can mix the hay with your fresh bedding. This challenges your human, the next time they're cleaning your stall - and we all know how humans love a challenge (that's what they said when they bought you as a two year old, right?).

DOORS: Any door, even partially open, is always an invitation for you and your human to exercise. Bolt out of the door and trot around, just out of reach of your human, who will frantically run after and chase you. The longer it goes on, the more fun it is for all involved.

GOING FOR TRAIL RIDES: Rules of the road: When out for a trail ride with your owner, never go to the bathroom on your own lawn.

HOLES: Rather than pawing and digging a BIG hole in the middle of the paddock or stall and upsetting your human, dig a lot of smaller holes all over so they won't notice. If you arrange a little pile of dirt on one side of each hole, maybe they'll think it's gophers. There are never enough holes in the ground. Strive daily to do your part to help correct this problem.

GROUND MANNERS: Ground manners are very important to humans; break as much of the ground in and around the barn as possible. This lets the ground know who's boss and impresses your human.

NUZZLING: Always take a BIG drink from your water trough immediately before nuzzling your human. Humans prefer clean muzzles. Be ready to rub your head on the area of your human that you just nuzzled to dry it off, too.

PLAYING: If you lose your footing while frolicking in the paddock, use one of the other horses to absorb your fall so you don't injure yourself. Then the other horse will get a visit from the mean ol' vet, not you!

VISITORS: Quickly determine which guest is afraid of horses. Rock back and forth on the cross-ties, neighing loudly and pawing playfully at this person. If the human backs away and starts crying, swoosh your tail, stamp your feet and nicker gently to show your concern.

Millhaven Farm

CALENDAR

The TROT Pleasure Rides are open to all current TROT members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Membership forms will be available at the ride. Membership is only $15 for 1 year! What a DEAL! For more information about TROT's Pleasure Rides, call Mary Prowell (301) 607-8061 A Negative Coggins Test is required on all TROT pleasure rides and events.

Oct 12 - Saturday: ***Rock Creek Park, Washington DC*** Come and explore the trails of Rock Creek Park with Laury Lobel. Enjoy the woodland trails and Rock Creek, located in the heart of the Nation's Capital. This ride plans to leave at 11 AM. Laury asks that you call about this ride no later than Thursday, October 10 so she can be sure about the number of riders coming. Contact Laury Lobel at her Email address, Laurylobel@ix.netcom.com (If you need a phone number, she can also be reached at 301/774-9595). Rain date Sunday, October 13.

Oct 14 - Tuesday: ***TROT Board Meeting*** at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

Oct 19 - Saturday: This ride will either be in Rachel Carson Regional Park or on trails in the adjacent area in Montgomery County. The park has lovely trails that take you along the Hawlings River; the alternative ride will consist of both woods and fields. Call Rona Bloom at 301/622-7662 for more details.

Oct 26 - Saturday: ***N.E. Branch Anacostia River, P.G. Co.*** These trails are a tribute to trail preservation and Mary and John Angevine's efforts. They wind through parks and playgrounds, tunnels, bridges, and wide open levees. Contact John Angevine at 301/937-0014.

Nov 10 - Sunday: ***Camp Waredaca, Patuxant River State Park, Mont. Co.*** This ride was rescheduled from June due to a conflict with the TROT judged pleasure ride. These great trails traverse farmland fields into the Patuxant River Park. These trails may overlap and eventually connect with the Upper Patuxant River trails you can explore on a future ride. You may have the interesting experience of riding by some of the cross-country jumps at Waredaca. This is a fun trot/canter ride with a few small log jumps on some of the trails. Contact Gayle Ford at 410/552-5372.

Nov 12 - Tuesday: *TROT Board Meeting* at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

Dec 10 - Tuesday: *TROT Board Meeting* at Gale Monahan's house! 7:30 pm

February 15, 2003 - Saturday: *ANNUAL POT LUCK!*

You may notice that there are no new rides listed at this time! TROT is in need of a new Trail Ride Coordinator. If you are interested, please contact Mary Prowell for information. (301) 607-8061

THE HORSE

On the first day of creation, the Horse was created;

On the second day, man was created to serve the Horse;

On the third day, all the animals of the earth to spook the Horse when man was on his back were created;

On the fourth day, an honest days work was created so that man could labor to pay for the keeping of the Horse;

On the fifth day, the grasses in the field were created so that the Horse could eat and the man could toil and cleanup after the Horse;

On the sixth day, veterinary science was created to keep the Horse healthy and the man broke;

On the seventh day, the day of rest, the creator was heard to murmor, "This is good. This will teach Man humility, it will tire him out and keep him striving ever forward to meet the needs of the Horse."

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

I am looking for a seasoned buddy to practice creek and/or river crossings with. Show season is almost over and want to start weekend trail riding in September but don't want to hamper other TROT riders with my two horses that are inexperienced at crossing water. I've been told you need to teach them with a crossing they can't jump over. Can someone help me out? I live in Gambrills, Anne Arundel County, but will travel. Donna Pacen dpacen@smwia.org (Work) or Dpacen@aol.com (Home).

****

In search of a regular riding buddy in the Highland area. I am available to ride mid-days and prefer riding during the week, as opposed to weekends. If times between 10 am to 2 pm work for you, Monday thru Friday, please call me and my quarterhorse! Debbie 301/854-9763 or dspsfarm@aol.com.

****

Hi! I live 4 miles from Morgan Run, and Martz Road, close to Freedom Park and am willing to haul. I have a 33 yo mare who has been everywhere, done everything (my 8 yo daughter rides her) as well as a 4 yo mare who is new to EVERYTHING (and two horses in between). I prefer long & slow to short & fast. Walking is wonderful, trotting is great, I love cantering – don't get me wrong – but I do appreciate having time to admire the scenery and talk to my mount and fellow riders. Weekends are best, particularly Sunday as I am trying to work as many Saturdays as possible. But that isn't set in stone. My barn buddy has a 16 yo gelding who is a quiet trail companion as well. She & I (and her gelding and my stallion) also enjoy NW Branch, between Kemp Mill Road & Route 29. Good bridges, and my stallion has just gotten over his intense phobia about bridges while on that trail. Looking for folks who know Patapsco, Patuxent & Freedom Park in particular. Contact me, Dawn, via email at DAWN@LN.NIMH.NIH.GOV or phone 301/496-5625 x265.

This Month's Recipe:

Bran Muffins

1 1/2 cups bran
1 cup whole wheat flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 cup skimmed milk
1/2 cup molasses
2 tablespoons corn oil
1 egg, beaten

Stir together bran, flour, soda, and baking powder. Mix together milk, molasses, oil, and egg. Mix wet ingredients into dry ingredients. Bake in greased or paper lined muffin tins at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

Trick or Treat!!!

CLASSIFIED ADS

Bowie Boarding – 12x12 stalls with interlocking rubber mats, trace mineral block and salt block in each stall. Small group turnout for 12 hours each day. Oak fences with one strand of electric on top. Feeding twice per day with Timothy hay and Purina Horseman's Edge feed. Barn with an indoor bathroom, hot and cold water, wash stall, cross ties, Tack lockers and lounge with AC, gas heat, microwave, refrigerator. New outdoor 110'x200' arena (currently installing lights). Ample room for trailer parking. Located on the WB&A trial with many connecting trails. Blue Skys Stable 301-809-2454

WANTED: *Field Board/Lease arrangement* for 5-7 horses with access to Patuxent Park, Damascus to Roxbury Mills area. Desired: tack storage, electricity, shelter area for horses. Self-care O.K. Cindy Rosen 301-482-0664

Western Saddle: 2 years old, fully floral tooled in pecan leather. Ralide tree, 4" cantle, horn is 3" high. Size 16". Suede seat, matching breast collar, bridle & reins. Owner ill, no longer able to ride, must sell. $650, paid $1000. Debbie 301-253-1401 or Dganassa@cs.com.

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROTNews, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is November 25. Make checks payable to TROT. Type or print your ad, 38 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

WYOMING RANCH HORSES FOR SALE

Professional guide and outfitter from Wyoming will be offering five of his personal horses for sale. Horses will be arriving in northern Virginia (Leesburg area) early November.

All of these horses were broke this past spring (2002) and have been used as lead horses this summer. These horses will make excellent trail riding, competitive trail or endurance mounts.

"CASINO" – 6-yr old gray, half-Arab filly, 15H
"DJ" – 6-yr old bay, Quarter Horse mare from racehorse stock, 15H
"DUTCHESS" – 6-yr old sorrel, Quarter Horse mare, 15H
"GUINNESS" – 4-yr old bay, half-Arab filly, 15H
"WHISKEY" – 4-yr old bay, half-Arab gelding, 15H

For more information, contact Skip Ashley at 540-822-3917.

***This is YOUR newsletter...*we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers: Gale Monahan, President (301/854-3852); Tim McGrath, Vice President (301/428-8216); Pat Merson, Secretary (301/898-3251); Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301/829-0949)

Directors/Board Members: Kathy Dobson (410/747-2015); Angela Klinger (301/898-9133); Marilyn Miller (301/898-7274); Jack Monahan (301/854-3852); Deneen Martin; Michelle Rich (301/482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer; Trail Ride Coordinator: Mary Prowell (301/607-8061);

Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (301/428-8216)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301/829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page Master: George and Lisa Graff
County Coordinators: Carroll – Anne Bennof; Howard – Gale Monahan;
Frederick – Angela Klinger & Pat Merson; Montgomery – Tim McGrath; Prince George's – Mary Angevine

HEALTH ISSUES ...

From Our Members!
The Information Exchange

Fly Sheets?

I have two horses I used sheets on this summer. One is my show mare that is always out in a large turnout by trees and a swampy creek. The other mare is turned out in the day and stalled at night. I have my show mare covered day and night with a Rider's Horse Clothing International protective neck cover, flysheet and leg fly wraps. These are the heavy polyester vinyl-coated mesh sheets. They work very well for both flies and uv protection. They also polish my show mare. Everyone alway comments how nice her coat is. My show mare tolerates the sheets and leg wraps very well. Even in the 95 plus degrees.

My other mare has very sensitive skin and sweats easily. I only put the sheet on her when it is 90 or below because she rubs the fence with it on. I have used the HIB flysheet with a Rider's neck cover. I like the Rider's best because it has the leg straps. The HIB is more expensive and only has a string across the back which can rub. I feel it gets in the way of the horses tail swishing too (which loses precious tail hair). Without the string if the horse rolls, it can get over the head and come off. I found it off of my show mare 2 or 3 times this summer. Then I started using the Rider's sheet on her. Some horses will stomp more with the fly leg wraps on. The leg wraps have saved my show mares legs. They need to be checked, cleaned and rewrapped but they are worth it. I have done a lot of research before I purchased my sheets and for the price and quality I would recommend the Rider's fly sheet and neck cover. I purchased mine from Dover Saddlery. I purchased the leg wraps from Valley Vet Supply. I hope this info helps a lot of people and their horses. Sincerely, Julie Darsow at Fort Meade Equestrian Center.

Electrolytes

In 1998 I purchased Winston, a school horse who was being retired from the Rock Creek Park Horse Center. I'd ridden him on trail rides several times and liked his personality. Generally, I wanted a quiet, dependable horse to take me out on trails with my very young grandchildren aboard. During my period of ownership I had two vet emergencies: 1) he aspirated some carrots one day and 2) he became dehydrated on another occasion. This all led to his getting a special ration of senior diet and alfalfa cubes soaked in hot water with electrolytes every four hours around the clock. The changes were amazing. He put on weight. He'd had a rather unsightly growth on his neck about the size of the first joint of my thumb which vanished over a period of months. His energy level increased way beyond the amount of exercise I could organize for him. He is back to work at the school, and was the polo pony star for a few select summer camp riders this year. I visit him regularly and still ride him occasionally. He always has his ears pricked forward and is a joy to see. In his case, with very worn down teeth and a dislike for drinking water, electrolytes made a fantastic difference.

Thanks to vze4fhz4@verizon.net for her above comments!

WATER AND MOSQUITOES

The drought we are in is really getting to be a problem. While well water levels are going down, you cannot ration water to horses. Horse need unlimited access to water to avoid illness. Catching water from your barn roof is a perfectly good way to water horses. All you need are some gutters and a downspout to direct the water into a large trough. The trough needs to be large enough to catch as much as possible during each rain, since it doesn't rain that often--and the trough needs to be on fairly level ground. Two or three troughs on different sides of the barn may be beneficial.

Even though catching and saving a large amount of water is a smart thing to do, there is now a problem with breeding mosquitoes and the spread of West Nile Virus. The advice usually given to control the local mosquito population is to dump standing water every four days, but you may be saving downspout water for much longer.

Here are a few suggestions to solve this conflict. Buy a tarp to cover the troughs that are not being used. This will foil the mosquitoes that lay eggs during the day and night; also, when the horses are taken out of a larger pasture to a smaller paddock for safety at night, cover any water trough that is in the big field. The night mosquitoes start laying eggs at early dusk, so a tarp method works best if put down before dusk.

The second way is to buy a wire sieve with a small enough weave to catch the "mosquito egg rafts". Every morning, take a minute to use the sieve to scoop out the eggs. Knock them down to the ground and they will not survive. Mosquito egg rafts float on the water; each separate egg is very thin, but a group form a flat oval shape. They are opaque white or charcoal gray and look somewhat like the center of a Black Eyed Susan broken into little bits! If you have any doubt, scoop some into a glass jar...you'll have mosquito larvae in a few days.

"Mosquito Dunks", available at Southern States, is a donut shaped product to kill mosquito larvae in standing water. There is conflicting advice about its use in horses' water troughs. Talk to your vet to get more information on this product before using. It is late in the season to be talking about mosquitoes, but no doubt West Nile will be with us again next year. Talk to your vet about mosquito control and the vaccination for West Nile Virus.

Thanks to Carol P. Iglehart of Woodbine, for her contribution of the above article.

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

Straight from Parelli's Ranch to Red Rock

only clinic in the USA this year — don't miss it!

Neil Pye, Dean of Instructors at Parelli's Int'l Study Center

"Learn to Think Like Your Horse"

October 24-25, Level 2 Harmony (must be Certified Level 1)

October 26-27, Level 1 Partnership

9:00 am - 5:00 pm everyday

for more information contact Vicki & Jim Hackett 301/271-7395 email: redrock3@msn.com

Chris Cox Horsemanship Demonstration & Clinic

October 17-20, 2002 Nokesville, VA

This clinic is designed to bring riders of any discipline and level to a better understanding and partnership with their horses.

Chris Cox is a non-nonsense teacher of practical methods – he shows people how to get results.

To register as a rider or auditor or obtain more information, contact Patty Swygert at 434/973-3229 or email: pswygert@juno.com

Haunted Hay Ride

Friday, October 25th 8-10 pm and Saturday, October 26th 7-10 pm
Adkins Arboretum
Tuckahoe State Park

For information or to volunteer to drive, call Paul McMullen 410-482-2176 or Linda Doub 410/482-8613

The Greenwell Foundation Therapeutic Riding Program of Hollywood, MD, will be having its

Fall Benefit Trail Ride on Sunday, October 20, 2002,at Greenwell State Park

Contact 301-373-9775, or e-mail greenwellfoundation@earthlink.net

A uniquely enjoyable aspect of the Greenwell Ride is "The Hunt for the Golden Horse Shoes," in which we place four golden horse shoes along the marked trail, and give special prizes (donated by our sponsors) to those who recover them. Additionally, the Greenwell ride features some lovely waterfront views, as well as a few optional jumps for those so inclined.

Edward Crowson Benefit Trail Ride
November 16-17, 2002
Fair Hill, Elkton, MD

For more information, please call JoAnn Kricker at 410/287-9343, Sharon Rayne 410/835-8913 or Carol Schlotzhauer 302/284-9428. Donations also accepted.

More information is also available by contacting the TROT editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com or 301/854-9763

Eastern Shore of Virginia
Fall 2002 Trail Ride November 2-3, 2002

2 trail rides on beaches, in the bay, through woods and fields; BBQ supper, primitive camping, showers, restrooms. All proceeds go to Northampton Fire & Rescue Company.

For info call Alan Gladden 703/327-4727 or email katheegladden@aol.com

BOMBPROOFING AND PARADE TRAINING YOUR HORSE!

November 9, 2002

James S. Long Distract Park, Haymarket, VA; cost $40 per horse and rider or $45 per horse and rider for non-CHS member; $10 to audit.

Rick Pelicano aims to help make your horse safer, calmer and more reliable in a variety of unfamiliar situations. For more information call Kathy Jane at 703/239-8590

Clifton Horse Society Knowdown Ride

November 3, 2002

Fountainhead Regional Park, Fairfax County

Call Pat Hepner 703/830-8394 or Wilma Kime 703/222-8253 or email wkime@cox.net

US RIDER

Offers nationwide roadside assistance for equestrians and maintains a database of qualified equine practitioners across the nation and Canada.

For brochure call 1/800-844-1409 or visit www.usrider.org

Interesting web-sites to visit:

Trail's End Tack Emporium http://store.yahoo.com/trail

Thompson Used Cars & Thompson Haulers www.uclot.com or www.thompsonautomotive.com

Aanstadt Das - originals by Sonya Bergstrom www.aanstadtdas.net

Maryland Trails, Campgrounds, Trail Rides, Overnight Hosts: http://www.horseandmuletrails.com/Md.htm

American Outdoors Training and Recreation Facilities

Oneida, Tennessee

A facility set up to entertain the equestrian and outdoor enthusiast. See our website at: www.americanoutdoorsweb.com

We will be trail riding at our facility into the Big South Fork National River and Recreation area park every Saturday and Sunday through fall, winter and spring...returning to the facility lodge at night for cookouts and a good nights rest. These rides are for site seeing, youth development and horse training and pleasure.

For info call 423-569-9923

trot
NEWS
Electronic Edition

December 2002 | Number 139

Editor: Debbie Palmer
(301) 854-9763
Email: DSPSFARM@aol.com

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2003
Time: doors open 5:30 pm
Place: Howard Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building
Directions: Rt. 144, 1 mile west of Rt. 32 and I-70 exit 80
Menu: A-I, Main Dishes
J-P, Side Dishes
Q-Z, Desserts

Come join old friends and meet new ones! Bring your friends! Bring a new member! Meet your county's representatives and fellow riders, share ideas, make plans to ride new trails and revisit old ones. And come with an appetite!!

Annual Meeting Agenda: The TROT Annual Meeting is a joint PotLuck and Business gathering of TROT members. The agenda is somewhat informal, but there will an election of board members and you will hear from Gale Monahan, President of TROT.

TROT Board members serve at least 2 years and their job is to meet once a month to discuss the business of TROT – which includes fund raisers (like the Judged Pleasure Ride), GPS mapping, legislation that concerns trails and trail riders, Fairs and expos to exhibit at, and most importantly, trails that are being encroached upon by development and public parks that need to include horseback riders!

Our current Board members include: Gale Monahan, President; Tim McGrath, Vice President; Pat Merson, Secretary; Anne Bennof, Treasurer; Kathy Dobson, Angela Klinger, Marilyn Miller, Jack Monahan, Deneen Martin and Michelle Beachley. Board Members are nominated and voted on by the TROT members present at this Annual Meeting. At the next scheduled Board Meeting, the Board Members elect officers from among themselves. The meetings are often held at Jack and Gale's house in Highland, or sometimes at another location to suit the Board members.

The final item of the Annual Meeting is a guest speaker...and this year we have **Jim Lewis, DVM**. Dr. Lewis will be addressing the topic of acupuncture and the West Nile virus. Further agendas will be posted at the door.

and from Prince George's County . . .
from Mary Angevine

JUG BAY News: Chris Wagnon reports that new trail markers will be in place by Spring; new maps will also be available; the bridges will have rails and the jumps should be in place! Great News from that Park!!!

This time of year brings to mind all the reasons to be thankful, and I want to especially mention Acting Park Director Marye Wells-Harley for her exceptional efforts with respect to changes made at the Riverdale Community Park; Mr. Gene Giddens for his most gracious attention over all these years; Ms. Jackie Gilbert for giving us her time as needed; Chairman Hewlett and the Members of the Planning Board for so politely listening to my messages; to Bill Gordon for his fine management of the natural surface trails in Fairland Regional Park; and to Fred Shafer of the Transportation Department for his unwavering patience (this year, especially!) as we hash out the new master trails plan and the Master Plan Technical Bulletin.

Also, many thanks to Director Betty Hager Francis and her aid Cicero Salles of the Department of Public Works and Transportation. They have developed a great new sign to mark trails/street intersections for the hiker/biker/equestrian users!!! Watch for them to gradually appear. You may see them first at the Oxon Hill Road crossing of the Henson Creek Trail, and at the Decatur Street crossing of the Northeast Branch Trail.

Our County Council members have often stood up for our trails, and we now express our great appreciation for their support. Happy Holidays to All!!!

Mary Angevine

ATTENTION... ALL TROT MEMBERS

We urgently need volunteers to help man the TROT booth at the Horse World Expo from January 16-19.

So far, only 7 individuals have "stepped up to the plate" and volunteered. We need many more people in order to have maximum coverage. If you are planning on attending the Expo, or live in the area, we are hoping for a shift rotation of at least 3 hours per person and need at least 2 people in the booth during "prime" show hours.

Please call Doreen or Phil Mendola at 301-432-1931 or email to PDDMENDOLA@AOL.COM to support the club for this very worthwhile effort.

Horse Resolutions for the New Year
(and thanks to Sandy Brewer)

I CAN walk and poop at the same time. I can, I can, I can
I will NOT stop and poop or urinate every time I pass the same spot in the arena
I will NOT leave when my rider falls off
My stall is NOT my litter box. When I have free access to my paddock, I will NOT go back inside to pee
I will NOT roll in streams or try to roll when my human in on my back
I will NOT leap over large nonexistent obstacles when the whim strikes
I will NOT walk faster on the way home than I did on the way out
I promise NOT to swish my tail while my human is cleaning my back feet
I promise also NOT to choose that particular time to answer nature's call
I will NOT bite my farrier's butt just because it's there
I will NOT confuse my human's blond hair for really soft hay
I will NOT wipe green slime down the back of my human's white shirt
I will NOT blow my nose on my human
I will NOT try to mooch goodies off every human within a 1 mile radius
I will NOT lay totally flat out in my stall with my eyes glazed over and my legs straight out and pretend I can't hear my human frantically screaming "Are you asleep?"
I will NOT chase the ponies into the electric fence to see if it is on
I will promise NEVER to dump the wheelbarrow of manure over while my human is mucking my stall
I will NOT grab my lead rope in my mouth and attempt to lead myself
I will NOT have an attitude problem. I won't, I won't, I won't!
I will NOT pull my new shoes off the very next day just to prove that I can
I am neither a beaver nor a carpenter. I promise I won't eat or remodel the barn or the new fences
I am NOT a Shin'a'in Battlesteed. I will not act like one.
I WILL forgive my human for the very bad haircut, even though I look like a freak
I accept that not every carrot is for me
I will NOT do the Arab Teleport Trick when a bad/naughty/awful Horsasaurus Monster breathes at me
I will NOT jump in the air, turn 180 degrees every time I see a deer
I will understand that deer are NOT carnivorous
I will NOT shy at familiar objects just for fun
I will not bite the butt of the horse in front of me during the trail ride just to say "Hi"
I WILL put my ears forward and cooperate when it comes to photos

GOOD RIDING AND GOOD NEIGHBORS

The following article is submitted by Barb and Tom Thelen

Clean, crisp fall air, bright skies accented with clouds and enough moisture in the ground to make footing exceptionally good...this time of year offers many beautiful days to ride. Tom and I recently rode at Idylwyld WMA, near Federalsburg on the Eastern Shore. Parking there is almost always at a premium, so we bypassed the overflowing main lot and parked at another smaller lot nearby.

The park trails are mostly wide, sandy and quite open. There are smaller side trails and you can ride for hours without backtracking. Most of the park is flat, with some small deviations.

The park is actively hunted during game seasons. Horseback riding is discouraged during hunting season, except on Sundays. Fox hunting is permitted within the park boundaries.

After a lovely ride, while untacking back at the trailer, we were approached by one of the local farmers. He told us that a group of fellow equestrians, in pursuit of foxes, have been permitting their hounds and following to run through his planted fields adjacent to the park. His crop is not a "common" crop and looks like wild un-mown fields. His crop is for game animals, geese and deer, etc., and while the riders thought the fields were unplanted, what they were really running through was his crop fields. His property is clearly defined on the park maps as private property.

The main reason for this article is to let fellow equestrians know that this gentleman was quite angry with the entire equestrian community over this. He had DNR ask the hunt to stop riding through his fields and to control the hounds. This has not worked and so, now, he's stopping to talk with horse people in hopes that we can police ourselves. He was quiet and considerate when you consider the damages done to his fields.

Only horse people can be ambassadors for other horse people. Talking with this man, I realized he didn't object to horse or riders, he just wanted respect for his property. No one from the group(s) had sought his permission to ride on his land. No one from the group(s) has offered an apology.

As equestrians, we can avoid this kind of ill will by remembering that if a field is planted, ride only on the edges and only with the owner's permission. If you don't know if a field is planted, stay off! This is a simple courtesy. One that we would all like offered to us if the shoe were on the other foot.

I promised this man I would submit an article to the clubs I belong to in an effort to remind everyone that if we don't respect others property, we will eventually alienate those very folks we desperately need to keep on our side...landowners.

Respectfully submitted, Barb and Tom Thelan

January 16-19, 2003

Maryland Horse World Expo
At the Timonium State Fair Grounds

3 full buildings (with heat) and all the horse stuff you could possibly desire–vendors, clinicians, demonstrations, food, and so much more.

The Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club is co-sponsoring the return of gaited horse trainer Bobby Richards...you may bring your own PERSONAL VIDEO of your horse to review with Bobby...sign up schedule will be posted in the booth.

HEADS UP TO RIDERS IN BLACK ROCK ROAD AREA
AND ALSO WOODBINE ROAD AREA - CARROLL COUNTY

The county intends to purchase 100+ acres on Black Rock Road from Howard and Reba Leister. Also, about the same acreage between Buckhorn and Streaker Roads from the Krimgold family. Both of these properties are scheduled for park projects. The county will hold public meetings to determine interest levels for what facilities will actually be developed in each of these areas. Watch your local papers in the next six months and plan to attend a meeting.

We need to express an interest in horse trails early on in the planning. Call either Anne Bennof at 301/829-0949 or Janet Breeding at 410/795-4262 for further information.

SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM
nearly year-end summary

To date, the Search Team has responded to two searches in calendar year 2002.

The first, June 2 (and June 8), was to assist Montgomery County Police in their investigation into the disappearance of a young woman in the Laytonsville/Damascus area. Kathy Dobson, Stephanie Lowery, and Suzanne Anderson responded and joined several search and rescue dog teams in the field in areas along the Patuxent River. We recently received a nice thank you letter from Charles A. Moose, Chief of Police in Montgomery County.

The second, October 7, was in response to a call from Maryland State Police to assist in a search for two woman and four children (ages 6 and under) lost overnight on Sugarloaf Mountain. Tomi Finkle, Kathy Dobson, and Suzanne Anderson responded to the scene in conjunction with Mid Atlantic Dogs. The group was found just at daybreak.

In February, we invited Charlie Sharpe of Howard County Fire and Rescue to give us a refresher session on ropes and carrying someone in a stokes basket. In March, Frank Dietz and I were invited by the local Boy Scouts Troop in Mt. Airy to come speak to them about Search and Rescue.

Early in April saw Melinda Gierisch and me in the Shanandoahs, at Big Meadows on Skyline Drive, and an annual event with the Managing Search Operations course offered at UMBC. This is the 6th or 7th year we have attended. And we had snow up there this year! In May, our team member, Tomi Finkle, retired Sergeant for the Capitol Hill Police, taught a course on Crime Scene Behavior, covering what information search personnel should make notes on if first on the scene of a lost person found deceased. Such circumstances might well lead to some type of court inquiry, and search personnel may find themselves asked to testify. Tomi provided excellent insight into not only what to do and make notes on at the scene, but how to cope with the jitters if called to the stand. Several members of the U.S. Search and Rescue Task Force also attended this course.

Again this year, the Search Team provided considerable support for TROT in its annual fund raiser, the Judged Pleasure Ride. Melinda Gierisch provided and operated the computer to tally scores in a timely manner; Anne Bennof organized the safety riders: Tomi Finkle, Stephanie Lowery, and Suzanne Anderson. Kathy Dobson designed the obstacles and judges, and Larry Raskin also judged.

The TROT Search Team has also participated in the quarterly meetings of the Maryland Search Team Task Force throughout the past two years.

Suzanne Anderson, on her 20 year old Arabian Bos Bask, helped represent the search community in the Catonsville 4th of July Parade, having been invited to be part of the Patapsco Valley State Park, Hilton Area, Float. The parade theme this year was Home Town Heroes, and the Patapsco float featured a member and dog from Mid Atlantic Dogs, a DNR ranger in a kayak emblazoned with Search and Rescue and Suzanne and Bos trotting alongside the float.

Also in July, we held a night ride exercise in Little Bennett, and later Melinda Gierisch and Suzanne Anderson attended a field exercise in Morgan Run (without horses) with Mid Atlantic Dogs. And, in September, Tomi Finkle and Suzanne Anderson brought horses to a Chesapeake Search and Rescue Dogs Association (CHESARDA) exercise held at the Hereford area of the Gunpowder River State Park.

Several of us are now looking forward to participating in a large, multi agency, weekend long Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) the second annual state wide event of its kind. It is being organized this year by CHESARDA and being held in the Susquehanna State Park. One day is devoted to a number of different learning activities, and the other to a mock search.

Our team this year consists of TROT members Suzanne Anderson (with Bos Bask); Melinda Gierisch (with Denver Danny); Frank Dietz; Kathy Dobson (with 3 horses); Bill Mitchell (with 2 horses); Tomi Finkle (with Ammo); and trainees Stephanie Lowery and Larry Raskin. As I get digital pictures, I am having them posted on the TROT web page under Search Team with short biographies of each member. Check us out!

Suzanne Anderson, Team Manager

This Month's Recipe:

Brown Sugar Cookies

4 cups wheat flour
3 cups oatmeal
1 egg
4 tablespoons brown sugar
3/4 cup applesauce
4 tablespoons oil
1/2 cup molasses
1 cup hot water
Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Mix flour, oatmeal, and brown sugar in VERY large bowl. Then add egg, oil, applesauce, and molasses. Finally, add hot water and mix well. Mix with your hands as you would bread dough. Roll out the dough to one half inch thick on floured surface, and cut out shapes or press into the greased cookie sheet. Bake 45 to 60 minutes. Turn off oven and cut into squares with a pizza cutter. Let cool in the oven overnight.

Dear TROT members,

I'm turning the ropes over to a new TROT Trail Ride Coordinator, Michelle Beachley. I hope all of you guys will be as helpful to her with rides as you were to me.

Thanks to all my TROT trail ride leaders over the past few years.

Happy Trails!

Mary Prowell

TROT is pleased to welcome Michelle Beachley, Trail Ride Coordinator. Michelle has some good ideas and wants to try and encourage more participation in TROT rides and in TROT itself.

GO MICHELLE!

ISO Riding Buddy?

Are you and your horse not quite ready for a TROT ride? Do you need a buddy to "practice" with or "tune-up" with out on the trail? This column is a way for you to find a riding buddy. Let us know where you ride, where you'd like to ride, when you ride and what you're looking for. Your information will be included in this column! This column has generated lots of interest from riders looking for riding buddies as well as those wonderful horse people offering their experience to help out riders new to trails.

****

I recently moved to Worthington Valley (Worthington Road & Butler Road). I am available to ride anytime but we only do pleasure trail riding. Have trailer but need serious help to load. My Boy (that's his name) is not afraid, but has a control issue with me – needs work. Anyway, would like a buddy to "show me the town" and have company. We have no bad habits and like to jump, but not in excess of 24" since we ride western. Love to hear . from anybody out there.
Kurt Miller, email lkmiller@comcast.net or my cell phone 410-382-7000

In search of a regular riding buddy in the Highland area. I am available to ride mid-days and prefer riding during the week, as opposed to weekends. If times between 10 am to 2 pm work for you, Monday thru Friday, please call me and my quarter horse! Debbie 301-854-9763 or dspsfarm@aol.com.

HEALTH ISSUES ...
From Our Members! The Information Exchange

West Nile Vaccine - Adverse Reaction*

In mid-August it was suggested to us that we vaccinate our horses against West Nile Virus. I was simply not well-educated on the vaccine nor the virus or knew the right questions to ask at the time. With the first shot, three of our horses reacted with swelling in their front legs. Within 2 days, our gelding founded and shortly thereafter, died.

*The editor of this newsletter received quite a lengthy rendition of this episode, which included a lot of "factual" information about the conditional licensing of the West Nile vaccine, as well as recommendations for "natural" treatments to aid in reactions and perhaps administer in lieu of the vaccine. As the person who wrote the article is not a member of TROT, and the information could not be confirmed, I am not including it here. However, if you would like to see a copy of this four page article, please contact me (DSPSFARM@aol.com or 301/854-9763).

WATER AND MOSQUITOES

To collect rainwater runoff from your barn roof for watering your horses during dry periods, try some large plastic barrels – you can get them from juice manufacturers, pickle processors, etc. Cover them with window screens, cut a hole just large enough for the downspout and you're in business (without having to worry about "mosquito egg rafts"). Instead of old screens, you can buy vinyl screening at most hardware stores and use duct tape to keep in place.

If you don't have gutters, you can still collect water in troughs or pails placed under the eaves. An advantage of pails or barrels is they lose less water through evaporation than containers like troughs and bathtubs.

Naturally, this won't work if you're using the runoff to water your horses directly, but if you want to set up a collection system to save water for future use, the screening will keep out leaves, small animals, birds and other debris, as well as keeping water-breeding insects out.

Judy Lorimer, ECTRA newsletter editor

Please send all ITEMS FOR "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" to the editor @ DSPSFARM@aol.com, or by calling 301/854-9763. And, remember to reference "trot" in your subject line of your email to be sure it will be opened.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor: Debbie Palmer, TROT News, P.O. Box 129, Highland, MD 20777. The next newsletter deadline is January 25th. Make checks out to TROT.
Type or print your ad, 38 characters per line, 6 lines = $5.00. Each additional line = $1.00.

Horse Trailer for sale: Kingston, two horse, w/dressing room. 1994, mint condition, used occasionally. Recently inspected. Asking $7,000. Comus, MD 301-407-0070

This is YOUR newsletter...**we welcome submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Please send all materials to the editor:**

Debbie Palmer
PO Box 129
Highland, MD 20777-0129
or email to:
dspsfarm@aol.com

Please refer to TROT in the subject line or your email may not be opened.

PLEASE NOTE: The mailing of the newsletter is not done by the editor. Please refer your concerns to the TROT BOARD. Thank you!

AD RATES:
classified ad ---$ 5.00
¼ page or business card ---$25.00
½ page ---$40.00
Full page ---$75.00
Insert ---$50.00*

*this rate is based upon the advertiser providing prepared copy for our mailing, including all number of copies.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

Officers: Gale Monahan, President (301-854-3852); Tim McGrath, Vice President (301-428-8216); Pat Merson, Secretary (301-898-3251); Anne Bennof, Treasurer (301-829-0949)

Directors/Board Members: Kathy Dobson (410-747-2015); Angela Klinger (301-898-9133); Marilyn Miller (301-898-7274); Jack Monahan (301-854-3852); Deneen Martin; Michelle Rich (301-482-2526)

Membership: Linda Eminizer; Trail Ride Coordinator: Michelle Beachley (301-482-2526)

Mapping Project: Tim McGrath (301-428-8216)
Search & Rescue Team: Suzanne Anderson (301-829-3881)
Archivist: Karen Alexander
Web Page Master: George and Lisa Graff
County Coordinators: Carroll – Anne Bennof; Howard – Gale Monahan;
Frederick – Angela Klinger & Pat Merson; Montgomery – Tim McGrath; Prince George's – Mary Angevine

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Interesting web-sites to visit: **Bed & Breakfasts On Line**: www.bbonline.com Lists some 125 horse-friendly inns in 35 states. **Horse and Mule Trails:** www.horseandmuletrails.com Riders from all across the USA contributed to this web-site listing trail and campground information **Endurance.net** -- for endurance riders nationwide **Horsecity.com** for ANYTHING! **www.horsetravels.com** for info on where you can stay and ride AND where you can find hay, feed & farriers while on the road	