

September 2009

The OBR Voice



Outback Riders of Wisconsin – Oconto County

First Things, First!



It is with deepest sympathy & sincere condolences we send to Sherry Lucas, in the loss of her daughter.

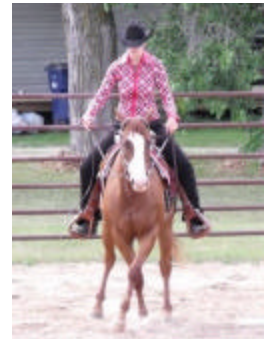
OBR has sent a memorial plant in support of the days to come.

The Outback Riders would like to **WELCOME** our New Members: Carrie & Steve Dunlop, Chad & Heather Bergemann.

IN THE NEWS! Sara Van Den Elzen and Megas Doctor Time (barn name: Mater) took 3rd place in Western Pleasure at the Wisconsin State Horse Council's Championship Challenge. The competition, which was held on September 12th at Heartland Stables

in Custer, brought together the best of the best from the open shows held throughout the state. Exhibitors had to qualify to compete at the championship show by placing 1st at sanctioned shows during the summer. Sara and Mater qualified by winning their western pleasure class at the Outback Riders Pleasure show, plus several other wins at other open shows in the area. Sara purchased the 5 year

old APHA gelding in June of this year. She does her own training at her farm in Stiles Jct. that she owns with her husband Andy.



Bringing Peanut Home *part 2*

The day to bring Peanut home finally arrived. My wonderful husband Dave and I hooked up a trailer, and we were off to Owen, WI to get Peanut.

I felt like we were driving about 15 mph but Dave assured me that the speedometer worked just fine and we were cruising at 65. When we arrived, they brought Peanut out to me and he loaded into the trailer with ease. Almost like he was ready to go for a ride! My husband also worked out a deal with this family and we bought Peanut's harness and collar as well.

When we unloaded Peanut at home, he was

very curious about his new surroundings, sniffing and snorting the whole time. For those of you Saddlebred owners, I am sure you can appreciate just what I am talking about.

I brought Peanut to his pasture, and it was not until I took him off of his lead that I realized, "Peanut has not been turned out for 3 years!"

When I let him go, he just stood there and looked at me as if to say, "Uh okay, what am I supposed to do now?" He kept looking around and he finally took a small step, then another. Pretty soon Peanut was literally

running around the pasture, kicking up his heels, tossing his head and acting like a foal that had just discovered his legs. I swear I saw a smile on his face! I never experienced such happiness coming from a horse as I did that day.

When Peanut finally decided to take a break from running and stretching his legs, he discovered that he had a perfect sandy area in his pasture for him to roll in. And boy did he ROLL! He went down on the ground and rolled back and forth more times than I thought a horse ever would or could.

Cont...

ANGELA BLASER is having a barn dance Saturday, September 26th!

Party starts at 6:30pm Suring, WI

All club members Welcome!

The festivities will have a Hawaiian theme.

Please call Angela 920-842-9111

To coordinate your dish to pass.



Nite Train is the musical guest.

The Abrams Parade Saturday, Sept. 19th was a great success.

OBR has 13 participants for wonderful support of the club!

September 15th Meeting Minutes

The Outback Riders September Meeting was held at Sherry Lucas' farm with a demo on horse massage. The guest speaker, Jaime Lind, gave a presentation on massage for your horse, which can be used on any pet or human. Jaime has offered to do a clinic to show participants how to do the work on their own animals. This would be a single day clinic for training.

Interested? Contact: Jaime Lind 920.606.1394 Sherry Lucas 920.826.5771

Treasurer Report presented by Cindy Couillard.

Balance as of 9/15/09 \$3321.33



OBR CLUB MEETING!

The OCTOBER 20th Club meeting will be back at the Chase Town Hall at 7pm.

The meeting will include a pot-luck dinner. Please contact Sherry Lucas 920-826-5771 who has volunteered to coordinate the food items. This will ensure we don't have 10 pots of chili.

We are looking forward to a meet and greet dinner to welcome our new members and to catch up on events in the area.

One of our younger club members, Ally Magnin (age 11) had a wonderful year at the Oconto County Fair. Ally was Reserve Grand Champion Halter, Grand Champion Showmanship, earned numerous blues and reds and Best of Show at the end of the day!

Ally has a 4 yr old Morgan mare, named Bella who

she has only been riding less than one year.



Ally also won the first ever Jr. Fairest of the Fair contest held during the Fair. There were six young ladies competing for the crown.



Congrats Ally!

In Pursuit of Progress – Team Reviews

The OBR Fun Team
Members: Carrie Quatsoe, Gwen Kanies, Kathy McNeill, Cindy Couillard & Patty Wisneski

The Nicolet Search Team has tentatively scheduled a mock search in the Machickanee for Saturday, October 10th.

All OBR members are invited to participate in this event. You do not need a horse to learn or be a part of the mock search. There will be no classes this year, the team and participants will just jump into the search.

Contact Patrick 920.848.2547

The Fun Team held the annual camp out weekend on August 28-30th. Ten diehards spent a damp weekend at 9 Mile Allsport resort with a few others arriving for the day on Saturday. Despite the rain, we did manage to ride each day for several hours and complete the Poker Run Sunday.

Team Review Continued...

September's pack-a-lunch ride was great! There were so many riders; we broke up into two groups. It was a relaxing ride and it was good to see Carol riding her new 4 year old Rocky Mountain horse. There were 10 trailers in the new parking lot and room for more. What a nice place to plan some events for next year!

Talking of the pack-a-lunch rides...the last one is **Sunday, Oct. 11th**

Who would like to volunteer to lead?

It's easy - plan the route and make sure no one gets left behind. The pace of the ride is dependent on the rider's skill and the age of the horses involved. It's fun!

The board of directors held a meeting in early September to discuss events and what we might do for next year.

It was decided to draw up a questionnaire for club members to fill out and return to Carrie Quatsoe.

Please complete attached questionnaire. Your thoughts as a valued member are important. We would like to plan events that not only support the purpose of OBR but also provide enjoyment and fun.

You can bring it to the next meeting or mail it to the address provided.

CONGRATS!

Gail Stranz & "Paco" for completing their first Endurance Competitive Ride with Jackie Novitski aboard "Spirit"

Both Spirit & Paco performed like pros even though this was their first competitive venture in the woods!

Bringing Peanut Home *continued*

He must have had one heck of an itch. And again, I realized that he really had no place to roll since he shared a box stall with another horse for the past 3 years. When he was outside, he carried a complete harness and was hitched to a buggy.

I felt so much joy that day, just sitting back and watching "My Peanut" play in the field. Our entire family came outside just to watch him and all agreed that it appeared as though Peanut was laughing and enjoying the new freedom.

Peanut and I began to ride together almost immediately. The first few saddles I tried on him did not fit, and he let me know quite clearly that he did not like how the ill fitting saddles felt on his back. After much searching and consulting with different saddle fitters, I found a flex tree Western saddle that works quite nicely on Peanut.

We have been spending many hours in the saddle together. It seems that he has not forgotten any of his previous training and is a real trooper traveling down the trail. We have truly been enjoying the Wisconsin horse trails tremendously. We are very grateful to the Outback Riders Horse Club and their contributions to the trail system in the Machickanee Forest, just a few short miles from our home.

Peanut is in his forever home. He never should have left in the first place and I am so very lucky to have been reunited with him. I want to send a personal "THANK YOU" to Shalene, the woman that helped me to find Peanut, and a big THANK YOU to my wonderful husband for all of his support through everything that we have experienced with searching, finding and bringing Peanut back home, where he belongs!

True Story by Kathy Bayer, OBR Member



Please be sure to contact Patty to order your club apparel!

celtichorseembroidery.com

Outback Riders

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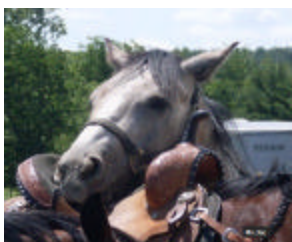
eMail:
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.outbackriderswi.org

Guess who my mom is?



Safety on the Trail *by Carrie Quatsoe*

The weather is cooling down, the bugs are going away and the time for fall trail riding is upon us. As you plan your trips to the wonderful trails in our area and in other states, there are a few tips to remember to make your rides more enjoyable and safe.

First, take a look at your equipment. Is your saddle in good repair? Check your cinches or girths. Make sure the leather is not cracked or worn. Look at your bridle too. Are there worn areas that need repair? Take it from someone who had a girth break (on a borrowed saddle) at a full gallop. The saying "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" should be changed to "what doesn't kill you, makes you smarter" in this case. Taking the time to clean your equipment and inspect it at least twice a year is well worth the time to ensure a safe ride.

Next, pack yourself a small bag to carry on yourself. Pack what you might need in case of an emergency. To give you an idea of what I mean, I'll list what's in my personal pack. I have my cell phone, a knife, lip balm, my emergency inhaler (as I have mild asthma) and a map of the area I'm riding in. Your pack would include things that would be necessary for you, should you and your horse part ways. Then I pack my saddle bags with items I would like to have but can live without should I part from my horse. Water, granola bars, an extra jacket or sweat shirt, a camera, whatever makes your ride more pleasing? Since most of us aren't riding in the back country, we can keep it fairly light weight and not overly bulky.

Now, the ride itself... Gather your friends and plan a meeting place. Before you start out, talk with the other riders. What are their expectations for the ride? Does someone have a young horse that needs a quieter, slower ride? Is someone riding a gaited horse just being started that needs to stay at a slower pace to stay in gait? Or is everyone comfortable with all gaits and like to trot and canter for distances? How long will the ride be and what will be the difficulty of the terrain? These all need to be discussed before starting out on your ride so that everyone has a safe and successful ride. After all, these are your friends and you want them to be safe and want to ride with you again.

Once on the trail- spread out. No one likes a tailgating horse. It is dangerous and can irritate the lead horse. A good rule of thumb is to keep one horse length between horses. That way no one gets kicked. My group of riders will ride side by side at times when the trail allows, but our horses have been riding together for several years and know each other well. Still, my mare can be cranky at times so I'll keep her away from the others on her off days. Be aware of your horse's moods and ride with awareness.

Be courteous on the trail. When leading the group, always let them know before you change gaits. That way no one will be left unaware and struggling with an unruly horse as the rider in front of them lopes away. Also when slowing down, use arm and voice signals to let everyone know that you are changing gaits. The group should slow down from the trailing horse to the lead horse. That way no one gets run into by the horse behind them. The most important thing is that if a rider/horse is having an issue, the whole group stops until the situation is under control. Safety is the number one concern.

The key to safe trail riding is consideration for yourself, your horse, and your fellow riders. Taking time to communicate with each other prior, during and after a ride will help to prevent misunderstandings and mishaps. Happy Trails!

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.