



MnDRA News

Hot and Hotter

Heat and humidity control Mosquito and Zumbro



**Laurie B
had a
good 50 at
Mosquito
Run**

PHOTO BY
BOB
ZIMMERMAN

Howdy all,

Well it had to happen sooner or later. The heat and humidity kicked in for the July rides, making it a challenge for horse and rider. I took some P&Rs at mosquito on Sunday and there were a lot of mid-teen respirations in the comp division and a couple in the mid-twenties in the novice division. Luckily, the LDers aren't scored on respiration or more may have had trouble. But this seems to be the challenge of Mosquito every year and most riders ride with the heat in mind.

We went to Zumbro Bottoms Boogie for the Sunday competition. We had never been there even for training. It reminded both Theresa and me of our farm area; steep, narrow paths and beautiful woods. It was a ride where you had to truly be a partner with your horse. Your horse had to trust you as you guided him or her on the best/safest course on a path.

They gave us plenty of time, too much really; we had to work to not come in early. But the challenge was fun, and I suspect we'll return.

As most of you on the email list know, Holly Eggerer asked for a poll on where to hold Point Chaser. Since I was on the reply, I saw most of the votes and noticed a strong preference for the site nearest the voter. A couple folks mentioned their concern about the difficulty of the trails at Zumbro.

After the ride at Zumbro, and noticing some of the posts on facebook about the difficulty of the trails there, I got to thinking about difficulty on rides and what is proper and what is overkill. Part of the reason Theresa takes you across the bridge at MnDRA I is to give you easier trail with minimal sand to compensate for the deep sand on the north side. Zumbro had a lot of hills on the first loop, but the second loop was much easier and made up for the walking you had to do on the first loop.

Holly mentions that a lot of trails were like Zumbro before they were improved by the parks. It made me wonder if we aren't getting too soft in our desire for trails that are flat and wide. There are some trails I find myself dozing on as I don't remember whole sections. I didn't have to pay attention; I just have to post correctly. I definitely prefer the rides where you have to be on your toes to protect both of you.

So it begs a question, what ride have you done do you think is the most challenging and why? It doesn't have to be a MN ride. Send me an email and I'll share some of the views in the next newsletter.

Speaking of protection, we have an update on Bev, who will probably tell you, you should practice dismounting quickly from your horse. There is an update on Thistledown, and other odds and ends.

=;{} Happy trails, all. Ken

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VETTING IN



Theresa Meyer is considering making the trek to Pine Marten Run this year on Oct. 1 & 2nd with Queen.

Leaving Thursday or Friday. Anyone want to truck pool? It's an 8 hour trip from my house according to mapquest.

Email me at tmeyer@tpt.org.

Theresa

Suzy sends his link about wearing helmets. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awJDYBhBPzk>

Hi all--please pass this around to anyone who might be interested. "Z" is a lovely registered gelding that has been in rescue (MN Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation) since he was a weanling. He was started and supposed to be in the upcoming Trainer's Challenge, but the trainer had some life changes that require a move to Faribault, and so he has been pulled out. I haven't put a stick on him yet, but he's at least 15h, and has been started walk-trot. He loads well, stands for the farrier, he MOVES beautifully, and is a general all-around good boy with a good brain. He is

currently at my place and will likely stay here for a month or so, if anyone wants to come visit him! There are a few photos on www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org, and I hope to have a few more soon. If you have questions regarding adoption, please contact Drew at (763) 856-3119 or drew@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org ; if you'd like to see Z, please contact Siete Leguas Equine at (320) 685-8730. Thank you! Nicole

Thanks for everyone's suggestions and your patience.

Holly



Found at <http://4.bp.blogspot.com>

The site for Point Chaser is still in the air. It seems that the officials at WI DNR are just as challenging to work with as some MN parks, so Gov. Knowles may not be available. We are still looking for options or the possibility of using Zumbro Bottoms. There will be a special update when plans are finalized.

DANNA & ELIZABETH'S

BANQUET BITS

Belly up to the bar, it's time to get your drink on! ... We mean ...
MnDRA now offers an "off season" pentathlon, consisting of five MnDRA bar challenges.

BOTTOMS UP,
Danna & Elizabeth

THISTLE DOWN RUN UPDATE

Trail Update: Once again Teresa’s practice trails will be open for your riding enjoyment. It wouldn’t be TDR without some new trail and we spent a few days of chainsaw and hand trimming to open up almost a mile of new wood trail.

Horses can run barefoot as there will only be about a mile of gravel road. The Novice ride will be a 14 mile loop. As usual, Teresa will make sure Dale has enough ribbons in the right places so even the greenhorns will stay on track.

Our sandy soil sucks up water like a sponge, so don’t worry about washed out trail or campground swimming pools unless you see an Ark being built. The wet summer has produced tall, thick foliage and some trails are like riding in a green tunnel.

Saturday night potluck: A mystery person plans to bring a fiddle for your entertainment. If you have instrumental or vocal talent, come ready to join in as some dinner music and maybe jamming later will be fun.

Music, great people, door prizes, and a potluck meal will make everyone a winner.

Meet A Volunteer: We would like to recognize Orlynn Hanson, one of our core volunteers and official timer at TDR. A horse loving Frazee native, she drives a medical van, owns two horses, Midwest Minnesota Harness Club member, and has ridden horses for 56 years. She enjoys collecting horse memorabilia, spending time with friends, rummage sales, and weekly trail riding.

Teresa recruited Orlynn for the first TDR as a helper and then we discovered her timing talent. Early each day you will hear “Trail’s Open” and then a happy “Tally Ho” as she sends off the riders. She loves to give each horse encouragement when they come in and calls them all “her favorite”. We are lucky to have her as friend and please remember to say thanks to this great horse loving lady.

See you in August
Teresa and Dale Fett



**Orlynn
and
Hotshot**

MOSQUITO RUN RIDE REPORT



Mosquito Run's best friend, the mosquito eating dragonfly. Pic by Bob Z

I would like to thank all the people who helped at the Mosquito Run Ride this year. Without all of the help that is volunteered we would not be able to put on the ride.

A special thank you to Carmen, Vanessa, Jen, Brianna, and my neighbor Carol who helps mark the trail on Thursday. Also thank you to all of you who pitched in and helped with scribing, filling water tanks, working at the desk, helping novice, scoring, helping with loose horses, hurt riders, and anything else you may have volunteered to do.

Everyone is always eager to help and easy to work with. Bob and Linda especially came just to help and take pictures-they were great.

I also have to thank the vets-not easy to work in the heat for 3 days-way to hang in there. The entries were fewer then last year but it looks like we did OK-thank you to those who rode and managed the heat. Be sure to give Bev a call or drop her a note.

Staying cool and dry may be a challenge for the rest of the summer but enjoy the long days that are left. Thanks again, Lynn

BEV SPECT INJURY UPDATE

So, if you aren't on facebook or have missed a ride, you may have been wondering what Lynn was referring to concerning Bev.

Bev had a dismounting accident on the trail at Mosquito. What seems to have happened was that she and Katie were ahead of a rider who was off her horse trying to fix a broken girth. There were some young turkeys in the area and when they flew, they spooked this horse who went flying down the trail toward Bev with the saddle under it. Katie started to get scared and Bev tried to dismount, but landed horribly wrong. She broke her ankle on one leg and her tibia,

and fibula and knee cap on the other. The ambulance was called and drove down to the trail to get her, making riders do some interesting bushwacking to get around them. It was also another example where emergency folks need to learn about horses; they had their lights flashing, were yelling, and hit their sirens as soon as they could.

As of Aug. 1st She's had 3 surgeries and should be done: Two on her ankle area and one on her knee. She's now got plates and screws in both areas, so now she's "bionic". Doc says approx 12 weeks of healing ahead. She's on pretty strong pain meds, but is still having pain

before her next dose is due. Katie is for sale if anyone knows anyone who's looking for an Arab/pinto, and Bev suggested she'd do well at dressage.

Bev stressed that Katie didn't do anything wrong to cause Bev's injuries, Bev decided to dismount when Katie got scared by the horse charging up the trail with the mane flying and saddle underneath, and Bev landed wrong and hard on both feet. She sounds like she's bored with being homebound, so I suspect she'd appreciate calls from friendly voices.

Carmen contributed to this update.

TWO MILE MARKER

- There are still a couple of 'left behind' items from RFTB Here is the list:
 - Mary Baker has: **two patterned short umbrellas, pair of tan shoes**
- There is an endurance ride in Canada folks may be interested in. Go to this web site for information: <http://www.doublejoy.com/erol/Calendar/RideDetails.asp?rideID=5518>



Ride Calendar

August 20th - 21st, 2011

Thistle Down Run, Frazee, MN
Teresa & Dale Fett, 218 334-5711
Fetbros@loretel.net

Sept. 10th - 11th, 2011

Charity Cup, Pillsbury State Forest
Angie Miikkelson, 218 290-1121
Trot2much@gmail.com

Sept 24th - 25th, 2011

Run for the Ridge Fort Ridgely Park
Sarah and John Mauss, 507 340-7859
Sarahmauss@hotmail.com

MNDRA'S PENTATHLON PUB CRAWL

Complete all 5 bar challenges and win a free MnDRA beer mug.



PUB CRAWL ROSTER:

MNDRA I – NYE'S POLONAISE
RUN FOR THE BORDER – PSYCHO SUZIE'S
MAPLEWOOD – WILLIAM'S PUB
MOSQUITO RUN – SHOUTHOUSE DUELING PIANO BAR
THISTLE DOWN – COWBOY SLIMS

Note: Please drink responsibly. Junior riders will be served hot chocolate and hot apple cider.

