WHAT A year! Nationally, 2,340 rider entries were recorded for participants in the 111 ride-days held across the nation last season. And while the number of ride-days remained unchanged from the 2012 season, the number of rider entries increased by 24, or 1%.

As always, the competition was both fierce and friendly as teams and individual-riders vied for placings in...
NACMO Treasurer & National Pointskeeper, Jim Klein, talks about his role as a board member.

MM: How did you come to join CMO? What path brought you here?
JK: Our family had been getting flyers for CMO rides for a summer or so, before we finally decided to try it. The first ride we attended (1989), was over the opening weekend of the fishing season here in Minnesota, so this turned out to be the extreme sacrifice for me as a fisherman. We never looked back!

MM: What are you known for professionally? How long have you been doing that?
JK: I have been in and out of engineering and surveying for my entire career. Drawing maps of the various properties and projects was something that I had done during that time. Applying those skills towards orienteering was just a natural for me.

MM: What are you passionate about personally? What do you really enjoy? What can't you stop talking about?
JK: I am always looking to make things easier. Most of the things we do are already hard enough. We don't have to make them harder, so I am always looking for better ways. One of my mottos: “Make it easier for the next guy.”

MM: Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or a Sunday afternoon (other than on your horse or CMO'ing, of course!)
JK: My second love is Sporting Clays Shooting. I shoot it well, and also instruct a lot of folks on the sport. I really enjoy the teaching part and have had a lot of success in starting and helping shooters learn and excel at this game.

MM: Any awards or medals, or even medallions?
JK: I have made it to the top nationally, as an individual rider a few times. I have also been high overall shooter at lots of different shooting clubs over the past 25 years.

MM: Where did you grow up and why aren't you there now?
JK: Our family moved from the east coast when I was 12. It was like Lewis and Clark taking off to explore the great unknown, and we never looked back.

MM: What most excites you about serving on the NACMO board & the contribution you can make?
JK: I'm pretty much following in the footsteps of the founding personnel - trying to keep the game alive, fair, friendly to newbies, and to keep the checkbook in the black. I am especially proud of our awards-program, and am always very happy to give back to the merit achievers - both annual and lifetime awards.

MM: What are you passionate about personally? What do you really enjoy? What can't you stop talking about?
JK: I am always looking to make things easier. Most of the things we do are already hard enough. We don't have to make them harder, so I am always looking for better ways. One of my mottos: “Make it easier for the next guy.”

MM: Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or a Sunday afternoon (other than on your horse or CMO'ing, of course!)
JK: My second love is Sporting Clays Shooting. I shoot it well, and also instruct a lot of folks on the sport. I really enjoy the teaching part and have had a lot of success in starting and helping shooters learn and excel at this game.

MM: Where did you grow up and why aren't you there now?
JK: Our family moved from the east coast when I was 12. It was like Lewis and Clark taking off to explore the great unknown, and we never looked back.

MM: Any awards or medals, or even medallions?
JK: I have made it to the top nationally, as an individual rider a few times. I have also been high overall shooter at lots of different shooting clubs over the past 25 years.

MM: What would be impossible for you to give up?
JK: All of the good times we have as family and friends.
Dear Muffin,

CMO is one of the most affordable horse activities around, but that being said - I wonder if there is a way to make it even more affordable for families? I think some chapters may have policies in place that allow for reduced-price ride fees for children. And what if a child is riding double with mom or dad - does the child still need to be registered and pay a ride fee? Is there a national policy on this? And if so, how would that affect the liability insurance that NACMO carries? The insurance covers any damage or injury caused by a participating horse, right?

Signed, Family of Riders

Muffin says:

Dear Family of Riders,

You said it - CMO is definitely one of the most affordable equine activities around, and we want to do everything we can to encourage family participation!

Let’s start with your question about the liability insurance, first. According to rule R-3, only registered members may participate in a CMO ride pursuant to insurance requirements. Our insurance policy covers NACMO and its Directors for liability-only; it also covers the places (state parks; state forests, private land-holdings, etc.) that have requested they be included as additional insureds attached to our policy. The insurance does not cover riders for medical or farm liability. If your horse were to kick someone’s car, or if you fell from your own horse and were injured, there is no coverage through this policy.

Currently, three options are available for membership: Annual; Daily; and for those who have managed 20 or more rides - Lifetime. To participate in a sanctioned ride you must be in one of those categories of membership, regardless of your age (juniors included). In addition to your membership, you must also register (and pay applicable ride fees) with the Ride Manager, for each day in which you intend to ride (again, juniors are included). Children riding double with another person are still deemed participants, so they must have a membership and register for each ride.

There is no national policy regarding reduced-price ride fees for children at the current time. It is solely at the discretion of the ride manager to offer reduced fees if they so choose, as the discount essentially comes out of the ride manager’s pocket. The National Board, however, is currently engaged in discussion regarding how NACMO can encourage junior rider participation while still offering the best possible value. An option currently being considered by the board is to set a schedule (at the national level) that would have different fees structured for adults and juniors.

All in all, our sport is still very affordable to families; the awards are there for the participants; and the national prices for membership and rider fees have not increased in over 25 years. That is a pretty darn good record!

Look for more news on the subject of ride-fees to appear here in future issues of the Meadow Muffin as the national board works through the issue. Have a safe and great riding season this year; come on out and support your ride managers and local chapters, and get some quality family-time in while doing it!

Sincerely,

Muffin

Answers to “Ask Muffin” questions are based on NACMO board member opinions and do not constitute a rule-change or addition. Rather, they are suggestive of what the board as a whole, believes proper behavior to be. Please submit questions for “Ask Muffin” to your state Director, or via email to: askmuffinCMO@gmail.com

Klein

From Page 2

MM: What would people be surprised to know about you?

JK: I really never rode horses before CMO came along. We had a couple of horses, way-back-when, but I never rode. This game gave me a new thing to try, and I had to start at the very bottom. Never looked back, though.

MM: Thanks for sharing with us, Jim - and congratulations on winning the National Long Course Individual Rider Champion title!
You should check the air pressure in your tires again, to make sure that it is at the right level. Heat can also be caused by insufficient grease in your hubs, but that is hard to check on the road. In any case, slow down because high speed creates more heat. Don’t forget to check your tire pressure.

Check the fluids: Check the oil in your tow vehicle every time you leave on a trip, and fill it if it is low. Oil lubricates and cools your engine parts, preventing damage. Also, check the coolant level, transmission fluid level, and the differential fluids at the beginning of the season. The differential fluids don’t have a dipstick, so consult your vehicle’s manual to find out how to check that. Also, four-wheel drive vehicles have a transfer-case near the transmission that should be checked at the beginning of the season, as well. Once again - consult your manual for details on the transfer case.

Did we mention that you should check your tire pressure?

Editor’s Note: Article co-authors, husband and wife, Larry and Sara Dick are members of the IN/IL Chapter who met through CMO! Sara has a Ph.D. in Microbiology and teaches at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. Larry has been driving and working on semis since he was 15, and has owned his own truck for 29 years. He has been an over-the-road driver, and now does local work (Indiana) for Luckey Tank Lines.

Keep These Things On Hand When You Travel

Always carry:
- A tire gauge (to check tire pressure)
- A tow strap
- A spare tire in good shape and aired up
- A jack and tire iron that fits your trailer and tow vehicle
- Basic tools

Consider carrying these items, too:
- Spare bulbs for your trailer lights
- 12 volt air compressor, with a hose long enough to reach your tires (seems like common sense, right? Don’t ask us why we thought of this!).

Check the lights: Make sure that the brake lights, turn-signal lights and marker lights on both your tow vehicle and trailer are all in working order. This is another thing that is far easier to fix at home in the driveway instead of out on the highway!

Regular maintenance: Check your tire pressure: Every time before you leave for a weekend with your trailer, check your tire pressure, including the spare. It is even more important on hot days - the tires will heat up more when they are low on pressure. Also, check your tires for heat whenever you stop on your way to and from your destination - excessive heat in the tire or the hubs indicates a problem that is easier to deal with at a rest stop or a McDonald’s parking lot than the side of the road! If you notice extreme heat,
some of the WA and IN/IL chapter CMO venues there and hopefully you will all submit more so we eventually have a really complete library of maps of ride locations all over the country.

Accepting classified ads in the Meadow Muffin was suggested and you may submit them for horses and related items, although since the MM comes out only quarterly, the horse or other item advertised may be sold before the ad comes out! Additionally, NACMO bears no responsibility should a “sale transaction” go wrong. Submit your ads to: TheMeadowMuffin@gmail.com.

Major discussion centered on how each of our chapters charge junior riders. Our rules require all riders to be members (either annual, lifetime or day) to ride and all riders must be registered, but there is quite a bit of variation in what the ride fees for juniors are from chapter to chapter and even from one Ride Manager to another. That is the topic for this month’s “Ask Muffin” article. So check that out and let your representative know your thoughts for when we take this up again at our next meeting in April.

A national policy or guideline for junior riders to pay half the adult rider fee ($5 in most cases) is one suggestion. Tabled until the next meeting in the interests of time, was a discussion on the NACMO awards for cumulative horse and rider points. Should we have some specific alternatives to the traditional awards? New awards? Again, your state representative would love to have your input! ■

various national award categories. Whether you ride to win, or simply to enjoy the scenery and camaraderie out on the trail, cheers to everyone who competed, and congratulations to those who achieved top placement!

Top three placings in each adult/team category are reflected here, with top ten placings shown for juniors. Visit the NACMO website for a complete list of all placings! ■

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Number Rides/Riders 2012</th>
<th>Number Rides/Riders 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>26/573</td>
<td>25/491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN/IL</td>
<td>24/433</td>
<td>24/569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>20/633</td>
<td>21/616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN/WI</td>
<td>20/369</td>
<td>20/444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ/NY</td>
<td>11/120</td>
<td>9/151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>7/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>111/2316</td>
<td>111/2340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4647</td>
<td>Samantha-Jo Mattax</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6032</td>
<td>Katelyn Potter</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4662</td>
<td>Jessica Bates</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5363</td>
<td>Jessica Brown</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4324</td>
<td>Paige Wallery</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6012</td>
<td>Alexis McEwan</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5826</td>
<td>Austin Carson</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5874</td>
<td>Jessica Oldroyd</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6061</td>
<td>Sarah Smith</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5654</td>
<td>Keith Newton</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YOU TOLD US ABOUT YOUR HORSE(S)!

Thanks to everyone who took the recent survey - read on to learn the results:

WHAT BREED of equine do you think is best suited for CMO, and how many do you own? Those questions and others like it were answered by members who took the online survey that was mentioned in the last issue of the Meadow Muffin. Overwhelmingly, results indicated that you feel any breed of equine is appropriate for our sport - especially, as one member wrote, “ones who are broke.” That certainly helps, doesn’t it?

Three quarters of you keep your equines at home, and the remainder of you board elsewhere.

When asked to indicate which breed(s) you own, The American Quarter Horse won out with 36% of the vote, followed closely by Arabians at 31%. Tennessee Walkers came in next at 27%, followed by “Other Gaited”, Appaloosas, Paints, Thoroughbreds, Warmbloods, Welsh Pony, Mustang, and Fox Trotter. Additionally, there were several write-in responses for Drafts, Mules and Burros.

Most of you (30%) own only one equine; 18% own three; and those of you who own either two or “seven or more” tied at 14%! Ten percent of you own four; 7% own five; and 2% own six. The final category, those who own zero, but ride a friend or relative’s horse, came in at 2%.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey - the results are proof-positive that ANY equine can excel in CMO!

### Top 25 CMO Horses and Riders

**Top 25 Horses Nationally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Houdini</td>
<td>Noella Novarra</td>
<td>2727</td>
<td>2727</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>712</td>
<td>Buddy</td>
<td>Noella Novarra</td>
<td>2645</td>
<td>2645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>553</td>
<td>Lancer</td>
<td>Jim Klein</td>
<td>2462</td>
<td>2462</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>933</td>
<td>Taco</td>
<td>Fred Hanson</td>
<td>2356</td>
<td>2295</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Impulse Overdraft</td>
<td>Dave Caldwell</td>
<td>2045</td>
<td>2045</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>738</td>
<td>Skeeter</td>
<td>Lisa Kaiser</td>
<td>1866</td>
<td>1866</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>885</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>Vicky O’Connor</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>444</td>
<td>Toi</td>
<td>Leona Merryman</td>
<td>1811</td>
<td>1811</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Kocimba Magic</td>
<td>Dave Caldwell</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>334</td>
<td>Rio</td>
<td>Jim Klein</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Nizzon</td>
<td>Lisa Kaiser</td>
<td>1691</td>
<td>1691</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3161</td>
<td>Whiskey</td>
<td>Fred Hanson</td>
<td>1662</td>
<td>1662</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>717</td>
<td>Jazzi</td>
<td>Jim Beatty</td>
<td>1538</td>
<td>1538</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>962</td>
<td>Proven Innocent</td>
<td>Sherr Wager</td>
<td>1501</td>
<td>1501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3013</td>
<td>Poco Sue</td>
<td>Royla Westphal</td>
<td>1471</td>
<td>1471</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3273</td>
<td>Viper</td>
<td>Donna Amos</td>
<td>1456</td>
<td>1456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1102</td>
<td>Shamrocks Mist</td>
<td>Mary Gazaway</td>
<td>1448</td>
<td>1448</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1201</td>
<td>Dagwood</td>
<td>Linda Weber</td>
<td>1399</td>
<td>1399</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3313</td>
<td>Zima</td>
<td>Larry Dick</td>
<td>1393</td>
<td>1393</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1079</td>
<td>Flame</td>
<td>Cindy Debraik</td>
<td>1385</td>
<td>1385</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>348</td>
<td>Knicker</td>
<td>Patricia Kopp</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3991</td>
<td>Boze</td>
<td>Sherr Wager</td>
<td>1279</td>
<td>1279</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>674</td>
<td>Cheyene</td>
<td>Megan Youngs</td>
<td>1231</td>
<td>1231</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Shadowfax</td>
<td>Bill Jones</td>
<td>1173</td>
<td>1173</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1402</td>
<td>Tune’s Cowboy</td>
<td>Alison Bennett</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top 25 Riders Nationally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Rider</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1147</td>
<td>Noella Novarra</td>
<td>8163</td>
<td>8163</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2143</td>
<td>Ross Tillotson</td>
<td>6230</td>
<td>6230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1261</td>
<td>Leona Merryman</td>
<td>5569</td>
<td>5569</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2191</td>
<td>Jim Klein</td>
<td>4946</td>
<td>4946</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174</td>
<td>Donna Amos</td>
<td>4182</td>
<td>4182</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1575</td>
<td>Fred Hanson</td>
<td>3812</td>
<td>3812</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2089</td>
<td>Marti Caldwell</td>
<td>3731</td>
<td>3731</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2091</td>
<td>Sara Dick</td>
<td>3640</td>
<td>3640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1296</td>
<td>Chris Barnett</td>
<td>3481</td>
<td>3481</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1294</td>
<td>Linda Weber</td>
<td>3284</td>
<td>3284</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1414</td>
<td>Julie Gore</td>
<td>3199</td>
<td>3199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1380</td>
<td>Lisa Kaiser</td>
<td>3061</td>
<td>3061</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2344</td>
<td>Patricia Kopp</td>
<td>3027</td>
<td>3027</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2342</td>
<td>Ron Baillargeon</td>
<td>2940</td>
<td>2940</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2577</td>
<td>Vicky O’Connor</td>
<td>2891</td>
<td>2891</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1276</td>
<td>Mary Gazaway</td>
<td>2822</td>
<td>2822</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2192</td>
<td>Wendy Klein</td>
<td>2751</td>
<td>2751</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>Royla Westphal</td>
<td>2643</td>
<td>2643</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2194</td>
<td>Megan Youngs</td>
<td>2580</td>
<td>2580</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1345</td>
<td>Pat Mouw</td>
<td>2417</td>
<td>2417</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2179</td>
<td>Roxie Bank</td>
<td>2395</td>
<td>2395</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2694</td>
<td>Svenja Chesna</td>
<td>2343</td>
<td>2343</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2818</td>
<td>Bruce DeVries</td>
<td>2289</td>
<td>2289</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1297</td>
<td>Kathy Davis</td>
<td>2286</td>
<td>2286</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4647</td>
<td>Samantha-Jo Mattox</td>
<td>2277</td>
<td>2277</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Much Beloved Horse

By Denise Bingamon - IN/IL Chapter

Hi Fellow CMOer’s,

We were asked to take a brief survey and tell about our horses and so I did, but then it occurred to me that I really couldn’t tell the story I wanted to with that survey. I hope you enjoy what I am about to share.

This story began for me at the first CMO of 2009. It was at Mt Eschol (IN) where I met the horse that would change my life. The name of this wonderful horse is Model’s Joyce, a full-blooded black Percheron. She was at this ride because her current owner was rebuilding his wagon and training a new pulling team. Joyce was one of two surviving horses from a terrible accident in February 2009 when she and her team who were pulling a wagon were struck from behind by a tanker truck.

We were all fawning and fussing over these gentle giants. The draft horse is a wonderful breed and I had not the pleasure of being around them before. Her owner offered to let a friend of mine ride Joyce and she made the comment that I needed to ride this horse as well.

There was no way I getting up there! At the time I was riding a 13.3 halflinger. He was very safe and close to the ground so I did not have far to fall. Did I mention my nickname was crash? After some cajoling she got me to ride this beautiful horse. I was in love. I had to have Joyce, but I figured he would want too much for her. However there was no harm in asking what he would sell her for. His response floored me; he had owned her all her life (16 yrs) and that life on the road, pulling the wagon, had begun to take its toll and that if he could find the right home for her he would gift her to the owner. I thought I was going to die.

Anyone who knows me knows I am a great horse owner. They are my babies and they want for nothing. So after taking a picture of her (that did not truly show how large she was) I sent it to my husband and asked if could I bring her home. You should have seen the look on my husbands face when he saw her for the first time! She seemed massive next to the halflinger.

Joyce, who later became JoJo, taught me so much. I learned better balance, became more confident, and life was wonderful. I looked forward to riding since we had become such buddies. In 2010 our team was the National Champs and I was so proud of her. When I first took her out on the trails she really had to adjust, as if she were asking ‘where the heck are my paved roads and you want me to do what?’ What a joy to help her become a horse that did not work all the time, just a horse that had fun.

We had some ups and some downs with her health over the years, but we finally got her on the road to recovery and I was sure that 2013 would be our year. She looked so wonderful that people did not believe me when I told them she was 20 years old. She was in the best flesh since I had gotten her. Her attitude was that of a young horse and she was always ready to go. We were waiting for spring to hit the trails.

My story now turns to the worst day in my life. The day JoJo, my buddy, collicked and after a heartbreaking 24-hour battle I had to admit defeat and make the misery for her stop. Surgery was not recommended with her history and age, so we did the only thing we could for her. We let her go to sleep. There is not a day that goes by that I do not miss her and as the first anniversary of her passing approaches the heartache returns.

When I lost her I really thought about just getting out of horses. How could I ever love another horse as much as JoJo. How could I ever have that bond again? As you all know time heals all wounds and things do get better. I decided to stop feeling sorry for myself because that is not what she would have wanted for me and I went in search of my first gaited horse.

When I found Little Bit it was love at first sight. Things went well and she came home with me. To end this story on a good note I will tell you what happened with this horse and how sometimes things are just meant to be. This beautiful paint mare surprised us on August 23, 2013 by giving us a foal. We did not know she was expecting so can you imagine the look on our faces when we found the foal the next morning? Total shock I tell you! No one knew she was in foal, not even the people I bought her from. So now I have this cute little baby named Bitsy and am looking forward to learning lots about raising a horse.

While I am still sad over JoJo, I am looking forward to the bond I have been able to build with Bitsy from day one of her life. Thanks for reading and we will see you out on the trails.

Editor’s Note: To learn more about Joyce; her previous owner (Bob Skelding); and the terrible accident in which she was involved prior to Bob gifting her to Denise, visit www.wagonteamster.com.

We’d LOVE for you to submit your own horse story for publication in the Meadow Muffin! Please send articles, with or without pictures, to: TheMeadowMuffin@gmail.com
Hello from Alabama!

The Alabama chapter is off to a good start. We had a small teaching/clinic at a private farm, with 6 in attendance who welcomed me gratefully for teaching them about this new, exciting trail sport. Our banquet date is set for March 22nd at Paul M. Grist State Park. We’ll have a short meeting on “What is CMO”, and then head down the trail to find a few demo objects; enjoy the trails; and head back to camp. Afterwards we will have potluck and awards.

At current, we are planning one ride per month at locations that will include: Wind Creek, Paul M. Grist State Park, Heart of Dixie, and as far away as Bankhead and Talladega National Forests. Hope to see you there!

Jamie

WHAT A great ride season we had this past year! The IN/IL Chapter is very proud to be the home of the National Long Course Champion Team (Babes of the Woods), as well as the National Short Course Individual Champion Rider (Patricia Richerson)!

In addition to hosting twelve rides this past season, our chapter was very active in promoting our sport. A HUGE “Thank You” goes out to graphic designer, Karly Volk for her hard work in developing a promotional brochure for the IN/IL Chapter! The brochure was distributed by our chapter representatives while exhibiting at the Illinois Horse Fair (Mar. 7 - 9), and will be used again at the Hoosier Horse Fair (IN) on April 5th!

Our Chapter’s ride schedule is filling up - will we beat last year’s twelve rides? Schedule your ride today today to help make 2014 our best season yet!

IN - Long Course Team Placings
1st Babes of The Woods
2nd 49er Border Jumpers
3rd Seeing Spots

IN - Short Course Team Placings
1st Wild Mares

IN - Long Course Individual Placings
1st Theresa Serry

IL - Long Course Team Placings
1st Boonie Whompin Yee-Ha Chicks
2nd Pegasus
3rd The Gypsy Travelers

IL - Short Course Individual Placings
1st Robin Sahner
High Point IN Jr. Rider Runner Up

McKenna Farrell (Also Indiana Rookie of the Year!)

IN High Point Junior Rider Alexis McEwan and IN/National Short Course Individual Rider Champion Patricia Richerson

“Babes of the Woods” team: Jeanie Richardson, Marti Caldwell, Barb McGivney, Sara Dick, and Larry Dick

High Point IL Junior Rider

Sarah Smith

“Donald” award recipients Brandon and Charlie Cathcart (IL) pictured with presenter Pam Talsky (WI)

IN High Point Junior Rider Runner Up

Kyla Reed

IN & National Short Course Indiv. Champ

Michaela Cruson and Kandace Reed

IN High Point JR. Rider

Ben Kamen pictured with Jamie Reed

IL Rookie Award Winner Ben Kamen pictured with Jamie Reed

IL Rookie of The Year

Brandon Cathcart

1000 Rider Point Award

Patricia Richerson, Theresa Serry, Linda Byer, Jamie Reed

50 Rider Points

Karly Volk

50 Rider Points

Kyla Reed

50 Rider Points

Michaela Cruson and Kandace Reed

150 Rider Points

Krysten Gunter

Rider Points

Linda Gunter

Rider Points

Meadow Muffin | Spring 2014
**A Special Performance**

**Singer/songwriter Robin Sahner** wowed IN/IL Chapter banquet attendees with a specially written song!

**Spend a little time in the company of IN/IL Chapter member, Robin Sahner, and you'll quickly realize what a multi-talented individual she is. Robin, who currently serves as chapter Treasurer, and Webmaster for the NACMO website, has a love of both horses and song.**

At our recent awards banquet, Robin treated us to an a-cappella performance of a song she wrote to sum up what goes on in a Ride Manager’s head. Following are the song lyrics - which are set to follow the melody of that old classic, “76 Trombones”:

(Here's what you ride managers are thinking while you're setting up)

Seventy-six degrees from the sticker bush  
And a hundred and ten from a big maple tree  
And the plate can go right below this big branch right here  
So it will be very hard to see

(No wait, that's too easy)

Seventy-six degrees from a little hill  
And a hundred and ten from over a brook  
Both the readings are long enough  
It will be real tough  
Just to figure out where to look

(Yeah, that will get them)

There'll be lots of CMOers out there on the trail  
Searching here, searching there all along the way  
Doubling back to look again and they will fail  
This is hard - that's what they all will say

And the teams will still be out there as it's getting dark  
Searching here, searching there harder than before  
Looking, looking up and down  
Up in the trees and on the ground  
And feeling frustration even more

(But, except for me, people find things)  
(So here's what you ride managers are thinking after the ride)

But in the end the targets, they all were found  
But you know it's the truth if I had my way  
I'd have made them so hard to find  
But for limiting the time  
They would still be searching today  
Yes, they'd still be searching today

(Wait til next time!)

---

### Indiana/Illinois 2014 Ride Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 26/27</td>
<td>Wildcat Creek Brinthurst, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17/18</td>
<td>Middle Fork State Park Danville, IL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7/8</td>
<td>Kankakee River State Park Bourbonnals, IL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14/15</td>
<td>Matthiessen State Park Utica, IL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28/29</td>
<td>Salamonie Lost Bridge West Andrews, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19 (Saturday)</td>
<td>Miller Woods Lake Village, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20 (Sunday)</td>
<td>Deep River Hobart, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16/17</td>
<td>Midwest Trail Ride Norman, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 20/21</td>
<td>Middle Fork State Park Danville, IL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 27/28</td>
<td>Tippecanoe River State Park Winamac, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 25/26</td>
<td>TBA - Jubilee Park (Brimfield, IL) or Jim Edgar State Park (Chandlerville, IL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8/9</td>
<td>Kingdom Prairie N. Judson, IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Night time Riding Gear Recipients**

Illinois Father-Daughter team (Star-S) Garvin and Sarah Smith try on their new “Nighttime Riding Gear”: helmet-mounted lights and clip-on compass flashlights!
The snow was piled high outside but that did not stop any Michiganders from getting to our 2013 Banquet in Lansing Michigan. We had a great turnout with lots of new members and lots of families. We were at Tony M’s banquet room and the food and service were great. The prizes were plentiful and everyone was very impressed with the prizes the committee picked out. It was wonderful to see everyone and talk horse stuff. We all need that during this time of year.

We had a silent auction and the place was full of stuff for sale. There was a 3 tier saddle rack, horse videos, baked goods, fly masks, tack, and many more items. We made 404 dollars for our club. Thank you to all those who donated items to help make the Michigan club successful.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the banquet and awards committee for all of their hard work. The committee members were Rebecca Ferris, Cindy Debiak, Val Kadzban and Shelly Novakowski. It is important for everyone to know how much work goes into ordering prizes and taking orders from members and putting it all together. What an outstanding job!!

We can’t wait until the first ride in Michigan but we may have to snowblow the trails before we can ride. With record snowfall and temperatures this year, the horses seem to be holding up pretty good. The horses are shedding but the wind chills are still below zero some nights. Gotta love the Michigan weather. Good Luck to all the Chapters this year. We hope you have a safe and fun ride season.

**MI - Long Course Team Placings**

1st Wild Women, Tame Horses & A Stud *National Reserve Team
2nd Gurlz in Gear
3rd Freedom Riders

**MI - Short Course Team Placings**

1st Little Buckaroos
2nd Also Ran
3rd Horse Lovers

**MI - Long Course Individual Placings**

1st Royla Westphal *Also Reserve National Female

**MI - Short Course Individual Placings**

1st Cindy Holtz
2nd Billy Ruh *National Male (4 Rides)

**MI - Junior Awards**

1st Katelyn Potter *National Runner Up
2nd Jessica Bates
3rd Austin Carson
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
Jim Klein - MN Director
Lisa Kaiser - WI Director

MN/WI - Long Course Team Placings
1st  K Klan
2nd  Team Iowa Old Newtons
3rd  Speed Kills

MN/WI - Short Course Team Placings
1st  Dynamic Duo
2nd  Dysfunctional Duo
3rd  WOOF

MN/WI - Long Course Individual Placings
1st  Jim Klein
2nd  Connie Brown
3rd  Vicky O’Connor (3 rides)

MN/WI - Short Course Individual Placings
1st  Barb Partington (2 rides)
2nd  Lori Morlan

Michigan 2014 Ride Schedule

May 17/18  Hadley Hill
Ortonville Recreation Area
Benefit for OREA

May 30/31, June 1  Pink It Up - BEE Brave CMO
Silver Creek, Hamilton, MI
Benefit for Mary Kay Ash Found.

June 14/15  Horses for Hope CMO
Elba Equestrian Complex
Benefit for Horses for Hope

July 12/13  Riding to the Rescue CMO
D bar D
Benefit Osceola Animal Shelter

Aug 9/10  Waterfalls of Michigan CMO
Ely Lake Campground
5020 - 116th Ave., Fernnvile, MI

Sept 13/14  Beverly Hillbillies Hoedown CMO
Waterloo Recreation Area

Sept 27/28  Back to School CMO
Cummings Ctr., Mt. Morris, MI

Oct 4/5  It’s a Mexican Fiesta CMO
YMCA Camp Eberhart
Three Rivers, MI

CLASSIFIED ADS  The Meadow Muffin

FOR SALE

JUMPING SADDLE
Barnsby Jumping Saddle,
15 1/2" seat; good condition;
needs a rivet on the left front. Stirrups and leathers included, along with 2 saddle pads. $95-
For more information contact Pat Mouw (IN/IL Chapter) at:

pmouw@hotmail.com

WANTED

YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS
Submit your classified ad to appear in the next issue of The Meadow Muffin! Your ad (with or without a picture) will run
FREE OF CHARGE, and will reach the entire NACMO membership. Ads will run in one issue of The Meadow Muffin per submission. To submit a new ad, or renew your previous ad contact the editor at: TheMeadowMuffin@gmail.com

Summer 2014 Issue Submission Deadline: June 1, 2014

NACMO not responsible for incomplete sale transactions
Greetings from the North East!

Here in the states of NJ and PA we are experiencing the worst winter weather in decades. We have had repeated snowfalls of 6-12 inches and ice storms where communities have been without power for 2 weeks. We are not use to having below-zero temps, and neither is the farm equipment. We have had water lines to the automatic waterers and frost-free hydrants, frozen in the ground. But spring will be here soon right?

Our region is getting our act together, scheduling our rides; Scott Arndt will join the experienced Ride Managers, as he will manage his first ride in August.

Shelia and Janice are back on track with their ride at Birdsboro in September along with The Nonmakers, Sandy G, Steve L, Janice E, and myself.

I am sad to say Noelle and Bill VanderBrink are planning on making that southwardly move to Florida this year. We will miss them, as they have been part of this NACMO family for many years, hosting many rides at their home and also being Regional Director for many years before I took the position.

Everyone is anxious to get going!!! Will the snow and ice ever go away?

Janet

Farm Snowman complete with “horse-adornments” made by one of the students at Janet Citron’s Three Bays Farm.

NJ/PA - Long Course Team Placings

1st Pocono Pony Express
2nd Cross Country Explorers
3rd Triperfecta

WA - Long Course Team Placings

1st Hopalong Casulaties
2nd Fred’s Harem
3rd Hot Flash Honeys

WA - Short Course Team Placings

1st Donner Party #
2nd Laughing Cowgirls
3rd Mileage May Vary

WA - Long Course Individual Placings

1st Jeff Thornton
2nd Kathy Davis
3rd Fred Hanson

WA - Short Course Individual Placings

1st Linda Knutson
2nd Laura Lluellyn
3rd Anne Marie Franke
Competitive Mounted Orienteering (CMO) is a safe, fun equine activity for all riders. Dubbed “The Thinking Horse Sport”, CMO is similar to a mounted treasure-hunt, which tests your horsemanship; your map-reading ability; and your compass-skills – all while having great fun with your horse! The object of the sport, which is sanctioned by the National Association of Competitive Mounted Orienteering (NACMO), is to ride out as an individual or a team, on a prescribed course and find as many hidden markers as you can, in the shortest amount of time.

Riders travel at their own pace, finding markers in any order. While speed can be key, CMO is definitely not a horse-race. Finding the markers is more important than speed, and often the fastest riders rush past landmarks only to lose time backtracking.

CMO is great fun with a fantastic group of folks! All riders and all types of equines (minimum 3 years old) are welcome.

Submission deadline for the Summer 2014 issue is June 1.
Please send your submissions to the editor by email at:

TheMeadowMuffin@gmail.com

or via “snail mail” to:

The Meadow Muffin
10093 North 1750 Avenue
Geneseo, IL 61254-8926