MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am really excited about the comradery, energy, and new members we have within TROT. Already in 2019, we have done so much in just a few short months thanks to our awesome events committee. I encourage each and every one of you to offer insight and lend a hand to your board, officers, and committee members. Don’t let the Today in TROT be Tomorrow! We look forward to having you as part of the TROT Team! -Fritzi Grow

DESENSITIZING CLINIC

TROT held a 'Desensitizing your Trail Horse Clinic' on Saturday, March 23rd at the Sevens Ranch in Frederick, MD. Jimmy Wagner was the instructor for the morning session and David Beard was the instructor for the afternoon session. Thanks to everyone who attended for making it a sold out event! Luckily it was indoors because it was very windy outside. The Riders and Auditors spent their time learning how to introduce their horses to potentially scary obstacles in a safe environment. The instructors reiterated to be as gentle as you can be, but as strong as you need to be with your horse. All the horses and riders did great maneuvering through obstacles, such as a ball pit, tarp curtain, and the ultra scary duck blind, complete with a quacking "duck". -Meggan Whalen

HORSE EXPO

TROT expanded recognition of our organization’s mission and presence in the equine community by attending the Pennsylvania Horse Expo in Harrisburg, PA this past month. Thousands of people attended the Expo and so many stopped by our booth to ask about our mission and the organization. We gained roughly 15 new members ranging from Maryland to New York. Many people realized we all faced the same struggles and mission in their own home towns and states and wished to learn from what TROT has accomplished here in Maryland. TROT also shared the booth with TROTSAR allowing for more people to know about the good work they do. I want to thank everyone that came and volunteered their time at the booth. I believe being at this new venue was an excellent opportunity to share how much TROT has accomplished and what a wonderful strong and meaningful organization we are. -Carolann Sharpe

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Newsletter Submissions:
TROTNNewsletter@gmail.com

The newsletter is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Newsletter submissions are due:
February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15, and December 15.
TROT is looking forward to an even bigger and better annual dinner in February 2020 to celebrate TROT turning 40 years old! Want to be in on the planning? Reach out to Cassie Durand to volunteer a little or a lot of your time. There is something for everyone, but we need you to make this event a success. Email TROTEvents@gmail.com.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

TROT meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month and open to everyone. The pot luck dinner starts at 6pm with the meeting starting at 7pm. Please check TROT’s website for the location. We are excited to announce that if you can’t make the meeting in person you can call or video conference in.

Dial-in number (US): (605)-313-4459, Access Code 421873#
Join the online meeting: https://join.freeconferencecall.com/trot

COMMITTEES

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Remember to turn in your volunteer hours to Amy Kimble! Your work on the trails could win you prizes if you have a passport booklet (see page 6)! Amy will be heading out to the trails via horseback to start prioritizing where TROT should direct our trail work. Remember, you don’t have to wield a chain saw to help the parks. Pack your dog and pack your clippers like our Vice President, Brieannah Schwartz. Those that want to wield a chain saw, talk to Amy Kimble as there will be a chainsaw and trail work certification in May.

PINEY RUN, Carroll County

March 17, 2019 Piney Run Trail Work Day. I’d been seeing the suggested FB posts for TROT for awhile, almost taunting me. Me and my guy have only been off the property once, and only with my friends who own the farm. Could I really just show up to a bunch of strangers and expect them to welcome me and want to ride with a fairly inexperienced rider? Well, nothing to lose! So I decided to try a work day before riding to better meet the members, and I signed up, loaded my tools and headed out. The day was wonderful! Friendly folks, other first time members, no pressure, no judgement. And it’s not just about riding. I learned that TROT is also about ensuring riders have safe places to ride, and is willing to do the work to help maintain them and advocate for horse legislation and access to government land. I really enjoyed the day and look forward to being an active member.

-Cindy Vanderveer

Photo by Mike Macella
TRAIL RIDES

TROT’s organized trail rides are a fun and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and help illustrate to riders the value of preserving trails. Please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@jhmi.edu or 301-604-5619 to lead or co-lead a TROT ride. To participate in a ride, please contact the designated ride leader to sign up, learn the start time and directions to the ride out area. Be sure to provide the ride leader with your contact information so if weather causes the ride to be postponed, the ride leader would be able to notify you. All riders must wear a helmet, have a current negative Coggins on the horse they are riding, and be a TROT member. Membership forms can be found at http://trot-md.org/join-now/, as well as at the ride. There are also $5 one-day memberships for non-TROT members. For updated trail ride listings or to post a trailering request, please check the social media links on TROT’s website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5/8—5/11/19 Big Elk Lick Camping and Trail Ride, Page 4
- 5/9/19 Agriculture History Farm Park Trail Ride, Page 4
- 5/11/19 T. Howard Duckett/Rocky George Reservoir Trail Ride, Page 4
- 5/18/19 Fair Hill Trail Ride, Page 5
- 5/19/19 Tuckahoe Trail Ride, Page 5
- 5/23/19 Friends of Liberty Reservoir Meeting
- 5/30/19 Last Thursday of the Month Trail Ride, Page 5
- 6/5/19 Monthly Meeting, Page 2
- 6/6/19 Rachel Carson Trail Ride, Page 5
- 6/13/19 Monocacy NRMA Trail Ride, Page 5
- 6/16/19 Patapsco McKeldin Trail Ride, Page 5
- 6/22/19 Union Mills Trail Work
- 6/27/19 Last Thursday of the Month Trail Ride, Page 5
- 6/29/19 Gunpowder Falls/Sweet Air Trail Ride, Page 5
- 7/10/19 Torrey C Brown Trail Ride

For up-to-date information, see the TROT Calendar http://trot-md.org/calendar

PINEY RUN, Carroll County

On March 20th 2019, Stephanie Brennan hosted a ride at Piney Run. The turnout was great for a mid-week ride, boasting 7 people! Our ride lasted about two hours, riding around the undeveloped side of Piney Run Park. The weather could not have been better. Everyone's horses behaved more than stellar, and we truly could not have asked for a more perfect ride. After our ride we enjoyed a long pot-luck style lunch with chicken salad, fruits, veggies, and lots of yummy snacks! Can’t wait for more Piney Run rides to come. - Ashley Reier.

Ride Attendees: Stephanie Brenan, Cassie Durand, Kaitlyn Cook, Deneen Martin, Debbie Mullinx, Ashley Reir, Jean Swartz

SCHOOLEY MILL, Howard County

On March 28, the group of us gathered at Schooley Mill Park for one of the first spring TROT rides. We were pleased to welcome three new members to our group. We also had a horse on her first trail ride, Even Keel (horse #6 from the left), who was recently adopted through the Maryland equine transition program, METS. After an hour and 15 minute trail ride, we gathered for a potluck picnic. It was a wonderful day with beautiful weather! Article written by Joan Bosmans.

Photo by Barbara Sollner-Webb

(N-R) Jean Swartz, Erin Allen, Joan Bosmans, Kristen Gross, Ray Bosmans, Jules Gross, Barb Sullivan, Suzy Armacost, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Cindy Fieldman

NORTH TRACT, East Laurel, Anne Arundel County

On March 30, 10 TROT members joined to enjoy a ride in great weather at North Tract. Each year, Barbara Sollner-Webb organizes a ride at this venue, to familiarize TROT members with this wonderful resource. The trails are fine to ride without damage no matter how wet the ground is, because they were originally designed for military tanks. Susan Gray led an all-walk group while Barbara led a group that moved out, and all had great fun, both on the ride and at the yummy pot-luck afterwards. Article and photo by Barbara Sollner-Webb.

Photo by Barbara Sollner-Webb

(L-R) Barbara Sollner-Webb, Susan Gray, Sarah Tuck, Elise Weston, Anne Butcher, Jessica Conaway, Ellen Frank, Barbara Sullivan, Lauren Nation, Barbara Martin
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Continued from page 3

- 7/14/19 Morgan Run Trail Work
- 7/18/19 Little Bennett Trail Ride
- 7/25/19 Last Thursday of the Month Trail Ride, Page 5
- 7/27/19 Patuxent River State Park Trail Ride
- 7/29/19 Gunpowder Falls, Sweet Air Trail Ride
- 8/9/19 Morgan Run Trail Ride
- 8/18/19 Union Mills Trail Ride
- 8/29/19 Location TBD Trail Ride
- 9/7/19 Morgan Run Trail Work
- 9/7/19 Fairland Park Trail Ride
- 9/15/19 Gillis Falls Trail Work
- 9/26/19 Location TBD Trail Ride
- 9/28/19 Gunpowder Fall, Sweet Air Trail Ride
- 10/4-10/6/19 League of MD Horsemens Invitational
- 10/6/19 Morgan Run Trail Work
- 10/12/19 Gunpowder Falls Trail Ride
- 10/19/19 Piney Run Trail Work
- 10/31/19 Last Thursday of the Month Trail Ride, Page 5
- 11/2/19 Union Mills Trail Work
- 11/10/19 Morgan Run Trail Work

For up-to-date information, see the TROT Calendar [http://trot-md.org/](http://trot-md.org/)

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**BLUE MASH, Montgomery County**

On Thursday, April 4, Debbie Wagner organized a lovely ride at Blue Mash that was enjoyed by four TROT members -- about the maximum that the parking at this venue can accommodate. The pace was mainly walk, but two of the three Iceys who attended also had swell tolting runs on some alternate loops. Great weather, great footing, pretty venue, lovely companions, enjoyable lunch afterwards -- a real fun time.

*Article and photo by Barbara Sollner-Webb.*

(L-R) Ellen Frank, Jean Schwartz, Debbie Wagner, Barbara Sollner-Webb

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**ASSATEAGUE, Eastern Shore**

May 8-May 11 - Horse camping and trail riding at Big Elk Lick, Benezette, PA. Marisa Chew is new to TROT, and already offered to have TROT members join her on a horse camping/trail riding trip at Big Elk Lick where the terrain can be challenging, but the area is spectacular. She notes that this indeed is Elk country! The Big Elk Lick campground has a bath house, some stalls, unlimited trailer parking, and high lining sites with primitive and hookups available. RSVP: Marissa at 717-469-7390.

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**BIG ELK LICK, Pennsylvania**

May 9, 2019. Trail Ride. Montgomery County’s Agricultural History Park (Ag Farm) is a favorite with equestrians due to its scenic easy trails with watering spots, great footing, and lots of parking. The main ride will be all-walk, but those who want to move out can trot/canter and then rejoin the group. Bring your sandwich to join in a group lunch after the ride. RSVP: Debbie Wagner at 301-233-7738 (phone or text).

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**AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM, Montgomery County**

May 11, 2019 (Rain Date 5/18). Trail Ride. Come ride along WSSC’s beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, celebrating TROT’s efforts to reopen this trail a few years ago. This ride starts in West Laurel and offers magnificent views of the reservoir, with a good chance of seeing heron and maybe an eagle. Despite the name, the footing is fine for barefoot horses, with plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. We will have a walk-only and a faster group. After the 2.5 hour ride, there will be a potluck lunch. RSVP: Barbara Sollner-Webb at bsw@jhmi.edu or 301-604-5619.
FAIR HILL, Cecil County

May 18, 2019. Trail Ride. Fair Hill has great footing, even for the barefoot horse. But there are some areas with gravel, so for the very tender-footed horse they may require shoes/boots. Fair Hill also boasts some of the most beautiful scenery in the area. There will be some small water crossings along the ride, as well as some bridges, dogs on leashes, and fellow riders/horses. There usually is enough trailer parking in the lot as well as the field. This ride will be walk-trot, with some cantering if the trail permits. We will ride for at least 1.5 hours, longer if everyone is up for it! Bring your lunch and a chair if you would like to stay afterwards! RSVP: Ashley Reier at 443-862-1838, or ashley.reier1@gmail.com.

TUCKAHOE EQUESTRAIN CENTER, Queen Anne’s County

May 19, 2019. Trail Ride. Trail Ride. Join us for a relaxed trail ride through the trails at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, followed by a crab feast and potluck (crabs will be brought by ride leader, please bring a dish). The trails will be about 9 miles, intermediate terrain with hills, rocks, bridge crossings, other hikers and bikers. Walk, maybe walk/trot. Although on the Eastern Shore, it is only about an hour drive from I-95. RSVP: Katelin Cook at katelinmcconkey@gmail.com.

LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Information about the “Last Thursday of the Month” trail ride will be on the TROT Facebook community group. The pace will be at a walk. For those who want to move out, there were be alternate loops to take and then rejoin the group. Bring a sandwich to join in a group lunch after the ride. RSVP: Laury Lobel at laurylobel@verizon.net or 301-467-7300.

RACHEL CARSON, Montgomery County

June 6, 2019. Trail Ride. This is another favorite venue, with great trails, swell footing and ideal for green horses. The pace will be all-walk, with opportunities for those who want to move out to ride some alternate loops and then rejoin the group. Bring your sandwich to join in a group lunch after the ride. RSVP: Debbie Wagner at 301-233-7738 (phone or text).

MONOCACY NRMA, Frederick County

June 13, 2019. Trail Ride. This is a new venue for TROT, so very exciting. The pace will be all-walk, with opportunities for those who want to move out to ride some alternate ways and then rejoin the group. And plan to join for a group lunch after the ride. RSVP: Joan Bosmans at joanbosmans@gmail.com.

MCKELDIN/PATAPSCO, Carroll/Howard County

June 16, 2019. Trail Ride. We will be riding to the Woodstock Inn, a favorite watering hole of area riders. It has dedicated hitching posts saying “Horse and Mule Parking Only” in their main parking lot as well as two hitching posts in a secluded spot. Wait staff will sometimes add a few carrots to your order. They will also have motorcycle and cars, and a freight train line runs alongside the parking lot, but you can eat at outside picnic tables to be with your horse. The ride will begin at McKeldin Park's dedicated horse trailer parking (with rest rooms close by), going along their well-maintained multi-use trails, with beautiful views as you climb in and out of river valleys. As we go to the restaurant, you may encounter walkers, dogs on leashes, and bike riders, and there are two water crossings plus a railroad track crossing. The ride is 1 ½ hour one way at a nice slow walk. After lunch, a walk-trot group can split off and get back in 30-40 mins. In total the day should be 4-5 hours. RSVP: Carolann Sharpe at 410-908-5599 or blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com.

SWEET AIR, Baltimore County

June 29, 2019. Trail Ride. Sweet Air is one of the most popular riding areas in Gunpowder Falls State Park with multiple trails and access from local boarding facilities. The pace of this ride will be walk-trot-cantering if trail permits and the length is 2 hours. There is trailer parking in a field and a picnic table. Along the trail are some muddy spots and a few rocky areas so boots or shoes are recommended. The trail will go through fields, wooded areas, past farms and may have some water crossings. If the trails are wet, the park will close the area to riders so we will be confirming one or two days before. Bring your lunch and a chair if you would like to stay afterwards. RSVP: Bianca Paterakis at 443-340-4036 or biancavanhorn@me.com.

Look your best this season in our TROT LOGO WEAR.
Contact Carolann Sharpe at blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, Jacquie Cowan

Remember to take advantage of the Patuxent Refuge North Tract when other trails are too wet. Please represent TROT well and set a good example for others by cleaning up around your trailer. Within the past months of wet weather the trailer parking has been getting a lot of use, and trail riders have been leaving their poop to prove it! Let’s not lose use of this area by not cleaning up after ourselves and our horses.

Baltimore County, Priscilla Huffman

The Gunpowder Falls park staff has been focusing their trail maintenance for the past several months on the Hereford section which is the western part of the park. Over the summer, the Conservation Corps will continue to improve two major trails on either side of the river. We look forward to riding sections of this trail which have not been accessible for a few years. The park staff recently completed clearing sections on Bunker Hill and Mingo Fork/Mingo Falls trails which have made them much more rideable. One of our own TROT members encountered a large tree down on the Gunpowder North trail that we were not aware of, and we have alerted the park staff so they can add this to their list. TROT appreciates the efforts of the Gunpowder Park staff! They have been very responsive in getting trees cleared from our trails and we enjoy working with them.

CARROLL COUNTY, Stephanie Brennan

Carroll County consists of 453 square miles. These miles can be lonely going it alone. Where do you ride in Carroll County? Be the eyes and ears on the ground reporting hazards. Be a ride leader. It is that simple. Do you enjoy reading when you aren’t on horseback? Be correspondence reviewer! Know a particular trail like the back of your hand? Please reach out to me so we can keep all the activities in Carroll County going!

Howard County, Elizabeth Baran

Unfortunately I have been “out of circulation” with no truck and horse. With my new horse and truck, I am looking forward to seeing everyone on the trail again on my August 9th trail ride at Morgan Run.

FREDERICK COUNTY, Leah Mack

I was recently made aware that a hearing was held on the topic of reopening the broken Henryton Rd bridge of Patapsco State Park (that connects Ho co and Carroll co both roads and trails), and that it has been approved. This will cause tremendous traffic right thru our main trail crossings (including to League of MD Horseman, to Sykesville, and our "horse swimming hole"). This is a MAJOR equine crossing and parking area. There are now talks of reopening Henryton Center into a shopping, business center after bridge completion. There is not a hearing on this as of yet. I do not know if they are planning to eliminate the huge number of trails passing near this bridge. It is very important that we be able to work with county builders about this. If they build the bridge with no equine crossing, or put up guardrails, it will eliminate all access to the main Sykesville area trail "hub." Further up, the guardrails have eliminated numerous crossings. If anyone knows how to go about finding who to contact and how to work with the county please contact me. This is an enormous area of trails to be lost. Again, by simply eliminating our river crossing at the bridge or not putting a "break" in guardrails for us to pass thru, all of our trail crossings will be completely eliminated on a very large wonderful area of riding. (including the trails people take to ride into town to Becks, etc.). Any information or help is appreciated.

LAUREL/BURTONSVILLE, Barbara Sollner-Webb

We have already had two delightful TROT rides in our general area this season. One ride was on March 28 at Schooley Mill (just north of Burtonsville), and the other was on March 30 at North Tract (an incredible resource in eastern Laurel). On May 11, weather permitting, there will be a trail ride… Continued on page 7.
Didn’t not see your area listed? Talk to one of our current Area Coordinators for more information!

YORK COUNTY, PA, Amanda Gross

Amanda Gross grew up in York County Pennsylvania near the Maryland line. She has always been an animal lover and started horseback riding lessons at the age of 10 years old. Her favorite place to be is out trail riding on horseback and also enjoys riding in parades and participating in special events. When not at the barn, Amanda is home spending time with her two Doberman Pinschers, Pug, and teacup Chihuahua. Her dream is to someday own a farm/ranch. She looks forward to being the County Coordinator for York County and is excited to be a new member with TROT.

EASTERN SHORE, MD Katelin Cook

I am new to TROT and looking forward to finding more members here on the Eastern Shore. I have 4 horses (Spotted draft, Percheron, paint/TB, and a young Friesian). My redhead paint/TB Clifford and I enjoy getting out on the trails and will soon be ponying the baby Friesian to get him used to it. I also have 3 dogs, 2 indoor cats, 2 barn cats, 4 guinea pigs. I also run a dog rescue focused on hard cases or senior pets. Looking forward to meeting more people and getting out on the trails!

TRAIL INSIGHT, Union Mills

Remember this? Well, it is still there. Dawn Harry, the Park Operations Coordinator, reported that she and Brad Rogers have been out on the trail to evaluate the situation. They are still waiting on the weather to clear and for the ground to dry so that they can take equipment back there to fix the problem. She also stated that even if the ground does dry, “funds need to be found in order to buy pipe and other materials.” A big thanks to Mark Schmidt for keeping me updated and all the trail work. –

Stephanie Brennan

From the depths of the TROT archive, name these TROT members...
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MEET A BOARD MEMBER

I’ve been in love with horses since the first day I laid my eyes upon them! Life has taught me many lessons, some hard and some easy, regardless though, the world of the horse has always been my grounding pole. Over the years I’ve participated in numerous lectures, conferences, and classes……but in the end I’d have to say that it’s always been the horse that has taught me the most. I have come to know about the great organization and people that make up TROT through your president, Fritzi Grow. Besides my role at The Sevens Ranch in Frederick, MD, I am looking forward to serving TROT’s members as Treasurer. -Brooke Vrany

PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

Passport booklets are being sold for $10 each. Any TROT member in good standing can compete in this fiscal year event. For the adventurous types, this passport book also includes a few places in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

The rider(s) who attend(s) the most TROT rides within a calendar year wins an award*, and the worker(s) who record(s) the most trail work hours within a fiscal year wins an award*. *Awards are determined by the TROT Board and distributed each year at the Annual Dinner.

TROT LICENSE PLATES

You’ll ride taller in your saddle with a TROT license plate on your truck or car! What better way to show your enthusiasm for horses and educate the public about TROT at the same time! For a one-time fee of $25, you can enjoy a lifetime of having a TROT license plate. The application process is very easy and within a few weeks, you’ll have your TROT license plate. Please contact me at PonyExpressMessenger@gmail.com or call me on (301) 703-4087 and I will help you with the process. – Karen Durilla.

TRAIL INSIGHT, Patuxent River Park

Deneen Martin provided this Patuxent River Park at Route 97 trail update: We rode the park Thursday 4/11, and after crossing the bridge on Flowing Trail a board broke and the bridge is not safe. The staff has been made aware of the situation. If it is a minor repair, it can be done by the staff relatively quickly. If more work is required, a permit would have to be obtained through Annapolis, which can be a long process according to staff personal.

ADOPT A TRAIL

Simply sign up and report on and maintain a section of trail you ride. Talk to Amy Kimble.
CLASSIFIED ADDS

Gaited Horse Lessons with Jacquie Cowan
Specializing in the softly gaited horses for trail or show; trail skills and confidence building. Individuals, groups, and clinics. Jacquie will come to you. 410-215-4979/jacquiecowan@comcast.net

Horse Blanket Wash/Repair
Free pick-up/delivery available for six or more. Price sheet and more info can be found at Roxy@SweetRockStables.com or 410-374-3870

IMUS 4-Beat Endurance Saddle
This saddle is made for gaited horses, but good for any horse. Like new condition, 16 inch seat, fleece covered endurance stirrups. Asking $1,400. 202-445-0509 with questions or to request more pictures.

Rocky Mountain Mare for Sale
Eight year old Rocky Mountain mare for sale. Darling is a wonderful, kind girl who has been only a trail horse. She is 14.3 to 15 hands tall. Her gait is smooth and slow. She is registered but has not been certified for breeding. That can be done by the new owner. I would not be selling her but have health issues that are causing me to give up riding. Asking price is $2500. She is presently at my home in Laurel, MD. Please e-mail me at wmaco@comcast.net for photos and questions. -Kathleen Macoughtry

Western Maryland Bed and Barn
Pack your pajamas and saddles and trailer in your horses for a private countryside getaway on 400+ acres and trails in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains at Sideling Hill near Hancock, MD. Enjoy a 4 bedroom, fully furnished farmhouse, with linens, barn stable and paddock options just off the front porch. 2 night minimum.

Property is family owned and cared for by TROT members. Reservations (301)678-5023. Information at valleymeadowfarms.com or on Facebook and Instagram @valleymeadowfarms.

INVENTORY
We now know exactly what we have and where its at! Stay tuned for more information on how to check TROT equipment in and out, like the 360 degree camera to record your trail time and then share the ride through the virtual reality glasses at TROT events.

WEBSITE
Have you taken the time to peruse the wonderful changes and updates taking place on the TROT website? Check out the new blog spot on our website for tons of information. Coming soon will be a Members Only Login area to handle your personal information and review meeting minutes. https://trot-md.org/trot-in-the-news/

AD RATES

100 Words $6
(each additional word $0.10)

Business Card $6

1/4 Page $25

1/2 Page $40

Full Page $75

TROT members can place one 100-word or business card-sized ad in each issue of the newsletter for free. TROT members wanting to run a larger ad receive $6 off.

Please remember TROT is not responsible for, nor does it endorse or support products or services in these classifieds.

Give us your newsletter feedback
TROTNewsletter@gmail.com
**WELCOME**

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<td>Maria Hillegas and Matt</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Danielle Siano</td>
<td>Kelli Smith</td>
<td>Linda Swyderski and</td>
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<td>MD</td>
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