



MnDRA News

Ouch,

Mother Nature is Pushing Our Resolve



The old and the new at Southeast.

Howdy all,

So first, it is cold, snowy, and then rainy enough that many find it hard to condition. Now in the middle of June we are getting rain every other day and the humidity is moving in. While the pastures are doing fine, few are getting any hay up. All of this is making it a rough start to the season. We are heading into the fifth ride of the season and some horses are just getting started.

Many of you know that my horse, Sam aggravated a tendon at S.E. and is probably out for the season and maybe done for his career. I am not sure how to feel about that. Many of you have suggested alternative horses for me and careers for Sam. I do appreciate the suggestions and concern, but I find myself not sure what I will do and am in no hurry to make that decision. The only thing I know for sure is I made a

commitment to Sam and I will never send him somewhere else.

It is frustrating because I was pretty much pain free so far this year riding; but I find I don't have a huge desire to do competition without Sam. I've rode Theresa's horse a couple times in competition and while it was nice, didn't have that something special I find when I'm on Sam.

To me this has been about spending time with Sam. I'm not sure I'm ready to put in the work and risk the pain with another horse yet. I suspect I will find another horse if we can make it work. At the moment, all our horses have issues and Theresa's year is also in question.

So you'll probably see a lot of me in the vet area. So play nice.

=;{}} Happy trails. Ken

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MEET BECKIE KILVINGTON

Introduce yourself and the members of your family: I'm Beckie, and the members of my family are Jason and Lauren. And Earl! Can't forget Earl :)

Your occupation when not riding: I have been a Certified Veterinary Technician for 15 years and a Equine Sports Massage Therapist for 2 years. I currently work at the University of Minnesota in the Surgery / Research Department for the last 4.5 years.

**What do you usually ride in MnDRA?**

2012 was my first year competing and I rode CTR. This year we are trying out Limited Distance which seems to be a better fit for both of us!

Who is your current horse?

JW (registered Badger's Bay Boy) is my 11 year old Spotted Saddle Horse gelding. He's gaited so we have a little different speed than those that ride trotting horses, but I love him and he's really fun to ride!!

Who was your first horse?

My very first horse was a 30+ year old, partially blind

black Shetland Pony named Happy. She taught me a lot about having a good seat while riding and also patience with horses. I got her when I was about 12 and she died my freshman year in college so she was an oldy but a goody!

What was your favorite moment on a horse?

Actually this year leaving on our second loop out of Maplewood. I am a very conservative rider since I only have 1 horse and I don't want to injure or otherwise compromise my ability to ride so I had attempted to ride the first loop a little slower...which I now know JW is in way better shape than I give him credit for! The first loop was miserable! We rode out with a newer rider since my plan was to go a bit slower since we didn't really have a lot of conditioning miles on and I was trying to be the brains of the operation!!! We ended up fighting each other the whole first loop and both of us were just miserable! Anyway we headed out by ourselves on the second loop, I was sick of fighting with him for a slower speed so I let him have his head to see what he would do. He picked up a really nice running walk and a slow canter over the more difficult terrain. We rode on a loose rein for most of the loop and it turned out to be the most fabulous ride that I have ever had on a horse! We finished really strong and were even asked when we were going out on our 3rd loop for the 50!!

Why did you join MnDRA? I started because JW really needed a job. I am a trail rider but when you ride a horse that is not content to just walk for hours on end it gets to be frustrating. He also has a very fast walk for most horses and so we were always fighting each other on the trail. So we went to our first novice ride in 2010 at MNDRA 1 and we were hooked! It took another year before we were ready to jump in so in 2012 we rode almost the entire MNDRA season and had a BLAST!!

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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Weather has made rider turnout low at all events so far this year. The late snow kept many riders away as they did not have a chance to condition their horses. Most riders were in this predicament and the solution was to slow down and condition on the trail. You got points, mileage, and best of all some extra time with your favorite 4 legged riding partner.

We haven't seen a weekend without rain which has also hurt attendance as the "fair weather" rider's don't show up. Ride managers have spent extra effort to mark trails and put on rides in less than ideal conditions. They and their helpers deserve a big "Thank You" for their perseverance.

Gas prices went crazy passing diesel but all of it is too high. Many of us have found ways to help fund our habit. A part time job, a few extra hours at your current job, a Craigslist ad selling basement clutter, trailer pool with another rider, or cut back on the tobacco, alcohol, and your grocery bill with a diet (most of us can afford to lose a few pounds and we'll feel better).

On a positive note:

- 1: We have a dedicated and enthusiastic core group of MNDRA riders that seem to show up regardless of the weather.
- 2: Rain riding is not as much fun but it has cut down the need for sponging and extra water.
- 3: The cooler weather has made sleeping much better and kept the mosquitoes at bay.
- 4: A bit of rain gear and good company tends to overcome the dreary conditions and we always see sunshine sometime during the weekend.
- 5: Gas has started dropping so maybe you won't need to go on diet and can stock up on some extra chocolate and margaritas?

For those that haven't yet made a ride, you have not only missed some fun trails but also some great company. MNDRA needs every rider to stay a healthy organization. Do your best to attend and help support our favorite activity. See you on the trail!

Teresa Fett

BECKIE KILVINGTON CONTINUED

What was your funniest moment at a ride?

The funniest moment was at 2012 Charity Cup. All I will say is if you wear a bra with a zipper you better have a back up plan in place!!

What is something people might be surprised to know about you? I would love to move to Alaska!

What do you like to do that doesn't involve horses? I have been part of the veterinary team for sled dog races in the Upper Midwest for going on 10 years now. I coordinate the Veterinary Team for the John Beargrease Sled Dog Races in Duluth every January and work about 6 other races in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. I have not made it to the Iditarod yet but it is definitely on my bucket list!

This is another reason that I got started in distance riding with my horse because the sports are very, very similar. Sled dogs are my first passion because they LOVE their job and are very vocal about it!! They have so much positive energy when they are working that its hard not to fall in love with them!!

What is your proudest moment on a horse?

We had a 4th place finish at Charity Cup in 2012 with VERY tough competition in our weight class! I was very very proud of my little pony at this ride!!

ZUMBRO BOOGIE UPDATE

We spent a weekend over at Zumbro helping the DNR clear the trails after the damage from from the 15 inches of heavy wet snow in mid April and the spring flooding. Lots of down trees and branches broken off. The trails should be good to go unless there are more storms in the interim. I want to let

everyone know I will not be using the river bottom trail this year due to the spring flooding that deposited a new layer of mud on those trails. Thanks and hope to see everyone in mid July.

Barry

MNDRA I RIDE REPORT

First I want to thank all of those who came to MnDRA I despite our challenging Spring. Conditioning was slim for many, and then there was the snow - just three days before the ride. And not just a couple inches - 18 inches for some! I know it kept a few people at home. However, some determined folks did dig out - thanks! And those of us north and west of the Cities were just cold. We went through a record amount of firewood for MnDRA I and thanks to the Fetts for bringing the fire ring!

Thanks to our veterinarians - Dr. Dean Peterson & Dr. Bonnie Miller. We riders can not do what we love to do - without your dedication. We truly appreciate it. Thanks to Diane Merz and Bev Specht for becoming water women for the weekend because of the finicky pump. Jerry McCarthy made sure your water on the trail was full. Terri McCarthy and Bob Egerer were our able timers. Thanks for food

makers Candy Barbo and Sharon Hahn. Holly Egerer, Jan Rivard, Cathe Cheesebrow, Melissa Prokup, Dr. Julie Johnson, Wendy & Ed Hauser, Carmen Stueck, and Emily Gruber all helped in the vet area. Karen Kersten helped mark and unmark trail. And we had a wonderful number of brand new riders in the novice ride; thanks to group leaders on Sunday morning - Sue Schedin, Peggy Pasillas, Linda Goddard and Ken Meyer. Riding and helping as well - Suzy Warren & Karen Kersten. And it was good to see Henry Gruber and his camera on the trail capturing wonderful images of us as we trotted by.

Sorry if I missed anyone - your help is very much appreciated no matter how large or small.

We hope to see you all on the trail this summer!

MAPLEWOOD RIDE REPORT

A great weekend! We had a bit of rain on Saturday, but not enough to put a damper on our day! Rider numbers were down... we had 56 riders go out on Saturday and Sunday. There were no takers for the two day competitive ride this weekend, and we only had 6 competitive riders (4 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday). Diane Schermerhorn and Paula Golagowski did a fantastic job of marking trails. Our vet team was super, and lots of fun to work with. I for one am hoping to run into Dr. Bonnie Miller and Dr. Julie Johnson again very soon. They were a fun and efficient team! Sarah Peltier did a delicious job of feeding everyone. Frankly, I am surprised that more did not volunteer just for the food (smile), and our BBQ grill operators (Todd Larson and Donny Schermerhorn) did a great job of pot luck duty. We also really liked the new ride headquarters location. We had lots of room, yet were off of the road. Additional bonus.. we were very close to the water.

Hightail Ranch and Rescue brought a rescue horse along for her debut on the endurance circuit, and she did a terrific job of strutting her stuff. Izzy, our little morgan mare is searching for her new home and would love an endurance family! She finished her first LD in great shape and with surprisingly low heart rates; and she even went out the next day on a novice ride. Go Izzy!

A special thanks to Powells for letting us take over their camp site. Thank you to all who helped, and to all who attended our ride!

Due to the very great demands the rescue program is making of our time, Joel and I are gratefully turning over the management of the Maplewood Ride to Diane and Donny Schermerhorn. I have no doubt the ride will be in great hands!

Charlotte

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Hola to all from Villa de Leyva, Colombia where I was working an endurance ride. Quite similar as the rest of the world but it was difficult to figure out how to fill out the ride card when it is all en espanol!! What a beautiful country. And such difficult trails! Happy trails to all and be safe! Mucho gusto!