

June, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 3

# MnDRA Newsletter



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## Tacking Up

Howdy all,

A ride manager's nightmare happened this year at Maplewood. It's one thing to have to cancel a ride a day or two before due to weather conditions, or even on the last day after the majority of riders are done; but to have to cancel on the first day at the end of the first loop is indescribable.

While I was not there (we were packed and hooked up. The kids and I were just going to get the horses when Holly called and let us know what was happening. As bad as we felt about not coming, I did not feel bad avoiding the eight hour round trip and the \$150 gas bill,) I talked to Paula for awhile on this newfangled invention called a telephone (you don't

have to type or anything, you just talk.) It sounded like the decision was tough, but was made on the advice of the vets and the number one concern of our sport, our horses. Cindy sends a report of what happened.

This weekend brings SE and the creeks are waiting. So are the sponges, if you get my drift, Elizabeth.

You'll also see I have a new project for this summer. The tent is being somewhat retired and we are wimping out. You'll have to stop by to see how Dylan and Tanya's college funds were spent.

Let's hope for sunny skies, smooth trails, and gentle breezes this weekend.

=;{} Happy trails, all. Ken

## MnDRA Sponsors

We have our first official sponsor of MnDRA. OK, we have a paying ad on the web site.

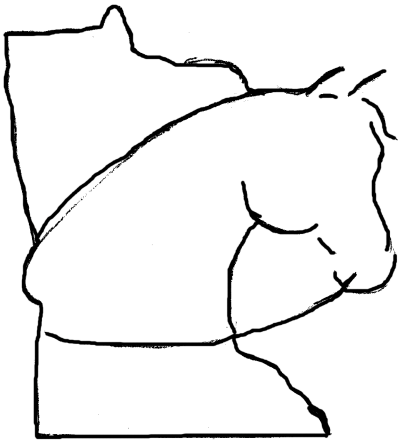
Welcome to Action Rider Tack to our community. Click on the link on our web site and take a look when looking

for equipment.

Also, visit Country Supply and use the MnDRA code to help support our trail fund. They have donated \$113 so far this year.

## Season Ride Calendar

- ❖ 6/15-17 Southeast Minnesota, RM – Dianne Schmidt, 507-545-9937
- ❖ 6/23 – 24 Chimney Butte, RM - Deb Kolegraf, 701-258-6347
- ❖ 7/6-8 Mosquito Run, RM – Lynn Reichert, 320-597-3312
- ❖ 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



## Rider Profile: Peggy Pasillas

**Name and Family:** Peggy Pasillas, husband Greg, son Daniel, daughter Leah Thorp - married to Shane with 2 daughters, Ruby (1+yr) and Audrey (1 month)

**Non-riding occupation:** Quality Assurance Engineer

**Who was your first horse?** Cheyenne - a 2 yr old black & white grade paint gelding - learned a lot from him. Being 12 years old and a first time horse owner - I learned what NOT to do when you have a green broke youngster! He taught me that just because you think you LOVE the horse - it doesn't mean you know how to TRAIN the horse! I was much smarter on the 2nd horse!

**Who are your current horses?** Magic Amigo - an 18 yr old Arabian I got from Suzy Warren

**Who was your mentor in distance?** I feel very fortunate in that. I have had 3 mentors who have really helped me learn more about this sport - Sheryl O'Brien, Mary Lambert and Suzy Warren.

**What advice do you have for beginners?** Watch what the best horsemen do (they may or may not always be the "winners"), ask questions and don't be afraid to try. You'll be surprised by what you and your horse can accomplish together!

**What is your favorite moment on the trail?** Some of my favorite moments have been when I'm riding in a light rain and you can hear each raindrop fall on the leaves and on the trail. It blends with the sound of the horses footfall - everything seems so quiet and peaceful.

**What is your proudest moment on a horse?** I would have to say when we finished the SE ride at Forestville - it was a really fun ride - Amigo did well and we even placed. I learned a lot on that ride and it was a great experience.

**What is your horse dream?** Tough question! My goal for 2007 Endurance is to complete a 50 mile LD. Beyond the short term goal - I think my horse dream would be to own a place that adjoins national forest or similar land that would provide me with endless miles of trails in terrain that offers both a beautiful yet challenging riding environment

### **Top Ten Ways to Kill Time at Ride Camp**

10. Take a nap with Dean in the vet area
9. Throw water to Anne's dogs
8. Go from trailer to trailer to get modeling ideas
7. Read, Horse, Follow Closely
6. Look at how everyone ties different hitch knots
5. Help corral horses that had poorly tied hitch knots
4. Offer to go on an ice run
3. Find "The Lindas" trailer and try to beg a bloody mary
2. Run to town to buy something for potluck since you forgot to make anything

and the number one thing to do in ride camp...

*It doesn't matter, you will be crewing for whoever is riding from your group.*

## Crow Hassen Park Master Plan Update

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 3-Rivers Park District held an open house that presented a rough outline for their long-term plan for Crow Hassen Park. Many MnDRA members were in attendance. I received a couple summaries from them and I will pass their views on. I hope to have a more comprehensive article next month; I tried to contact Jonathan Vlaming with the 3-Rivers District, but he is on a fishing trip.

Both sources said that they were left with the impression that 3-Rivers wants to do right with the horse people. The open-house consisted of a number of stations that focused on different aspects of the park plan, such as horse trails, bike trail, horse camping, and parking. There was a board where citizens could add their comments at each station.

There were a number of citizens from each main user group: riders, bikers, and hikers. Each, in their own way, advocated solely for their own sport. Luckily, the 3-rivers people seem to be able to see the big picture toward multiuse and could suggest compromises.

The main concern of the horse people was having bike paths next to horse paths and loss of trail. The plan suggests that both concerns are being dealt with. Any bike trail planned is to be a corridor along the river, completely out of sight and sound of the horse trail. Also, there seems to be a distinct possibility of an increase in trail at the park. They are also exploring multi-day camping for horses like what we have at the state parks and forests.

It looks like they are taking the horse people's concerns seriously. I hope to be able to get more details next month.

## Mosquito Run is an AHA Ride

Attention Sweepstakes Horse Owners-

We are working on our ride already. Mosquito Run 2007 will have an AHA Sanctioned 50 mile endurance on Saturday and an AHA sanctioned 25 competitive on Sunday.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the ride. Timing, gopher, etc. are needed. Also wanted are individuals willing to lead novice riders on Sunday.(ride for placing and/or mileage.

If willing contact Lynn at [lynnreichert@msn.com](mailto:lynnreichert@msn.com)



### Glossary of Horse Terms: (Or shameless filler. Thanks, Sandy)

**Hock:** Financial condition of all horse owners.

**A Bit:** What you have left in your pocket after you've been to your favorite tack shop.

**Fence:** Decorative structure built to provide your horse with something to chew on.

**Horse Auction:** What you think of having after your horse bucks you off.

**Pinto:** Green coat pattern found on freshly washed light colored horses left unattended for 2 minutes.

**Well Mannered:** Hasn't stepped on, bitten, or kicked anyone for a week.

**Rasp:** Abrasive metal tool used to remove excess skin from ones knuckles.

**Lunging:** Popular training method in which a horse exercises their owner by spinning them in circles until dizzy.

**Gallop:** Customary gait a horse chooses when returning back to the barn.

**Nicely Started:** Lunges, but not enough health insurance to even think about riding him.

## Vetting in:

Drew and I went to the Black Hills Ride this last weekend and Paschel announced that it was the last year and no one has stepped up to take it over.

It was also noted that this would be the last year of the Chimney Butte ride.

The Mountain Region has added many new rides this year, so if you are looking to venture out of the region and ride some beautiful country...head west. They are a great group and have lots of volunteers making sure things go smooth.

One ride I think would be nice would be at the Rushcreek Ranch. They have opened their doors for a ride over Labor Day weekend.

Linda Goddard

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Thank you note to all who jumped to my aid at Run For The Border. Am I too old for this? NAAAAWWWW! Well maybe for walking 5.5 miles in sand on a hot day on foot. My horse is well, she was also very cinch sore from the up and down, remember she's getting older too, 18. MnDRA people are the best, thank you again. Bev

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*The following is a reprint of a previous letter. The message is still important.*

Members,

Last year Paula and I came up with a small ad that we placed in the Minnesota Trail Riders Association (MTRA) newsletter and the Minnesota Arabian Horse Association (MAHA) newsletter to let people know about our rides. Joan Elbert helped us get additional exposure for free by listing all of our MN rides on the WSCA show

calendar. She is doing that again for us this year.

Rather than pay for a display ad this year we have decided to ask the ride managers who are members of MTRA to fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and get their ride list for free in the MTRA newsletter.

This year we have decided to try to promote our rides by sending press releases to local papers close to where a ride is located, where our members live or both. Local papers often look for current human interest stories and publish them when they have room so we will send them a press release about a month before a ride is scheduled. The paper may publish it the way we have written it or may contact the ride manager for more information. I have a "sample" press release that ride managers can follow and adapt for their ride or they may write one of their own. I have a list of newspapers but I would appreciate any suggestions on which papers you would like me to send your press release to. We can send it to more than one paper if a ride is in a different area than you live. I will adapt this as I get feedback from the newspapers, members, and ride managers. Since this is a new program I am open to suggestions. You can contact me at [swens@earthlink.net](mailto:swens@earthlink.net) or 507-645-9223 or at the rides.

Pat Swenson



## MnDRA I Ride Manager's Report

May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2007 was the third running of MnDRA I in the "new" Sand Dunes Horse Camp and the sixth time I've managed this ride. The time sure flies! Marking the trail through the old horse camp this year makes me wonder how we ever fit into that tiny space? (We had over 90 entries one year.)

Weather forecasts early that week made me very nervous, as reports were to have temps in the 80s, and it had been very dry. It was going to be hard on the horses that early in the season. I rerouted a bit trail and had a portable water tank volunteered to me and people to shepherd it to its spot so that horses could get water an addition time on the last loop. Turns out those high temps didn't happen and we had occasion showers, a bit of rain, some sun and A LOT of wind! But I feel better having been safe than sorry.

Turnout was down again this year. We had 59 total entries which is down 8 entries from last year. Last year's entries were down 15 from the year before that. I believe we must continue to talk about and promote our sport where ever we go. UMECRA is trying to do more new rider recruitment, but the best recruiting is done by each of us talking to other riders.

MnDRA I had 10 endurance entries for the 50-mile ride on Saturday. All 10 completed. Also, the 50 mile ride was a local Arabian Horse Association (AHA) sanctioned ride. First and BC was Van Jacobson on Spot.

The 25-mile LD on Saturday had 7 entries.

First across the line was Teresa Fett on SherSam, and BC was Walter Freiberg on Laser. The 25 mile competitive had 15 entries, high point was Suzy Warren on Rory. Sunday's 25-mile LD had 10 entries. First across the line was Char Thompson who also won BC on Phippen. The 25-mile competitive had 8 entries with high point going to Sandy Noonan on Sassy. And the novice ride had 9 entries. First place went to new UMECRA & MnDRA member Briana Visser.

For the third year in a row we had the Sherburne County Sherriff's Reserve patrolling the bridge over the St. Francis River for us. Without them, I don't believe we could go to the south side of the state forest.

A BIG thank you to the MnDRA I veterinary team: Dr. Dean Peterson & Dr. Anne Christopherson. Their services to this ride can't be beat!

Plus Thank You to all who helped! One can't put on a ride by themselves, and many offered their services ahead of time to me, which is an enormous weight off a ride manager's shoulders. We were blessed to have timers, trail marking help and scribes ready to take on duties. We didn't have quite the turn out of novice riders that I'd hoped. I suspect threatening rain that morning didn't help our turn out there, but thanks to all who volunteered to escort them.

And thank you for coming to MnDRA I and making it a successful ride!

Theresa

"Turns out those high temps didn't happen and we had occasion showers, a bit of rain, some sun and A LOT of wind! But I feel better having been safe than sorry."

## Run For The Border Ride Report

The Run For The Border weekend is over and in my opinion it was a huge success. We had 109 entries and more compliments than complaints. I will take that as a good thing. The weather was great, thank you Victor for putting that knife in the ground. We had just a few sprinkles and I was told that was because I asked Victor to move the knife!

The trail was wonderful. I had compliments on how well it was marked and how fun it was to ride. The 100-mile riders were happy to have the glow sticks for the last 10 miles.

I also want to thank everyone that was there to help put the ride on. It certainly makes it easier when there are enough people around to help. The biggest thank you goes to the riders that came to ride. You are truly

what makes it all worth the work and effort.

Darlene

## Maplewood West Ride Report

Wow! What an experience we had at Maplewood this year. After asking vet after vet to work the ride we finally found two who said yes. Just when we thought we had everything worked out, we ran into more issues, including my emergency trailer repair, a trip with a kid to the ER, and Char's emergency? transfer case repair, but we got those handled also. Almost 50 horses were vetted through Friday night, (way to go vets!!)

Saturday brought torrents of rain to an already saturated park, so when our riders began coming in after the first loop talking about all the water running down the trails like little rivers and describing how the horses were slipping and sliding down hills, we had a decision to make. It was not an easy one for either the ride managers nor the vets to make, but, we feared that if the riders went back out, someone would end up hurt. We called the ride for the day.

One rider did get hurt on the trail, but not due to the rain. We

located her, and got her the medical help she needed, and she will make a full recovery in time.

Eventually the rain did begin to let up, even as rigs were pulling out. Once things quieted down we were left with 5 riders, including 3 novice riders. When this became apparant, we called the ride for Sunday also. We did not feel it was right to hold the vets for 5 riders.

The rain did come to a stop Saturday afternoon and we were able to have a small pot luck dinner with the now 3 remaining riders who did stay. The rain did come back during the night, but stopped early Sunday morning, and we were able to get the trails unmarked.

We, the ride managers wish to thank all of you who came to the ride in spite of the forecast. We also want to thank everyone for being so very understanding about the decisions we feel we had to make, and we look foreward to being blessed with better weather next year! See ya on the trails.

Char, Cindy and Paula

PS A special thanks to those of you who helped me get my pickup with the apparently NOT REPAIRED transfer case and my trailer out of the mud. You are all good people!  
Char

PSS. All ride entry fees will be refunded. Please speak to Paula regarding this issue.

We would like to also say that the Mangers have donated a portion of the expense to help off set the costs of the ride. I personally wish to say Sorry and Thank You. A lot was learned from this ride.  
Cindy

## Two-mile Marker

- ❖ Directions to Mosquito Run - I94 to exit 205 head west to first stoplight turn south follow signs. Thank you, Lynn
- ❖ Victor Medina, took photos at Run for the Border. They can be viewed at [www.vic.smugmug.com](http://www.vic.smugmug.com), and all orders will be taken through the website. He can also be reached at [redhorse13@clearwire.net](mailto:redhorse13@clearwire.net) if anyone has any problems with the website. Thanks! Nicole
- ❖ For those of you who remember, Buffalo Buck and Larry Lunde, there is

some sad news about Buck. He has been at Dale and Lise's for the last few years. They had to put him to sleep this month. We are not sure of the ailment.

- ❖ If you received one of the hay bags given for end-of-year prizes last year, you got a great thing with one exception. We found that when they got wet, the hay inside rapidly (within one day) starts to turn into silage. We opened ours after MnDRA and the hay was very warm and sweet smelling. So enjoy them, but if they get wet, get the hay out right away.

- ❖ I have a site available for Friday night only for SE. Our schedule has changed and we can't get there until Saturday AM. Non-electric. Please have them contact me at [peggy@pasillas.net](mailto:peggy@pasillas.net) or call me at 651-353-7959.