

# WMTA GAZETTE



WMTA  
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Volume 11, issue 4

March, 2011



**President - Dennis Tipsword**

**Vice President - Dale Steele**

**Secretary - Maria Tipsword**

**Treasurer - Marilyn Dubay**

**Newsletter Editor - Ellen DeMunnik**

**Membership/Publicity - open**

**Events Committee - open**

**Workbee Committee - Dennis Tipsword, Hutch McElwain, Dale Steele, Joe Dubay & Bob Biluk**

**Directors:**

**Ellen DeMunnik**

**Bill Johnese**

**Gloria McGahan-Lanstra**

**Hutch McElwain**

**WMTA Work Bee Schedule**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, May 15 - Dennis T.**

**Saturday, June 11 - Hutch M**

**Sunday, July 17 = Joe D.**

**Saturday, August 20 - Dale**

**Saturday, Sept.17 - Bob B**

## **From the Trailhead**

By Dennis Tipsword

The trail group really expanded its horizons last year. Many of the events were set up as last minute ideas by the members. The snail rides resumed thanks to the Bob & Sandy Biluk. The workbees have been well attended. Thank you Marcia, for seeing that we were all well fed after a hard morning's work! Most of the workers enjoyed an afterglow ride, where we enjoyed the fruits of our hard work.

One new addition, was a September weekend campout at the Cummings Center in Flint, hosted by Debbie and Jim O'Hara. On Friday, after meeting up with Gloria McGahan-Lanstra and her rig, the convoy was on its way. We arrived at camp after dark. The O'Hara's were there to greet us. After unloading the horses and parking the trailers, we sat around the picnic table and chewed the fat for a while. By ten o'clock we all rolled in.

The next morning, it was threatening to drizzle. The Geldhofs pulled in with their horse trailer, just about the time Jim and Debbie were setting out a continental breakfast. A few of us stopped to sit and have a donut, O.J. and a yogurt cup. Marilyn & Joe Dubay showed up to visit and enjoy the bike trails. It took some time getting on our horses. Looking at the gloomy skies, we figured, with any luck it would hold off. Then, two hours into the lovely wooded trail ride, the heavens released a steady light rain. It was unanimous to take the shortcut back to camp. Some of us were soaked. Hungry, wet and cold, we couldn't wait to get the saddles off and quickly get the chili cook-off started. Huddling together, we crammed the tables with chili pots, and got to sample everyone's dishes. Joe Dubay brought his homemade wine! His lovely wife, Marilyn, made corn muffins and a coffee cake! Various plates of goodies were handed around to share. Dan Goulston had sautéed his HUGE wild mushrooms that he picked on our ride in the woods! Where else could one go for an education in mushroom hunting and cooking? We all agreed the mushroom slices were quite good! The majority vote for the best chili was Cynthia Goulston's! Her prize was a handsome set of rooster mugs! The night continued, huddling under the trailer awning, avoiding the misty rain, stuffing our faces and telling funny stories. Wine bottles were near empty and stuffed to the gills, we

did one last check on our noble steeds, before hitting the hay.

The second morning the sun was bright. It was a bit breezy too. Once again, Jim and Debbie O'Hara were setting out some morning goodies for all to enjoy. We gathered under the "automated" awning, and as we sat there, the awning suddenly retracted leaving us scrambling to avoid getting soaked! Most of us had never seen an awning with a mind of its own! The awning behaved for only a short while. Then it struck again! The breeze and the mischievous awning joined forces. The nylon awning puffed up and tilted. A substantial amount of pooled water was lying in wait, overhead. One big gust of wind pushed the cold liquid off the overhang, onto the head of an unsuspecting WMTA bystander! The cold morning water would have been a shock to anyone. Jim & Debbie were horrified! Not waiting for the next bucket of water to drop on OUR heads, we left to go riding. Debbie O'Hara took the lead once again, showing us the day's sites. Viewing the lake, along the ride, we spotted a white swan gliding along the water's edge in the distance. The wooded trails, showed only a glimpse of sun throughout the adventure. This day was absolutely gorgeous! Knowing the camping season was ending soon, we left wanting more. Camping with our WMTA group was a fun experience and a great stress reliever. Thank you! Debbie & Jim.

## September's Artillery Ridge Trip

By Dennis Tipword

Brothers pitted against brothers, fathers against sons, and north against the south. All this was played out as a part of American history. The TV program, Best of America by Horseback, (hosted by Tom Seay on RFDTV), was showing part of that history. Tom Seay took his group of riders to the Gettysburg battlefields in Pennsylvania. During Tom's stay, he took a guided tour of the battlefields. The trail was an interesting fifteen miles long. As the group walked the trail, there was a humbling view of the old cannons. Also, Tom had entered the Gettysburg history center, which featured the historic diorama of the war in miniature. They concluded their trip with a visit to the Soldier's National Cemetery and a sundown trip to Little Round Top. This was the site of an unsuccessful assault by Confederate troops against the Union's left flank on July 2, 1863. If you're a history buff, this is a wonderful way to experience the story on horseback.

Artillery Ridge campground offers accommodations for both horse and rider. The grounds have a camp store, stabling, round pens, outside arenas, as well as, full hookup sites for your trailer. Also, the trails are easily accessed from the campground. For those who don't want to haul your horse, rentals are available. The campground also offers cabins for rent and tent camping sites. Note: Cabins are sleeping accommodations only, no toilets. Rates and points of interest are located on their website. <http://www.artilleryridge.com>. There has been a lot of interest in this trip ever since we discussed it at our membership meeting. The trip is planned for September 12th through the 16th... This excursion will follow the weekend campout in Flint, hosted by Jim and Debbie O'Hara. The caravan will depart Monday morning, either from Flint or Wolcott Mill Metropark. Plans are still in the making and will be firmed up before summer. Trying to avoid a ten hour drive, we are looking for a camping area midway, (preferably with a trail to ride). Keep tuned in for more info!



**GOING STIR CRAZY?** Get out and join us for an evening of information for you and your horse! Equine lecture presented by MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, held on **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 P.M.** at the Camp Rotary's Activities Building (20505 29 Mile, btwn North Ave. & Romeo Plank, Ray, MI 48096). **Topic:** to be announced at a later date. **Free Admission.**

## Horse Community Events to Look Forward to...

Lansing Stallion Expo and Trade Show -

**March 11-13**

Horseman's Spring Luncheon - **Sunday,**

**March 27th, Armada \$20.00 ea.**

Equine Affair - **April 7 - 10**

“Gettysburg Trail Ride” (T.B.D. - will be on our calendar this year!)

“Snail Rides” (pop-up during the nice weather, will notify by e-mail.



### Birch Run Horse Expo

Bill and Pat Johnsee, Gus and Wendy Voss, and Jim and Ellen De Munnik attended the Birch Run Horse Expo at the Birch Run Arena on Saturday, Feb. 12.

We got some interesting tips on driving teams. The show also included demonstrations, seminars by Stacy

Westfall and Chance O'Neal and more, on topics such as fitness training for the Equestrian, horseshoer's demonstration, fashion seminar and horsemanship.

The shopping wasn't bad either. A good time was had by all. Looking forward to seeing more of you at the STALLION EXPO & TRADE SHOW March 11th -13th.



### A baby horse on its mom's lap

Some pictures just don't need captions.

There is nothing like Mom's lap no matter who you are.

This is precious !!!!

This is a newborn offspring of Taskin, a Gypsy

Stallion owned by

Villa Vanners of Oregon .

This picture was taken immediately after his birth on April 6.

The mare laid down, and then he trotted around and crawled right up into her lap.

**Trivia Ride, Sunday, May 29th 10:30 a.m.**

**Raffle Ride, Sunday June 19th 10:30 a.m. r.s.v.p.**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 COMPETITIVE TRAIL COMPETITION**

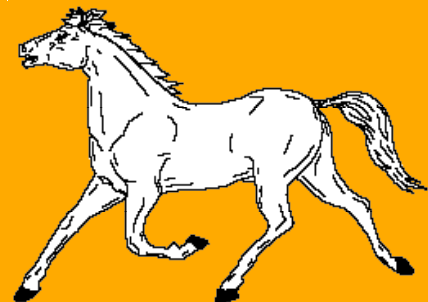
**A.C.T.H.A. sponsored, ACTHA membership required**

**Weekend Campout, Friday, September 9 - 11 - Everett Center (Flint area)**

**Poker Ride, 10:30 Sunday, September 25th r.s.v.p.**

**Potluck Trail Ride, Sunday Oct. 16th, 10:30 casual get-together (ride at will no fee)**

**Holiday Party, Friday, December 2nd 6:30 soda/cocktail hour – Potluck**



# ACTHA Competitive Trail Competition

**Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**"The most fun and relaxing  
competition for a horse and rider!"**

Location: Camp Rotary, 20505 29 Mile Rd., (btwn North Ave. & Romeo Plank), Ray, MI 48096

Must be a member of ACTHA in order to compete. **MUST REGISTER ONLINE** at [www.actha.us](http://www.actha.us) Online, you will find the ACTHA rules and everything you need to sign-up for the event. One rider, one horse rule.

**Attention Volunteers! Contact Dale Steele:**  
(586)784-4240 or [dale@dalmarfarms.com](mailto:dale@dalmarfarms.com)

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the following positions:**

- Greeters for Friday night & Saturday
- Registration booth helpers
- **Judging – JUDGES: No certification necessary, consistency required.**  
*Maybe you've shown in a trail class (or not)...we'll brief you on the system, and what you need to know. WE NEED YOU!*
- Outriders
- Safety Checkers
- Trail Set-Up (*non-exhibitors needed, no competitors on course*)
- *Trail set-up.*

When you take your horse out on trails, chances are you expect to have a fun, safe, relaxing time. And *most* of the time, that expectation is fulfilled. Yet as soon as you leave the relative safety of an arena and its controlled environment, you're in potential-mishap territory (true, whether you're half a mile or half a day's ride from home). That's why it can really pay to be prepared, with "just in case" items stashed in a small grab-and-go emergency bag and carried on your saddle for *every* trail ride.

## Bag Contents

- Duct tape. Multiple uses, from protecting a hoof that's lost its shoe to emergency tack repairs.
- Elastic and cling-type wraps. Joint support, bandaging.
- Reflective "space blanket." Preserves body heat, makes a ground cover.
- LED flashlight. Multiple uses (especially if you get caught out after dark).
- Filled water bottle. Many uses, from hydration or cooling to flushing a wound.
- Stethoscope. For monitoring vital signs, gut sounds.
- Coach's whistle. Makes piercing blasts to call for help.
- Latex gloves. Hand coverage for wound treatment.
- Banamine paste. Help for colic symptoms.
- Personal first-aid pouch. Holds gauze pads, stick-on bandages, aspirin, bee-sting pen, safety pins, etc.
- Contact-lens solution. Flushes eye or wound debris.
- Bandage scissors. Trims bandaging materials.
- Multi-tool. Multiple uses.
- Hand sanitizer. Helps prevent infection when treating wounds.
- First-aid cream. Antibiotic and antiseptic properties.