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**Point Chaser Notes**

The DNR will have all the trails open and available to use for the ride. Due to lots of rain this fall there is a lot of exposed rock so shoes or some sort of hoof protection is **STRONGLY** recommended. Potluck will be on Friday evening.

So far I have received very few entries, for the discount if you send in one paid entry and I receive it before we leave for ride camp on Monday you will get a discount on all your entries. If you do not vet in I will refund your pre entry fee.

Holly



**OCT 12** Elys Peak Trail Loop - Ribbon Cutting Event  
Public · Hosted by DuluthParksMN

Hi everybody,

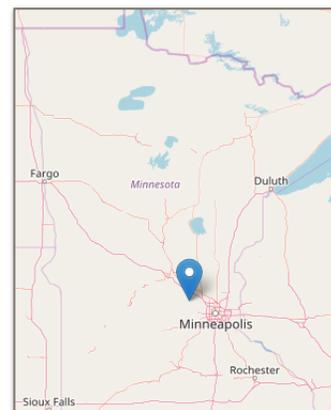
As you can see above, the first phase of the Duluth Trails is complete. I reprinted the story from the Duluth News. Candy B was a huge influence on this and some of MnDRA's trail fund went into helping make this happen. Maybe when the trail connects with more trail a ride may return to the NE. I loved that ride, damn taconite train and all.

There is also a push by Diane S to get more rides in the NW. For that we need new ride managers. If you are interested in joining that elite group of angels, let me know and I'll help get you in contact with the right people. This is discussed in this issue. Along with finding MnDRA's center.

Last, the problem with FB. A post was misinterpreted and suddenly there is huge concern about Point Chaser. PC is fine. The trails will be fine. For the first time in a lot of years, there are a lot of races that will be decided at PC. Finally, it is the last Midwest ride this year. There is no reason not to go. I plan on over-taking Dale and Michelle in HW comp. So load up your warm clothes, pack your shorts, bring sunscreen and mittens and let's ride.

Happy trails

Ken



## Worthy Posts From Facebook.

Just want to do a shout out to some of the fantastic ride sponsors we've had at the MnDRA rides this year! Hammer nutrition has been amazing! They have supplied us with great electrolyte products to keep us safe while riding in the summer heat!

What about Riding Warehouse? Gift cards, hats, shirts and more. My Best Horse provided towels, decks of cards, lunch coolers and more. I know there have been more sponsors at different rides, but those are the ones I know off the top of my head.

So next time you need electrolytes for yourself - contact Hammer. Need tack or something - contact Riding Warehouse - they have a wonderful selection, what about supplements at great prices - check out My Best Horse! I just ordered pure biotin from them - great prices and super fast shipping. Long story short - make sure you support the businesses that support our sport! Don't forget tell them you appreciate the way they support us!!

*Peggy Pasillas on MnDRA*

Not sure about this subject on this page...wondering about making arrangements for your horse(s) upon your passing. I board my horse and am wondering about what would happen to the poor little fella if I suddenly passed (car accident , etc). I am asking some friends to see if they would be willing to take him in such an occurrence came to pass. wondering what others have done in preparation. thanks for your ideas.

*Kristy Megli on UMECRA*

## NW Rides and Help Wanted

Diane Schemerhorn is exploring the feasibility of having a new ride on the Lake Agassiz rails to trails 52 mile multi use trail. It is about 20 miles south of Fertile, MN. There are positives and negatives with the venue, but it could give us another MN option during one of our down periods. Cheyenne Oaks where Legendary Run was held would also be another possibility.

For either of these rides to become a reality, Diane or some other RM would need help running it. Also, Maplewood West needs some manager help. Rides don't just happen. We need people to devote time before and after the ride or we will lose rides.

It is not as daunting as it seems. Just as we suggest riders learn about the sport by scribing and pulsing in the vet area, riders can learn about ride managing by apprenticing themselves to a willing ride manager. I know for certain Maplewood West would gladly take under their wing another co-manager.

Life events happen for everyone, even RMs. Sometimes a person just needs to step back a bit to deal with non-horse issues, like a blind husband. It helps if others can step in. All of our rides have changed RMs over the years. With the number of new riders we are getting in the sport, maybe some might consider helping by being a co-manager. Theresa M started being a ride manager during her fourth year as a rider.

Trail marking, map making, registration, food preparation, award distribution, and scoring are all things a first year RM can handle. So as we approach the end of our season, take a quiet ride and think about giving back to the sport you love as a co-manager, or for those of you who are a bit competitive, maybe starting your own ride.

*Season 2: Click link to go to Google Maps directions for the campsite.*

**Point Chaser**, Oct 19 - 20. [Zumbro Bottoms - West Assembly](#)

## Where is our trail center.

There was a thread in a group that discussed the movement of rides in MnDRA to the south and east of the state. In that thread, there was a suggestion that possibly our membership is moving in that direction. It sparked a question I have had for a few years, where is the epicenter of the MnDRA membership.

My curiosity was primarily triggered by the different locations of the yearly meeting and banquet (information on that will be in next month's newsletter. Final plans and dates are yet to be made.) So I squeezed some time into my busy schedule and worked out a way to get an approximate position.

My methodology was to take the zip code of each member and convert it into Longitude and Latitude. I then put these into a spreadsheet and found the average and median for both coordinates. I then plugged them into a web page and found where each was. The result was a bit surprising.

Before we get to the result, let me acknowledge the problems with this method. The zip code coordinates are based on the corresponding post office, which can be 10 - 20 miles away from the actual address. I could have entered the actual addresses, but that was more work than I wished to do and I doubt the result would change by more than a few miles.

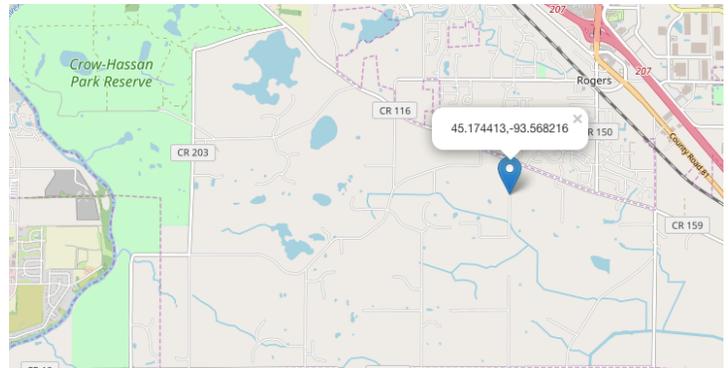
The average is impacted more by outliers. Someone from North Dakota or Illinois will have more impact on the final point than someone from Rochester. But, it will reflect to a degree how far someone has to drive.

The median tells us where the center is based on numbers of households. There are an equal number of households north and south of the point and equal number east and west. It doesn't factor in distance from the point.

Finally, I did not try to weigh based on number of members per household. That would give a more

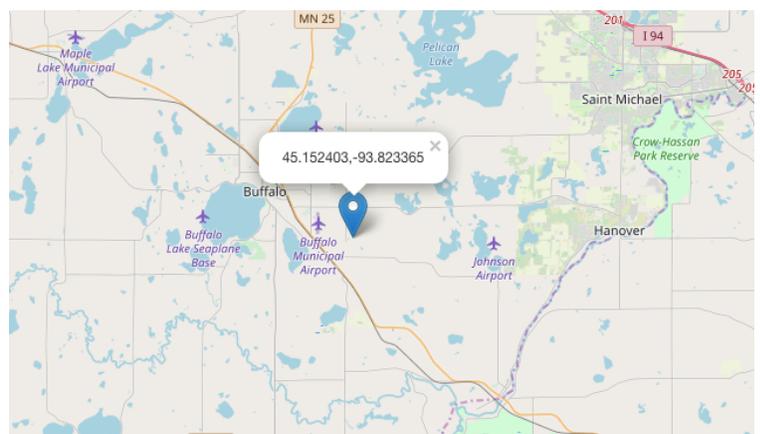
accurate picture, but I didn't have the information for that. I guess I could have asked Google.

So.... Where is our center? Based on the median, it's at 12175 Tilton Trail N, Rogers, MN 55374.



So either partying in Rogers or renting the horse campground at Crow Hassan would work based on this

But if we use the average we move slightly south and west. Just below Buffalo, MN



This is just a few miles from Linda Goddard's place. So based on this point, I hope she has room for all of us.

# NEW TRAIL LOOP OPEN FOR EQUESTRIANS IN DULUTH

By **John Myers** on Oct 7, 2018, *Duluth News Tribune*

Anne Gullion pulled back a bit on the reins of her horse, Stormy, a 17-year-old gelding, and stopped to take in the view.

For as far as you could see across the hillside in far western Duluth — especially boosted an extra five feet in the air on horseback — maples glowed with orange and yellow and red, even on a mostly cloudy day.

"It's absolutely gorgeous," she said. "Sometimes you just have to stop and look for a while."

Gullion, of Cloquet, and June Breneman of Oliver invited a novice rider along one afternoon last week to ride on the new Magney Snively-Ely's Peak Equestrian Trail and Ski Loop along western Duluth's portion of Skyline Boulevard.

A decade in the works, it's the first "destination" horse trail in Duluth and riding enthusiasts hope it will be the first phase of a trail network that will link with a pro-speed horse camp at the Buffalo House and on to existing horse trails in Jay Cooke State Park.

"If we can make those connections, this will become a destination for riders, especially endurance riders," Gullion said of a growing horseback group who take long rides. "And it gives people in town and just outside of town a great place to ride."

Horses have for years been allowed in a few places in Duluth, such as on the gravel portion of West Skyline and on Amity Creek trail. But the new trail is the first to offer a loop experience in such a scenic setting. The 3.7 mile new section, which will be officially dedicated Friday by city officials, is long enough to

make it worthwhile for riders to trailer their horse and visit Duluth.

"It's not just people in town but people who live outside of town who may board their horse or even have five acres and a horse but maybe not any trails to ride on," Breneman said. "We've been hoping for a trail like this for a long time."

There are long portions of heavily wooded forest, under a canopy of old-growth maples and aspen. But there are also overlooks that provide scenic vistas of the St. Louis River and city below.

Local riders started organizing in 2003 when the city of Duluth, citing user conflict, closed many trails to horses that had been used by riders for years. In 2005 the Magney Snively Forest management plan called for a designated trail for horseback riders. By 2007, the Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Their mission was, and remains, to develop trails where horses could be mostly on their own or are compatible with other uses.

The new 3.7-mile loop is a cross-country ski trail in winter. In summer and fall it will be open only to horses and hikers but not ATVs, motorcycles or bicycles.

"Multiple use trails (including horses) work everywhere. They are the norm out west. But here, not as much," said Gullion, an alliance board member. "But it's our job to educate people that horses and other (trail users) can co-exist."

**(continued next page)**

## New Trail (continued)

The new trail was built with \$168,000 of the city's "half-and-half" tourism tax funding and another \$40,000 from the city's parks maintenance fund along with grants from the Minnesota Trail Riders Association and American Endurance Riders Conference and \$40,500 from the Duluth Horse Trail Alliance. The alliance also added hundreds of hours of volunteer time for construction.

Loads of gravel were brought in to harden soft spots, and steep hills were made more gradual with switchback trails. That's to prevent erosion and makes it easier for novice riders as horses sometimes tend to go fast down steep hills. It also will help trail groomers track the ski trail even in low-snow winters.

Alliance members also are hoping to convert other, winter-only ski and snowmobile trails in the city to summer horseback use. Those trails are often unused in the summer. But the conversion often requires money and effort to harden, or fill-in, soft spots in low areas. Some horses uses multi-use trails that allow snowmobiles even in winter.

"Snowmobilers have been very polite. We get along with them just fine," said Candy Barbo, an avid horseback rider who lives near Spirit Mountain vice president of the alliance. "They often turn off their machines while we go by."

Jim Shoberg, Duluth senior parks planner for the city, said it's "absolutely important" for horse riders to have access to trails in Duluth, as long as the trails are built right.

"The soils are soft up there. And when you put heavy equestrians on it there could be erosion, so

we had to do it right. That park is a quality natural area and we had to make sure that we weren't doing anything to harm the landscape, that we minimize the impact."

Shoberg said the city will keep working with horse enthusiasts as they extend trails west as part of the city's St. Louis River Corridor Initiative.

"We're going to have a seat at the table with equestrian enthusiasts, no doubt," he said.

The enthusiasm riders have for their sport is obvious. It's not only expensive to own and keep a horse, and a huge commitment of time, but it becomes an activity that morphs to obsession and then a lifestyle.

"You don't go for a ride and then put your horse in the garage and forget about it for a week," Gullion noted.

Breneman and Gullion talked enthusiastically about trips across the U.S. to horseback riding destination trails. Horse camps, where adults can set up tents and RVs adjacent to destination trails, have become hugely popular, allowing kindred spirits to spend their vacations together.

That's what alliance members are hoping for in Duluth.

"It's not only a great way to get outdoors, the activity and the scenery, but it's also a challenge, physically and mentally," Breneman said. "And then you have the relationship with the animal... and you have a three-pronged sort of benefit."