



Purple Briefs

August, 2011
Tina Nunez, Editor

Brown County Hotties!

By: Karen Humphrys

Several die hard riders braved the heat to trail ride on July 28 to July 30 weekend. Those going all weekend were Marla Robertson, Tina Nunez and Camri, Vicki Cox, Dana and Ricky Taylor, Jackie Capps, Annette Lutz and Karen Humphreys. We started by having a Friday evening ride cut a little short because of the sounds of thunder. We got back in time for supper and didn't get wet. Later that evening it did rain which was much needed. But we were all in bed by that time. Next morning we woke to nice weather, not as hot in the early morning and we headed out in small groups to eat lunch at Story. Ann Bastin, Rhonda Brown and Linda Riley drove down to join us for a day ride. We had a great lunch with lots of laughing and talking. We took the long way back to camp. When we got back, Annette, Karen and new friends Katelyn and Bre headed for the pool and a refreshing swim before the pitch in. Brown County has a huge pool but they didn't allow cannon balls. The pitch in left no stomach hungry. We had a huge table full of food. After dinner, with some encouragement from Marla, Tina got a campfire going, like we needed it in that heat. But it did make it feel like we were camping. Of course, we were watching it from about 20 feet away. Some ladies even took a bare

back ride around the camp ground. Then, more visiting was going on around the fire until we felt the need to hit the showers. Sunday started cool so some of us went out for another ride. Some loaded up to go home, Trish Kelley came down for a day ride.



Pictured front: Marla Robertson, Dana Taylor, Camri Wiley, Tina Nunez, Jackie Capps, Vickie Cox. Back: Annette Lutz & Karen Humphrys.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

8/6 & 8/7—Trail Ride, Clinic & Strassenfest Parade (Dubois County)
8/7—Clinic (north)
8/13—Clinic Central
8/14—Parade North
8/20—Driving Clinic
8/24—Indiana Veteran's Home (demos)
8/25—8/29—Annual Jamboree (Raymondville, MO)

SEPTEMBER

9/2—Trail Ride, Southern Indiana
9/3—Parade Central
9/10—Trail Ride, Southern Indiana
9/10—Clinic Central
9/18—York Hills Trail Ride
9/18—Trail Ride North
9/19—Dream Ride (Utah)
9/24—Persimmon Festival
9/24—Kentucky Horse Park (Drill Team)

OCTOBER

10/1—Festival of the Horse (KY)
10/2—Pumpkin Festival
10/8—Qualifying Clinic/Formation Riding Central
10/9—Fall Foliage Parade, Martinsville
10/16—Trail Ride North
10/22—Clinic North
10/22—Trail Ride Central
10/27- 10/30 —Trail Ride Central

Please visit the website for more detailed information on these and other activities.

Crafts Anyone?

In February 2012 RHPC anticipates having a craft day. As mentioned in Jane's e-mail re the last board minutes, the international Red Hat Society has instituted a program of "Sock Monkeys"--- making and giving these sock monkeys to members in need of cheering up or needing a "group hug".

If anyone has an idea of something we all could make on this craft day, please send suggestions to Dian Speck, dasspeck@tds.net or 317-539-4568.

Thanks, Dian

McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade *IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!*

If you've been thinking you might want to do the McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago, it's not too early to begin thinking about putting your costume together. Contact Jane Howard (springjane@msn.com) to order your cape so that you can begin decorating it. It seems like it's far away now, but it will be here before we know it!

Meet our Newest Members

added since 4/19/2011

ANN DAY—is located in Cicero and enjoys her paint horse, Kiss and Appy/Draft cross Bud.

BARBARA MONTGOMERY (BARB) - Barb is located in Oakland City, IN. Tyme4ToPlay@aol.com

LISA WEED—Comes to us from Kokomo and has a TWH named Drifter. weedpatch77@comcast.net

MAGGI TYLER—Resides in Platteville, WI and has two Gypsy mares, Quince and Daisy. Harkaway@yousq.net

PHEBE BLACKBURN—is from Indianapolis and rides an Arab/Paso Fino named Poncho. logoblack@aol.com

PEGGY KELLY—lives in Trafalgar, IN and has an array of horses including a Morgan, Mustangs from BLM, Morgan/Friesian cross, KMH/Arab Cross, Polish Arabian, and an Arab/Mustang cross. pkelly1964@hughes.net

MARY ANN HOPE—is from Bloomington. esperanza121@earthlink.net

COURTNEY ESLICK—lives in Martinsville near Jane Howard, Jane Hamilton, Jenny Eby and talks frequently to Lisa Barnett. Her husband, Cory is also joining the club as an associate member. courtney714@msn.com

KATHY EDLER—Bloomington. Mini.horse7@hotmail.com

ERIKA MEHRINGER—from Ireland, IN and is the daughter of Anne Mehringer. Erika will ride her QH in the Strassenfest parade. emehringer@mail.usiedu

CONNIE FREESE—comes to us from Rushville with her mini, spotted saddle horse and Peruvian passo. freeseconnie@yahoo.com

JESSICA WYATT—is located in Poland, IN and is the granddaughter of Cecelia Trueblood.



2011 Drill Team Update

The New RHPC Drill Team has been practicing for a couple of months now, and has just about gotten the routine down pat. Drill Leader, Dana has put together an awesome drill, and with the help of several knowledgeable members and her hubby, Ricky, the routine has been tweaked and adjusted so that it runs very smooth and is very cool to watch. A big THANK YOU goes out to the Rushville County 4-H Fairground Committee for allowing the team to utilize their facility the weekend of July 16 & 17. Having all that time together provided an excellent opportunity for all the team members and their horses to become very familiar with the routine and comfortable with what they were doing. In the process, the team was able to add a new member from the area!

Current team members are: Dana Taylor (Leader), Jackie Griffin, Teri Rypel, Lynn Voight, Joy Fowler, Tina Nunez, Sheryl Garlish, and Connie Freese. Jane Howard currently serves as an alternate.

The team only has one performance this year, September 24th at the Kentucky Horse Park. If anyone is interested in going to KHP as DT Roadies, it sure would be appreciated. Plus, if you've never seen the drill team in action, it's quite a site. And the folks at KHP are so receptive to all RHPC ladies. It sure would be nice to take a small fan club down with them. If you're interested, please contact one of the members, or Drill Leader Dana for more information.

Mounting Tips

By: Karen Humphreys

I have seen many of you having problems with your horses standing still while you mount. I also see several of you having to have someone hold your horse while you mount. Here are some tips to get your horse next to rock solid while you mount. It takes at least a month of consistent work to get your horse steady. And just when you think they are standing like they should, they will start moving again. So it is constant training to get them to stand still. This is good spring time work since it is too muddy to ride usually.

Start by doing ground work around your mounting block. Turn your horse back and forth. When they want to rest, go a little more then stop your horse right beside the mounting block. If they move, start the ground work again. When they stop and stand by the mounting block, then go up to the saddle and flap the stirrup leathers to desensitize them to that sound, Then jump up and down beside them. Put your foot up to stirrup and back down. Then do ground work again, moving the horse around and back and forth. Stop by the mounting block again and repeat the above exercises.



After about a week of this, when they stop, get up on the mounting block and slap the saddle all over, swing

your arms and jump up and down on the mounting block, touch your toe to stirrup but do not get on yet.

Next step, after doing ground work around mounting block, slapping the stirrup leather, slapping the saddle, jumping up and down on the mounting block, this time get on and SIT. DO NOT MOVE THE HORSE. Rub and love on their neck and rump. Then get off, Do it several times. Do NOT MOVE THE HORSE.

Next Lesson, do the above lesson and this time, get on, flex their neck back and forth, back the horse and get off. Repeat.

From now on when you mount your horse, when at a parade, trail ride or clinic, do some ground work, stand horse by mounting block and if they offer to stand still, get on, SIT Quietly for at least one minute, flex neck both ways and back up. Then you can ride off to the right or left not straight ahead and continue with the clinic or trail ride.

I hope this helps you all. It has helped my horses and since I am getting so slow when getting on and off. I still have to go back occasionally to do a refresher course. Horses will try to get to be lead mare but we must be one step ahead. Keep up the good work.

Seven Stages of Horseback Riding

By: Jan Naser

About once a week I trail ride with my good friend Debbie. We showed horses together for many years, and I'm really enjoying introducing her to the more laid back experience of trail riding. So when she called to cancel this week, I was surprised. Then she explained that she'd taken a tumble off her gelding while riding in the arena, and needed to take it easy for a few days. We were both disappointed, and together we lamented how our bodies just don't withstand the insult of getting tossed from the saddle anymore. "Let's face it," I told Debbie. "We're getting older. When we fall off we don't bounce." Indeed. Though we used to consider falling off just another aspect of horsemanship, nowadays we see it as something we'd really like to avoid. It has nothing to do with fear and everything to do with a loss of elasticity that occurs to human bodies on the other side of thirty. Yet because we're horse crazy women we continue to ride, leading the non-horsey folks around us to think we're suffering from some kind of dementia. So that you can understand this concept better-or maybe prepare yourself-here's a little chart that explains it all.

The Seven Stages of Aging on Horseback

Stage 1: Fall off pony. Bounce. Laugh. Climb back on. Repeat.

Stage 2: Fall off horse. Run after horse, cussing. Climb back on by shimmying up horse's neck. Ride until sundown.

Stage 3: Fall off horse. Use sleeve of shirt to stanch bleeding.

Have friend help you get back on horse. Take two Advil and apply ice packs when you get home. Ride next day.

Stage 4: Fall off horse. Refuse advice to call ambulance; drive self to urgent care clinic. Entertain nursing staff with tales of previous daredevil stunts on horseback. Back to riding before cast comes off.

Stage 5: Fall off horse. Temporarily forget name of horse and name of husband. Flirt shamelessly with paramedics when they arrive. Spend week in hospital while titanium pins are screwed in place. Start riding again before doctor gives official okay.

Stage 6: Fall off horse. Fail to see any humor when hunky paramedic says, "You again?" Gain firsthand knowledge of advances in medical technology thanks to stint in ICU. Convince self that permanent limp isn't that noticeable. Promise husband you'll give up riding. One week later purchase older, slower, shorter horse.

Stage 7: Slip off horse. Relieved when artificial joints and implanted medical devices seem unaffected. Tell husband that scrapes and bruises are due to gardening accident. Pretend you don't see husband roll his eyes and mutter as he walks away. Give apple to horse.

Trust me. Despite a lack of bounce-ability, aging on horseback isn't so bad, as long as you know what lies ahead. And as long as you keep your sense of humor.



RHPC @ Gray's

Nothing beats this summer's heat than several RHPC members getting together at Gray's for lunch, laughter, visiting and just enjoying friendship of the day. To our surprise, we saw two other Red Hatter groups doing just the same. Red Hats were everywhere! It was wonderful to have two new members come join us, Janet McCarty and Laurie Thommen. So following Queen Jane's lead, we all took turns introducing ourselves and talking about our horses. Do you know what a 'camel toe' is? Most of us have never heard of this before .. have you? You need to ask Susie Chirpas. Until the next time,

Sharon Capper

Board of Directors Meeting—Highlights

July 28, 2011

1. **ACTHA Ride:** MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2012, RHPC ACTHA RIDE AT MIDWEST. We'll need volunteers in all phases of this ride. If you can help please email me and I'll put a list together. It would be especially helpful to have people who have experience with the ACTHA program. We don't know yet who will be in charge, but we are taking names to form a committee.
2. **Comfort Creature:** The international Red Hat Society has instituted a program of "Sock Monkeys." A chapter decorates up sock monkeys in RHS colors and gives them to members who are in need of some comfort. RHPC is looking to institute something similar such as comfort doll, horse, pillow or something of the sort. One cold February day we could get together and make them and have them on hand for our comfort princesses (Angel Marks and Sharon Shedron) to distribute when needed. We hope none of you have needed Angel and Sharon, but we know some of you have, and we hope that this program has been helpful to you. While we are not a religious organization we do in some ways function as a church group with member support, etc.
3. **Geocaching:** We are beginning to look into a Geocaching ride to add a little fun and adventure to a trail ride. We are hoping the trail ride team will pick up on this and run with it. We thought perhaps each rider would pay in \$20 and it would be 50% pay out to top 3 finishers and other 50% goes to club to help cover some of the expense of setting it up. If you are interested in helping with this email me and I'll put you in touch with the right person.
4. **Indiana Veteran's Home:** The Indiana Veterans Home has called us a number of times wanting us to do show and tell, so Wednesday August 24 10 am Lafayette, IN is our Dog and Pony show. If you would like to participate email me, and I will put you on the list.
5. **Nursing Home Visits:** Way to go Cecelia!!! We're proud of you! (Story to follow in up coming BP's)
6. **Invitations:** The RHPC Drill Team has been invited to perform at the Secretariat Festival in Paris, KY for 2012 as well as at the Polo Matches in Lady Lake, Florida. WoW!
7. **Points and Awards:** The Point System and Awards are being reworked and will appear in the new handbook. They will also be emailed out as soon as the document is finished.
8. **Financials and Budget:** The club is on target for the 2011 budget. In addition the club is totally debt free and has a tiny nest egg for emergencies. Thanks to all those who helped and participated in fund raisers for this fact! We are hoping for 2012 we can cut back on fundraising except really fun stuff like ACTHA and GEOCACHING.
9. **Membership inquiries and new members** is exactly even with 2010 figures. As you recall we felt that as of 2010 we had saturated the Indiana market with membership at an all time high but new applications dropping continuously for the past few years. If the present trend continues throughout the year we will have plateaued with new applications and joiners.
10. **Advertisement:** The board voted to take out a trial 3 month ad in Amy Latka's Indiana Horse Network site. We will advertise the November meeting there as well. This audience is a little different than the ITRA audience we reach with ads there. We love diversity and hope to attract even more disciplines to the club as we all learn a tremendous amount from each other.
11. **Initial Dues:** It was felt that the initial dues for all comers whether riders, non riders, scooterbabes or whatever should be kept at \$50. That way they all get a membership pin, t shirt, handbook, etc. (Which cost the club plus postage.) We are all in this together and "all pigs are equal" on this "Animal Farm."
12. **The 3rd Annual Jamboree** in southern Missouri at Golden Hills promises to be a hoot. There will be movies, games, trail riding, etc. The Kansas Chapter has worked very hard with our own Dianna Shuler to make this a memorable event.
13. **Healthy Horse Healthy You** will be November 5 at Hendricks Regional Hospital. Members \$35; non members \$45. Make reservations with Sandy White sasnakmorgans@gmail.com and mail check to Arlene Smoot 2532 W 200 S Danville, IN 46122. Please see the website for a preliminary schedule.

Johnson County Park—Update following Board of Directors Meeting—August 4, 2011

Per the park board meeting last night the park board has no intentions to privatize the park and the information in the Daily Journal was incorrect. The park has exceeded the county's request to cut the budget by 9% by cutting it 12% from last year. The majority due to the 4 early retirements. That brings the parks operating budget down to \$601,954 for 2012 upon approval by the County Council in September.

With staffing reductions there may be some business office hour changes coming, but those changes will be communicated by the park staff.

The Park Board intends to continue in maintaining, and where possible, improving the park which is a very positive note. However, staffing will be a challenge with the loss of 4 key personnel and a loss of a cumulative 128 years of experience. Various contractor options are being reviewed and look for additional information regarding requests for volunteer days.

Two newer staff members have been trained on dragging arenas by John and Harold before they left.

The key to keeping the park alive is being patient, positive and taking a sense of ownership in this valuable facility. Thanks to those of you who responded to my last e-mail and to those who did attend last night's meeting. I drove around the park before the meeting last night and it amazes the improvements that have been accomplished within the past few years, with such small resources available. It was reassuring to hear that the Park intends to continue in that direction, and it underscores the need for the key user groups to send representatives to the monthly meetings to keep the lines of communication open with the park board and staff.

Park Board meetings are regularly held each first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Park Office front meeting room.

Deana Hess



RHPC/Purple Briefs
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