

~Gaited Gatherings~

Official Newsletter ~~ Midwest TrailGaiters ~~ February 2007

www.midwesttrailgaiters.com

Hello Gaiters!

The trail riding season sure seems closer when we start making those camping reservations. Lots of great Gaiter rides are planned for the year, so check the website for the ride details being posted already. Once again there will be a get-together at the Midwest Horse Fair in the Expo on Saturday (time and room number to be announced). Here is some news from your fellow trailriders to get you thinking about warmer weather and shedding horses.



MONEY & WATER a/k/a HOLY CROSS TRAILS, Price County, WI by Del Parkinson

The Northwoods Equestrian Trail riders last year worked very hard to create the Holy Cross Horse Trails (see map below). The way we set up these trails was done mainly with a plan to copy the Brown County State Park Trail System at Nashville, Indiana, as I felt that is the best organized trail system that I have ever ridden.

If you look at the map you will see 2 small lakes (WATER), but there is a problem. The lakes are both surrounded by floating bog, which makes it totally unsafe and basically out of the question to water horses at either of these lakes. Even if we could solve that problem, the lakes are 1 or 2 miles from the parking lots and camping areas.

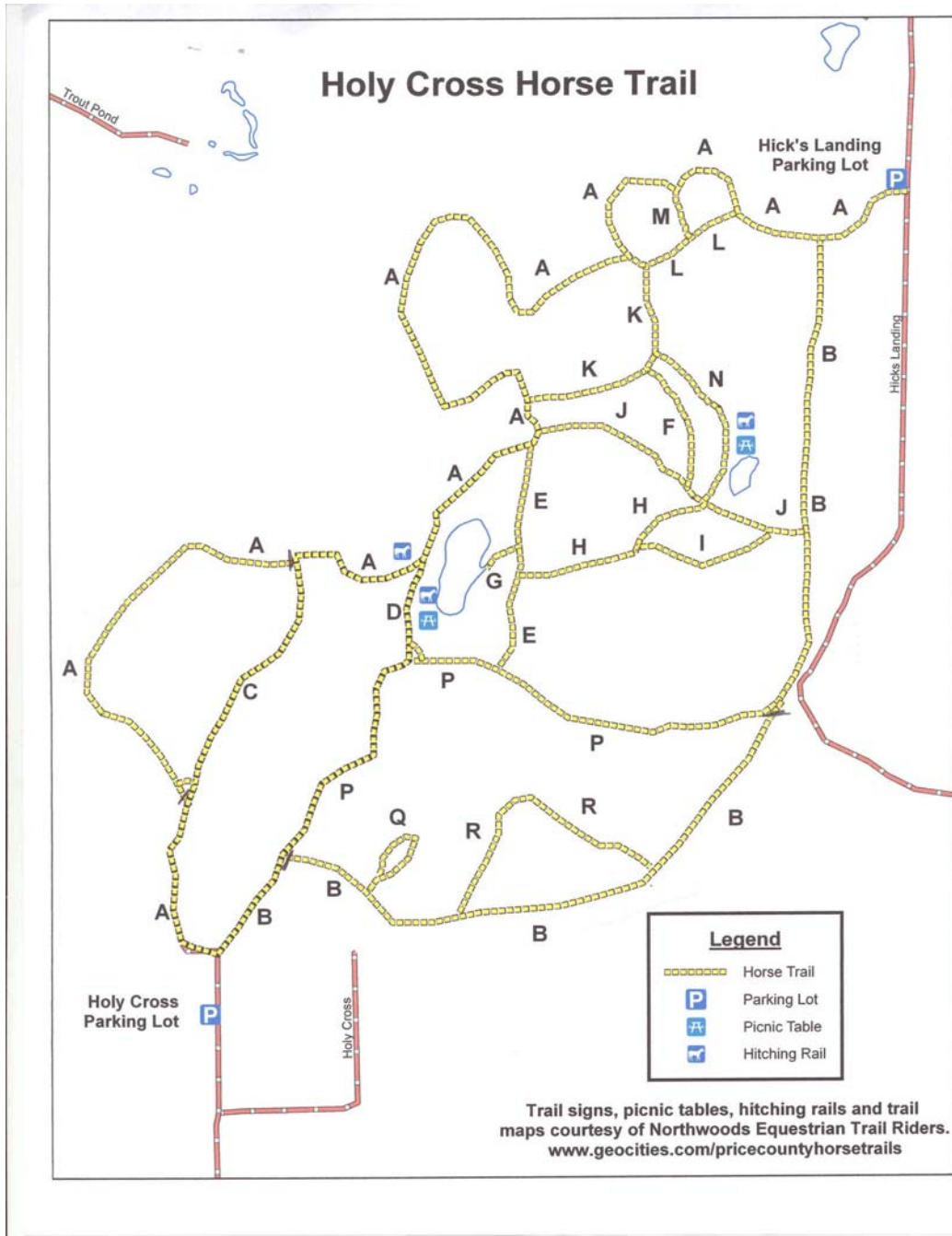
Just this winter, we were finally able to get approval from the Price County Forestry Dept. to put in a well. We couldn't have done this last year, even if we wanted to, as the County was taking a "wait and see" attitude toward our club, to see if we would do what we said we would do, which you can't fault them for. We have pretty much shocked them in what we did and how well it was done, and without asking the County for help.

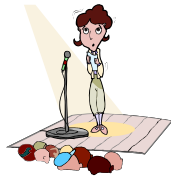
What we need from all of you is IDEAS on how to raise funds for drilling a well, in a low income area. We know we can apply to the Wisconsin State Horse Council for funds, but well drillers here charge \$28.00 per foot for drilling and in the area where the Holy Cross parking lot is located the average well depth is from 40 feet to 60 feet. With that in mind a 50 foot well would be close to \$4000.00 completed. Please keep in mind that Price County is the 5th poorest County in the State. We don't have the big dollar places that are located near the bigger cities to ask for donations.

The Northwoods Equestrian Trail Riders had its Annual Meeting in mid-January and as of that meeting there were 23 paid memberships and we will probably get another dozen in the future. The

Treasurer's balance is about \$500.00, so we have a lot of work ahead of us to reach our goal of having a well in the camping area. Any ideas you can give us to use as fund raisers would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Trails,
Del





MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Note: In this column we'd like to highlight our members, especially those new to MWTGs or who aren't able to make it to many of the rides. This way we'll know a bit about you when you join us!



At this time, Roger lives in Eau Claire and works for the State of Wisconsin, but will be a retired person effective March 29th after over 34 years with the State. After his retirement Roger plans on moving over to the west side of the Mississippi!

I live in a house built by my grandparents on my family's farm near Lewiston, MN. I have worked for IBM in Rochester, MN for almost 23 years. I am able to work from home 2-3 days a week, with the help of modern technology.

Roger and I both ride Missouri Fox Trotters. Between the two of us we own 5 MFT and a semi-retired Arab, my first horse. We enjoy trail riding almost exclusively. We have a Cimmaron 4 horse trailer with full living Quarters. We have ridden in Missouri, Illinois, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Mexico, and are hoping to add to that list in the coming years!

Ruth Thompson & Roger Swanson



Fox Trotters National Trailride

A friend in Indiana let us know that the Indiana Fox Trotters Association is hosting a national club ride the weekend of September 21-23 at Midwest Trail Ride, riding in the Hoosier National Forest in Brown County, Indiana. No need to have a Fox Trotter to attend the ride. However, registered Fox Trotter people get points for attending a national ride. The club's website is:

<http://www.indianafoxtrotter.com/index.html>

and contact person is Donna Burkhardt at donnahappytrails@aol.com.

Donna says that the camp fills up quickly, so if interested you should contact Midwest Trail Ride ASAP at 812-834-6686 and then send a \$10 deposit to hold your reservation. Check out their website at www.midwesttrailride.com for details on amenities, etc.



Bad Girls Welcome New Members *by Sharon Bailey*

Over the past year or so many of our female members have expressed that they felt, shall we say, "left out" when 4 of our daring female riders talk about the fun they have as "The Bad Girls." New Gaiters aren't quite sure just what or who those Bad Girls really are. The TrailGaiters have developed several groups-within-the-group over the years, but we don't want to leave anyone out. We've observed several of our other ladies who certainly meet the "qualifications" of a Bad Girl. Almost all our ladies have been welcomed into the fold of the "Soiled Doves," and the "Easy Sisters" tell us that there are plenty of ladies who just like to mosey down the trail like them. And hey, you can fit in to all of these groups at one time or another. And Cowboys take heart, there are the Rowdy Rogues for you. I bet they'd all be glad to accept new "members."

So to clear up the mystery for our newer members, here reprinted is the story of our own *original* Bad Girls. Check it out on upcoming rides and pick the style you feel like riding that day. But if we tell you it's going to be a "Bad Girls Ride," be prepared for movin' out!

Expanding our ranks!

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The Misunderstood Bad Girls (reprinted from previous newsletter)

With our good reputation at stake, the Bad Girls want to let you in on just how we acquired this questionable title.

Once upon a time, 4 friends who were horseback riding at Mystery Cave State Park, decided that they would ride together and that it was very exciting to ride *very fast* up the ravine on the "super highway" trail that led back to the campground. Every time they got to this part of the trail, they would gallop *very fast* up this steep part of the trail. Pretty soon, their savvy steeds knew that

they would get to gallop *very fast* up this part of the trail on their way back to the campground. It got to be VERY FUN and we loved to do it every time. It's then that we realized that we were getting to be quite the wild riders, whooping and hollering as we went up that stretch of trail. One of us said that we were like "Bad Girls."

Does anyone remember the 1994 movie "Bad Girls" ?? The story was set in the old West where 4 ladies of questionable character went on the run after one of the girls came to the aid of another who was being molested by a drunken colonel - yup, she shot him dead. Escaping from the lynch mob, the "Bad Girls" are on the run and the rest of the film follows their adventures of riding, roping and shooting. They get caught up in bank robberies as well as romantic interludes with handsome young cowboys, all the while riding very fast and jumping from their horses into horse drawn wagons going very fast.

Webster identifies "bad" as unfavorable, spoiled, mischievous, wicked and naughty. Us modern-day, TrailGaiter Bad Girls who sometimes like to ride *very fast* and be mischievous and naughty, will continue to do our best to maintain our image, even if we do mount our steeds from a picnic table !

The *Original* TrailGaiters Bad Girls -
(left to right)
Sharon "Eileen" Darrow
Gina "Cody" Barden
Jan "Anita" Francois
Sharon "Lilly" Bailey



A New Kind of Ride by Julie Schneeberger as told to Sharon B.

Julie & Warren Schneeberger were treated to a wonderful vacation in January when Julie stood up for her cousin's wedding. For those who don't know Julie, she's a really fun rider and always up for a little adventure. And she sure got that on her trip to Mexico when she discovered a new "mount" for a wild ride. . .

"Wednesday we arrived in Cozumel and I went with mother and daughter combo to Dolphin Encounter and Warren went with Groom to ATVing at beach. I had the absolute experience of a lifetime with my Madonna the Dolphin and her petite lady trainer. She kissed me all over, laid her 400 pounds lengthwise gently in my outstretched arms. I did not think anything could top it. But wait, as a top prize, I gave the proper hand signals to her and swam out to deeper water, and she came to me, rolled over onto her back with her tailfin in front of me, I then leaned forward quickly and grabbed each of her fins and hung on for dear life as I laid partially on her stomach and she took off like a jet ski leaving a wave of water spewing on both sides. I had my eyes bugging out of my head and my mouth wide open in amazement."

Swim / Dolphin @ Chankannab Park, Cozumel



**Hold on
Julie !**