

March 2005

MOHC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2005

The meeting was called to order at precisely, approximately 7:15 by VP Jack Weese. President Sherry was home with the flu or something like that.

Due to the weather the program speaker had to cancel. The program has been rescheduled for next month.

New members attending the meeting were Russ and Shirley Sales. Guests were Sgt. Jim McRitchie and his wife.

A card for Don Shutts was signed by all who were present. A card was given to Mike Pota celebrating his 83rd birthday. Mike missed being a charter member of the club by 6 months.

Since the weather was so awful terrible it was agreed to have Sandy Bauer and Jim McRitchie make their proposal for a judged trail ride. Sandy and Jim presented their ideas and after a considerable amount of disorganized discussion the members present voted to proceed with a judged trail ride weekend.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The treasurers report was accepted subject to audit.

Patricia Vance reported that preparations are well under way for the Celebration 2005 Ride to be held the weekend of July 8-10. Patricia asked that all club members step up and help with the ride to make it a true club event. A sign up sheet was passed for members to contact businesses that they are familiar with for donations for the ride. Linda Weese is the donation coordinator.

Bob Burrows presented the individual committee budget requests and stated that they need to be approved one at a time. Budgets were approved for the regional ride, the trail committee, the sunshine committee, and the web page.

Reuss and Jack reported some of the highlights of the state meeting which was attended by Jack and Linda Weese, Reuss Griffiths and Sherry Eucker. The major items of interest were insurance for state and county officers, bylaws amendments, budgets, feasibility of 501c3, The Quarterly and permanent meeting location. Jack and Reuss will be members of the state bylaws committee.

Reuss reported that the park declined the proposed trail building seminar with CAMBA. He also reported that we as a club need to do some long term planning with the park regarding the bridle trails and what can be done to get the environmental study underway and how additional funds might be obtained.

The first work party will be March 26th. Meet at Robinson Field.

Carol Himelright stated that we need more club brochures. Patricia Vance will print a few to hold us over until a new brochure is designed.

Our first casual ride of the year is the St. Patty's Day Ride on March 19th at Hinckley. Susan Burrows is the trail boss.

Summit County Chapter is having a work party March 12th. Meet near Farmstead Road and Everett Road at 9 AM. Pat Vance asked to borrow some of our tools and to bring a chain saw if you have one.

The Ohio Trails Partnership is holding a work weekend at Mohican the weekend of April 2nd. Everyone is invited to attend and be willing to be worked like a rented mule.

To everyone's relief the meeting was adjourned on a Patricia Vance motion. All in all it was a pretty good meeting and quite a bit was accomplished. For more information call Jack.

I hope to see more members and guests present next month. Remember the by laws committee committed many hours rewriting bylaws that were approved making our club a member run club rather than a club run by a board of directors. We need as many of you as possible to help make this work and to keep "the club on the go". There are a bunch of exciting events coming up that I am sure that you will want to be a part of so come to the meetings and let everyone know what your ideas are. By the way, the weather will be better (I can't say how much better) ---I promise.

Jack

JACK'S STALL

March 2005

Feb. was a fairly busy month for me. First we had our regular club business meeting, then I had two Trailblazer meetings in the park, then our NE regional meeting and finally the state OHC meeting in Springfield, Ohio. I don't know what I'm going to do when summer gets here and I get really busy.

The state meeting was attended by Reuss, Sherry, Linda and myself. Phil and Ronda were unable to attend. (some excuse about Phil having the flu) The meeting was not the most pleasant that I have ever attended. The food was quite good and there was plenty of it. The meeting itself started with a tug-of-war between the president and the recording secretary for the control of the microphone. After that was settled the meeting progressed fairly well. Just a couple of highlights. A budget for 2005 was passed. The state now has a liability insurance policy covering both state and local club officers. A bylaws change was approved for recommendation to the general membership. There were a few other items that were covered. One of us who was at the meeting will write a more complete report.

This Sunday March 6, 2005 Reuss and I will be in Zanesville, OH for the first meeting of the state bylaws committee. The state bylaws need a lot of work to bring them up to par. The standing rules also need work.

I am putting together a casual ride at Mohican for the weekend of July 22, 23 and 24. Wayne County has a work-camp that weekend. They work half a day on Sat. and then ride. They usually have a potluck on Sat. evening. Those folks have helped us work on our trails. This will be a good opportunity for us to give them a hand and at the same time have some good food and riding and great fellowship. More details will be forthcoming.

I am really excited about all of the events that the club has going on this year. There should be something for everyone.

The newest event that is in the works is a weekend in August where trail riders will have a chance to find out just how good their horses really are. They will receive instruction as to how to work with their horse to be able to navigate both common and really weird strange obstacles. Sandy Bauer and Sgt. Jim McRichie of the Cleveland Metro Park Mounted Unit are heading up this event. Reuss Griffiths, Bob Burrows and I are also on the committee. We will be meeting with the park for their approval just as soon as we can set something up. This is an event that can put every club member to work. Several workers will be needed at each obstacle. As soon as we have a firm date we will be asking all of you to pencil that weekend in on your Valley Girls Calendar and to help with the event. I think that this will become a major annual event that will draw folks from near and far.

It is hard to believe that the first day of spring is only a couple of weeks away with all of the snow that we have on the ground in the month of March. Those of us that have not been trail riding all winter are really looking forward to being on the trails once again. Please, please, please start keeping track of your trail miles. Last year only 23.7% of our chapter members turned in mileage reports to Ronda. Surely we can do better than that. The top counties were Morgan and Morrow each with 93.3% of its members turning in trail miles. Washington County reported 46,786 trail miles ridden. We had 11,462 miles reported. Think about how many miles we would have had if everyone would have turned in the trail miles.

When on trail remember the famous words of Publicus Syrus "There is no need of spurs when a horse is running away."

May you be with your horse as you traverse the trails of life.

Jack

Wild Mustang Slaughter

RENO, Nev. -- For the first time in more than a generation, the mustang -- the very symbol of the American West -- can be slaughtered for horsemeat.

In December, Congress repealed the 34-year-old ban on the slaughter of the wild horses that run free across the West. The move has brought a powerful backlash from activists, who want to reinstate full protection for the mustangs.

"It is really a slap in the face to the American people," said Betty Kelly, co-founder of the horse protection group Wild Horse Spirit in Virginia City, Nev.

Acting on behalf of ranchers who say the horses eat forage needed by cattle, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., attached the amendment in December to a spending bill that President Bush signed into law.

It allows for the sale for slaughter of some older and unwanted horses that are captured during the periodic government roundups aimed at reducing the wild population, now estimated at 33,000 across 10 Western states. About 19,000 of the horses are in Nevada.

A bill to reinstate the slaughter ban was introduced in Congress last month.

Responsibility for rounding up horses on federal land and selling them rests with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which has yet to send any of the animals to slaughter.

BLM officials said the agency is reaching out to animal protection groups and is optimistic that before the summer, it will find new homes for the 8,900 horses and burros that could be subject to slaughter.

"We realize it is a challenge, but we think there are owners out there that would provide the kind of care we are looking for," BLM spokesman Tom Gorey said from Washington, D.C.

The issue has dogged the Interior Department and Congress since Nevada's Velma Johnson, also known as Wild Horse Annie, and a legion of schoolchildren persuaded Congress to outlaw the use of motor vehicles to hunt the mustangs in 1959. That was followed by the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act of 1971.

Sylvia Fascio, a fifth-generation Nevada horse breeder, said there are too many wild horses roaming the BLM land next to her ranch, and some should be sold for slaughter.

"I enjoy the wild horses. I'm blessed to live out here among them and it's a very romantic thought. But there is such a thing as reality," Fascio said. "Since they can't seem to find homes for all of these horses all of the time, there is only one thing left. There are foreign countries that eat horsemeat. We don't now, but we did during World War II. I see nothing wrong with that."

The fate of the horses is also a question of cultural values, according to Mike Schroeder, a Washington state wildlife biologist. "I think of them more as livestock. But a lot of tribes I work with think of them as wildlife that should not be touched," he said in a speech to a Western Governors Association conference earlier this month.

It is a volatile issue. Scott Freeman, a defense attorney in Reno, defended one of three young men who were accused -- and eventually acquitted of most charges -- in the 1998 shooting deaths of 33 horses on the edge of Reno. The shootings outraged animal protection groups around the world and led to death threats against Freeman.

"I have lots of experience doing homicide cases, but I have never experienced the emotional outburst I did with the horse case," he said. "The rallying cry was for the defenseless animals and that the individuals -- who in my case turned out to be innocent -- should basically be strung up."

Burns said the repeal of the slaughter ban is necessary to manage the herds and protect the range. The measure allows the sale of horses more than 10 years old, as well as any that go unadopted three offerings in a row.

The BLM said it believes the 37,000 free-roaming wild horses and burros on the range are about 9,000 more than natural food supplies can sustain. Its aim is to bring the population down to about 28,000.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said the agency already is getting some responses in its effort to find homes for the animals and hopes to find a solution "in a way we feel good about."

How many horse persons does it take to change a light bulb?

WESTERN PLEASURE RIDERS: Oh, my God, someone fix that bulb, I have to have light so that my silver and spangles all glow to their best and so that all the highlighter on Old Peanut Head makes his nose look so smooth and sparkly and oh, my diamond studs have to flash in the light, you know, so oh, someone has to fix it. Oh, maybe you without all the silver on your saddle, obviously you can't ride, you can do it.

ENDURANCE RIDER: Light bulb? Do you mind, I'm trying to get my horse's pulse/respiration/hydration levels down to respectable levels. Once that is done, I have another 50 miles to go before I can even think about changing a light bulb.

DRESSAGE QUEEN: Change a light bulb? Are you joking? I couldn't possibly be expected to subject myself to such a menial task. Change it yourself. Oh, and wash your hands when you are finished. The very thought!

CLASSICAL DRESSAGE QUEEN: These things cannot be rushed, but must be approached slowly, with great patience, and adherence to the principles laid down by the classical masters, otherwise the light bulb will not attain its true potential, but will forever just be a shadow of its true self. Never, ever, use any type of gadget when changing the light bulb. That is an offense to the principles of classical light bulb changing.

EVENTERS: Wuss! As soon as my arm is out of this sling broken after falling off at that large stone wall while riding Hell Bent for Leather cross country, I'll change it. Until then, deal with the dark. It'll put hair on your chest. Only dressage riders require lights, anyway.

NATURAL HORSEMAN: You must instill respect in the light bulb, so that it sees you as the Alpha light bulb, using "light bulb dynamics" (video set available at \$179.00 on my Website). Once you have done this, you will find that there is really no need to change the light bulb at all, but that the light bulb will, with very little coaxing from you (using patented "light bulb coaxer") designed by me - \$99.00 each, for extra \$49.99 you get a introductory video thrown in) will behave as all good light bulbs should.

HUNTER RIDER: Well, I'm waiting for my trainer to tell me exactly how but he is changing light bulbs somewhere else right now.

BACKYARD HORSEMAN: Do I have to do everything??!! Oh yeah, I do, don't I? I'll get to it as soon as I'm done mucking stalls, cleaning and filling the tub, cleaning and filling the water buckets, stacking my hay, setting up for night feeding, cleaning my tack, picking out manure from the paddock, brushing and exercising the horses, and whatever else needs to be done.

and the best. ..

THOROUGHBRED: Who ME?? Do WHAT? I'm scared of light bulbs! I'm outta here!

ARABIAN: Someone else do it. It might get my silky mane dirty and besides, who's gonna read me the instructions?

SADDLEBRED: Don't I have people to do this?

QUARTER HORSE: Put all the bulbs in a pen and tell me which one you want.

STANDARD BRED: Oh for Pete's Sake, give me the damn bulb and let's be done with it.

SHETLAND: Give it to me. I'll kill it and we won't have to worry about it anymore.

FRIESIAN: I would, but I can't see where I'm going from behind all this mane.

BELGIAN: Put the Shetland on my back, maybe he can reach it then.

WARMBLOOD: Is the 2nd Level Instruction Packet in English? Doesn't anyone realize that I was sold for \$75K as a yearling, but only because my hocks are bad, otherwise I would be worth \$100K? I am NOT changing lightbulbs. Make the TB get back here and do it.

MORGAN: Me! Me! Me! Pleeease let me! I wanna do it! I'm gonna do it! I know how, really I do! Just watch! My parole officer said it's okay, really! And when we're done we can go over to the neighbor's and chase their cats!

APPALOOSA: Ya'll are a bunch of losers. We don't need to change the lightbulb, I ain't scared of the dark. And someone make that damn Morgan stop jumping up and down before I double barrel him.

HAFLINGER: That thing I ate was a lightbulb?