

July 2005 Newsletter

JACK'S STALL - July 2005

July certainly has been a busy month. As I am writing this Linda is in the process of packing everything but the kitchen sink for our weekend with Wayne County OHC. It promises to be a fun time. I will let you know how it turns out.

The Celebration 2005 Ride was a big success. As of this writing the final accounting has not been done so I don't know how much as a fundraiser the ride made. However, I do know that it was a very nice weekend for just about everyone who was involved. The weather was nice and the trails were in the best shape for the ride that they have been for several years. Patricia Vance and her crew deserve a big round of applause (or is it applesauce) for putting together a first class event.

Several club members took part in the Harry Potter Festival in Peninsula. Joyce Tretow was a dementor riding Solo the unicorn. Stacy Sadar was the nervous mother of Solo. I was also a dementor and rode unicorn Willie Friday evening and unicorn Patty on Saturday. Sherry was Harry Potter riding Duster the hippogriff. Reuss was an on foot dementor in charge of street cleaning behind the unicorns and hippogriff. Linda was kept busy passing out bottles of water as it was really hot and humid. All in all we had a lot of fun but it was very tiring for both human and beast. (pictures coming soon!)

The competitive trail competition is shaping up nicely. Looks like we will be able to have at least 20 obstacles to test horse and rider. It should be another great weekend. I am looking forward to the clinic. Those things are always good.

I think that I had better see what is going on in the kitchen. I'm hearing funny noises. Linda may be really packing the kitchen sink.

May you be with your horse. Jack

CELEBRATION 2005 - A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!!!!!

By Patricia Vance

Mother Nature cooperated to provide us with perfect weather for July! Warm and sunny and not humid days , and cool clear nights. Perfect.

78 competitors participated in the ride. We had a very nice group of novices this year. After the rider's meeting on Saturday night, the novices had the opportunity to gather with Carolyn Sullivan who stayed as long as they wanted, to answer all their questions. Carolyn has many years of experience in this sport and so provided lots of great information to everyone who was trying this for the first time.

This event is a major project to stage. Arrangements need to be started in December. It could not happen without the fantastic help of our volunteers.

We had so many wonderful prizes donated that we were able to hold an auction of extra prizes. Most of these prizes were donated by various businesses. Each donator has an ad on our web site. Please check them out and patronize these businesses. The task of acquiring the prizes was handled by Linda Weese who absolutely did an awesome job! You saw the fine merchandise we had there. Being able to hold the auction, brought in additional money to the club.

Special thanks to Julia Klarawski, owner of The Saddle Shack nearby on the west side of Cleveland Massillon Road just north of the Ira Road intersection. Julia's generous contribution is greatly appreciated. If you haven't been to the Saddle Shack yet, stop in soon. The Saddle Shack, Official Neighborhood Tack Shop of Celebration 2005!

Linda Weese also took care of registration for the pleasure riders, operated the "club store," and promoted the businesses of our contributors. Helping on this were Sue Benedict, Robin Wicks, Stacy Sadar, Liz Bailey, Hope Orr, Sandy Bauer and Carol Himelright.

Our super salesman, Mike Pota handled our 50/50 raffle which also raised a nice profit for the club.

Joyce Tretow 's employer, American Greetings, donated all our copying needs. The maps for the ride were beautiful! Color and all! Joyce also provided the ambulance trailer and tow vehicle and was one of the drag riders who follow the last rider back to camp and also pick up the trail marker ribbons. Also helping out with this were Jack Weese, Sherry Eucker and Ruess Griffiths. (Hey you all! You missed a few!)

Helping to mark the trail route was Carolyn Sullivan's 29 year old champion distance mare, Santee. Santee is retired but enjoyed her trip around the Perkins loop.

Helping our vet judge, Maureen Fehrs and our lay judge, Becki Buckroeder with the vetting were Bobbi Broa, Stacy Sadar, Bonnie Bennington, Jody Dunaway, Bill Cameron, and Kim Andrea and others.

Mike Andrea was in charge of road spotters who included Leslie Andrea, Carol Himelright, Wayne Crouse and several others. Road spotters do a very important job to make sure all the horses and riders get safely across roads. Also, again providing a great plus to the effectiveness of the road crews were our friends from the ham radio club, Gary Miller, Tom Collins, Joe Bartzi, Larry Fields and Steve Jones. Many thanks to these guys!

Dennis Sinclair and his mighty Ford tractor and loader took care of the grounds cleanup. On Sunday, he had help from young Matthew Wilkes, who after riding and placing first in the 30 mile junior division on Saturday with his 31 year old mare was looking to volunteer. Dennis also transported water buckets and other items for the riders to the halfway point and back on Saturday. Thanks to Bill Kulmala and Marilyn, owners of Trash Masters for the manure removal. They provided a big dumpster. We take pride in leaving that field as clean as possible.

We appreciate the great cooperation from our friends at the National Park. They grant us the privilege of using the Howe Meadow as our base camp, and mowed the trails and are always willing to work with us on this event.

Jim Sullivan acted as timer, helped by Carolyn.

Deb Donner handled getting the ribbons.

Setting up and taking down the tent and tables were Mike Andrea, Jerry Kipp, Dennis Sinclair, Carolyn and Jim Sullivan and Carol Himelright.

Late Sunday afternoon Pete Eastman, from the Dayton area, who had brought his two daughters and their two horses, found that his tow vehicle would start but not run. He was able to make arrangements on Sunday for someone to come out and fix it the next morning.

The park was contacted, no problem. Carolyn Sullivan offered to take the horses to her barn for the night until their

vehicle was repaired. She lives nearby and brought her rig down and transported them. Mike Andrea took Pete and his daughters to get something for dinner. Pete came back to the site with Mike and helped with the final cleanup and loading up of everything to go to the storage garage. The horses rested well, the vehicle was repaired and Pete, his daughters and the horses started for home around one pm on Monday.

As ever, the food was great. Friday night hot dog dinner and Saturday night chicken and biscuits were prepared by my little sister, Regina Vance, assisted in serving by Hope Orr, Wendy Pengal, the ride manager and others. Dave Donner prepared the worker lunches, sloppy joes and hot dogs and chips.

Special thanks to our ride secretaries, Kathy Schmidt and her sister, Carol Masek. This is about the biggest job in the entire event. They register the competitors, do all the scoring tallys and try to keep everyone organized. Kathy also took care of the breakfast coffee and rolls.

Deb Aldridge was a big help with the awards. She also donated two gorgeous pillows with horses on them which were bought at the auction by Linda Weese. (Someone said Deb turned down a free ticket to see Toby Keith at Blossom on Friday night so she could stay and help!)

Our club president, Sherry Eucker is a professional barefoot horse hoof trimmer. Sherry donated awards to the barefoot horses who won in the various divisions. You will see when you read the results, barefoot horses did extremely well!

The complete results will be posted on our web site in the near future.

Lost and found. We have several articles that were left behind. If anyone is missing anything from the ride, contact the ride manager. The items are being held in the lost and found department.

There are many others who volunteered at various tasks including Steve Wood, Belinda Joreski, Jeff Barto, Kathy Cameron, Mark Eastwood, Molly Eastwood, Lydia Collins, Cathy Naugle, Carol Blakely Brandon Bron, and if I missed anyone, I apologize and say thank you to all of you!

A competitive trail ride is one form of what is known as "distance riding." Endurance racing is another. The focus of our club is trails, developing trails, building trails and maintaining trails and riding trails in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Many people enjoy recreational trail riding on these trails. Recreational trail riding is not "an event" but nevertheless it is distance riding. Celebration Competitive Trail Ride is an Event which showcases distance riding and the need for miles and miles of trails!

We heard many compliments on the facility, on the great road spotter crew, on the trails, on the friendliness and helpfulness of everyone at the site. The most often heard comment was "I had a great time!"

Thanks to all of you who participated either as competitors, pleasure riders, volunteers or guests. Not only was the event great fun, but a great success in every way.

Patricia Vance

Medina County-Ohio Horseman's Council
Celebration 2005 ~~~Competitive Trail Ride
That's That for 2005

Well, it took a whole lot of Volunteers doing a whole lot of *This & That* to put on *Celebration 2005*. One Pleasure Rider from another chapter indicated to me that he was very impressed by the magnitude of the event and how much effort was made by the Medina Chapter to sponsor the ride. It took a whole lot of individuals doing their very important assignments that made *Celebration 2005* a worthwhile event of which they should be very proud. Congratulations and thanks to all of our terrific *Competitors* and *Volunteers* for a wonderful weekend!!!

A huge debt of gratitude goes to our Ride Manager, Patricia Vance, for months and months and hours and hours of work and sacrifice. You did a great job Patricia! Thank you so very much for everything. It was a pleasure working with and learning from you!! And, it was a lot of fun too!

We have placed on our website 40 different businesses and individuals who donated awards, food and services to *Celebration 2005*. In addition, there are 6 Breed Associations who graciously sent awards for our Competitors. We wish to sincerely thank them all for their generosity! Please check them out here on www.medinacountyohc.com and **click on their web addresses** for a direct link to their websites. We hope that you'll patronize their associations, businesses and products whenever possible.

The Pleasure Rider/Volunteer Registration Table with sales of Food Tickets, Camping, Merchandise, Valley Girl Calendars, Raffle Tickets and Auction helped to enhance our fund-raising event. For their wonderful dedication and help, special thanks go to Stacy Sadar, Robin Wicks, Sue Benedict, Sandy Bauer, Liz Bailey, Hope Orr and Carol Himelright.

Thank you to our Medina-OHC super salesman, MIKE POTA, for his willingness to always help out. He's the absolute best 50/50 raffle man in the business. His dedication to Valley Girl Calendar sales is nothing short of phenomenal. Thanks also, Mike, for willingly promoting Medina-OHC and passing out brochures for us in your many travels around the state. Thanks for your dedication. We appreciate your help!

Joyce Tretow, your help with printing was amazing, thank you!

Also, Thank you Deb Aldridge for your time, patience & kind teaching! Thank you Jack for your perception, knowledge & help!

Linda Weese, Medina-OHC, Awards Coordinator and Pleasure/Volunteer Registration Coordinator

June 2005 Trail Maintenance Report

The last work party was June 18th and we fixed the switchback on the Valley Trail north of route 303. The switchback was cut several feet back into the hill and a better turning platform was created so that horses could make the sharp turn before stepping down the hill. (I thought it was important since I came off my horse last year in just that maneuver).

The next work party was scheduled for July 16th but I am moving it to July 30th instead. My horse, Duster and I have been requested to be at the Harry Potter festival in Peninsula on the 16th. Duster is going in costume as a hippogriff (see latest HP movie "Prisoner of Azkaban". I will send out a separate e-mail so that members know when the work party is. I didn't do a good job of that for June and paid the price for it. Since I was the only one who knew when the work party was, I was the only one who showed up. That's a lesson I won't forget!

The CVNP has accepted my suggestion that Perkins be rerouted between the first and second stream crossings south of Everett Rd. The reason for the reroute is that the trail runs right next to the stream and portions of the trail are regularly slumping into the creek. Also there are MANY culverts along that section of trail that take a lot of maintenance each year that I would like to avoid as well. The trail will be rerouted up the hill and will drop back down to stream level at the 2nd crossing. We will begin this work at the next work party on July 30th. This is an important project so we can use a good turn out. If we bench in the rerouted trail properly, we should have a lot less maintenance on Perkins in the coming years.

The Park has fixed the damaged trail on the lower portion of Perkins that was a concern for the Celebration Ride in July. They were waiting to see if the reroute was approved before fixing this slumped section. If the reroute was not approved, they were going to do a more extensive repair.

The quarterly meeting with the Park is July 5th. We will be planning the work sessions for the next three months. I suspect that much of this work will be on the Perkins reroute. I will keep the pressure on them to finish the work around the Arizona bridge on Riding Run. I will be able to provide an update on this meeting at the next club meeting on July 6th.

Reuss Griffiths
Trail Maintenance Chairman

Horse Trail Maintenance in the CVNP – UPDATE!

Here are some updates from Reuss on the Horse Trail Maintenance in the CVNP, Please mark your schedules:

July: The July work party has been changed from July 16th to **July 30th**, July work party will bench in the new reroute trail on Perkins about the 1st and 2nd stream crossings from Everett Road.

August 13th: Work Party will Complete the Perkins Reroute. Rreroute trail will remain closed for an additional two weeks to allow the surface to dry and harden up before riding begins.

August (to be announced) Special Work Party near end of August to officially close the lower Perkins trail by putting up some split rail fences on both ends.

September 24th Work Party. Work on muddy section by Arizona Bridge and Riding Run, hopefully with Park Equipment and Help.

October and November work parties. Begin Turnpiking Valley Trail between Radio Tower and Route 303. This will be done with Telephone poles (we hope from First Energy in Akron) and Gravel. This is a long term project which will probably not be finished this year. Our Object will be to get the poles in place this year.

Please mark you calendars with the dates given, and stand by for additional dates. We need big turn outs at these events in order to finish the work in front of us. Please come out and help!!

May the Horse be with you!
Sherry

Friendly Reminders - Don't forget....

1. Check out the Schedule of Events and the Regional Ride Schedule on the WEB!!!
New items have been added.
2. Look over the Donation List for the Celebration Ride and BUY something from these wonderful people.
3. 3. Are you keeping track of your miles? Links to forms are on the website
4. 4. Are you coming to the Judged Trail Competition? [Check it](#) out on the web...Sign up NOW!!!