



# MnDRA News

## Beautiful Day for a Ride

*Charity and RFTR experience ideal conditions*



**Carmen and Ace earning their 1000<sup>th</sup> mile at RFTR**

PHOTO BY  
BOB  
ZIMMERMAN

Howdy all,

Goals! We all have them for the ride season. Sharon and Phil wanted to ride Cameo and Rose at all the MnDRA rides; they did. Carmen wanted to get a thousand miles on Ace and did with a novice ride at RFTR. I wanted to get Sam to 3000 miles and we did at Charity Cup on the 50. Theresa wanted to have a full season with Queen after she bowed her tendon last year, and Queen is looking good for the final ride of the season.

The thing about goals is to remember, they are all about us. None of the above horses cared that they met these goals; all they want is to run down a trail, a fleck of hay, a bucket of grain and a head scratched. The danger in goals is when we forget this, because it is then that we put our horses at risk when we push them too far for our goal. After Charity Cup, I saw I was in top ten in UMECRA and a little of my point chasing self emerged. Then Sam posted

his lowest score in a few years at RFTR during the 35. I rode the next day, but mostly with the idea that I was going to pull myself if he seemed the same as the day before. We did finish, but again he wasn't at his normal self. I worried that his melanoma might be intensifying, and while that may be the issue, I can not forget that Sam is an almost 20 year-old horse who has over 300 miles between Tanya and me for the first time in quite a few years. I no longer care about top ten. I hope to ride Point Chaser because it is a really fun and challenging trail, but if Sam is still tired, then I'll just work.

The only goal that matters to Sam is that we were able to ride together and he got fed well after, and that is enough. No goal is worth hurting my partner in this sport. So as the end of the season approaches, and our goals get nearer, remember Point Chaser is not at St Croix or Crowhassen; it's in bluff country. Holly really tries to give folks a

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different experience when she uses a park that has held a previous ride, and this year will be no different. The trail will be different from Zumbro Boogie. But it is the end of a long season, and the hills are there. Luckily, with the points through RFTR, the only division that looks like there is still a race is the endurance LW. Everyone can ride smart and achieve the only goal any of us should have; to finish the season with a safe and sound horse.

I have the results of my trail survey in this issue. An easy job opportunity, an update from Thistle, and other assorted bits. The leaves are falling and the weather's great. Keep riding.

=;{)} Happy trails, all. Ken

**VETTING IN**

I had no mail this month, so I'll add a little social networking on Tevis and our MN riders, Sarah and Dana.



[Carmen Evans Steuck](#)

Tevis website just updated... Dana and Sarah both listed as "Departed". Hope that means they started the

ride, and not that they are "Dearly Departed". Go Dana! Go Sarah! Go Jerico! Go Taz!

[Jen Flanders Wuertz](#)

Dang Sarah got pulled

[Candy Barbo](#)

Darn....I hope Dana can find someone to help her along

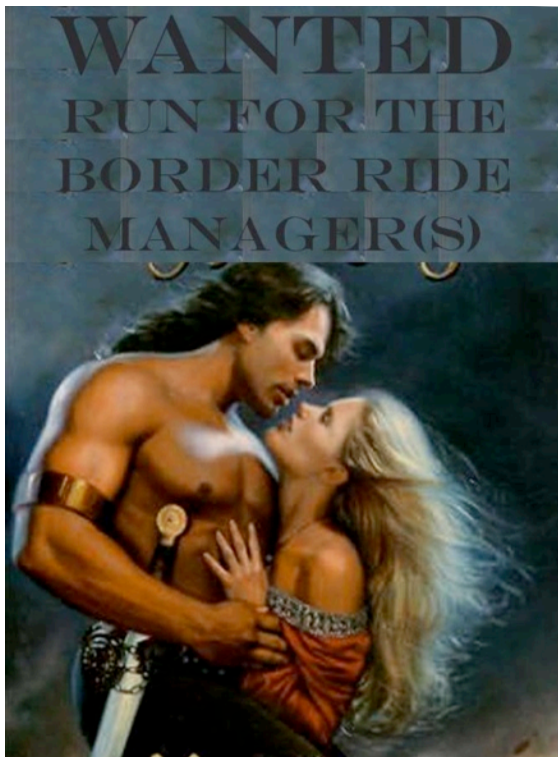
[Linda Goddard](#) Awh Sarah :( Thats 100's and thats endurance...you and Taz did great!! have always admired you two..

[Angie Orr Mikkelson](#)

Dana was into Foresthill at 4:11, left t 5:14, that means she pulsed down within 3 minutes. Jerico you ROCK!!

[Sher Ob](#)

Congratulations Dana!!! Finished at 12:55 AM.



Qualifications: Upright, Breathing, Organizational skills helpful.

RFTB needs someone to take over as a ride manager. Some positive aspects of this ride is it is the second ride and everyone is still friendly and easy-going. It is MnDRA sponsored. And the current site is still available. Negatives; can't think of any. If interested, contact Lynn Reichert at [lynnreichert@msn.com](mailto:lynnreichert@msn.com)

DANNA & ELIZABETH'S  
**BANQUET BIT'S**

What will cool you down now and warm you up in February?

**MNDRA IS GOING UNDERGROUND!!!**

**Amateur Spelunkers,  
Danna & Elizabeth**

## THISTLE DOWN RUN REVIEW

We missed seeing a few familiar faces at TDR this year but thanks to all our old friends for your attendance and it was great to see some new faces. We had the best weather of the summer, sunshine, low humidity, and mid 70's for perfect riding and upper 50's at night allowed everyone to snuggle under a warm blanket.



We put in a lot of work trying to make the trails "lost free" and we feel we were successful. We had a few spots that rider's questioned, but after some discussion it seems we may have made them too dependent upon our arrowed signs. Colored trail ribbons and looking ahead is still the key to staying on course. Thanks for your comments as there is always room for improvement.

We would like to thank Sandy for her assistance; she knows the game and can step in just about anywhere with help. Our two vets, Dr. Travis Kuhlka and Dr. Randall Lindemann did a great job and survived the weekend. Thanks to our local volunteers for lending a helping hand. We dare not list names for fear of missing someone but **special thanks** to all the MNDRA riders who volunteered. There seemed to be someone always available to help and that made our weekend a lot more enjoyable, you are a great group of people.

We always wonder if this will be the last TDR; will riders show up, will our landowners want us back, or will we be burned out? Our landowners have committed and we have found some new accessible land that will need some trail work. We will take care of this end if you are willing to do your part and mark your calendar for next year. Together we can have another successful Thistle Down Run.

Thanks for coming!  
Teresa and Dale Fett

**A good  
horse  
always  
waits  
patiently  
for its  
rider**

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## POST CHARITY CUP FUNDRAISER

Bob Zimmerman is offering to print and matte a picture of your choice from his Picasaweb album. He can do 4x6 or 5x7 photo's. All you have to do is mail a check to me for \$20 and the entire amount will be added to the donation to LifeSource.

My address is 61128 280th St, Wadena, MN 56482.

Mail me the check and let Bob know what picture you want, he can be emailed at [blzbob@usfamily.net](mailto:blzbob@usfamily.net)

Thanks Bob for this gracious offer and Thanks to all who order!!!!

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## LYNDA ZIMMERMAN'S ZIA WINS NATIONAL AWARD



**Lynda and Zia,  
Pic by Bob Z**

Zia has been selected to receive a NATIONAL award from the Paso Fino Horse Association. Her registered name is Lluvia del Norte, which is Spanish for "Rain of the North." Her nickname, Zia, is Greek for "Horse of Splendor and Light." She is just such an awesome horse!

Congratulations to both Lynda and Zia.

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## MNDRA TRAIL SURVEY RESULTS

So my first attempt of reporting is over; I have the results of the survey. There were 24 responses out of 85 members, so close to 30%. Thank you for taking the time.

The first question dealt with number of rides they attend, and while the avg number didn't come up on the survey there were two common themes for why folks come or not. Money was the main reason for not coming to rides and riding with the MnDRA family was the main reason given for coming to the rides.

When the riders rated trail difficulty in the survey we see most trails receiving middle of the road scores. RFTB, Mosquito, and Point Chaser scoring below 4, and only Thistledown and

Zumbro scoring above 6. What made rides easy were groomed trails, flatness, and wide trails. What made trails difficult were hills. Unevenness of trail and weather conditions/time of year were also mentioned, but the hills or lack of seemed to be the main determination of trail difficulty.

Many positive things were said about the most difficult trail, Zumbro Bottoms. Only a few people rated it, but they all liked the variety, the challenge, and the sense of accomplishment. The main concern about the trail wasn't so much the trail itself, but the heat at that time of the year. It'll be interesting what the trail is rated after the coolness of Point Chaser is factored in.

There were some responses that suggested more trails could be made harder as long as some precautions are taken for the horses, like splitting up tough trails, making the trail have water available, and perhaps longer holds when weather is a factor.

So the trails MN ride managers have give us a nice variety. The one interesting observation is that the two trails considered the toughest technically are in the middle of the season, which is probably good as the horses are probably in their best shape. We should be thankful we are in a state where the rides are so variable and beautiful.

## TWO MILE MARKER

### Equine Encephalitis Outbreak Expands

MADISON – Twenty-five cases of Eastern equine encephalitis, or EEE, have been confirmed in Wisconsin since mid-August, mostly in north central Wisconsin, State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt said today. The mosquito-borne disease strikes the horse's central nervous system and has a mortality rate of 90 percent or higher. It has been detected in Price, Lincoln, Taylor, Clark, Marathon, and Dunn counties to date.

He advised horse owners to call a veterinarian if their horses show any signs of central nervous system disease: depression, loss of appetite, drooping eyelids and lower lip, aimless wandering and circling, blindness and sometimes paralysis.

"EEE looks a lot like other diseases of the central nervous system – other strains of encephalitis, West Nile virus, equine herpes virus-1, even rabies," Ehlenfeldt said. "That's why it's important

that you call a vet and get a definite diagnosis if possible. You need to know if other animals are at risk, or if there's a human health risk, because the same mosquitoes that infect horses may infect humans in some cases."

More cases are likely to be confirmed, Ehlenfeldt said. He noted that fairly warm weather is predicted for next week that might allow mosquitoes to be active. The risk remains until overnight temperatures routinely fall below freezing. In addition, some preliminary results are still awaiting confirmation at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

It may be too late for initial vaccines to be effective, because it takes several weeks for immunity to build up. But boosters are effective in a matter of days for horses that have already been vaccinated, so owners should consider that option. Owners should also eliminate any standing water that they can, and keep horses in the barn between dusk and dawn if possible, to



limit their exposure to mosquitoes.

Wisconsin last experienced a large-scale outbreak of EEE in 2001, when 69 cases were confirmed. Since then, cases have occurred sporadically.

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