



**MINNESOTA  
HORSE  
COUNCIL**

# QUARTERLY

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P.O. Box 292 | Long Lake, Minnesota 55356

A SPONSOR-BODY MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL

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- Winter 1981 -

## MHC MEETING DATES

-- for this spring have been set for the second Tuesday of each month (January through April) at the Medina Ballroom, 7:30 p.m. A May date has not yet been set. Please mark your calendars. (There are no scheduled meetings during the summer months.)

## NEW OFFICERS

The MHC Directors elected the 1981 officers at their December meeting. Chip Reker was elected President; Ron Resch, First Vice President; Dick Duggan, Second Vice President; and Vickie Inget, Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

## 1981 COMMITTEES

Got a question or problem that we might be able to help you with? Please contact one of the following individuals: Commercial (Chip Reker, Ron Resch, Keith Bartz); Education (Dick Duggan, Dale Froyum, Ron Resch); Legislative (Barbara Lyman, George Rice); Membership (Vickie Inget, George Rice); Stables (Bill Anderson, Karen Humphrey); Trails (Vickie Inget, Ruby Bartlett); Funding and Publicity (any director).

## OOPS!

Your editor neglected to further identify one of our new directors in the last Quarterly. Bill Anderson operates Bunker Hill Stables in Coon Rapids and is a former student of Fran Reker. (Sorry, Bill.)

## MINNESOTA HORSE FAIR

The MHC has decided to forego a benefit horse show in 1981 so that it can concentrate on promoting a 1982 Minnesota Horse Fair. Plans are just starting to take shape, but everyone will be encourage to take part. This is YOUR chance to promote your breed, product, or whatever. More information on this will be sent to you when it materializes.

## SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

The Horse Council now has tax-deductible sustaining memberships available for \$25. Remember: your support of the Minnesota Horse Council is promotion of YOUR OWN equestrian interests.

## NEW MEMBERS

Our membership has hit 90 and continuing to grow. We extend a special welcome to Mary K. Bechtel, Tom Raveling and the Minnesota Farriers Association.

## DRAFTS

Yes, the Horse Council is also interested in drafts! There were 284 head of draft horses at the 1980 Minnesota State Fair -- the largest draft horse show in Minnesota history.

## HORSEMAN OF THE YEAR

Your MHC received no NEW nominations for its annual Minnesota Horseman of the Year Award last year. We have a few names in our file from prior years, a couple which were renominated last year. We need your help for future awards. NOW is the time to start thinking about it. Please help us with your nominations for this outstanding award.

#### FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

All grasses, hays and straws should be watched closely during first six weeks of storage. Hay with 30% moisture content is likely site for bacteriological action of fermentation that becomes a chemical reaction which can generate enough heat to start a fire. Roof leaks too might contribute to spontaneous ignition. Drop a thermometer into a pipe driven deep into the hay. If it registers 140° to 150°, recheck it several times a day. If it increases to 190° to 200°, call the fire department to help empty the loft. The bales can explode into flames when suddenly exposed to air. Remember: Even the fire department cannot save a barn that has been burning uncontrolled for more than a few minutes. It is estimated that you will have only 12 minutes to clear a burning barn of your animals. Plan NOW to make the most of it.

#### PINTOS

Congratulations and good luck to the Minnesota Pinto Horse Association in obtaining the privilege to host the 1981 International Championship Pinto Horse Show. It will be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Coliseum, St. Paul, July 13 through 18.

#### COMING EVENTS

Third Annual Jack Frost Circuit (J&R Stables, Chaska) (2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18). Minnesota Valley Endurance & Competitive Rides (August 9 and 10) (Contact Ruby Bartlett). Another endurance/competitive ride at Baker Park for the benefit of Courage Center (October 17-18) (Contact Ruby Bartlett). Western Clinic, UofM Waseca (2/21-22) (\$65/day mounted; \$5/day spectator) (conducted by Gary Knaus, Liberty, Mo.). Winter Horse Fair (4-H) (2/21-22) Univ. of Mn. Livestock Pavilion, St. Paul (Contact Karen Humphrey). UofM Spring Clinic (MHC co-sponsored) (April 4) St. Paul Campus.

#### ENDURANCE INFO.

Did you know that the upper midwest zone (Mich., Wis., Ill., Ia, Mn., SD, ND) has more AERC sanctioned endurance and competitive rides than any other area in the nation? 31 such rides are scheduled for 1981, including three new ones in Michigan.

#### GRAND PRIX

MHC President Chip Reker (Division Sales Manager of National Equine Products, a division of National Vitamin Products Co.), has indicated that his employer would be sponsoring a \$5,000 Grand Prix event at the fall Charity Show this year. Chip (and your Council) hopes this will lead to our Minnesota industries taking a long-overdue interest in Minnesota's quarter billion dollar horse industry by sponsoring similar events in the future. Grand Prix is Olympic caliber competition -- the toughest course in the jumping classes. It is very demanding by its number of fences, heights, distances, and tricky courses. It is also one of the most attractively designed courses as far as decorations go. This event will be part of the Midwest's Grand Prix Circuit and is open to all.

#### ALBERT QUIE TRAIL RIDE

The 1981 ride is scheduled to take place on the Minnesota River Valley trails. It was held here two years ago and we welcome them back for a "rerun".

#### EIA

EIA vaccines do not give a solid, lasting immunity to the disease, report veterinarians. Some vets feel that influenza is the number one equine infectious disease today. Cornell University is, however, now working on a vaccine that will provide immunity throughout the entire season.

#### FETAL ANOMALIES

Dr. Fred Arnold of Lexington, Ky. told other vets that there has been an increase in congenital fetal abnormalities over the past few decades. He believes that this may be due to the excessive use of drugs in treat-

ment of a multitude of equine conditions. The percentage has risen from 1.04 (1947) to 9.47. Dr. Arnold believes that chemical sprays on hay, anthelmintics and other drugs given at the wrong time of pregnancy can be adding to the problem.

#### STALLIONS

Recent research has indicated that a stallion's sexual behavior is determined by his past experience, genetic potential, hormonal status, breeding environment and the stimuli offered by the mare. Poor handlers are often a major cause of behavioral problems. Vicious behavior toward the mare and attendants, like most abnormal sexual behavior, occurs most frequently when the stallions are used for breeding outside the normal breeding season. Therefore, stallions may be unmanageable in January but well-mannered by May, according to Drs. K. A. Houpt and D. L. Lein.

#### MORE STALLION INFO.

Anabolic steroids may be detrimental to the reproductive performance of mares and fillies and may affect motility and total sperm ejaculate of stallions. Steroids did not alter sexual behavior in stallions, investigators report, but did have adverse effect on formation and development of sperm and seminal quality. Apparently its upsets the hormonal balance of the animal.

#### FESCUE GRASSES

Recent research at the Univ. of Missouri confirms concerns that this type of grass causes reproductive problems in mares. This includes agalactia, abortion, abnormal thick placentas and prolonged gestations. Agalactia (not milking) is most common. It is recommended that pregnant mares be removed from fescue hay 60 days prior to foaling.

#### REAGAN

Ronald Reagan has stated his opposition to the anti-drugging bill. "The proposals to federally regulate the issue of drugs and horses should not be necessary. The National Association of State Racing Commissioners . . . came up with adequate proposals which I believe are in the right direction. We simply do not need the federal government in state-operated and state-controlled industries. The implications of federal control are alarming."

#### UNIVERSITY VET COLLEGE

Dale Froyum advises of two significant items of the UofM Vet College: (1) a new curriculum in large animal practice which includes a new unit which will specialize in equines; (2) \$8,700 appropriated for equine research (\$4,700 from private industry and \$4,000 from general Ag. research through the federal government). Additionally, three research projects are in process: one to cover x-ray of horses in the chest area, the second covers responses of horses following drug injections, and the third covers colic cases.

#### CAMP COURAGE

The 1980 Pony Express Ride raised a total \$14,712.56 last year. The cumulative total since 1973 is \$85,791.11. Because of this event, 70 disabled children and adults will enjoy a camping adventure at Camp Courage or Courage North this summer. Approximately 46 saddle clubs, among others, participated last year. Additionally, about 50 people participated in the annual 200-mile Families (Covered Wagon) Ride for Courage. That event raised \$2,500.

#### TRAILS INFO.

(The following article was reprinted from Snowmobiling Minnesota, 1/81):

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## Attitudes Are Changing

A positive step has been taken toward establishing an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation among several different groups of trail users -- horse riders, cross country skiers, snowmobilers.

"The time has come for the various trail user organizations in Minnesota to open a line of communication with each other, present a united trail user front to counteract growing anti-trail sentiment, and to become mutually aware of and amicably settle among ourselves any specific user problems". This quote was the opening paragraph of a letter received from Vickie Inget, Minnesota Horse Council, inviting representatives from the snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, horsemen, Sierra Club, League of American Wheelmen and American Youth Hostels to an informal meeting at her home. The meeting's purpose: to establish that line of communication, to see each other face to face and reinforce that we all share a common interest, a common love of the environment . . . and to begin understanding each other's problem and needs.

Horsemen, snowmobilers and cross country skiers were presented at this gathering. Following is a summary of the exchange which occurred between the three trail user groups: Most horse riding occurs during non-winter months; and where there is joint winter usage between horsemen and snowmobilers, such as when a trail is near a stable, there must be more signage so that both are or aware of the possibility of meeting on the trail. Self-policing is very important for all groups. We have to maintain good relationships not only among ourselves, but with our adjoining neighbors and landowners. Today's horseman, skier, snowmobiler is not the same 'renewed' as yesterday's but we cannot afford to lose the good will we have all worked so hard to create.

A test site [Lake Maria State Park] has been chosen to record the effect of horse riding and erosion over a period of time. The results should, if properly publicized, help clear the misconceptions heard again and again at public hearings. Skiers have little trouble with horsemen using the same trail; as regards snowmobile trails, if there is light usage, the trail can be used by skiers. However, if the trail receives heavy usage, it is impossible. As far as horse hoofprints go, snowmobilers and grooming equipment take care of any problem there for skiers.

Is there a standard design for a trail usable by all? For horsemen, an ideal trail would be one 4-5 feet wide, 3-4 mile-long loops off a corridor, natural surface, varied terrain. For skiers, a trail 3 feet wide, several loops off a corridor, varied terrain. Repeatedly the concept of loop trails off a common corridor trail was discussed, with possibly each usage having its own loops or common loops where compatible. Certain instances of parallel or joint usage were seen as unavoidable if several needs were to fit into one plan. And it was recognized that all groups' needs cannot be satisfied on trails. There must be a willingness to compromise when necessary.

These thoughts represent but part of the topics discussed. Interactions among various users and misconceptions about each group and their wants were taken out and looked at. Are we all that incompatible, that stubborn, that ill-informed about each other, or might there be ways for us to enjoy winter not at odds with each other? If we continue to 'fight' each other, what chance do we have for a fair share in trail planning. If we cannot cooperate among ourselves, how can an outside governmental agency ever hope to design a satisfactory-to-all trail system? If we all keep demanding that our type of trail precedence over another type of trail, someone will be the loser. When issues arise concerning whether any type of trail will be permitted at some location, we dilute our impact as trail users by fighting among ourselves. Joined together under the common umbrella of trail users who are working cooperatively among themselves, our successes can be more frequent.

All the above deals with issues other than that which is most important, in fact vital to any cooperative effort. Representatives of any group are merely individuals who belong to this group or that. There are approximately 1.4 million snowmobilers in Minnesota, some 1/2 million skiers, and roughly 200,000 horses in the state. How can the spirit of cooperation felt at this meeting be carried back to the various memberships, various trail users?

If each of us takes a moment to reflect -- is it better to share something with another, or would we rather end up with nothing? The emotional atmosphere felt at some hearings and sometimes on the trail just perpetuates and increases the misconceptions between user groups. We shake our fists, they shake theirs -- we leave feeling as though we have accomplished something, as so do they.

But reflect. All we have done is further widened the gap, showing the world how incompatible we are, and in the end make the job of satisfying all these antagonistic trail users completely near impossible for government. Our mothers must not have taught us too well. All life is compromise. We have to learn how to share, or the guy next to us may tumble our blocks while we are holding our breath, turning blue.

This group will continue to meet in the future, and hopefully other trail users will be represented as well. We will exchange information on hearings, etc. which can affect our various trail user groups. We will speak to the issues of the areas where compatibility and compromise might bring more positive results for us all.

And we as that you, as snowmobile trail users, also work in your own way toward the goal of better communication and understanding -- so that we all may share in the end result, a more full enjoyment of each one's chosen winter sport.

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(Editor's Postscript: Representatives of snowmobilers (MinnUSA), cross-country skiers (Minn.Tour) and horsemen (MHC & Trail Riders, Unltd.) have already had their first meeting with the Department of Natural Resources regarding multi-user problems that presently exist, and they are now -- together -- looking at possible solutions. More on this as things progress.)

#### DNR PUBLIC MEETINGS

-- are scheduled regarding the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Trail and West Addition. (February 19 at 7:00 at Sandstone High School, Sandstone, Mn.) (February 18 at 7:00, Great Hall, St. Louis County Heritage & Art Center, Duluth). Please attend if you are able.

#### MHC DIRECTORS

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A 320-page all breed comprehensive guide to horses in Minnesota and along its borders. (\$7.50 incl. tax, plus \$1.25 postage and mail to: The Minnesota Horsemen's Directory, P.O. Box 3764, St. Paul, MN 55165.)

NEW BOOK

Horses, A Practical and Scientific Approach, by Melvin Bradley (McGraw-Hill) -- combines scientific information from the historical, physiological, psychological and professional viewpoints.

FILMS AVAILABLE

(1) A private session with Bill Steinkraus. (Equestrian Products, Inc., Dept. 103, 420 Lexington Ave., #2761, New York 10017. (2) Various films on riding, training, dressage, rider's aids, basic paces, and riding positions available from Audio-Visual Center, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, Ind. 47405. (3) Stud managers' course available. Write Agriservices Foundation (Dr. M. E. Ensminger, Ph.D., Director), 648 West Sierra Ave., Box 429, Clovis, Calif. 93612.

NUTRITION

"Hubbard Horse Feeds" -- a new 36 page booklet published by Hubbard Milling Company, Mankato, Mn. 56001. This booklet covers nutrition, digestion, vitamins, and minerals, and feeding recommendations for pleasure, performance and show horses, brood mares, foals and stallions. General health care, diseases and general management of horses are also discussed. Write for a copy.

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