

DRAW Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2012

Have you checked out the new DRAW website? <http://www.drawwisconsin.com>



President's Message

DRAW has had a very successful year. While many distance riding organizations have experienced a drop in membership recently, DRAW has seen an increase! Thanks to all of you who are helping to get the word out about what a great organization we have! Give yourself a big pat on the back!

In addition to increased membership, DRAW also had a profitable year, ride wise. All three of our DRAW rides were profitable in 2011 and that's no easy task in this economy.

The DRAW awards banquet will be held on February 19th at Bublitz's Restaurant in Lomira, WI. Please see the reservation form on page 6 of the newsletter or print out the reservation form on the website.

DRAW will be hosting a distance riding clinic for new riders on March 3rd in Milton, WI. Why not invite a friend? Please print out copies of the clinic form to hang in your local tack shops, veterinary clinics or stables. Flyer is on page 7 of this newsletter.

One last request – please send in your 2012 membership form. The form is on page 5 of this newsletter. Your points will not begin to accumulate until membership fees have been paid for 2012. Why not print out an extra membership form for a friend? Membership forms are in this issue of the newsletter.

Interesting reading! Check out Karen Chaton's article on "Minimizing Wear & Tear on Your Horse" on page 4 of this issue.

Joslyn.

Those who say money can't buy happiness have never bought a horse. ☺

2012 Rides Eligible for DRAW Points

****subject to approval at UMECRA annual meeting****

May 12-13	Glacier Trails, Palmyra, WI
May 18-20	Run for the Border, St. Croix Falls, WI
June 2-3	ApDRA, Palmyra, WI
July 6-8	Endless Valley, Spring Green, WI
July 27-29	Wildcat, Neillsville, WI
Aug. 11-12	Louise Reidel Memorial, Arkdale, WI
Aug. 25-26	Northern Highland, Florence, WI
Sept. 15-16	Colorama Classic, New Prospect, WI
Oct. 4-7	DRAWARAMA, Palmyra, WI
Oct. 13-14	Iron Oak, Arkdale, WI

Wherever man has left his footprint in the long ascent from barbarism to civilization we will find the hoofprint of the horse beside it.

John Moore

Vice-President's Middle Age Ramblings.....

This isn't directly linked to distance riding but it is important to all of us that have horses. How do you stop the horses wasting the hay that you feed to them? During the winter months we feed more hay. Some of us have several horses that we are feeding and want to make sure they all get enough to eat but it can be very disheartening to see all the hay being tossed out of the feeders and either trampled on or used for bedding or a bathroom. I already have off the ground "V" shaped feeders and I have a few round feeders and these have helped some but still have more waste than what I would like to see. And every time I see all the hay on the ground I think of how much time and money I have invested in producing that crop. So I was doing some research on the internet to try to find methods of feeding hay with minimal waste. There are a few ideas out there that look interesting. There is everything from high tech feeders that open doors on a time schedule or spring loaded grazing feeders to off the ground round bale feeders or bags & netting that cover round bales. The last item is what I have decided to try. I have ordered a couple netting bags that go over the round bales and then into the round bale feeder. This is supposed to not only eliminate the waste but also supposed to slow down the eating and make it more typical of grazing. Thus controlling the intake of hay but also keeping them occupied longer. I will keep you posted on how well they work but in the mean time I would like to hear some of your ideas of how you deal with this problem. Have you come up with a method or designed or modified your own feeder to help eliminate the wasted hay? Inquiring minds want to know! Barb

DRAW Officers for 2012

2012 looks to be a great year for DRAW. We held our annual meeting on November, 5th, 2011. Election of officers was held, results are listed below. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who has volunteered to serve DRAW!

President – Joslyn Seefeldt

Vice President – Barb Gardner

Treasurer – Bill Suskey

Secretary – Pam Cotton

Points Keener(s) – The phenomenal team of Pam/Bill Cotton/Suskev!

NORTHERN KETTLE MORAINÉ HORSE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Distance Riding Association of Wisconsin
December, 2011

As President of the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association, I would like to thank DRAW for the generous contribution to our organization. It is the valued support of organizations such as DRAW that has enabled NKMHTA to complete the projects that we have undertaken over the years.

Your donation this year is helping us kick off our fund raising efforts to bring electricity to the campground. It has helped us get started on the long road to the \$35,000 we need to fund this project. Thank you very much!

Jim Lawrence, President NKMHTA

DRAW Year End Point Standing 2011

Congratulations to Everyone!!

For a complete listing of results, please visit the DRAW website – <http://www.drawisconsin.com>

ENDURANCE

Windows, Lori Ella N Fires Jane Doe 161.00
Worthington, Guy PA Hi Spirit 112.00
Jacobson, Linda Majer Ridge Scarlet Debut 110.20
Mielke, Bonnie OLA Loki 73.60
Bachhuber, Katie JG Btash 70.00
Aune, Sherry Cabernet Savignon 65.80
Schadt, Robin Sassy Aspen 63.00
Mielke, Bonnie Chariotoffire LNVF 57.00

ENDURANCE JUNIOR

Koehn, Brooke JBK Zum Bayou 44.00
Koehn, Dylan Poncho 21.00
Koehn, Brooke JBK Zum Bayou 20.00

LIMITED DISTANCE

May, Shirley Twinkle 96.00
May, Shirley Atalissa 56.00
Mielke, Bonnie BNB Nemesis Chindhi 56.00
Feller, Jill JG Hamdah 55.00
Worthington, Guy Rerun 51.00
Schadt, Robin Kayheart 46.50
Wagner, Carol Tripl Blackburn King 41.00
Cotton, Pam Cherokee Diamond Bunny (Raya) 33.00

LIMITED DISTANCE JUNIORS

Suskey, Ainsley MRK Annie Oakley 61.00
Baemert, Brenna Cheyenne 44.00

COMPETITIVE

Leonard, Nancy Chet 198.40
Schauer, Kathy Morning Glory XX 100.80
Jacobson, Linda Chub Lake Jack Daniel 67.00
Windows, Lori JA Bannarr 59.50
Janz, Adam Corky 56.50
Schadt, Robin RA Ibn Mariif 54.00
Hansen, Cathy Shooting Chance 53.00
Keating, Susan Amazing Grace Experience 46.90

COMPETITIVE JUNIORS

Griffin, Tyler Mahrtina 50.60
Griffin, Tyler Segers Accompany Me 48.40

NOVICE

Koenig, Lisa Keanus Quest 5.28

DRIVING

Cassery, Tim Auran Bachlava/Auran Harley Davidson 43.12
Kluge, Roxanne BP Geoffrey Esquire 4.80

Holiday Peppermint Bran Mash

What you will need per horse:

-1 to 3 lbs. of wheat bran (approximately) You can use rice bran, however you will want to use less water then)
-1/2 cup of molasses
-2 chopped carrots
-1 chopped apple
-1 T of salt
-4-6 unwrapped starlight peppermints(crushed candy canes will also work)
-4 cups of hot water (approximately)
-a bucket
-a spoon to stir

1. In a bucket, add dry bran.
2. Slowly add hot water.
3. Stir until all the bran is moist. You may need to add extra hot water. Cover the bucket with a towel and let the water further absorb for 5 minutes.
4. Add molasses, carrots, apple, salt, and peppermints. Stir contents of the bucket.
5. Place any additional supplements or medicines in the mixture and thoroughly stir the mash.
6. Allow the bran to cool a bit before feeding. It should be warm.

Congratulations to these DRAW members who placed nationally through AERC!!!

ENDURANCE

Lori Windows, Ella N Fires Jane Doe, 9th place in the War Mare Division
Lori Windows, Ella N Fires Jane Doe, 2nd place in the Regional Best Condition Standings
Guy Worthington, PA Hi- Spirit, 4th place in the Regional Best Condition Standings
Linda Jacobson, Majer Ridge Scarlet Debut, 4th place in the Featherweight Regional Endurance Standings
Bettina Koehn, JBK Nadja, 1st place in the Lightweight Regional Endurance Standings
Bonnie Mielke, Ola Loki, 4th place in the Middleweight Regional Endurance Standings
Jen Allen, Salero's Legacy, 5th place in the Middleweight Regional Endurance Standings
Guy Worthington, PA Hi-Spirit, 2nd place in the Heavyweight Regional Endurance Standings
Brooke Koehn, JBK Zum Bayou, 2nd place in the Junior Regional Endurance Standings

LIMITED DISTANCE

Guy Worthington, ReRun, 1st place in the Limited Distance Regional Best Condition Standings
Bonnie Mielke, BNB Nemesis Chindhi, 1st place in the Regional Limited Distance Mileage Standings
Guy Worthington, ReRun, 6th place in the Regional Limited Distance Mileage Standings

** for a complete listings of AERC standings, check out the AERC website - <http://www.aerc.org>

I know it's after Christmas, but this is still a nice read! ☺

A HORSE(WO)MAN'S CHRISTMAS by horse trainer **Doris Eraldi**

It's the night before Christmas, we're out in the barn
Blanketing horses to keep them all warm
They're eating their dinners, tucked in cozy stalls
Not aware that it's Christmas or any special day at all

They can dream of spring pastures from their pine-scented beds
No visions of sugarplums dance in their heads
But we people are thinking of merry parties and such
Maybe feeling a little sad at missing so much

This season is special but the horses don't know
We've got work to do before we can go
We finish the chores and head on inside
To get ready for dinner and our own yuletide

It's nearly midnight, the carols are sung
I remember a story I was told when I was young
How at midnight on Christmas Eve
The creatures of the barnyard can speak to us with ease

I am called to the barn, I wade through the rain
I know I must go, I can't really explain
I slide open the door, pause for a while
Then slowly walk down that dully lit aisle

A nicker from Casey, a wink from JD
Sleepy old Alibi waking to see
Tucker rustling his bedding, a snort soft and light
Each horse gave a greeting as I walked through the night

I thought about parties bright lit and warm
The ones we don't go to 'cause we have the barn
And vacations and holidays that we don't get
When we're working long hours for bills to be met

Walking all the way to the end of the aisle
I stop to stroke Bonnie, it brings me a smile
She snuffles my face, hot breath on my skin
It starts me to thinking about my horses, my kin

I could be at parties with laughter and mirth
But where I am right now is the best place on Earth.

The Horse

*Where in this wide world can man find nobility without
pride,*

*Friendship without envy,
Or beauty without vanity?*

*Here, where grace is served with muscle
And strength by gentleness confined*

*He serves without servility; he has fought without
enmity.*

*There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent.
There is nothing so quick, nothing more patient.*

Ronald Duncan

*Take most people, they're crazy about cars. They worry if they
get a little scratch on them, and they're always talking about
how many miles they get to a gallon ... I don't even like old cars.
I mean they don't even interest me. I'd rather have a goddam
horse. A horse is at least human, for God's sake.*

J. D. Salinger

Should I blanket my horse?

Whether you blanket your horse or not depends greatly on your individual horse and the climate you live in. Here are some instances where a blanket may be beneficial for your horse:

- If your horse is visibly uncomfortable or shivering in the cold weather
- If your horse is older, weak, ill or recovering from an illness
- If your horse is very young
- If your horse is clipped
- If you show your horse
- If your horse does not have a sufficient winter coat
- If your horse was from a warmer climate and is now in a cooler climate

When should I begin to blanket my horse?

As a general rule, you should begin to blanket your horse when you first notice she is uncomfortable in cold weather conditions. Even if your horse is not shivering, you may want to consider blanketing your horse if the wind is brisk or if it is raining or snowing. If the nights are cold but the days are still warm, you may find your horse benefits from having a blanket at night.

What type of blanket should I use?

The best type of blanket depends on your situation. Consider the weather, overall climate in your area, and how your horse responds to cold, rain, wind, and snow. There are a number of materials available to choose from, including weatherproof nylon, durable canvas, quilted polyester, and polar fleece. A thin sheet is ideal for minimal protection from the sun, or blowing dirt and dust. If your area gets large amounts of cold, rain, or snow, choose a more weather-resistant blanket. You may also want to consider having two blankets on hand so you can wash one blanket while your horse wears the other.

Will I be able to tell if my horse is too hot when she is blanketed?

Your horse may give you physical signs when she is too warm. Sweating behind the ears or along the neck is a telltale sign your horse is too warm wearing his blanket. Be sure to watch for signs your horse is overheating, which include an absence of sweat (anhidrosis) and heavy breathing. Overheating can happen when you blanket your horse when the days are warm, but the nights are still cold and the blanket is not removed early enough in the morning.

*My horse's feet are as swift as rolling thunder
He carries me away from all my fears
And when the world threatens to fall asunder
His mane is there to wipe away my tears.*

Bonnie Lewis

Endurance Riding: Minimizing Wear and Tear on Your Horse

By Karen Chaton

In my last post I talked about trail etiquette on an endurance ride. Common sense and courtesy towards other riders is very important. I think that another topic that is also very important is about applying some of that same common sense and courtesy to your horse. Many of us are interested in longevity for our horses. We all want our horses to last a long time.

Over the years I've learned a thing or two about minimizing wear and tear on my horses. How to ride in a way that cuts down on the chance of injuries and that helps achieve long term success. Last year I rode more than I ever had before in a ride season – 3,600 miles. Bo did roughly 2,100 of that and Chief did roughly 1,500 of that. Both horses came through the season in pretty good shape and have since completed 150 miles each in the 2012 ride season.

The single most important lesson that I have learned is that my horses stay sound and can do just about anything if I keep them rated and don't let them trot faster than 10 mph. Most horses can very easily trot faster than 10 mph so this takes effort.

Using a GPS is very helpful when learning how each gait and speed feels. Some horses can be very sneaky and are able to inch up their speed. You may look at the GPS and see you are trotting along at about 8.5 mph, then before you know it your horse has moved up what might feel to be just a hair – yet when you look at the GPS again you are going 13 mph. That is almost guaranteed to happen if you ride in a group or if your horse sees a horse ahead. Or sees a horse behind. I feel that rating a horse consistently is one of the hardest things about this sport. It's something that requires focus, determination and doesn't come easy.

Riders who are more competitive will likely trot much faster than the 10 mph limit that I subscribe to. As long as a horse has been conditioned to go that speed they can do it and be successful. I find that it takes my horses two to three years to develop a working trot that allows them to travel even at 10 mph. It doesn't happen overnight. Once I started to keep my horse's speeds toned down and rated them more consistently I found that I had virtually no lameness issues. Now when I have a lameness with a horse it is generally not a result of how I've ridden them.

The next most important thing is to pay attention to the footing and the trail. Spend some time on foot in each type of terrain that you ride in so that you get a feel for how difficult it is for your horse to get through it. I find it is often useful for me to get off and lead down anything very steep as it helps loosen up my knees. Other riders like to tail their horses up anything steep. Either way is a good opportunity to give your horse a break.

Make an effort to walk your horse through the rocky, muddy or deep sand sections and trot where the footing is good. It helps to know the course that you are riding so that you can plan how to ride it. I find when asking other riders what the footing is like, it pays to get two or more opinions. One person's idea of rocky, deep sand or technical may be completely different than someone else's.

We knew at Death Valley a couple of weeks ago that we were going over a big mountain on technical single track trail that was VERY rocky. Once down the other side we knew we'd be down in the flat valley in sand washes and on excellent footing. By knowing this, I was able to walk over the hard rocky steep stuff and then make up time trotting in the good footing. Many riders did the opposite of that. Paying attention and thinking about this kind of thing can make a big difference to your horse. Think wear and tear on joints, legs, your horse's whole body and how controlling when and where you move out can bring them through the ride that day as well as through an entire career in the best condition possible.

How you ride your horse through varied terrain on rides affects not only your horse but the others around you. I mentioned how there were riders at the last ride that weren't attentive enough to know that they were trotting the hardest parts while walking the easiest (on their horse) parts of the trail. This can be really irritating to others especially if you trot past them downhill, or uphill, passing them then when the footing becomes good and levels out you slow to a walk. Now those riders who were walking the steep or rocky sections and want to trot on the good footing have to pass you again. On a ride with a lot of elevation and footing changes it can become a never ending game of tag.

I'm not sure if riders are not thinking these things through, or if they are letting their horses choose. Maybe they are so caught up in a conversation with another rider that the thought of considering the trail footing and elevation changes never crosses their mind?

A competitive horse will want to go all of the time, so it's really up to the rider to stay focused enough on the trail conditions and how rating the horse consistently can minimize the wear and tear. Our horses can go a long way, literally....if we pay attention to the details. A thinking rider is perhaps the greatest thing you can do for your horse.

**** Many thanks to Karen for allowing us to include her article in this issue of the newsletter. For more articles by Karen, check out her blog at <http://enduranceridestuff.com>**

DRAW MEMBERSHIP 2012

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

**HORSE(s)
NAME:** _____

Circle one:

SINGLE \$20 FAMILY \$30

FAMILY NAMES: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DRAW

MAIL TO: Bill Suskey, 5605 W. Pine Lane, Mequon, WI 53092

Questions: Call Bill, 262-242-9402 or email/phone Jos -
joslynsfiberfarm@aol.com/608-774-7490

ANNUAL DRAW AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday FEBRUARY 19, 2012 11:00 am

Bublitz's Restaurant & Alehouse

Located in Lomira, WI on the intersection of Highways 41 & 67, Exit 85

(same place the annual meeting was at)

Cost: (includes tax and tip)

\$7.50 for 2011 DRAW Members

Non-Members - \$15.00/adult \$8.00/child 6-12 years old under 6 free

Menu:

Lunch Buffet, including Prime Rib. Coffee and milk included in price. Soda and alcoholic beverages on your own.

Name: _____

#Adults: _____ #Children 6-12: _____

Total cost: _____

Return form with money to: Check should be made out to DRAW

Bill Suskey, DRAW Treasurer

5606 W. Pine Lane

Mequon, WI 53092

Deadline Date to RSVP: February 5th, 2012

***If you are receiving an award, but are unable to attend the banquet, please make arrangements with Kathy Schauer to have someone pick up your award. If you want Kathy to mail the award, you will need to pay for all shipping costs. 920.583.2233 or kschauer@nconnect.net



Distance Riding Association of Wisconsin

ENDURANCE **AND** **COMPETITIVE** **RIDING** **CLINIC**

Saturday, March 3, 2012

9:30 AM to 2 PM

Registration starts at 9:00

Cost: \$25⁰⁰

*For more information on the DRAW clinic
and distance riding, please check out the
DRAW website –*

<http://www.drawwisconsin.com>

Interested in DISTANCE RIDING?

You would be amazed at what your horse could do. 25, 50, 100 miles in one day! How do you get started? What kind of horse do you need? What do you wear? Tack? Pulse? Respiration? How much fun can you have?

Join Us: We'll answer your questions and show you what you need to know.

Food & Beverage Provided

Reservations Appreciated :

Joslyn 608.774.7490
Barb 920.291.5641

2012 Rides eligible for DRAW Points

May 12-13	Glacier Trails, Palmyra, WI
May 18-20	Run for the Border, St. Croix Falls, WI
June 2-3	ApDRA, Palmyra, WI
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Sept. 15-16	Colorama Classic, New Prospect, WI
Oct. 4-7	DRAWARAMA, Palmyra, WI
Oct. 13-14	Iron Oak, Arkdale, WI

The DRAW Distance Riding Clinic will be held at:

**Shirley May's Farm
9736 Serns Road, Milton, WI 53563**

DRAW Newsletter Editor
Joslyn Seefeldt
5738 East Klug Road
Milton, WI 53563

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