



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Spring 2018

Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7pm.
• All Members Welcome • For more information call, 734.878.2975

Third Annual Blessing of the Horse and Rider

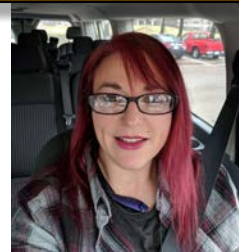
Third times a charm especially when it comes to PTRA's Blessing of the Horse and Rider. This year's event was the best one ever. Many participated in not only the blessing event but various other opportunities provided over the weekend.

The weekend of May 4th through 6th started with camping and a bonfire in the newly expanded staging area. Saturday began with a beautiful blessing service provided by Laura Shehan, Senior Chaplain of the International Fellowship of Chaplains.

Most enjoyed riding that morning and afternoon only be enticed back to camp with a dinner and a show. Gregory's Chris Young offered a talented and hilarious comedy show. A pot-luck style dinner was very tasty and filling

A huge amount of appreciation goes out to everyone who vounteered to make this blessing weekend happen. Of course Sue Armstrong carried most of the weight but Dianne Martin, Amy Scharmen-Burdgolf, Mind Nagy, Donn Dirven and Ann Marie Price lent a much needed hand as well.

If you weren't able to make it this year, be sure to make plans to join us next year. Every year, this occasion keeps getting better and better. Look for a schedule update on our website. And as always, volunteers are welcome!



Chaplain
Laura Shehan



Comedian
Chris Young

Join the Fun on the Annual Brighton to Pinckney Ride

PTRA and BTRA invite you to join us October 6th for our annual ride park to park. Registration will be at the Brighton Staging Area from 10-11am.

Lunch will be provided at Pinckney from 1:30-3:30pm.

After registration, you will tie your horse or hand them to a friend, drive your rig to the Pinckney staging area and a shuttle driver will drive you back to Brighton.

Jump in the saddle and you are off to enjoy the beautiful, varied trails of the Brighton Rec. Area, Lakelands Trail and Pinckney Rec. Area.

Lunch will be ready for you when you arrive at the Pinckney Rec Monks Rd Staging area.

Make it a camping weekend at Brighton if you'd like by reserving a site.

Due to the popularity of this ride, please consider trailer pooling. And as always, volunteers are always welcome!



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Legislation Day

by Sue Armstrong

On May 9th, Michigan Horse Council hosted and organized by President Don Packard, a day that brought together most all aspects of the horse industry in Michigan. Representatives were paired up with representatives of differing disciplines and provided packets of information assembled from organizations' submissions including PTRAs Mission Statement and volunteer hours/contributions. The main flyer was the Equine Economic Impact Study showing Michigan's breakout numbers that was provided through funding by MHC.

This included numbers for everything from racing, numbers of horses, shows, 4-H, vets, boarding, farriers as well as total economic contributions. Michigan ranks 12th in the nation for number of horses. Each group visited 8-10 legislator offices most of which were in the Senate Building with a few visiting the Capitol Building (I know cool huh? I wasn't one, sad to say, but the Senate Building is amazing!).

Staff were talked to and provided with the information packet to pass to the legislator. Some legislators were even spoken to directly like the one I happen to catch in the elevator. It did raise eyebrows when the number 1.6 BILLION contributed yearly through the horse industry was mentioned.

Although the newly drafted legislation to establish a Michigan horse commission was talked about, it was not the main topic but the economic impact was.

Basically, what a horse commission will do for the horse industry is what has been done for the beef, pork and dairy industries (remember Got Milk?) To raise funds through a small fee of \$3 per coggins test and 12.5 cents per 50 pound bag of horse feed is what is being proposed at present. These fees would then go into a non-profit fund to be disbursed back into the horse community. There will be an independent board consisting of members of all disciplines and appointed by the Governor. General expenditure categories are promotion, education and research. Some things that other states spend their check off funds on are; grants to 4-H expansion programs, scholarships, charitable equine programs such as camps and rescues, welfare programs that retrain and re-home unwanted horses, equine studies and health research, investing in existing equine exhibition facilities, efforts to revise state tax laws and regulations to ensure that horse farms are taxed as agricultural property, promotion of horses and industry, especially the creation of marketing materials, educational and networking programs for those not yet acquainted with horses (ie; schools) to name a few.

Yes, it is true that we will pay the upcharge when we purchase these items but there is an opt-out clause. It requires that you submit a form with receipts to the commission for reimbursement once a year should you choose not to support the horse industry as a whole.

Once again this is not a MHC campaign but a state-wide push to unite our horse community. I had a great time being part of this and was given the opportunity to meet some fascinating people doing some incredible things with horses. Yes, I'm a trail rider but there is so much more to these horses!

As with everything there are lessons to be learned and talked about for next year but all in all, it was a fabulous day and many, many thanks to Colonel Don Packard for all of his extremely hard work to make this happen and for taking the reins in a most professional manner to bring the horse community together. I am proud to be represented as an equestrian by you Col. Don!



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Hitching Rail Gets Installed at Hell Hole Diner



Mike Hickey
Chef and owner of Hell Hole Diner

A new 16-foot hitching rail has been installed behind the tent at the Hell Hole Diner with the permission of Mike Hickey and the efforts of Mike and Ann Marie Price.

Tie up your horse and watch him while you eat a delicious home-made meal from Mike.

New directional signs have also been installed south of the bridge through the "Fairy Forest" along the trail to Hell where it leads to Patterson Lake Road just east of the guard rail. A newly erected warning sign of the busy road and loud noises due to motorcycle activity recommends riders to dismount.

If you get a chance, ride into Hell and have an ice cream cone at Screams or a beer and a meal at either the Hell Hole Diner or the Hell Saloon where there is a corral in back and a closed circuit monitor inside so you to keep an eye on your horse while you dine.

In time we hope to have mounting steps on each side of the bridge leading to the "Fairy Forrest" for those who have horses that don't like to cross. We are also proposing that the DNR work with the Road Commission to put up "Caution: Trail Crossing" signs on Patterson Lake Rd and hopefully move the 55-mph sign to the top of the hill beyond the trail entrance. If anyone is interested in helping with the construction of the three sets of mounting steps please contact PTRAs as soon as possible. All materials and equipment rental expenses will be reimbursed. Any help would be very much appreciated.



ARE WE REPEATING OURSELVES?

You may have noticed that we have repeatedly asked for volunteers. As previously stated, it is always easy to assume that someone else will step up and volunteer their time and efforts but the truth is that it is very often the same few people who end up doing most of the volunteer work. This is not unique to PTRAs, or any other volunteer organization but it is very often the reason for the termination of some really great organizations. Please consider giving your time and efforts to keep the vitality in our groups.



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Attention Business Owners

If you are a business owner or know of one, please consider becoming a PTRAs business member for only \$50 annually. As a business member, ads can be placed on our website which links customers directly to your business and have an ad placed in our quarterly newsletters. Currently we have 195 Facebook friends and 257 members viewing our postings so this is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about your business.

Interested parties should go on our website (www.pinckneytrailriders.com) and add this membership or call Ann Marie Price at 734-645-8958 for further instructions.

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Let's show our appreciation to these businesses and the others portrayed throughout the newsletter by giving them a call first.

Thanks to all business members for your support!

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