



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Spring 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

The Women's Shop and Ride Event

June 18 (Saturday) 11am – 2pm

Monks Road Staging Area

Pinckney, MI

Bring your horse (or not) and come shop with some awesome vendors that will be on site for your shopping pleasure!

Choose from homemade soaps, organic foods, handmade purses & crafts, tote bags from feedbags, have a bracelet or key chain made from your horses' hair on-site or visit the equine chiropractor. Maybe get your haircut to look your best on the trails! Mary Kay beauty products and equine fashion jewelry available too! Learn about essential oils and pick up some natural fly repellents and some smell good stuff for you, your dog or horse! We are also pleased to announce that author (and member) Kristine Brickey will have her two published books on hand to be personally signed! These are just some of the vendors, Check back for updates!

The Brighton to Pinckney Ride

October 8 (Saturday) - 10am

October 9 Rain Date

Brighton Rec. Staging Area

Brighton, MI

The PTR/BTRA Annual Christmas Party

December 10 (Saturday) - 6pm

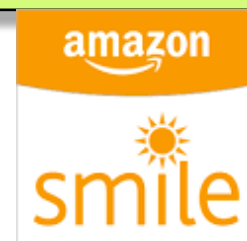
Cleary's Pub

Howell, MI

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

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!



PTRA Workbee's Success by Amy Scharmen

A HUGE thank you to all who joined us for the work bee!! We had 32 people with an estimated 96 man hours worked. How amazing!!!! The fairy forest trails are now in great shape (the pines across the river leading to Hell). We had a big group over on the zip line trail near marker 20 and another group attended to the overgrowth on markers 17-16. Heavenly Horse Stables tackled some overgrown trails near the ranch. The trail on either side of 31 was cleared and Indy's way, (trails 30-28) got some much needed attention in addition to some other trails in that area. That's a whole lotta areas we could get in one day because we had so many wonderful volunteers show up to help! Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your help was very much appreciated. Now get out there and enjoy the trails everyone! And we hope you'll join us for the Blessing event coming up on the 21st!



PTRA Attends DNR's "Friends Summit" by Sue Armstrong

Despite the heavy snowfall, the PTRA had the privilege of being invited to attend this year's Friends of Michigan State Parks Summit at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, MI this past April. Board member, Ann Marie Price, and myself attended as representatives of PTRA. The DNR has changed the attendance criteria to the groups' representatives having now to be invited through a park manager.

There were over 50 people in attendance representing several types of friends groups including equestrians and bicyclists. Also in attendance were those who are restoring the Henry Ford barn and friends of Porcupine Mountain who put on a yearly music festival that draws in hundreds of visitors.



The DNR sought feedback from each friend's group to determine where its strength and weakness lie and in turn provided helpful information. DNR's leadership gave a frank overview of the challenges facing the 102 state parks and the marinas they manage. Specifically addressed was the fact that, even though the Park Recreation Pass is doing relatively well, the infrastructure repairs needed far exceed the money being brought and the absence of state funding. The DNR therefore recognizes the value the of friends groups' input, like PTRA, and are working diligently with the groups for everyone's mutual benefit. I commend them for their efforts and eagerness to see we can all work together.

Michigan Horse Council Review 2015-1016

By Sue Armstrong

I am happy to report that the council is once again moving forward in a positive direction and enjoying the return of many groups to again have their voice be heard.

The July 2015 elections selected: Colonel Don Packard-President, Jean Ligon-Vice President, Ida Glassbrook-Secretary and Karyl Dunaway-Treasurer. The Directors at Large include Dee Bozak, Connie Maynard, Ellen VanSlyke and myself.

The audit of the financial records was completed under this board's direction. The auditor, Chris Arsenault, finalized his financial examination of the years that were thrown into question and concluded there had not been any financial wrongdoing by anyone including the Treasurer, Karyl Dunaway and that these were some of the best documented and maintained records he has seen.

Having cleared the air on that, the council was able to proceed with providing scholarships to students and established a scholarship in the name of Dr. John Sheele, recently retired MSU professor of equine studies. The scholarships are provided to students who have interests in an equine related career.

The council is also working in conjunction with the DNR to produce two public service announcements (PSA). These 30 second PSA's will cover road safety when approaching horses and general safety around horses. It's anticipated that these ads will be run on public service television stations, the Secretary of State offices, and radio.

The Expo was held in March and PTRAs had a table set up this year. Many of you stopped by to renew your memberships and we collected a few new members to. Thank you all for your continued support. It all happens with everyone's help. The Expo was much fun with the rodeo, reining and ranch competitions that went over big time.

Just a reminder that if you haven't renewed your membership for 2016 please do so now to continue to receive our newsletters, information sharing and to lend your support! We truly appreciate you!

Seven Things to Teach Your Trail Horse

For most of us, trail riding is all about relaxation and enjoyment. When you leave behind the rigors and repetition of arena work, you can simply savor the experience of being in the saddle and perhaps getting to know your horse a bit better.

But sometimes a trail outing becomes a test of wills--and your skills. It's hard to relax on a ride punctuated by successive spooks or interrupted by refusals to cross water or pass "scary" objects. And it's exhausting trying to control constant jigging or, conversely, squeeze a little momentum out of a sluggish mount. The disappointment is even greater if every other horse on the ride seems to be taking everything in stride. What is it about those horses that makes them so much more fun to ride on the trails?

Finding the answer means looking beyond specific incidents and frustrations and taking a broader view of your horse's training. To perform well on the trail, a horse must have a good foundation, says trainer and clinician Jonathan Field from British Columbia, Canada. "People don't equate the same level of prep for trail riding as other disciplines because it seems like such a simple endeavor," he says. "But the people who are living the dream, they're the ones who have put in the time to make that horse the best trail horse he can be." To set out on that path yourself, you may need to revisit a few basic training exercises. Many of these will involve skills your horse learned long ago but hasn't had to use very often. Others will focus on gaps in training that can be fudged a bit in the security of the riding ring but become significant issues when you're away from home. But, mainly, going back to the fundamentals will help you address larger issues of compliance and respect that underlie many trail behavior problems.

(Continued on the next page)

Heavenly Horses Stables Has High Hopes

By Owner, Jennifer Gay

Heavenly Horse Stables (HHS) located in Hell, Michigan, plans for a busy summer. Not only is HHS taking over the management of the riding stable at the Hell Creek Ranch but it has also entered to compete in the American Horse Council's Time-to-Ride Challenge (TRC).

TRC is an equine-industry-wide program facilitated by the American Horse Council with the goal of connecting, or reconnecting, people with horses in their local areas. The TRC, its interactive websites, and other activities, hope to encourage people to enjoy the benefits of horse experiences, which include increased mental and physical well being. For equine industry professionals, the TRC will help grow their business by connecting families to their horses and hopefully creating new riders/owners who will become valuable members of the horning community.

To achieve this goal, HHS is planning to introduce at least 8,000 new people to horses this year by hosting about two free events a month between June and September. In June they are participating in Pinckney's Art in the Park and hosting an Open House/Showcase that is on June 18th. On July 9th, everyone can learn about jobs in the horning industry at our Equine Career Day. National Meet-a-Horse Day is on July 23rd, and their barn doors will be

open for anyone to stop by for family fun activities and, of course, meeting the horses!

It is hoped that the PTRA will be able to help us for our Time to Ride Challenge. To learn more visit <http://www.heavenlyhorsestables.com/>

Please Note:

****Equine Professionals NEEDED!****

July 9th 2016 Heavenly Horse Stables is hosting an Equine Career Day - Many people dream of turning their passion into a successful lifelong career so let's give them a place to start and learn! We are looking for local professionals to share their discipline, breed, trades, and/or stories of how they made their success in the equine industry. We will be reaching out to and inviting our local schools to participate. If you are interested in participating with us please contact Jenn Gay at HeavenlyHorseStables@gmail.com (subject line: Equine Career Day)

****Horses Welcomed!****

We encourage and welcome riders and their equines partners to join us at all of our Time to Ride Challenges. Our goal is to introduce people to all who walk into the horse world and not just ours. :-)

Horse Blessing Event in Review by Sue Armstrong

On Saturday, May 21, PTRA held its first annual Horse Blessing. The beautiful weather helped make this event glorious and it was well attended. Readings from the book of Genesis and Psalms were a perfect blessing that moved many, many people in attendance. Pastor Vicky Lovell, from Shalom Lutheran Church, did a wonderful job researching and scripting the blessing she wrote. She also read a lovely poem by a horseman that captured the essence of the relationship between a horse and a human. She was accompanied on guitar by Brent Park. Owners laid hands on their horse while she gave the blessing that took place in the field at Monks road staging area that had been graciously mowed (twice) by member, Donn Dirven. If you missed this event, you missed something truly personal and very special.

The campout at Hell Creek Ranch and the Saturday night potluck was also well attended. Everyone had nothing but compliments and gratitude for the hosting of this event and for our trails.

This event and weekend was also professionally filmed with many people interviewed. Look for the video on our website at a later date. This will be part of a series of shows being filmed for distribution. Thank you Lori Ross for bringing us this opportunity. We are already looking forward to next year!

Seven Things to Teach Your Trail Horse (Continued)

Here are the seven things to teach your horse to keep your trail outings as harmonious and enjoyable as possible.

1. To load willingly
2. To go where you point him
3. To come back to neutral
4. To be careful about where he puts his feet
5. To overcome his flight instinct
6. To maintain his independence from other horses
7. To head out as eagerly as he heads home

A trail horse with this kind of attitude is worth his weight in gold.

This article first appeared in EQUUS issue #425.

For complete article visit: : [http://equusmagazine.com/article/7-things-to-teach-your-trail-horse-8582?](http://equusmagazine.com/article/7-things-to-teach-your-trail-horse-8582?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=email_this&utm_source=email)
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And The Winner Is . . .

Congratulations go to first place winner Alison Paine with \$688 in sales and to second place winner, Brenda Badour with \$323 in sales! First place winner received a \$25 gift card to Dexter Mill and second place winner received a set of four PTRAs coffee mugs. Thank you ladies and enjoy your prizes!

Bridge Improvements Headed Your Way by Sue Armstrong

The bridge crossing Portage Creek is slated for improvements enabling the State to open the trails to the south providing legal access to Hell. This will expand the miles of trails available to all riders.



The bridge will get railings, be covered and receive a coat of a non-slip, dirt colored Rustoleum product in lieu of wood planking to prevent slippage and a deviation in color to the horses' eye. Additionally, the ends of the bridge will be repaired with chutes on each end directing horses across the bridge.

At this time, it is uncertain when this project will be completed but PTRAs will be working on getting the post pockets welded on by Memorial Day so that the railings can be added shortly there after. The approach repairs and railing construction will be done by the DNR and their time schedule is closer to this fall. It's expected that the roof will go on before next year but after the railings and approaches are repaired. Look for updates on our Facebook page.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



When visiting the Monks Road staging area, you will notice our pavilion is full of picnic tables thanks to Ray Armstrong and Don Jesse.

Thank you guys for everything you do for us. It is very much appreciated!



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