



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Fall 2016

Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7pm.
• All Members Welcome • For more information call, 734.878.2975

Upcoming Events

Fall Work Bee

October 29 (Saturday) - 9:30am
Monks Road Staging Area
Pinckney, MI

The PTRA/BTRA Annual Christmas Party

December 10 (Saturday) - 6pm
Cleary's Pub
Howell, MI



Please visit us on Facebook for Up-to-Date Information and to RSVP for all of our events.

Brighton to Pinckney Ride's Huge Success by Mark Delaney, BTRA President

On October 8th a beautiful dawn was followed by glorious blue skies and cool, but very pleasant temperatures, throughout the day. Even this description is an understatement. The weather could not have been better for an October day.

This joint event, co-hosted by the Brighton Trail Riders and the Pinckney Trail Riders, began with participants driving their loaded rigs to the staging area at the Brighton Recreation Area where they registered and dropped off their saddled horses. Picket posts and picket lines were available and virtually all the horses are under the supervision of "sitters." They then drive their rigs to the staging area in the Pinckney Recreation Area and are then shuttled back to Brighton. Upon arrival, they mount up and begin the ride on the Brighton trails. **Sixty-seven** riders traversed 13 miles through the trails, a section of rural roads and the Lakeland Trail.

Upon their arrival at the Monks Road staging area, a tasty lunch awaited them, featuring a variety of meats off the grill, salads and desserts not to mention the great company of many friends from both groups. We were even lucky enough to meet the acquaintance new riders, some that came as far as Toledo, Ohio

This event requires a good amount of planning and preparation, and the logistics are fairly demanding. Volunteers from both organizations came forward for this event, and all of them deserve a big Thank You! A variety of written materials were printed up such as announcements and maps for the drivers and riders. A cooking crew got to work early to insure that there was plenty of good food for the hungry riders. Was all this work worth it? Absolutely! This event, which has always been popular, drew a record number of participants this year and without exception they reported that it was a great experience. The word on this event is really spreading and we might even see more participants next year, when we reverse course and ride from Pinckney to Brighton.

Both BTRA and PTRA will be holding work bees this fall, which also requires a lot of volunteers. After that we'll start to prepare for our annual Christmas Party, another event that is co-hosted by our two clubs. Whether you can volunteer your time or not we appreciate your membership and look forward to seeing you at any or all the events we host.



PTRA Fall Workbee
by Amy Scharmen

Well now that we had our fun, time to get serious (just for a little bit and then back to fun)....about clearing trails so we can continue to enjoy them!!! It takes many volunteer hours to keep our trails rideable, please if you have time October 29th, join PTRA for a few hours to make a difference. And remember, your membership in our trail groups goes to help support events, trails, staging area, etc. We need you!

PTRA has a work bee coming up October 29th at 9:30 am, join us to keep our trails clear! Snacks and drinks will be provided, we need YOU and don't forget your loppers, gloves and boots! Please let me know if you will be joining us, it helps us to assign groups ahead of time.



American Horse Council News
by Sue Armstrong

At the June AHC meeting the Coalition State Horse Council (CSHC) asked the AHC board to "work with the equine industry to establish a turn-in-policy for old/used helmets to encourage helmet use and not the reuse of old helmets that may not be effective anymore and investigate establishing a trade-in policy for old helmets."

After some investigation, AHC found the following opportunities are already in place:

- GPA and Charles Owen helmet crash replacements can be done through Dover if you purchased your helmet at Dover. Just give them a call or go into a store. The GPA helmet must be purchased with the last year and the Charles Owen helmet must have been purchased within the past three years, with the age of the helmet determining discount on the replacement.

- Uvex helmets must be purchased within the last three years, with the age of the helmet determining discount on the replacement.

- Trojel helmets must be purchased within the last two years. Either product registration must have been completed or a sales receipt is needed.

- IRH helmets must be purchased within the last three years. Please call 800-435-6380 or go to http://irhhelmets.com/accident_replacements.php for more information.

- Tipperary helmets must be purchased with the last year, and the warranty registration card must have been completed within 30 days of purchase. Please call 888-313-8842 or go to <http://phoenixperformance.com/tipperary/accident-replacement-policy/> for more information.

- Ovation helmets must be purchased within the last three years. Call 866-569-1600, extension 215, or go to <http://englishridingsupply.com/design/mini-sites/ovationriding.com/helmets/> for more information.

- Samshield helmets must be purchased within the last four years.

CSHC encourages riders to read materials from groups like <http://riders4helmets.com> to educate themselves on helmet use.

Michigan Horse Council Update By Sue Armstrong

The Michigan Horse Councils' Horse Expo will take place at MSU Pavilion, East Lansing slated for March 10, 11 and 12, 2017.

The featured clinician will be Chris Cox and we indeed feel fortunate to have him. Due to a last minute schedule change for him, Mr. Cox signed on for our expo! He is a leading horseman and clinician much sought after, having been raised on a cattle ranch in the wilds of Australia. With only horses for transportation, and a cattle ranch as his life, Chris learned at an early age how to appreciate the abilities and tradition of the great horsemen and horses around him. Chris is a four time undefeated Road to the Horse World Champion and was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Chris will appear all three days at the expo. Returning popular features will include Heritage Hills Belgian hitch, Combined Mounted Police Color Presentations, Friday evening Michigan High School Rodeo and Sunday afternoon Ranch Rodeo. Reining will again "reign supreme" on Saturday evening, with a competitive Reining Derby, which will include a Calcutta auction where those spectators can bid on each individual rider, with 50% of the total amount bid split between the buyers of the 1st place and the 4th place rider and horse! Other incentives will be offered by the riders to encourage bidding. A youth and short-stirrup reining class will be held Saturday afternoon, and all reining events will be NRHA approved.

Also look for changes to the horse area becoming Stallion, Breed and Farm Showcase! PTRa will again have a table in the Trails Area where you can stop by to join or renew your memberships (remember member year changes to 1/1/17 – 12/31/17 with this membership year) or just to pick up some PTRa merchandise or chat. Hope to see many of you there!

Nelson Automatic Waterer

- *Repair & Maintenance
- *Most Parts in Stock
- *Will Travel
- *Quick Response

Call John at

Waterfix Co.,

Dexter

734.475.8898 or 313.418.5676



Mane Event Family Hair Care



19833 Williamsville Rd.

Gregory, MI 48137

Just 1/4 mile west of Unadilla Rd.

Marjie Deerr - owner

(248) 921-2168

by appointment only

ASTi
ENVIRONMENTAL

Assessment * Remediation

Compliance * Restoration

800-395-2784

www.asti-env.com



Winter is not far off so if you need ice & snow removal this season, give us a call. We can help with all your roofing needs!

800-558-2306

Attention Amazon Shoppers

You can now choose Pinckney Trail Riders Association as the charitable organization your purchases will support when you shop at AmazonSmile <http://smile.amazon.com/>. We will receive 0.5% of your purchase price quarterly; it's a great way to give back. Just remember to always shop from smile.amazon.com instead of the regular amazon site to make your shopping count!



Sundowner Valuelite Alert by Ann Marie Price

Originally Posted by Old Equine Lady -"Horse Forum Website"

I purchased a Sundowner trailer in March 2000. There is an eight-year warranty on structural defects. I found significant failure of the floor structure where the steel is placed against the aluminum. This caused the support for the floor to severely rust out and become subject to failure at any given time.

[It has come] to my attention that there is a serious design flaw in the powder-coated steel frames on the "Valuelite" models of Sundowner Trailers produced from 1999 – 2005 which causes these frames to rust at an accelerated rate. Further, I understand that the manufacturer has not alerted the owners of these trailers's damage occurring or the danger of a major frame failure that may exists.

In 1999 Sundowner began building "Valuelite" trailers using power coated steel frames. There is an inherent design flaw in the engineering of this type of frame. Powder coating does not flex with the trailer, and what happens over time, as the trailer travels and vibrates, the powder coating over the steel frame splits apart at the frame joints. Moisture is then trapped between the frame and the powder coating, causing the steel to rust at an accelerated rate, as it has no way to dry out.

Sundowner is aware of the problem. However, to my knowledge, I have never heard of any type of factory recall or even any type of notice of concern being sent from the manufacturer to all affected customers. It is reasonable to assume that almost every Valuelite trailer presently on the road has this problem and that most owners are blissfully unaware of the problem.

If the trailer is still under warranty, Sundowner will do the work. It is interesting to note that this winter coincidentally, Sundowner announced that they have stopped making the Valuelite trailers without any explanation as to why they were discontinuing the model.

The design of the special powder coating on the trailer is very unsafe and should be recalled. At any time, one of these trailers floors can fall out with a horse on board and drag the horse down the highway, killing it. Sundowner claimed they solved the problem of steel against aluminum with a special powder coating, but the "powder coating" is failing and an accident is waiting to happen. They have made some changes to the newer trailers, but these also have the possibility of failure.

The inspection station I took my trailer to for inspection stated they have seen over 250 of these failing floor supports. That is just one station. Please, if you own a Sundowner, get a good look under your trailer before you put your horse on it!

A Special Note by Ann Marie Price, PTR A Board Member

My story is just as similar as the one listed above. I noticed a small crossbeam hanging from underneath my 2001 Valuelite trailer. I was shocked to see grapefruit-size holes speckled throughout frame. Upon inspection, I was told that I was really lucky that my horses had not fallen through during transport. Additionally, the trailer repair would cost me more than I paid for the purchase of my trailer. Keep in mind that there is no indication from the frame up that the trailer is not sound. There is no visible sign of corrosion, rust or degradation.

I am devastated about my loss but what is most worrisome is that there are many more trailer owners out there who are just as unaware. It would be horrifying to hear that any horse(s) was killed due to this malfunction.

If you would like more information go to
www.chronofhorse.com/forum/showthread.php?134656-check-your-sundowner-trailer-before-

Volunteer Thanks by Sue Armstrong

Our sincerest thanks goes out to Mickie Jesse for all her hard work done mostly alone on the trails when her time permitted. Also a huge amount of gratitude goes to Norm Klein for keeping our trails mowed and Donn Dirven for mowing the field when it was needed. All of you are an amazing part of our little club and we wouldn't have such fabulous trails to ride without your efforts! Thanks too to Amy Scharmen for expertly handling our communications with the website, the Facebook page and event planning. Additionally, she and Dianne Martin have done a wonderful job organizing the work bees and are getting more trails cleared than ever before.

SO THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP AND INVOLVEMENT!

If you are interested in becoming involved please consider joining the PTR A board of directors. Elections will take place in March at the annual member's meeting. We'd love to have your assistance!

Michigan Day of the Horse

The Michigan Horse Council is requesting a proclamation officially declaring December 13th as Michigan Day of the Horse. This date coincides with the date designated by Congress as the National Day of the Horse.