

July, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 4

# MnDRA Newsletter



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## Tacking Up

Howdy all,

Summer is one busy time. I don't know how all of you who actually work during the summer do it. I have finished subdividing the pasture; which was an exercise in futility as the horses seem to just want to sit in the bare paddock and stomp at flies. The trailer is still bare. We are still trying to think of design ideas.

The fly season is well upon us and one of our challenges is to find a place to train where the flies aren't prohibitive. We usually go over to a local county park that has a 3.5-mile loop. The flies are pretty bad and we usually do a loop in 20 minutes, anything slower and we have horses going crazy.

As you might have noticed, I don't have a rider profile this issue. I am out of replies to my questionnaires and I need to send more out. I decided to put in a tribute to Sadat. Last fall, Bev suggested we do a horse profile and I did ask for some; unfortunately, we are all too humble to brag about our horses. I hope we start now, because we sometimes forget that

they are not going to be with us forever.

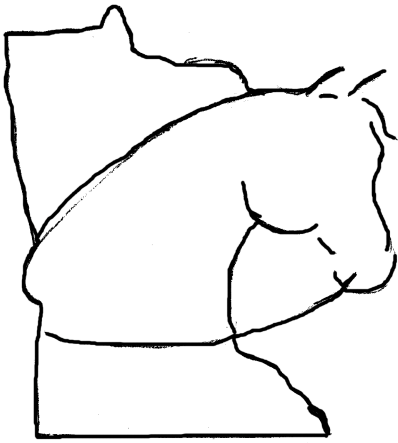
Sam and I have put more miles on the trail with Sadat than with any other horse. It started with my first full season up in Hinkley. I was riding with Doug Humphrey and we hooked up with (in Doug's words) "Those two crazy women, Holly and Deb." I've been riding with Holly and Sadat ever since up to this year. More than once we tried to tempt Holly and Bob to sell Sadat to us, but that was like asking them to sell us their son, Jon. Dylan and Tanya were blessed by Holly and Bob's generosity to let them ride Sadat. Tanya especially formed a bond with him, even to the point of her trying to usurp ownership by having the email address, mysadat@.

Sam and Sadat had a love/hate relationship. While they were ok around each other and knew each other well, the last thing Sadat wanted was to see Sam in front of him. Whenever we tried to pass, he would pin his ears back and his little legs would fly. We can only guess how old Sadat was, but he had a full life and was active up to this spring. I want to thank everyone for remembering Tanya and Dylan during this time. You folks are incredible. If you have a story about your horse, send it in. We need to celebrate them.

Happy Trails. =:){}

## Remaining Season Ride Calendar

- ❖ 8/18-19 Thistle Down Run, RM – Teresa Fett, 218 - 334-5711
- ❖ 9/8-9 Charity Cup, RM - Lise Lunde,
- ❖ 9/22-23 Run for the Ridge, RM – Sara Maass, 507-426-8385
- ❖ 10/19-21 Point Chaser, RM – Holly & Bob Egerer, 320-558-6820
- ❖ 10/27 Frostbite Fiasco, RM – Suzy Warren, 651-257-9812



## Thistle Down Run Shaping Up

Theresa sent this right after Memorial Day.

Last year when some rides were cancelled and others were in the balance whether they would still exist, I decided to try and fill in the gaps with a ride. I knew from a few years ago when I put on the Maplewood West ride that putting on an event is a lot of work.

I have found that putting on a completely new ride is even more work. Starting with scheduling to make sure it doesn't have conflicting dates, getting AERC and MNDRA approval, and all of the extra red tape involved takes some fortitude and phone calls to muddle through the paperwork. Thanks to those I called everything seems to be falling into place.

We laid out a basic route last fall and went into clearing it this spring. The wind storms have been crazy so far this season and every tree that blows down seems to find its way onto the new trail. Our trails of course are not maintained by any park service so Dale and I have been spending weekends with the ATV and chainsaw cutting our way through before the mosquitoes and deer flies come out in force. The trail is ready with only minor cleanup in a few areas left unless we keep getting high winds.

I now have 25 miles laid out with less than 3 miles where we must double back and cover the same ground. This should be a fun event for everyone as we are using only two colors for marking trails, 3 or 4 watering spots (depends upon how dry it is in August), and course will be barefoot friendly. Hopefully many of our regulars can help support a ride in this area as we see the trail battles emerge in the metro park areas.

*Here is what she sent at the end of June.*

Hopefully this weather will change habits shortly as I don't know how much more logging we can take trying to keep our trails open. Last night again we had high, straight wind warnings and from the looks of our trail in spots it must have been a noisy night.

*This is just one of three pictures of what the wind did to the trail.*



### **Top Ten Items Men Secretly Wish Horse Catalogs Carried**

10. Soft-sided pony kegs that look like saddlebags
9. Harley Davidson saddles
8. Grilling accessories
7. Helmets with NASCAR numbers on them
6. Helmets with Internet screens
5. Horse food and water dispensers with remote control
4. Gas-powered manure forks
3. Silk riding tights that look like blue jeans
2. Gel-padded saddles

*and the number one item men secretly wish catalogs would carry*

*Manssieres*

## Horse Tribute: Sadat

The following is the nomination letter Theresa wrote for Sadat when he won UMECRA's Horse of the Year. It does a good job of summing up Sadat.

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It was November of 2001 when Ken and I first started thinking of approaching Holly and Bob Egerer to see if our son Dylan could ride Sadat the following year in competitive trail rides. Holly had just put mile 2,000 on the little 20 year-old, half-arab/welsh pony, and said he deserved retirement. However, Sadat was still sound and energetic. Dylan was 12 years old, and while interested in horses and what his parents were doing about one weekend a month, he wasn't necessarily passionate about horses. However, riding seemed much more appealing than sitting around another year in horse camp. On one of those glorious November Saturdays of 2001, Dylan rode Sadat for the first time at Wild River State Park on the 20-mile Sunrise River Loop. It was there that Dylan decided riding through the woods was pretty cool.

It is now a year later. Holly and Bob said yes to our proposal, and Dylan and Sadat were a team from MnDRA I to Frostbite, collecting a fistful of blue and red ribbons and a couple other colors too. Sadat loves to travel first down the trail. This has given Dylan confidence as a rider. Sadat will also travel near the back of the pack, (but not last,

that's for Ken and Sam.) Sadat rarely spooks as he's a 'been there and done that' kind of horse. He's an excellent horse for a fairly green rider, carrying Dylan safely and securely 300 miles in 2002. Sadat was such a good teacher for Dylan; because you don't just sit there, you do actually have to ride Sadat. He is half pony after all. Sadat likes to get close to branches and trees, and lie down in water, something Dylan found out the first time they went for water in a lake. Sadat taught Dylan you do have to pay attention; you can't be a mere passenger on the gentle, endearing horse with the airplane ears.

Dylan likes Sadat's energy and willingness to go down the trail with his quick trot. Sadat has patiently withstood beginning-rider awkwardness: his teeth have been banged with a bit

while bridling, 90 pounds have been sometimes brutally plopped in the saddle, his rider has been unbalanced and unsteady at times (partly due to the six additional inches Dylan grew over the season, another tribulation for Sadat), and rider cues have not been reliably applied.

For all these reasons and more, Sadat is truly worth his weight in gold. Ken and I have kept our eyes and ears open for another Sadat, but he's a very, very rare horse indeed. Happy, sound, sensible, and steady; Sadat is a horse I'd love to have in my barn. Dylan wants to ride competitive again next year, need I say more?



Sadat and Rascal at Point Chaser.

## Vetting in:

### Leadership and Sportsmanship

UMECRA was formed with the goal of promoting the sport of endurance and competitive riding and good horsemanship. At a competitive ride this weekend, I watched riders violate both the role of being a leader and an exhibition of poor sportsmanship without remorse.

Two of us were coming out of the river and were tying up our sponges, when two endurance riders came around a single track area at a high rate of speed and almost knocked us right out of the saddle and didn't even bother to stop or apologize. I ride in both endurance and competitive trail and feel that this was rude and dangerous. There was a lot of foot traffic and horse traffic on the trail. We all make mistakes and occasionally bump into each other but reckless riding can have severe consequences.

As a previous race track rider this type of behavior would have resulted in a suspension of your license. Even race tracks don't allow you to be rude in a controlled environment and we should never allow it in an uncontrolled environment.

We share the trails, in many cases with other organizations, trail riders, hikers, joggers and children. This is a privilege and certainly not a right we have when we compete. We share the responsibility of making this sport safe for ourselves and others.

As an organization I feel that awareness needs to be raised. If we continue down this path we will lose this privilege and destroy the relationships some of us try so hard to maintain. Encouraging better leadership and sportsmanship will only better our relationship both in and out of the saddle.

Sheryl O'Brien

Thank you for making the right decision in a difficult situation. Canceling the ride while it was in progress showed a true dedication to our sport, and especially to our horses. The spirit of the rules in UMECRA includes the line: "UMECRA places the highest priority on the safety of horses, riders, and workers." That is exactly what happened at Maplewood – the trails were becoming unsafe for our horses. We will all be able to ride another day because of the good decision that you made for the welfare of our horses.

With sincere thanks for a job well done,  
Taryn Dentinger  
Jodi Johannessen  
Donna Hajek  
Lynne Triplett-Benson  
Melanie Engel-Unger  
DeAnne Knapp

It's great to send your news to the MNDRA newsletter, but why not let the rest of the Upper Midwest know what's going on here in Minnesota? Send news for the UMECRA newsletter to [UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com).

Sharon Hahn,  
UMECRA newsletter editor and rider representative

Just a quick note. Point Chaser will be at St. Croix this year! I will give you more info on this very soon. People will need to reserve their campsites as early as 90 days just like for Forestville. It is a three-day ride.

There are about 30 sites available so should not be a problem.

Holly Egerer



Dear Ride Managers, Vets, and  
Volunteers at the Maplewood West ride;

## EasyCare Summer 2007 Hoof Boot Video Contest

This fun new EasyCare, Inc. contest offers entrants the opportunity to submit their own "booting tips or commercials" to EasyCare via YouTube.com™ that depicts or illustrates how to use EasyCare Hoof Boots, or showing EasyCare Hoof Boots in action. Winners will be chosen on a number of subjective factors, including video and story creativity, uniqueness, suitability, etc.

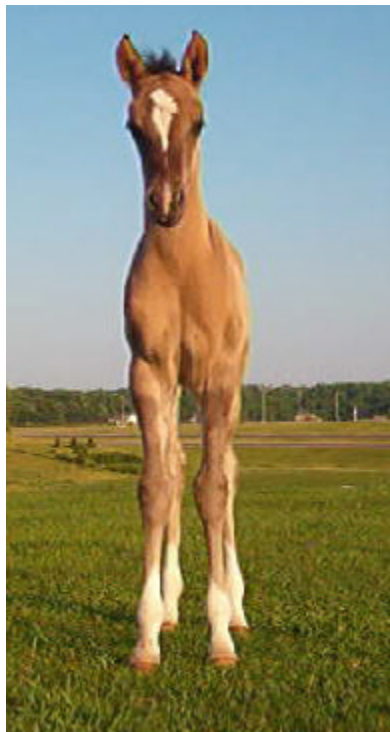
The Contest begins at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Standard Time ("PST") on June 1, 2007 and ends at 11:59 p.m. PST on August 31, 2007. A total of ten prizes will be awarded and are as follows:

- 1st place: \$500.00 EasyCare Gift Certificate
- 2nd place: \$250.00 EasyCare Gift Certificate
- 3rd place: Hoofjack valued at \$170.00
- 4th place: Shear Comfort Sheepskin cover of choice, value to \$155.00
- 5th place: \$100.00 EasyCare Gift Certificate
- 6th place: Pair of EZ Ride Stirrups, value to \$115.
- 7th place: Stowaway Pack of choice, value to \$57.00
- 8th place: Clinton Anderson Correcting Problems on the Trail DVD valued at \$89.99
- 9th place: Bare is Better Hat and T-shirt, valued at \$21.00
- 10th place: Clinton Anderson Natural Hoofcare Show #127 valued at \$19.99

A complete list of contest rules can be found on the EasyCare website here: [http://www.easycareinc.com/Cool\\_Stuff/video\\_contest.aspx](http://www.easycareinc.com/Cool_Stuff/video_contest.aspx) For those wishing to follow the contest and view the videos, each entry submitted will be posted on the EasyCare Video Blog at this link: [http://easycareinc.typepad.com/easycare\\_videos/](http://easycareinc.typepad.com/easycare_videos/) or look for them at YouTube.com™.

## For Sale

For Sale AWESOME DUN COLORED Ara-App FILLY. Dun with few white spots on rump, 4 white sock, Star, Stripe and snip. Filly's Grand Sire was Distance Champion with the ApHC and a regional top ten winner with MNDRA. Born on 5-6-07 will be ready for a new home this fall. Sire is 16 H.H. Few spot leopard, (sires dam is 1/4 Arabian) Dam is 14.2 H.H. Appaloosa Mare out of a Keimosobi Mare. This filly has a lot of class and will stand out in a crowd. \$850.00 Contact Joane Gerken: H. 715-749-3414 C. 715-410-0353 or [joanegerken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joanegerken@sbcglobal.net)




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**Wintec Dressage Pro.**  
**CAIR panels - exchangable Gullet**  
**includes Med. Wide & Ex.Wide**  
**Gullets**  
**Great Shape \$525**  
**Local trial available**  
**Suzy Warren 651-257-9812**  
[suzy@ci.oakdale.mn.us](mailto:suzy@ci.oakdale.mn.us)

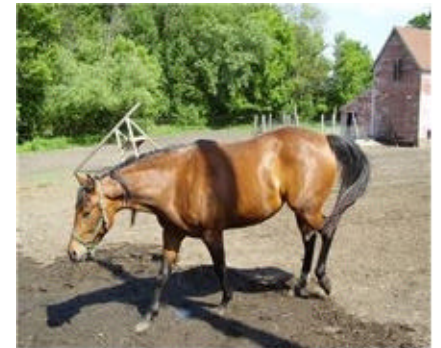
### MUST SELL!!!

**Blackfoot**  
 3 year old non-registered Quarter horse mare. Full sister to Lady.

Bay with one white sock, family raised, and a very smart girl. No formal training. Halter trained and responds to her name.

Should mature to about 15.2 – 16hh.

\$800, price negotiable. To good home. Need to sell ASAP because of a job change.

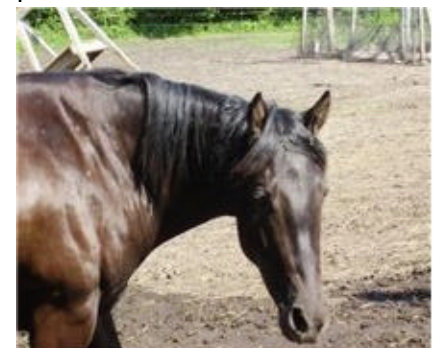


**Lady**  
 2 year old non-registered Quarter horse mare. Full sister to Blackfoot.

Black bay with no white markings, family raised, with a good Quarter horse mentality. No formal training and somewhat halter trained. Should mature to 15.2hh.

\$500, price negotiable. To good home. Need to sell ASAP because of a job change.

Please call 320-398-6274, ask for Danelle or Mike, or e-mail [mcd626@melte.net](mailto:mcd626@melte.net)



## MnDRA.com

MnDRA.com is having a lot of success, but parts are still under-utilized. The Announcements, Guestbook, Newsletters and Point Standings pages are very popular. But the For Sale and Ride Calendar pages are not used much. All the items for sale that I put in the newsletter will also run on the web site until sold for free for MnDRA members. Do remember to send both Diane and me your items. Her email can be found on the Contact page of the web site.

The ride calendar page has ride information that has changed since the ride booklet was sent out. Diane adds any of the notices I send out to the group. If ride managers know of any changes to their rides, they should send them to us as soon as you can so we can get the information out there to the

riders.

Finally, the guestbook is a great place to pick the brains of the membership. If you have a question, post it there and you should get fast results.

There are non-members who are looking at the site. We were mentioned on a horse list-serv as a place to go to for information.

## For Sale

Timberline flex panel Cutback Trail Blazer saddle? It is a 15-inch seat, very comfortable, and I can email photos if anyone wants to see it.

Contact Dr. Nicole  
(320) 685-8730 or  
redhorse13@clearwire.net

## Two-mile Marker

- Our condolences go out to Theresa Fett whose father, Henry, at 87 years of age passed away on Saturday, June 16th.

He was a retired dairy farmer who taught Teresa the love and care of animals as he milked cows from his childhood right up to his retirement and then cut back to only beef cows for another 10 years. Teresa spent many hours of her early years helping him feed and milk the cows and finally talked him into a pony when she was 12 years old. She hasn't been without a horse since. He will be missed dearly.

- Joanne Gerkin was injured earlier this year. I asked what happened and here is her story.

I have a wonderful Appaloosa colt that I am training. I was out in the game farm and the deer flies were bad. I don't have any flies or other biting pest as the wind blows all the time and we are on a hill, its great. Anyway we were coming home Through the wood trail and muggies wanted to canter, so we started out and about 200 feet down the trail muggies

wanted to go faster (he's part TB) I pulled up to slow his pace and he playfully started to bounce (small buck) I pulled him down to a walk and at the last minute his left hind leg slid on the mud and off the trail. Muggies went down on his butt, and fell sideways on me. I ended up walking home a mile to catch muggies and ride him back to the game farm and start over. Muggies was fine and he never meant to hurt me. I ended up with four of the wing on my back bone broke off and a very sore leg. I am still get a little sore when I do things like change all 4 tires on the big truck, but I have been riding Muggies and others. You can't keep a horse person off a horse for very long, ask anyone who does distance riding. I wish that I could get out to MNDRA rides more, but I need to care for my mom and help is hard to find and my mom is to the point that she feels abandoned if I go some place without her.

Karen Kersten had a question that many of you could help with.

My horse has a tear in the deep digital flexor tendon. I am resting him for a month according to vet, and am bummed about not conditioning and riding, but his soundness is of course my priority. I can ride him starting Aug.1, but am not sure how to bring him back to condition, and hopefully do some fall competitive rides. Are there any suggestions out there from those who have been through this?

Karen Kersten  
[kkersten@uslink.net](mailto:kkersten@uslink.net)