

# The OBR Voice

Outback Riders of Wisconsin – Oconto County

## Hoof Prints:

- Is it Spring Yet?
- OBR Meeting Minutes.
- Horse Knowledge

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## First Things, First!

The Outback Riders would like to **WELCOME** our New Members: Dave & Kathy Bayer, Alex & Charmaine Kurowski, Eddie Kurowski, The Nowinski Family and Duane Dugre. We'd also like to extend a special Welcome Back to Barbara Giese and Kym Rappert.

**Coming Soon!** CFR 104 Easy Access Parking Area Free From Vehicular Obstacles.

Alex, our Logger, is finished with clearing the trees and gathering his logs. If anyone needs firewood please visit the New Parking Area. Many treetops are left for the trimming. *Be Safe!*

2009 Officers and Board Members **PHOTOS** will be taken at the June 16<sup>th</sup> OBR Meeting. Please come fully beautified! Your photo will be published on our website and in future newsletters.

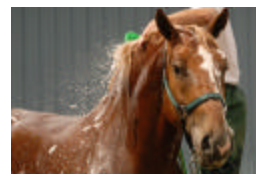
The club has a **NEW** and approved logo. A facelift is also in the works for our valuable website.



## Is it Spring Yet? What happened to Summer?

Whether you've braved mother nature's wrath of the chilly, spring weather or waited to give your equine friend his first bath of the season -here is a trick to avoid the gnarly snarlies in manes and tails: wet the mane and tail, then apply non-medicated shampoo (oatmeal based is a natural option) lather from root to ends. Don't gather the hair up in a bunch in an attempt to wash the mane all at once or you'll get tangles that you'll need a crochet hook to unravel. Rinse hair

thoroughly, than apply conditioner. White vinegar used in the rinse water can help detangle manes and tails. Another nice thing about white vinegar is that it repels those pesky flies. If the roots of your horses mane and/or tail are flakey, Head and Shoulders will work wonders.



**NOTE:** *When it comes to treating flakey skin - Careful with MTG!!! Some horses it works great on, but others can be VERY sensitive. My horse lost his ENTIRE upper tail one week after application. Research witch hazel instead. OBR Member*

Now your horse's freshly, clean mane and tail becomes full of static... dampen a dryer fabric softener sheet and run it over the hair. While you're at it, cut a few sheets into strips and tie them onto your horse's halter. The flies will stay away! Great for trail rides.



*Rain or Shine trail cleaning is a success!*



*Such a dedicated, invaluable group!*



*Tire Mountain!*

## May 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

The Outback Riders May Meeting was called to order by President Jackie Novitski.

**Treasurer Report** presented by Cindy Schultz.

We are growing each month! OBR is now proud to have over 70 Members!

Trail Grant monies awarded and deposited \$2750.00

**Upcoming Expenses:** Open House, Annual Show, Parking Lot Expansion, Show Timer

**Incoming Monies:** Raffle and Donations

OBR received a \$100 donation from VIP Lube in Howard to be allocated for the Show Timer. Thanks Amanda!

The Trail Team GIFTED Carl & Loretta Hill from Abrams a \$50 Shell Gas

Card for their labor/cost of fuel for trail cleaning.

Balance as of 5/18/09 \$4543.98



## Personal Tidbits

In less than a three week period two of our equine friends have been injured and left in an unprepared, disorganized emergency situation.

One accident occurred on our Machickanee Trail System, the other on Brown County Reforestation Camp Trails. We continue send our thoughts and prayers to **Charmaine** and **Bev**.

Why are cell phones a necessary evil on your relaxing trail ride?

### Three Tips

1. Be sure the GPS location setting is activated at all times.
2. Program your **ICE** - In Case of Emergency contact on your phone. Label it ICE. EMS personal are trained to look for this important contact.

3. Be sure your phone is with you and has a fully charged battery.

What needs to be done?

Emergency training and planning in both locations. We need a contact list.

Corrected trail maps with easy-to-follow "in a panic" guides to your location.

Please email other suggestions to: 1equus@msn.com

## In Pursuit of Progress – Team Reviews

**The OBR Raffle Team**  
Members: Judy Verkuilen, Jasmine Havlik & Jackie Novitski will meet to give us an update on the current ticket sales status.

**The OBR Parade Team**  
Members: Gail Stranz, Jasmine Havlik, &

Carol Reinhard sent in the entry fee for the Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> Copperfest Parade. The Club is #65

The Suamico Parade is Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>!

**The OBR Welcome Team**  
Members: Rebecca Smits,

Lisa Funk, Tammy Wichmann & Patty Wisneski will complete welcome kits for our new members.

**The OBR Insurance Team**  
Members: Cindy Schultz, Jackie Novitski & Patty Wisneski – NO NEWS!

## The Votes are in

### 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

#### President

Jackie Novitski

#### Vice President

Patty Wisneski

#### Treasurer

Cindy Schultz

#### Secretary

Amanda Bornfleth-Sheedy

#### Sergeant of Arms

Roy Lindeman

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Angela Blaser

Cathy Hansen

Gwen Kanies

Carrie Quatsoe

Judy Verkuilen

Photos to be taken  
June 16<sup>th</sup>!

*There is an enthusiasm that I see in the horse owner's community that I absolutely adore. Almost every horse owner I have ever spoken with has an amazing horse story about their horse.*

*Sometimes it is a tale of a horse rescue or adoption, a first riding experience, an intense health scare or just a funny or loving experience they had with their horse.*

*Since I also consider myself an "animal person" I find these stories not only intriguing, but quite inspiring. I would like to bring this kind of*

*inspiration to the Horse and Horse Information portion of our newsletter for all to enjoy, but I need the help of all the devoted horse lovers out there who are willing to share their amazing (or just funny and amusing) horse story.*

*I know each of you has a story... heck what is the main topic of conversation for all of us? It only takes a moment of your time and bragging rights, you have all earned.*

*Be ready for a phone call or email request. I will find you and I know you love to talk about your incredible equine friends! ~Amanda*



Just a bit of Humor

## Team Reviews cont...

### The OBR Trail Team

Members: Kathy McNeill, Bev Greunke, Carrie Quatsoe, Cindy Schultz & Patty Wisneski had their meeting at Patty's home.

Although this seems like old news already with the parking lot expansion moving so quickly here is how the progress came about...

Bob Skalitzky (Oconto County) and the trail team members met at Machick to see a few possible locations for the expansion of the parking lot. It was decided CFR 104 (the original parking area at the intersection of Brehmner and Timberline) was the best area for the 25 foot wide expansion of

the road to the east. Bob flagged the area.

Alex Kurowski, a logger, cleared the trees in exchange for keeping the wood between the two campsites to allow more rigs to park or camp. The County came in to clear the stumps and grade the 25 foot path. Breaker run and gravel was brought in with correspondence to our budget. OBR will be applying for another grant for 2010 to complete the project.

No Horse and Campsite Signs are complete. Gail and Jackie began to flag some of the sites. Jackie cleared/ cleaned two of the sites.

Because of an emergency, Gail, Jackie and Charmaine were involved in, new street signs, marked numbers will be created and placed at all intersections of a road and trail. This will help a person describe their location to 911 personnel.

We are also having issues with people taking or destroying the fiberglass sign markers – we will use up the stock supply, than buy wood posts, paint them white and attach numbers, colors and street names. The fiberglass markers are \$15-\$18 each. Wood markers are much less expensive.



No room for "Big Rigs"  
Not anymore!



## The Progress cont...

### The OBR Fun Team

Members: Carrie Quatsoe, Gwen Kanies, Kathy McNeill, Cindy Schultz & Patty Wisneski met at Patty home at 5:30 on May 13th.

It was noted that the first "Pack-a-Lunch" ride was a success even though it was held on Mother's Day, May 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 10 riders - Patty and Glenn Wisneski, Carrie Quatsoe, Patrick Spillane and his daughter, Cara, and 5 visitors.

The visitors had heard about the ride through the Wisconsin Horseman's News and seemed to really enjoy the ride and our trails. They were impressed enough to ask about camping in the Machickanee and we pointed out some of the campsites as we rode past. The group rode for 2 1/2 hours and had lunch on the trail. There were many new experiences for

our guests, as they were used to showing their horses and had not ever trail rode with them, so the water crossings on some of the trails took a little longer but the riders much appreciated the time we took to allow them to work through the situation successfully.

Jackie mentioned that she had the signs for the designated campsites and would be riding on Saturday, May 16th to put them where they belong.

It was also noted by riders that the orange trail that runs along Timberline Rd. was in need of cleaning as much garbage remained on the roadside.

Also, the section of trail that runs along Garrity Road needs to be cleared. This can be done without an ATV and by using your own vehicle so hopefully we'll get a few people who were unable to make the

trail cleaning day to volunteer to do their part to clean the trails. It's especially important as this is the trail we will be using for our Open House ride on June 13th.

Make sure you turn in your trail work time to Kathy McNeill as she is keeping track of this for the Wisconsin State Horse Council grant.

On Sunday, May 17th Gwen K., Cindy S., Kathy M., Patty W., Tom B., and Carrie Q. met with Gary Van Roy at his ranch to finalize plans for the Open House.

Set up will be Friday, June 12th starting at 6:00. We will need to put up two tents and place our trash barrels, put up signage, etc. that night. We still need many volunteers to make this work so please sign up to help the club with this requested endeavor.

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*"the first Pack-a-Lunch ride was a success."*




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*"Outback Riders Open House Ride is Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>"*



## Last But not Least...

### The OBR Show Team

Members: Traci Balza, Amanda Bornfleth-Sheedy, Alan Folkman, Bonnie King & Gail Stranz met Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at Gail's home.

The team reviewed the Show Gate Keeper form and Silent Auction procedures. We need help finding items.

The 2009 Show Bill, Entry Form, Waiver Form and Speed Show Class Descriptions have been completed. Amanda has them uploaded on the website.

The Pleasure Show Class Descriptions will be

finished shortly and uploaded to the site.

Amanda has received a quote from Farm Tek on the new show timer. \$739 + \$15 S/H

*We have decided NOT to sell the old timer this year until we are familiar with the new system.*

Traci has ordered the Pleasure Show ribbons and saved a nice chunk of money. Spent: \$153.14 + \$15.68 S/H

The advertising for the show will be published in the WI Horseman's News Cost \$100

The Show Team has chosen their duties and will have the sign up binder available at the June meeting.

**Reminder: The Speed Show is Saturday**

Is anyone willing to be the Food Booth Manager?

Let's work together to continue to make this Annual 2-day Show a SUCCESS.

**NOTE:** Anyone that has Show Items stored at their home – Please make a list of the items so we can get an accurate inventory and location of the items.



*Elegance*



*Excitement*

## Horse & Horse Knowledge

### Horses and The Heat

Water is top of the list for a very good reason, namely that a horse's body is made up of 70% water. One of the first things you probably learned as a horse owner is that horses need access to fresh, clean water at all times and this is especially important during summer.

Water is vital for fluid balance, tolerance for exercise and also helps digestion. Did you know studies have shown that restricting a horse's water intake for as little as two hours greatly increases the chance of colic?

Horses drink around 45 litres of water a day and this can increase by up to 40% during warm weather.

Excessive sweating, elevated pulse & diarrhoea can cause your horse to become dehydrated, you can check for this by doing a pinch test.

Pinch the skin in the middle of the horse's neck and pull it gently outwards, then release. If your horse isn't dehydrated, the skin will snap back into place straight away. Skin that takes 2-5 seconds to return to normal indicates mild dehydration, while skin that takes 10-15

seconds shows severe dehydration.

Other signs of dehydration or heat stress include sunken eyes, a tucked up appearance, heavy breathing and a rapid pulse.

A horse's diet will also influence his water intake, hay requires more water to chew and swallow than grain, while grass (which has some water content) requires less. When travelling, consider taking along some water from home in case your horse doesn't like to drink water that tastes different.

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*We need a volunteer to be this year's Food Booth Manager!*

## Outback Riders

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### We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.outbackriderswi.org](http://www.outbackriderswi.org)

## Knowledge cont...

A lot of times you'll see horses grazing out in the blazing sun but they do have access to shade when they start getting too hot, or feel like a snooze. If there's no trees then you must provide some kind of shelter, the higher the roof the better air circulation will be. It can even have just a roof and no walls for optimum air flow. If you know a

handyman, even a shade cloth with 80% sun blockout would do, but it must be sturdy enough not to flap in the wind, otherwise your horse won't go near it.

Trees with overhanging branches and thick foliage are ideal. Your horse needs access to shade from dawn to dusk during summer.

Place some hay in the shade for him to eat if he wants as this helps his digestion moving along. It's also a good place to locate a salt and mineral lick.

### Horse Care Tip

Regularly pick up manure from beneath trees or around your horse's shelter to reduce annoying flies.

## Let Us Hear From You!

Did you get a new horse? Have a new foal? Got an interesting tale to share?

If you have good news or story ideas that you'd like to see in this newsletter, please let us know!

We want to get to know

you better. The club will be asking for special feature stories throughout the year.

This publication will be most effective when it meets the needs of the OBR membership. The

photos in this issue also come from our members.

Please send info to:

Amanda Sheedy  
1021 Arthur Blvd  
Pulaski, WI 54162

Email: [1equus@msn.com](mailto:1equus@msn.com)

### *About Our Organization...*

The Outback Riders Horse Club was established to create and maintain a public bridle path in the beautiful Machickanee Forest in cooperation with Oconto County Land Forest and Parks Committee. To promote and

protect the interest of all Wisconsin horsemen and horsewomen is more than rewarding! Members work hard to create, maintain and promote equine trails, facilities and activities in surrounding counties.

By enabling horse enthusiasts of all disciplines and abilities to engage in outdoor equine activities in a beautiful environment and safe from vehicular traffic, we can enhance the quality of life for all.

## OUTBACK RIDERS

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