



Trail Riders of Today

TROT News - April 2004

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NEWS

Electronic Edition

TROT Information
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Gone to Greener Pastures

Blackhawk Spirit 1976-2003

Blackhawk Spirit, the 1996 American Riding Instructor Association Lesson Horse of the Year, passed away on August 16, 2003 due to kidney failure. The 27 year Appaloosa resided at Stoney Run Farm, North East, MD, teaching riders of all ages. Totally blind since 1995, broken leg at age 12 and cancer surgery did not slow Hank as he competed in barrels, judged pleasure rides and local shows. In June of 2002, Hank placed second in the TROT Judged Pleasure Ride out of ninety horses, at age 26.

As a tribute to Hank, why not ride TROT's Judged Pleasure Ride this year? Register today!

The following was written by Susan Orndorf in 1996, about Hank.

Hank

*It was the fall of 1993 a beginner in riding was I.
My instructor assigned a horse to me – "He's lame and blind in one eye".
Blackhawk Spirit, "Hank" was his name, schooling beginner riders was his fame.
Out came the box all full of tools for grooming his coat of color & spots to look cool.
Pick up the hoofs 1-2-3-4. Clean out the dirt, grass, gravel and more.
Blankets, saddle, bridle – "oh my" – Now it was time to be off and ride.
With helmet on my head, "Let's go", the instructor said.
Hank knew how to make me succeed. Easy walk at first, keep down the speed.
The miles Hank has covered in the ring and on the trail
Would circle the earth at least once without fail.
The riders he has guided from beginner to advanced
Know they have been given the best chance.
Now blind in both eyes Hank continues to give
A better teacher than ever with such a spirit to live.
Hank has my vote for Schooling Horse of the Year. He is a winner this is clear.
Each time I ride I think inside there is a little of the Blackhawk Spirit here.*

Welcome to Alison Hiltabidle

Please join us in welcoming Alison Hiltabidle, our new NEWSLETTER EDITOR, effective with the production of the upcoming June edition of TROT News. Alison is a horse person of many years and brings lots of expertise to our club. You may contact Alison via email: TROT_news@email.toast.net or by phone: 301-854-1092. Thanks for your generosity in volunteering for this position, Alison!

Montgomery County News

From Naomi Manders

Greetings to all survivors of the worst trail year I can remember; let's hope it's not a permanent climate change.

In July, I received a new job within M-NCPPC titled Volunteer Coordinator for Natural Surface Trails. My office is now on Spring Street across from the Main Regional Office on Georgia Avenue. My express duty is to CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN natural surface trails. The budget for this is now controlled by my office. Most of the money goes for Planning and Supervision and bridge materials. Bridge construction is being done by volunteers. We were all astounded when a crew of 25 assembled and installed a 40 foot bridge (multi-use) in five hours ! Many more bridges have now been ordered so that trails can go through problem areas. So much for the good news.

As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, the process of requesting trail easements through new subdivisions is being transferred across the street to Community Planning. This does not bode well for equestrians. The large trail corridors being worked on often have little access from surrounding neighborhoods putting you in the position of trailering to park trails. Additionally, not much space planning is being made for horse trailers.

When the transfer is complete it will mean all equestrians must become more informed and vocal. I will be discussing this with your Board and keeping you informed as to what's needed.

Meanwhile, I urge you to become involved in my volunteer projects. If you want to have trails you will have to take care of them. Be aware that planning and maintaining trails for equestrian use can be very difficult as horses do cause almost the damage of ATV use. But, WAKE UP ! There is new trail technology which can help. Do not be deceived by simplistic manuals; you will need some supervised training. For example, a training session by one of the national level organizations which specialize in trail construction. Later this year, there will be a training workshop, the details of which will be advertised. Please make every effort to attend.

That's all I need to convey for the time being. If you want to help, sign up with me at naomi.manders@mncppc-mc.org or call 301-650-4395 to find out if there's anything specific going on in YOUR park. And don't ride those trails when wet! That's the worst thing you can do.

Sunny trails to you,
Naomi Manders

This Month's Recipe

Munchy Muffins

In a huge bowl, combine the following:

- 4 quarts sweet feed
- 2 cups bran or bran cereal
- 2 cups oats
- 1 can frozen apple juice concentrate
- 5-6 chopped carrots
- 3 chopped apples
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 jar molasses
- 1 bottle Karo corn syrup
- 5 eggs
- 2-3 cups corn oil
- 2 tablespoons baking powder

Add flour and water, alternating until you have a cake-like batter that is very chunky. Spray muffin tins with an oil and drop by spoonfuls into tins. They will rise a little, so don't overfill. Bake at 350 degrees F for 10-15 minutes. Cool on a paper towel. To make cookie bars: pour batter into a large baking pan (well-greased!). Bake until center is dry and firm (probably 30-60 minutes, depending on the size of your pan and amount of batter used). Let cool overnight or for several hours. Cut into squares.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send ads to the editor by contacting Alison Hiltabidle:
TROT_news@email.toast.net or call 301-854-1092. The **next newsletter deadline is May 5th**. Text and payment must be received prior to the deadline. Make checks payable to TROT. Type or print your ad, 70 characters per line, 6 lines = \$5.00. Each additional line = \$1.00.

Please note that the classified ad deadline will now be the 5th of the month prior to publication...in an effort to get the bi-monthly newsletter to you by the 1st of the month!

For Sale: **TRAIL HORSE:** Husband or wife want to tag along on your trail rides? Here's the perfect horse. 16 yr. old bay **quarter horse gelding** 15.3 h. Sturdy, quiet on trails, leads, follows, doesn't care if left behind. Loads easily. Has earned champion ribbons on judged pleasure rides. Easy Keeper. Cannot be turned out with mares. Does have arthritis in fetlock joint, easily managed with Bute. But does limit him to mostly walk, trot. \$1000 (neg.) To approved home. If you're interested in taking a trail ride on this guy, call Bonnie 410-442-5553 or email me: BonnCody3@aol.com.

FOR SALE - Attractive **QH Append Gelding**, 15.3, Bay: Very quiet and level headed. Willing jumper. Lots of potential. Easy to work around. Great for vet/farrier, ties & loads nicely. Easy keeper. Has clean legs/feet, no issues. Also is excellent on the trails. \$4000 obo Must sell. Please email Lisa To see pictures of him: [Pharoh Pictures](#)

FOR SALE - QH Gelding, 14.1, chestnut. Cute. Goes english & western. Jumps. Excellent on trails. Easy keeper. Owner is relocating to FL and is unable to take him. Need to find him loving home. \$1200 obo. To see pictures of him: [Poker Chip](#) . **SOLD**

Horse Clothing for Sale:

Two weatherbeata rain sheets. One 69" high neck blue with green trim and one 72" regular purple with lavender trim. Each used one season. \$60 each. Call Gale 301-854-3852.

Horse Trailer for Sale:

Older model dual axle 2 horse trailer. New flooring and brake controller installed. Tows nicely. Good tires plus spare. Needs body work. Please call for details. \$1050 make offer. Norene 301-898-5530 or nboswell@hns.com - Walkersville, Maryland

OD's No Frills Ride

Sunday, April 11, 2004 at Star Tannery, VA

Three events: 25-mile limited distance ride, 50-mile endurance ride, 25 and 50 mile Ride and Tie. Sanctioned by AERC and ECTRA (and Ride & Tie Association) Ride manager: Susan Brehm, 703-973-0355 or susan@rockingb.com Vet-in Saturday April 10; dinner Saturday evening. Information on OD web-site: www.OldDominionRides.org

June 12-13 Old Dominion 100

June 11: Registration and vetting-in; dinner; ride briefing for 100/75/50 mile ride; June 12: 100, 75, and 50 mile rides; dinner, ride briefing for 25-mile ride; June 13: 25-mile ride; lunch; awards Ride Manager: Jean Whitman, 540-933-6992 or runsallday@aol.com Sanctioned by AERC and ECTRA Information on OD web-site: www.OldDominionRides.org

Events at Stoney Run Farm

360 Bailiff Road, North East, MD 21901 --- 410-287-9343

Clinics March 21: Bomb-proofing your trail horse, Fair Hill, MD sponsored by the Fair Hill Volunteer Mounted Patrol 410/287-9344 or jkricker@dol.net

Trail Rides

April 23-25: Crazy Kritters 4-H Trail Ride, open to the public, Fair Hill, MD 410-287-9343 or jkricker@dol.net

May 2: Judged Pleasure Ride, Fair Hill, MD benefit Fair Hill Volunteer Mounted Patrol 410-287-9343 or jkricker@dol.net

This is YOUR newsletter...

we welcome submissions of any articles or news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Send all materials to the editor: by contacting Alison Hiltabidle at: TROT_news@email.toast.net or 301/854-1092. 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.*

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Horsepower Farm Services by Tim the Trail Man McGrath

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