



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Fall 2014

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

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6th, 6 pm

PTRA/BTRA CHRISTMAS PARTY.

New & Better Location this Year!

Captain Joes, 9901 North Main Street, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 (next to Best Western)



**Buffet Dinner with expanded menu for \$15.00
Games & Prizes, Live Band & Dancing, Cash Bar**

**Contact Mark Delaney by November 27th
to make your reservation!**

734-426-4754 or m7delan@aol.com

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATED DETAILS ~ WWW.PINCKNEYTRAILRIDERS.COM



Improvements Have Begun at the Monks Road Staging Area

by Sue Armstrong

You may have noticed the recent improvements made to the staging area. It has received \$17,000 worth of improvements that include a vault toilet and 600 tons of 23AA road gravel. In addition, the region was cleared back to enlarge our usable space and increase visibility from the road. It is hoped that a better view will decrease vandalism and destruction. Since it is an unsupervised area, the park manager is considering installing surveillance cameras and signs, which would be beneficial to equestrian users.

There was a significant amount of gravel spread that will take time to settle and harden. Eventually it will be like a road surface. Depending on how soft it is next spring, it is possible that the parking area will be blocked off until it hardens to protect it from getting rutted and costing more in repairs.

There is \$13,000 out of the \$30,000 grant funds left to spend on this area. \$8,000 of that is budgeted for the hand pump well to be installed next spring. The remainder will be spent on a mounting block, picket posts, gate and fence to the back field. There will be a meeting on site sometime after the gun season to discuss the added items we'd like to see installed.

We received a \$350 Michigan Horse Council (MHC) trail grant to construct a kiosk to replace the existing board. The new one will have a roof and watertight display case. If we end up constructing this with volunteer labor, it will be done over the winter for a spring install unless we have enough money to get one through the improvement monies. If that is the case, the board will decide whether or not to return the trail grant to MHC or apply it to other trail improvements.

(Continued on page 2)

Monks Road Staging Area Improvements (Cont.)

A pavilion to be donated and installed by the PTRA is planned for 2016 as well. We're taking ideas on what kind of pavilion to put up so send in your thoughts for evaluation. Further fundraising is needed for the pavilion construction and continued hired trail maintenance so your support is very much appreciated.

We welcome any thoughts or concerns you may have. Remember, we're here to support your needs.

Have a blessed winter everyone and don't forget to buy our flowers in the spring; those sales help make all these improvements possible.



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Marj Deer: 248-921-2168 or
mrs.italstew1@gmail.com



For Sale

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Wanted

Room/house mate in Gregory. References required. There is a possibility to board one horse in May 2015. Marj Deer 248-921-2168

Life With a Great Pyrenees

by Sue Armstrong

This is not horse related but I just had to write down what an animal, in this case a dog, has taught me.

I acquired a four-year-old male Great Pyrenees (Sam) about two years ago when I lost my 15-year-old Shepard/lab mix trail buddy. While I was looking through Pet Finders for a lap dog for my stepmother, I came across the ad for Sam.

"Wow" I thought, "I had always wanted a Great Pyrenees and just look, there was one at a rescue conveniently located in Stockbridge." I don't know why I had always had wanted that breed (except for the fact that their small polar bear appearance sure looked cool and adorable). Further, I didn't really know for what purpose this breed is bred. I have since learned that they are a guardian animal for herds of sheep in the Pyrenees' Mountain region of Spain and France. So, off I go to take a look. I learned that these rescuers breed, show, and rescue Great Pyrenees. Sam (or Samson as is listed on his papers) was then looking for a home after his family with five kids had recently relocated from SC to a subdivision in Lake Orion. Unfortunately for his first family, who had owned him since he was a puppy, Sam's frequent barking did not impress his new neighbors.

After Sam was re-familied to me and my husband Ray, the first thing he taught us after having dogs our whole lives was that he was not about to be told what to do. I was constantly given the paw.

The second thing he taught us was that dogs hold grudges. For example, one of our company's employees, Mike, jumped into a truck to move it one day while Sam was un-be knowingly lying in front of the vehicle. Fortunately he didn't run over the dog but Sam did end up under the front end and when Mike felt the resistance he backed up and out came Sam. Needless to say Mike was quite upset and came running into my office with tears in his eyes telling me he just hit Sam. About that time Sam came up the office steps. There was no blood or evidence of injury other than he was shook up some. I took him to the vet for a check over and he was okay and a little sore and slow moving the next day.

Ever since then, all Sam has to do is see Mike or even hear his voice and he goes crazy. I have had to stop him from lunging at Mike on a couple occasions. "Dear God," I thought. In an effort to make amends with this dog, Mike who coincidentally stopped by the office with donuts, offered Sam a piece of his doughnut to see if that would help. Nope! Because Ray was there, Sam knew he couldn't get his teeth on Mike. Sam just glared at him and refused to take the doughnut. He literally glared at Mike! I mean a real stinky-eye glare. When my brother walked over and offered Sam a piece of his doughnut, Sam promptly took it and ate while wagging his tail.

Some people say our animal kingdom is stupid. I thought, "they should meet Sam. He's smart enough to remember those who have hurt him in the past (albeit accidentally) and to learn how to hold a grudge!

We love him all the same.





Whitmore Lake Location

8737 Main Street, Suite K
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

South Lyon Location

11271 North Rushton Road
South Lyon, MI 48178

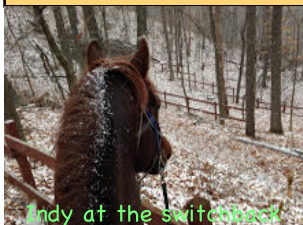
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Riding At Waterloo

by Amy Scharmen



Indy at the switchback

Walk, trot, canter and gallop; Indy, my trusty horse, doing his best mountain goat impression expertly picking his footing through the leaf covered, rocky and rooted trail.

The ground starting to harden with the recent dip in temperature. No fear of becoming too cold on this ride for the rules are the same as in the summer, when we share the woods with the bugs; you only need to ride faster to chase away the chill or outrun those thirsty flies.

Memories flood me of many other times on these trails, the gait we've ridden them before, the flowers once bloomed, the wildlife we've encountered, and of course, the company we've kept. Today the woods were quiet of animals, only the chickadees making an appearance where the berry bushes are the most plentiful.

The forest however was abuzz with hunters, the excitement of opening day palpable near their camps and cars. Their eyes searching mine, "You probably know where the big one hides" and I smile remembering how earlier this year I spooked a nice buck right at this very spot. But today, the only trace of whitetail was their tracks in the mud on the trail.

Snow falls on and around us and I think about how I may this winter, need to add snow goggles to my riding attire and whether or not Indy might even like a pair.



REMEMBER THEM

To those who have lost their four-legged family members this year, the following is dedicated to you:

Remember Them

*There comes a time
to say goodbye
No matter how hard,
with tears in your eyes*

*As the seasons passed
and time went by
Memories shared
won't subside*

*In a wag of a tail
a swish from behind
Love was shared
like no other kind*

*The echo of their steps
leaves vibrations in the heart
Recollections to keep
never depart*

*To keep your head up
a smile on your face
Depression and loneliness,
emote without disgrace*

*Sharing these moments
with all who care
Is not stupid or selfish;
often it's how to bear*

*To remember them as
still young and still spry
As if they were still here
and eyes were still dry*

With Our Deepest Sympathy!
Sincerely,
The PTRa Board

Are You A Missing Person??

If you have noticed that you have NOT received a message that your PTRa notifications have been moved from a yahoo account to a more efficient google account, you could be missing from our list. To remedy this, please let us know at pinckneytrailrider@yahoo.com and we'll keep you in the loop.

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