



# Gaited Gatherings



Official Newsletter ~~ Midwest TrailGaiters ~~ August 2010

[www.midwesttrailgaiters.com](http://www.midwesttrailgaiters.com)

Hello Gaiters!

Here are some reports from the TrailGaiter rides so far this year!

**Castle Rock Horse Trails, Ukarydee Campground, April 30-May 2, 2010**

Submitted by Kathy Bleskey



The 2010 Midwest Trailgaiter riding season took off in a big way. The first ride at Ukarydee had the largest attendance in a very long time. The campground boasted 24 rigs with nearly 50 members and partners. Trailgaiters came from as far south as Belvedere, IL, and as far north as Jim Falls, WI.

Gina Barden, her sister and two great nieces arrived on Wednesday. Celine, 9 years old, is on Gina's horse, Red, and Kate, 10 years old, is on Gina's sister's paint horse, Indy. Celine *loves* to trail ride and Kate showed Indy at the fair last year in 4-H but she seemed to enjoy the trail riding, too. It is wonderful to have such young horse enthusiasts.

Unfortunately, they had to leave on Friday before most of the Trailgaiters arrived. But they had a wonderful time and plan to make it a family tradition.



Thunderstorms were forecast for Friday afternoon. The thickening clouds were menacing, but many brave Trailgaiters ventured out on the trail. The thunder and rain drops sent them gaiting back to camp before the rain began in earnest, except, of course, for the Baileys. They got soaked. At least that was their alibi for all the clothes hanging outside their trailer.

The rain stopped in time for everyone to cook out and sit around the campfire. By 10 p.m. the stars were shining. Saturday and Sunday were beautiful sunny days. The forecasted high winds did not materialize to spoil riding.



While Sandy Gramkowski, Gary Von Oehleson and Pauline Stollenwerk were out on a ride, Joanne Von Oehleson, Rick Gramkowski, and Jack Stollenwerk had a mean card game of 31 going (or so they said). When Sandy, Gary and Pauline rode back into camp, Rick came out of the motor home first, Joanne came out second, and Jack came out holding a wad of money. Joanne denies everything but now affectionately refers to Rick as "Ricky Poo." This about a guy alleged to be "very shy". Remember, with the Trailgaiters, **WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CAMPGROUND STAYS AT THE CAMPGROUND!**

Starting campfires can be a wee bit challenging. Cheryl Terzen learned how to properly use a safety flare, thanks to Rick Gramkowski. Now she is an expert camp fire builder. (We were all warned, however, not to cook over a fire started in this manner, unless you like the taste of flares.)



At the annual Trailgaiter planning Christmas party, the club voted to donate \$100 to each private organization that maintains the trails which we will be utilizing this season. Officers of the Castle Rock Trail Club and Ukarydee owners, Mike and Mary Harris, were invited to our Saturday night pot-luck supper. (Mary is also Vice President of the Castle Rock Trail Club.) After the delicious meal, Midwest TrailGaiter Sharon Darrow, presented the check to Castle Rock Trail Club President Larry Clapper.

Larry graciously accepted the check on behalf of the Castle Rock Trail Club. He thanked our club for assisting with trail clean up over the past several years. And he stated that our continued assistance is always well appreciated.



Mike Harris talked about Ukarydee and that this is their 20<sup>th</sup> year. He said that Gail Seasor, Sharon Bailey, and Iris Cooley were the first campers when the campground opened 20 years ago in the original site on the hill in the woods. The campground has expanded several times over the years as the rigs got bigger and the number of campers grew.

When asked how the name of "Ukarydee" came about, Mike told an elaborate story of working to clear the land. "You carry dis." After everyone was enthralled in the tale, Mike and Mary admitted that the story was made up. They never did explain the real story. Apparently, that is for another day, another campfire.

And of course, no Trailgaiter campout would be complete without some type of excitement. Rainman decided to take care of that when he pawed the air valve off Gail Seasor's trailer tire. The loud hissing surprised Rainman and neighboring campers. Rainman innocently denied any part in the deed while Dave Bleskey, Klaus Perkins and Ted Bailey changed the tire.



Don't ask!!!! But could it be that Ted is recruiting for a harem?





*Happy trails!*

**Zumbro Bottoms, MN, June 4-6, 2009** by Ruth Thompson

Most of the riders arrived the morning or afternoon of Friday, June 4th. Friday was a beautiful day and everyone there enjoyed a nice ride. Campfire that night was enjoyed by all.

Saturday it was overcast, but the riders got a nice ride in before the rain started that afternoon. Dan Catherman was the "birthday boy" of the weekend and quite a bit of fun was had with that by his fellow Gaiters as you can see from the photos. The rain stopped in time for our potluck meal and it was a wonderful evening with a beautiful campfire.



Some of us had to pull out for other obligations on Sunday, but those that remained had another nice day of riding.



Thanks to Sharon Bailey for supplying the pictures of the weekend.

Those attending: Mike & Jeanne Fox, Dan & Linda Catherman, Ted & Sharon Bailey, Dave & Kathy Bleskey, Gail Seator, Roger & Ruth Swansen, Bridget and friends. (Hope I didn't miss anyone!)



Happy Trails, RUTH

## End of the Trail, Ontario, WI, July 9-11, 2010 by Dan Catherman

The Trailgaiters had an excellent outing in July at End of the Trail Campground near Ontario, WI. Riders took advantage of both Wildcat Mountain State Park and The Kickapoo Valley Reserve trail systems. Several groups had Moose Tassler take them down into the reserve, either to LaFarge or to Cutoff Road, where they could ride for a few hours, stop at Rockton Bar, then ride back to camp. We had about 15 members (and several guests) for the Saturday evening potluck dinner. On Sunday many members rode back to Rockton Bar for their "Almost Famous Chicken Barbeque" before heading home. Although the weather was warm, the rain held off.



*Other horses at Rockton*



*On Wildcat trails*



*Kickapoo trails*

One sad note to the weekend was Saturday evening when our host, Jan Tassler, was taken to the hospital, then helicoptered to LaCrosse. She was having pains in her left arm and a heart attack was suspected. It turns out that her blood pressure was high and the medication wasn't controlling it. She was able to return home on Monday, and is hopefully listening to her doctor's advice and resting.

## UPCOMING RIDE !!

### Yellow River State Forest, Iowa, June 4-6, 2009

Our Coordinator: *Joan Bartz* (joan\_bartz@yahoo.com)

Directions: The entrance to Yellow River State Forest is located on Hwy 76. The forest is located 15 miles north of Marquette, Iowa on Hwy. 76. The entrance will be on the right side of the road. This road is called State Forest Road or B25. If traveling from the north the entrance is located 10 miles south of Waukon, Iowa on Hwy 76. The entrance of the forest from Waukon will be on the left. There is also an alternative entrance located west of Harpers Ferry, Iowa approx. 2 miles from town on county road X42, again look for State Forest Road or B25 on the left side of X42. DO NOT TAKE THE DONAHUE ROAD ENTRANCE THIS ROAD IS A LEVEL B ROAD

This is primitive camping, no electric or water supplied but there are pit toilets available. Horses can be watered at the creek within walking distance of the campsites. There are 2 campsites, Creekside and Frontier. We are camping at the Frontier camp which is the second campground. There are campsites by reservation and first-come-first-serve. If you do not have reservations, you may not get a campsite. The website states that a health certificate is required but I have never been checked, but I always carry a negative coggins certificate on my horses. The decision is yours to bring health papers or not.

**Equine Portrait Opportunity** shared by Sandy Gramkowski

When she was attending the Missouri Foxtrotter Celebration last year, Sandy found an artist who does equine portraits and she was so pleased with the ones she had done that she wanted to share this with the Gaiters. The artist is: Portraits by Debora. The contact information if you're interested is: [drportraitsplus@hughes.net](mailto:drportraitsplus@hughes.net). Telephone is 417-543-4254.

Sandy said that the prices last year were:

9/12 (\$75); 11x14 (\$100); 16x20 (\$300); 18x24 (\$450); 24x36 \$600; 24x48 (\$675).



Sandy's portraits of Trooper and Tanner