

# May 2005 Newsletter

## Club on the Move

The Club on the Move's April ride was held Sunday, April 17th at the Polo Field. It was a wonderful day to ride! The group rode out at 11:00am at a *brisk pace*, Partially due to my horses exuberance, well down right bad attitude snottiness...But HEY! a 2 mile gallop early in the morning can't be all bad, and well I still couldn't beat Jack and Willey....claiming he was leading a S L O W Ride. Things did slow down, and I did get to see most of the country side as the ride wore on.

Vice President, Jack Weese showed us a "new" trail. I guess the trail has been opened for a while, but Reuss and I have not been that way for ..a while....

The Cleveland Metro Parks do a awesome job of trail building, yes stoney, but at least dry and open!!!

The afternoon wound down as we returned to the Polo Field, and enjoyed the new picnic pavilion, and lunch.

We are coming into our club events now. May is our Regional Ride, July the Celebration 2005, and August will be our first annual Competitive Judged ( trail obstacle ) Ride.

June is open for a day ride? Suggestions???

See ya on the trail

Sherry

## JACK'S STALL 5-05

Is *SPRING* finally here? I surely do hope so. It will be really nice to be able to complain that it is too hot to do this or that.

The "club on the move" ride at South Chagrin was very pleasant. We dodged a few raindrops but there were not enough of them to cause any concern. Connie Shutts dropped by to chat with us. It was nice to see her. It is too bad that Don was not able to be out and about. All of us should continue to keep Connie and Don in our prayers.

Reuss and I attended the state by-laws committee meeting May 1 at Alum Creek. Since the weather was a bit cool and more than a little iffy we moved our meeting to the Flying J truck stop at I71 & Rt. 36. Doing a revision of the state by laws is just as much work as the complete rewrite of MOHC by-laws was. The state by-laws committee is revising the state by-laws to incorporate regional representatives as members of an Executive Cabinet that will replace the present board of directors. The revised by-laws will give the county chapters more of a voice in the planning and direction of OHC and make the state officers more accountable to the wishes of the membership. Our next meeting will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at the same location and then our next meeting will be at Salt Fork Lodge. Taking care of OHC business on both the county and state level sure can rack up a big bunch of travel time and miles.

I think that it is really exciting that our club has two major events at Howe Meadow this year. On July 8-10, 2005 we have the Celebration 2005 ride and then on August 5-7, 2005 the Trail Competition. The club needs all of the help and support that our members and friends can provide. Every little bit helps. If you can help, we will find things for you to do that will help insure the success of these two major events. The park likes for us to use Howe Meadow to bring visitors into the park. The more horse

people we have using the park the more likely the park will try to find funding for the environmental study so that we can get to work to get the closed trails repaired and open for all of us to ride and enjoy.

Have you ever camped with your horse? Have you ever camped with your horse at Howe Meadow? It is a great place to have a lot of fun with your horse and to meet a bunch of really nice folks who love their horses just as much as you do yours. Join us for the Pleasure portion of the Celebration 2005 weekend. If you have not horse camped this is a great opportunity to see how other folks do so. You can ask questions to your hearts content. If you always wanted to try a competitive trail ride but were put off by not knowing what to expect this is the time to see what it is all about. You can watch the horses go through their vet check and watch the riders prepare for the next days ride. You can watch the ride from various points along the ride route and check out the vet check at the halfway point of the ride. You might even decide to try the Novice Ride on Sunday. Why not get a group of friends together and join us for the weekend. The cost is nominal compared to the benefits. So, come join us.

Our REGIONAL RIDE from Robinson Field is always a fun time. Phil and Ronda organize a first class event. If you can come, please get your reservation in to Ronda just as soon as possible. She needs to know how many are coming so that she can know how much food will be required. This is not a fundraising event: however, we do need quite a few paying customers to break even. The insurance for the event is one of the major expenses that must be covered. If you cannot ride then come out for the trail work party and then stick around for dinner and the campfire lies and tall tales that get taller with each telling. Since Phil and Ronda are relocating to Carroll County this will probably be the last Regional Ride that they will organize for MOHC. This will be a good time to come out to thank them for their efforts in making MOHC one of the premier chapters in the state.

If anyone is willing to take over organizing the Regional Ride for next year please let any of the club officers know that you are interested. All of us in the club will give you all of the support and help that you will need to organize this wonderful event.

I have been toying with the idea of becoming a candidate for the state vice-president office. However, I'm not sure if I have enough "vises" to handle the job or should I say "vices". Rick Patterson who is the current vice-president and who is running for state president has certainly done a great job and raised the office to a higher level. Many thanks go to Rick.

And now for the quote of the month: According to Mary Twelveponies "THERE ARE NO PROBLEM HORSES, ONLY PROBLEM RIDERS." Listen to what your horse is trying to tell you as you traverse the trails of life. If your horse isn't "getting" what you are asking, then find another way to ask.

May you be with your horse.

Jack

## Jack's take on the MAY MOHC meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Eucker at 7:31 pm. The usual hardcore group members were in attendance. It certainly would be nice if more of you could find the time in your busy

schedules to set aside the first Wednesday evening of each month to come to the club general meeting and let your voice be heard in the management and direction of the club.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted after one correction was made. The treasurer reported that we still have most of our money in the bank. The club now has 102 members.

Sherry reported that Shari Dahmer due to health reasons has resigned as club Secretary. I'm not sure but I think that Deb Aldridge has agreed to do the job for the remainder of the year.

Ronda reported that reservations have been slow coming in for the Regional Ride. At this time she has about half of the usual number. If you are coming please get your reservation in asap. The insurance is a major expense for this event. For the event to break even we need enough paying customers to pay for the insurance, food and water. Phil will have the tent and associated stuff delivered to Robinson Field. Tent set up is set for 1:00 pm on Friday. The water tank will be cleaned and fresh water delivered. He promises that the soup tripod will be more sturdy this year and that if you want wood ashes in your soup that will be DIY. The park will mow the field.

Patricia Vance reported that all is well with the Celebration 2005 ride and that Linda Weese has been doing a super job of keeping her on track.

Sandy Bauer reported that the park has approved MOHC's request to hold a trail competition headquartered at Howe Meadow and using CVNP bridle trails. This event will take place Aug. 5,6,&7.

That pretty much took care of the old stuff.

Sherry reported that she had received a couple of letters from other chapters requesting donations to help them complete projects. This set of a lively round of discussion regarding donations, trails and related topics.

After a very congenial discussion the club decided to return to the clubs the trail repair donations that were given to MOHC for the repair of our flood damaged trails. It was felt that it would be better for those clubs to use that money for their trails and projects than for it to sit in our bank since we do not know when the park will OK the opening and repair of the closed trails.

The club decided to donate \$100 to Scioto County to help with their trailhead project at Shawnee State Forest and to donate \$100 to Guernsey County to help with their shelter project at Salt Fork State Park. We have members who ride the trails at both of these locations.

The nominating committee to select candidates for the fall election will consist of Patricia Vance, Linda Weese, Joyce Tretow and Deb Aldridge.

Susan Burrows agreed to take over the job of keeping track of the trail miles and trail work hours after Phil and Ronda relocate in Carroll County. Ronda deserves a huge thank you for doing that job for so many years. **THANK YOU** Ronda.

Phil Urbank will order a truck load of gravel and have it spread on the driveway into Robinson Field. With a little new gravel we should not have to tow as many vehicles.

The June meeting will be held at Equestrian Estates on Rt. 162 West of Sharon Center Circle. The program will be a demo of progressive horsemanship by professional trainer and clinician, Eric Clarke of Progressive Equine Partnering LLC. The club will give a nominal donation to Equine Estates for hosting our meeting.

And then the meeting adjourned.

Jack

## ***This & That***

### ***Celebration '05 \*\*\*\*\* JULY 8-10, 2005***

The time is flying by and plans are moving right along for the Medina-OHC fund-raising Competitive Trail Ride, *Celebration 2005*. Patricia Vance, the Ride Manager, is diligently taking care of all the many details. I've been helping her out with this & that. It is going to be such a nice camping and riding event for *Competitive Trail Riders, Pleasure Riders, and Volunteers*. Everyone involved should have a good time!

**PLEASURE RIDERS**----Say *HELLO* to Howe Meadow (in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park). It is a great spot to camp and ride! This is a once or twice a year opportunity to horse camp and ride from this particular part of the park. Last year, Medina-OHC started offering Pleasure Riding and Camping in conjunction with the Competitive Ride. It worked out very well for those who tried it. This year, we would like to see more folks become aware of and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Come bring your horses and friends and families and we'll all camp in Howe Meadow (Special Events Site). I don't even ride a horse and I get a big "kick" out of it. We have a lot of fun! Take a look at all of the *Celebration '05* information provided for you on our website [www.medinacountyohc.com](http://www.medinacountyohc.com). If you'll give camping with your horses, and Medina-OHC a try, you'll be surprised how much enjoyment you'll have. Don't you miss it or we'll all miss YOU!!!!

**BREED AWARDS FOR COMPETITORS**-- -A large number of competitors ride Arabs and Half Arabs in the Competitive Ride. Horses of other breeds compete in the event as well. Each year we've had a variety of breeds participate and we try to give them encouragement and credit for the work and training they've done with their horses. I've contacted quite a few horse associations who have sent or are sending Awards for the Top Horse in their Breed participating in this Competitive Ride. At this time, the following associations are giving breed awards:

MNSHA (Midwest National Show Horse Association)  
TWHBEA (Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Assoc.)  
THE APPALOOSA HORSE CLUB, INC  
AMHA (American Morgan Horse Association, Inc.)  
ASAV (American Shagya Arabian Verban)  
OQHA (Ohio Quarter Horse Association)  
APHA (American Paint Horse Association)

**BAREFOOT AWARDS** – Sherry Eucker, (President of Medina-OHC) will give awards for the Top Novice and Top Adult riders of Barefoot Horses. Sherry is a Natural Hoof Care Practitioner, certified with the AANHCP.

**ARAB AWARDS** – Jack Weese, (Vice President of Medina-OHC) of *Quality Leather Repair* and *Weese's Woodshop*, will provide the awards for Best Arab and Best Half Arab in each class/division and also the Best of the Rest awards.

We want to thank all of these organizations and individuals for willingly rewarding our competitors for their hard work, dedication and love of competition! Thank you all very much!!!!

### **MORE AWARDS and DONATIONS**

A lot of businesses have been contacted for awards and donations for our Celebration Ride. We have confirmation from quite a few companies who are helping us. Even though our ride isn't until July, some of those folks have already delivered products and gift certificates. We would like to say THANK YOU and encourage promotion and patronage of the following kind folks who have already "delivered the goods":

Advanced Biological Concepts, Australian Connection, Clip-ity Clop, Equissententials, International Rubber Distributors, Litchfield Tack, Medina Farmers Exchange Co., Royal Wire, Running Bear, Schneider's Saddlery, Tractor Supply Co.-Medina, Trail-Rite Products, Uckele Health and Nutrition, Valley Tack, Whales and Friends, Newell Studio (Kathy Newell Worby)

Stacy will be putting the info for all of the above on the website very shortly. And by the way, she has done a fantastic job with the first businesses that responded. The rest of the businesses, as they respond, will get her fantastic "touch" as well. Stacy is a *WEB WHIZ*.

### WHAT IS A COMPETITIVE RIDE ???

Some of you may be like me and wonder what in the world is a Competitive Ride. Okay, here's the simplest way I know to explain it with my extremely limited layman's knowledge of the subject. Competitive Trail Riding is a sport where the contestants train and condition both themselves and their horses to travel a prescribed distance (such as 25 or 55 miles) on trails. Each horse/rider combination starts out with 100 points. There are time limits involved and a competitor must finish the ride within the allowed time frame. He shouldn't be too early or too late or he will lose points. At the halfway point, a veterinarian will check the horse's heart rate and respiration. He will also listen to the gut sounds with a stethoscope. The vet can deduct points at that time. If the vet determines a major problem with the horse, it will be eliminated from the competition and sent back to camp most likely via trailer. At the finish, the Vet once again examines the horse and deducts points as needed. The best-conditioned horse/rider combination will maintain the most points and win this exciting event. I have to give the competitors a lot of credit. It takes a lot of work and heart from both horse and rider to spend the time it takes to train and compete in the sport. It's really pretty interesting to me!

If some of you folks are getting interested in giving Competitive Trail Riding a try, perhaps you'll want to enter the Novice Division of the *Celebration Ride*. If you haven't been conditioning your horse, you may want to get started conditioning now. July 8-10 will be here before we know it. If you have an interest and want to learn more, go to the Summit County-OHC mini clinic on Competitive Trail Riding June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Bath Pony Club on Remsen Rd. in Medina, OH. For more information contact Patricia Vance at (330) 836-9358.

### *Your HELP is NEEDED and WANTED !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

We need folks to help out in a lot of different ways with *Celebration 2005*. One big way you can help is to invite and encourage all of your friends and acquaintances to come camp and/or ride on July 8-10. It truly is an enjoyable experience, even if you are not a Competitive Rider. That is one big way that you can help out! Another way is to volunteer your services. We need a lot of folks to help out in a lot of different ways. Some of the jobs do not involve a lot of physical activity. For instance, we need folks to help man the Pleasure Registration Table on Fri., Sat., and Sun. Perhaps you could donate a bit of time one of those days. We will need folks to help out at Fri. evening supper and Sat. dinner. Then there are all of the other jobs such as timers, starters, vet check helpers, road crews, spotters, and on and on it goes. So, I'm sure that Patricia Vance will find the right job for you, if you'll just volunteer. Give her a call or send her an Email. She's the one in charge, and I know that she will be very glad to hear from you !!!!!

Contact Patricia Vance at (330) 836-9358 or Email [CompetitiveRide@aol.com](mailto:CompetitiveRide@aol.com).

Check out the Celebration Ride and Pleasure Ride information and entry forms that are located on the Medina-OHC website at [www.medinacountyohc.com](http://www.medinacountyohc.com).

Come be a *Competitor*, a *Pleasure Rider*, or a *Volunteer*. You're sure to have a nice time! Hope to see you on July 8-10!!!!

I'll catch you later with *This & That!*

Linda Weese, Awards Coordinator, Medina-OHC, *Celebration '05*

[Lsweese@aol.com](mailto:Lsweese@aol.com)

