



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, the first half of 2006 is history and, as it was in 2005, the year to date has been quite successful for the club. The trail ride at the Thompson Ranch at the end of March was super. The weather was great. Josh and Laurel Stretch were superb hosts and we want to extend many thanks to the Stretches for hosting this event. The clinic in April conducted by Rick Gates at the Right Path Riding Academy was well received by the participants. We continue to "raise the bar" with our Spring Show. Cris VanHorn along with the Show Committee did an excellent job... The Show was very well organized and the facilities were excellent. There were nearly 75 horses present. The comments from the participants were very favorable. Once again, the folks from the Right Path Riding Academy provided excellent volunteer support. Their support sure takes a load off of the manager, knowing that each station is properly manned and run in a very professional manner. The volunteer's efforts are greatly appreciated, without them the show would not be possible.

Regarding the club in general, I'm going to once again sing the same song... We are always looking for good help! The old rule of thumb where 20% of any club does 80% of the work is certainly applicable in our club (actually it may be 10% / 90%). There are so many talented folks in our club. If you would like to help us by volunteering in the area of your talents and interests please give me a call. The idea is that if the load can be spread among many, then no one person will be burdened and we can spend more time enjoying our horses and fellowship with one another. If at any time and for any reason, you do not feel like you can continue to help in a function you volunteered for, please let us know. We all realize that things come up and situations change. It is a whole lot easier to find another person to pick it up than have a calendared event just dropped.

Looking forward to our fall events and cooler weather. We have some big plans for our annual winter meeting and will be sharing the details a bit later. So plan on attending now. See you on the trails.

Mark Wolfe
President

I want to share some very interesting things that Cris VanHorn has shared with me. Some could impact the horse industry positively and others negatively but if

we are not informed and let our legislators know what we expect and want than we will become victims of what others think.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TRACK YOUR HORSE?

See complete article by Karin Bergener in "THE GAITED HORSE", Summer 2006 issue.

The "National Animal Identification System (NAIS) was conceived by commercial meat producers and microchip manufacturers, then developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the states to implement. It requires every owner of every single horse (and many other animals) to register their farm or home with the Government for GPS monitoring; microchip or electronically tag each individual animal; and then report every time that horse steps off the property (including trail rides, vet visits, escapes, shows, training, etc.) If 100% participation isn't reached by voluntary means, the USDA will seek rules to make NAIS mandatory."

"A broad based coalition has been formed to oppose NAIS as it is presently proposed (Liberty Ark Coalition).... This program (NAIS) will devastate county fairs, and 4H and Future Farmers of America projects, through which children learn how to care for, and show their animal," says Randy Givens, a retired army colonel and coalition founder who resides in Texas. "It will kill the rodeo circuit. These programs have been successful for generations; the NAIS will wipe them out because it is simply not worth the effort, or cost, to register, tag, and report every animal that moves to a show or a county fair, or to a rodeo." Judith McGeary, an attorney in Texas and founder of the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (www.farmandranchfreedom.org/), says "We believe the Liberty Ark Coalition will bring together thousands of organizations and individuals from diverse backgrounds and beliefs who can make a difference. **BUT IT WILL TAKE EVERYONE, WORKING TOGETHER.**"
For more information visit www.libertyark.net.

Another article that was published in the OETRA:

Dear Horseman,

This is an appeal for your organization to show unified support for Bill S781, "The Right to Ride" bill.

It has been said that "The history of mankind is carried on the back of a horse." Yet every horse owner knows that horsemanship skills are neither easily acquired nor maintained. To that end the U.S. House of Representatives has passed Bill S781 the "Right to Ride" bill which guarantees access to public lands for saddle and pack stock.

The legislation is now languishing in the U.S. Senates' Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) is the Chairman. I implore each and every horse enthusiast, to urge him to support and move this bill out of committee and onto the Senate floor. Please e-mail him: <http://craig.senate.gov> or snail mail: 490 Memorial Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83402, or 520 Hart Building, Washington DC 20510. If members don't have time for a letter they may quickly register their support by calling: (208) 523-5541 or his office in Washington (202) 224-2752, or FAX (202) 228-1067, TTY (202) 224-9377.

Please urge your members to also contact their Senators with support for this vital equestrian legislation.

Thank you for helping in this effort.
Keith Coleman OETRA member.

June 10, 2006 Semi Annual Meeting Highlights

It was decided to drop 6 classes for next year's show. Also High Point Adult and Youth winners would receive a trophy and not do the traveling trophies. This is always a problem in getting them back and to the right people.

An Honorary Volunteer membership was developed. Honorary membership was given to Melinda Jones, Danny & Debbie Johnson, Miya & Marshall Boyken. Their help at the show was invaluable. We also decided to partner with the Creek County 4H Equestrian Club. Melinda Jones is the leader and it was felt our club would be able to assist with demonstrations and clinics that would help these young horse riders to improve their skills.

We were able to donate \$600.00 to Right Path Riding Academy this year. We again want to thank Right Path for the help on show day.

It was decided that next year we would have different membership opportunities:
\$10.00 Youth membership
\$20.00 Individual membership
\$25.00 Family membership
Also for \$5.00 with a membership you may purchase a TWHAO t-shirt. If you want more than one shirt the cost would be \$7.00.

Tom Fellers, of the Bar None Ranch, has generously donated a \$100.00 gift certificate for the member bring in the most new members for next year. So start recruiting new membership.

We have set up with Country Supply on their rebate program. They will give us 5% of everything that is bought through Country Supply from TWHAO members. So when you order from Country Supply be sure to put TWHAO as your sponsoring group.

Events of Interest

Green Country Fox Trotters have a show scheduled for Aug. 26th but have indicated they may change the date to one where cooler weather will be had.

July 22, 2006

Mid South Fox Trotter Affiliate

Versatility Horse Show

Catoosa Arena (on 66 Highway between Catoosa and Claremore)

4:00 P.M. (lots-of shade)

Plenty of open gaited classes

Contact- Rick Gates

918-625-2565

Enjoy the rest of the summer and have a great time with your horse.