

MnDRA NEWS

Season Two is Days Away

Run For the Cactus

It is this coming weekend! See Sarah's update on page 3.

The Board Explained

This will be a short series describing what each position on the board does. This month Sandy and I describe the secretary position. Page 4

Charity Cup

Darlene has sent a brief update on this ride. You can find it on page 2.

Second Season

- Run for the Cactus Aug 19 - 20
- Charity Cup Sept 9-10
- Run for the Ridge Sept 23-24
- Point Chaser Oct 20-21 (Fri/Sat)



Hi everyone,

It's August already! It didn't take me long to settle into 'little or big paper day' mode. I've really lost track of time and the best is yet to come; there are more and more back!to!school ads every week. That's when I will wake up with a smile on my face.

I got enough questions and sage advice on my email quip about the bike ride that I should explain. Dylan and Darcy live in the Powderhorn region of Minneapolis. That neighborhood does a community!building bike ride that goes for twenty!four hours. The kids, Theresa, and I are making up a team to ride this. It's actually low key. After the first lap, you can do what you want. The main route goes right past their house so I figure we will do some laps, and then take a break, then do some more. Now I know I sound like a heretic here, but we are missing RFTC for this.

As for the hip, I am having a spur ground down and some shaping of the ball so it fits better. It's arthroscopic, but the healing time is long. Three weeks on crutches, then after a couple months he will let me sit in a saddle not on a horse. After three months he said he'll let me on a horse I trust. I told him I don't own one of those. We'll see. RMs should be happy as I'll have time to volunteer at their rides.

Charity Cup

Everything for Charity Cup is taking shape! I am a little disappointed with the MN DNR. Foolish me; I thought the park and trail people would like a "3000 donation and be willing to do some work on the trails. But that is not going to happen. With that said the trails at Pillsbury are in good shape. There has been some logging. But all is well.

We are taking donations for the silent and "not so silent" auction.

Also, the tee shirt sales should start soon. Any questions on that contact Cody Collins.

Come and join us for good riding and fun!

Darlene



Speaking of volunteerism, I thought I would do a series on, in my opinion, the most time-eating volunteer jobs in the MnDRA organization. I see these as secretary, points-keeper, web guru, and the biggest, the MnDRA ride managers. I hope that by sharing what they do, membership will be more understanding when things don't go as well as they think it should. Also, there is creativity in the masses, so maybe someone will read about these positions and make suggestions as to how something can be changed. But remember, many of these positions are held by folks who have a system, so if you make a suggestion to any of them, realize that it may not fit their style or system and sometimes change takes more time than being inefficient.

A big part of the reason I'm doing this is I didn't know what was involved in a couple of the positions. I also made it my goal to improve the communication in MnDRA. I think there are ways we can improve and over the next year, I'm working on making it easy for members to get information. So this month we will start with the secretary position.

One last request. The first two rides were really well attended; the next ones not so much. If it wasn't for the novices, the MnDRA rides would have suffered. As it is, SE took a beating. These last rides are private rides. The people putting them on could lose money. We are blessed in MN with nine really nice rides. For those of us who aren't point-chasing, it is a leisurely, full season. But if we take the rides for granted and skip a few MN rides for other rides, some of the rides may disappear. We lost one recently and three others are hanging on. A couple bad years in a row could doom them. So, while no one should be expected to ride all the rides, do try to give some priority to our MN rides.

Happy trails all.

Ken



Run For the Cactus

Run For The Cactus is looking more and more awesome!!! If you haven't made reservations, let me know. The park is allowing 2 rigs at each site, but only charging for ONE camping reservation. What a deal!!!

I've been working on some stunning trails through private property...this is a ride NOT TO MISS! We also have some fun awards and Turkey Supreme for potluck. Co\$ee in the morning for everyone as usual. And those of you who would like to help out, it's very much appreciated when you can help: with the vet area, picking grass seed, supervising cow gates, or volunteering to lead novice groups. If you lead a novice group, you don't pay for those miles. Please let me know if you're willing to help!

Thanks so much, you guys make this all possible.

Sarah.

Secretarial Procedures

I would like to describe the check cashing system to help everyone to understand our banking system. Our MnDRA checking account is located in Annandale, about 2 1/2 hrs. from where I live. For this reason, I do our banking by mail.

It takes 2-4 days after a member mails their dues before I receive them. In April, when I seem to be getting a dues check just about everyday, I do collect a few before I deposit them.

I journal every check, recording who it's from, what it's for, the check number, the amount, and then fill out my deposit slip. I've been noticing it usually takes about 4 days from the time I mail the checks in until the bank records them.

I realize members are also wondering why it takes so long to receive their checks back after paying for a MnDRA ride, I receive them from two to five weeks after the finish of a ride. When I receive the ride checks and paperwork, I go through everything, and start journaling the checks.

There have been times I've received checks for 3 rides all about the same time. What you also probably don't know is that the bank only allows us to deposit 100 checks in any calendar month before they start charging 10 cents/check to deposit them. Because I try not to have our banking cost the organization anything, I count to make sure I don't deposit too many in any given month.

Due to my jobs, I do the MnDRA paperwork in the evenings, after work.

If there are any more questions or comments, please let me know, I will do what I can to answer them. I try to do my best for the organization, but if you have suggestions please speak up.

Sandy

President's note: The board is considering moving our bank account to perhaps speed up the turn-around time.

In Memoriam

They say it is better to have known someone for a little while than to have never known them at all. On Friday, July 28th, my stallion, BSA Elite Eddition 'Eddie' took his final breath while several of us stood helpless outside his stall. We suspect it was an Aneurysm. He was only 14. Every day was a good day for Eddie. I miss him nickering for treats and ringing a cow bell in his stall. I miss him flying home from his pasture to see if we were going for a ride. And I will miss the ride.

His was a life taken all too soon and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Darlene