



# McHenry County Horse Club News

March, 2021

## ★ President's Corner ★

As we move through 2021, the Board is planning our activities for the first half of the year to be via Zoom or outdoor where people can Social Distance and if required wear a facemask.

It is our hope, that as we approach the 2021 fall season, we will be able to meet in person and conduct member events both indoor and outdoor. However, if facemasks are required, we will be asking members to wear them.

To keep informed, you will continue to receive texts and emails and as always the MCHC website [McHenryCountyHorseClub.com](http://McHenryCountyHorseClub.com), should have the most up to date information.

Last fall, we asked the members on our Zoom calls what we could do to help the flow of information to and between members. Members requested that we increase our bi-annual newsletter to quarterly to help replace the information flow that typically took place at meetings. So we need your help.

Please provide Diane Zimmerman ( [dkz30@hotmail.com](mailto:dkz30@hotmail.com) ) with a short paragraph on a product you love or on a new member to the

family or a clinic you think others would be interested in or anything you would like to share. And pictures are always appreciated.

So PLEASE bear with us, as we transition this year back to NORMAL. We will be looking forward to our annual 2022 Winter Party, Clinics, 4H Tack Sale, Play Dates and Barn Tour, just to name a few.

As always any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Board Members.

Vern

815-354-4418

### Products I Love..



**WET & FORGET  
CONCENTRATE**

**MOSS, MOLD, MILDEW &  
ALGAE STAIN REMOVER**

Are you tired of the never-ending cycle of cleaning black and green stains from your home? Introducing the easiest solution for eliminating these issues without using elbow grease or harsh chemicals—Wet & Forget Outdoor Cleaner! Simply spray and walk away! That's it. Wet & Forget goes to work with the wind and rain to gently clean the surface over time.

- Easy Spray & Leave Application
- No Scrubbing, Rinsing or Pressure Washing
- Bleach-Free, Phosphate-free and Non-acidic
- Surfaces Stay Clean 1+ Years in Most Cases
- Safe for Virtually any Outdoor Surface

This is a product I have been using for the past 10 years and have recommended it to many people. IT REALLY WORKS and all you have to do is spray and let the rain do all the work. You can buy it at most big box home improvement stores as well as Walmart and Costco. I give it a 10 out of 10!

Vern

## My Pandemic Pony

By Diane Hamilton

The COVID-19 Pandemic has us all a little cooped up and a little crazy. On one of my crazier days in September, I announced to my husband, Bob, that I wanted to buy a pony. I told him that they are so cute, fluffy and huggable and would be great for the grandkids. He told me I didn't want a pony, but wanted a Labrador puppy.

After much "discussion" Bob said to at least follow the rule never to buy a horse unseen. I started looking in Illinois, then Indiana, Missouri and so on, until I found myself on the internet looking at ponies in Texas. As you have already guessed, I found a pony in Texas that seemed to fit the bill. I wanted a pony between 11-12 hands, small enough for the kids, but large enough for me to give training rides. (I am not a big person) I saw some videos and decided that was enough for me to decide on this particular pony. I did not heed Bob's advice of never buying a horse unseen. I named him Quinn. So, the saga continues.

I had the pony shipped to Illinois. That part went fairly easily. The rig pulled up to my house and they walked out this very cute, roan, 11 hand pony with a mane that was all over the place. His eye was leaking goo all over his face from an infection and his back had white

scars probably from an ill-fitting saddle .

I let him settle in for a few days while treating his eye infection and altering a saddle that I had to properly fit him. We had to build a small paddock for him because my other two horses did not like him in the least. He seemed to be happy with his living arrangements including a box stall at night.

On day five we tried our first ride. It went fairly well, after the bucking stopped! He did a lot of head tossing and tongue wagging, because his gums were sore from a previous ill-fitting bit. It took me awhile to figure this out. I had some injections into his gums to relieve the pain and I got him a bitless bridle. I found a great company that makes them to order for under \$100.

I have spent the last couple of months doing ground work and light riding all over our property. Three of the grandkids stopped over on Sunday. We were all masked up and stayed outside or in the arena with the doors open. Quinn gave a quiet pony ride to the 4-year-old. One of the 9 year olds, who doesn't ride well yet, walked him calmly around the arena with me walking beside, and the other 9 year old, who does ride, ended up jumping over a small jump in perfect control.

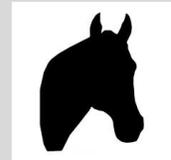
So, I do not exactly have my Labrador pony, but I do have a really good one. Even Bob says so.



By Judy Scacci

We sent the following email out on December 9, 2020....

### FRESH MCHC



### Treats Available

Our star bakers have been busy baking MCHC Horse Treats. These make perfect Christmas gifts for Horse Lovers  
♥

We are selling bags of 30 treats for \$5

Contact Judy Scacci at 847-322-2205 to arrange a pick-up time.

Since then, we have sold 1,380 treats and have made \$230 for the club!!

Christmas is over but the offer is still out there, so if you need horse treats, you know who to call.

# Parts of a Saddle

G P L N L H T Y Y M D C T U B L Y W V Y  
 A A J V T O S I H F B O D E A C Y V D E  
 S L Q H Y H Z X P K P S J F C B Z Q O K  
 B F F U A C P U R R I T S X L U E R G C  
 W E R E D N E F G K U E X Q D D W I R O  
 W L B G D O G S N V N K P M S B S O V J  
 D D B R H C W L I K R E O O E T H M U C  
 D D E L K E L O S X O L Z D I B O O H T  
 E A O Q L F V P U X H J Q R D C G Q K K  
 J S G L G N U L O M I L R D W C U N W N  
 M X U F M N Y Q H N T U E L T N A C I G  
 Y K D Y Q J T A R L P V V W H O B P J R  
 F H F P X W G G A L E M M O P S D U O A  
 M E V Q I Q U I E Q W N T X G R R M W B  
 H B Y S Y L O A R S P R A R L J L E O X  
 B C T T L W T L T E B Y Y P I V S A T C  
 P D Y E G H P L L O R E E N K K L E A E  
 O Q T K E F N O R I P U R R I T S J N H  
 Z O T R E N R C T A E S E O H E U S B K  
 K D S N J Y B T P N C M Y J N T O H J V

POMMEL  
 CANTLE  
 KNEEROLL  
 SEAT  
 SADDLEFLAP  
 SKIRT  
 PANEL  
 TWIST  
 STIRRUPLEATHER  
 STIRRUPIRON  
  
 HORN  
 GULLET  
 SWELL  
 REARHOUSING  
 CONCHO  
 FENDER  
 STIRRUP  
 JOCKEY  
 RINGS

## Treasurer's Report

As the club's new treasurer, I wanted to give you a brief update on our finances. But first, I want to offer a sincere thanks to Ron Miller for his service to the club.

As many of you are aware, we are waiving 2021 dues for current members. The board determined it wouldn't be fair to charge everyone when the pandemic has severely restricted our activities. Membership renewals were a significant portion of overall revenue, so we will be running in the red this year but have an adequate cash cushion.

Some expenses are relatively fixed such as website, insurance, etc. The only large item in our current budget is for a fall bonfire, when we hope to be able to get back together in person. Given current restrictions and uncertainty on the timing of change, the budget will be in a state of flux this year. I will endeavor to keep the membership informed of changes through newsletters, monthly meetings.

Respectfully, Don Kent  
 847-530-4951

### Horse Trails: **OPEN**

Boone Creek  
 Brookdale Multi Use  
 Glacial Park  
 Hebron Trail  
 Hickory Grove Highlands & Lyons  
 Prairie & Marsh  
 Pleasant Valley  
 Prairie Trail North  
 Stickney Run

Horse Trails: **CLOSED**  
 Rush Creek



## It's Time to Ride

It is almost Spring and that means getting back on our horses!

Just a quick reminder that we start MCHC Riding Season on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Lakewood Trail in Lake County, ride out 10:00am. A trail tag is required which you can purchase the day of the ride.

Save April 24<sup>th</sup> for the CMO Ride at Rock Cut State Park. Additional information to follow.

Any questions, please contact me.

Jenis Ellingwood  
 (312) 451-1917

### 2021 Trail Ride Dates\* Ride Out Times - 10:00 AM

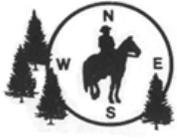
Sunday March 28 - Lakewood  
 Saturday April 24 - Rock Cut State Park  
 Sunday April 25 - Brookdale  
 Saturday May 8 - Rush Creek  
 Sunday May 23 - Glacial  
 Saturday June 12 - Burnidge  
 Sunday June 27 - Rock Cut  
 Saturday July 10 - Kinnikinnick  
 October 31 - Halloween Ride Brookdale (Lunch Provided)

\* Check your email and [McHenryCountyHorseClub.com](http://McHenryCountyHorseClub.com) for the latest information.

And the status of the MCCD trails as of their website update on 1/22/2021.

It's always best to check the McHenry County Conservation District website for any closures prior to riding at any of the sites.

# National Association of Competitive Mounted Orienteering



IN / IL Chapter

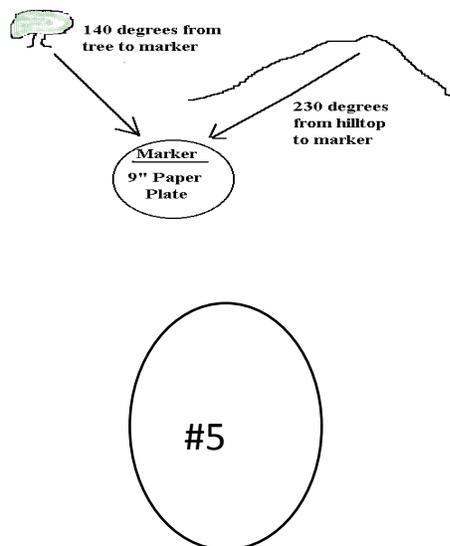
Thanks for your interest in Competitive Mounted Orienteering. Here are a few things that will help acquaint you with our sport. Our national organization supports an active chapter in Indiana and Illinois, and a new growing chapter in KY. We hope you can join us at some of our rides this season. Our schedule can be found at our national web site: [www.nacmo.org](http://www.nacmo.org), and in many horse event calendars. Most of our rides take place in north central and northwestern Indiana and NE Illinois, but our area grows every year.

CMO is a timed event covering from 5 to 15 miles where you find 5-10 markers using a map (provided) and a compass. A marker is a plain 9" white paper plate with numbers and letters on it. A pre-ride clinic and practice session precede each ride. You will be taught how to find a marker, on foot, somewhere in the camp area, before the ride begins. Riders compete either individually or in teams and may go at any pace, finding markers in any order. You will need an orienteering type compass, available for about \$10 at any store selling camping equipment. Maps of the area are supplied by the ride manager, as each team starts out.

CMO is fun and easy to learn; developing trail smarts in both horse and rider, and bringing "horse people" of all disciplines together.

Endurance riders, dressage and combined training enthusiasts, trail riders, western pleasure, gaited horse riders, mule and performance horse riders all enjoy CMO. All types of horses, ponies, mules and other equines are welcome (at least 3 years old).

To find a marker, ride until you locate the landmarks described in the clues. The marker - a paper plate attached to a tree or stump - will be found where the compass bearings from two different landmarks cross. For example, the plate may be located by finding the intersection of a line going 140° (southeast) from a landmark tree, and another bearing going 230° (southwest) from a hilltop. The markers are visible from horseback, though riders may dismount at any time during the ride. Writing the letters from the plate on your map proves you found the marker.



Junior riders must have written permission from a parent, and must ride with an adult. We have a number of 1 and 2 day rides scheduled. For 2 day rides, most participants come for the weekend, and camp overnight. Join us for a pot luck dinner on Saturday night and a communal campfire where we all tell lies about how we did that day

Lying is an integral part of this sport, because even though start times are staggered, it is very possible that you will come across other teams during your ride. It is useful to have a code worked out with your teammates to let them know you have found a marker without tipping off your opponents. And it is perfectly legal to disassemble a bit and try to throw other teams off! There are no electronic aids allowed like GPS devices, phones, or walkie-talkies, and of course, no one may tamper with a marker or a landmark.

CMO riders are fun people to be with. They are horse folks who truly enjoy recreation with their horses. All levels of horses and riders compete. The entire ride can be done at a walk if you want, dismounting is fine at any time, and it is a wonderful activity for training young horses. The most successful riders maintain a good trot for most of the ride, and plan their route carefully; it is definitely not a horse race. Finding the markers is more important than speed, and often the fastest riders rush past the landmarks and lose time backtracking.

## Competitive Mounted Orienteering...(continued)

Rides are sanctioned by NACMO (Nat. Association for Competitive Mounted Orienteering). There are periodic newsletters and year-end awards at the state and national levels

Cumulative records of points earned are kept on both horse and rider. IN/IL CMO makes additional awards to members.

Insurance regulations require that all riders be members to participate. One-day memberships cost \$5.00. Yearly national memberships are \$25.00 (individual) or \$40.00 (family). Annual NACMO membership is required for eligibility for national and state awards. Chapter membership dues are \$10, which provides our IN/IL awards, annual banquet expenses and membership in the IN and IL horse associations that support trail use.

NACMO hosts a web site at [www.nacmo.org](http://www.nacmo.org), and information about rides in the IN and IL areas may be found there or by contacting Marti Caldwell, (219) 743-3139 or by email at: [cldwil48@gmail.com](mailto:cldwil48@gmail.com).



## First Quarter MCHC Photo Contest

The 1st photo contest was a great success. We had 16 entries! Our winner, Sheri Roberson took her horse, Dallas, to The Golden Years, a local nursing home around Christmas. Their presence delighted all the residents which you can clearly see in the photo below:



### Congratulations to Sheri!

She will be receiving a \$25 gift certificate from Union Feed. Sheri wanted me to give credit to Sam Karls for coming up with the idea to take the horses to the nursing home.

If you didn't win, no problem, you will have another opportunity soon.

On May 7th, an email will be sent announcing the 2nd Quarter MCHC Photo Contest. There will also be an announcement on the MCHC Facebook page.

Post your photo on Facebook May 8th through 18th. Club members, friends, relatives and absolutely anyone can vote by "like" ing any or all the photos until 11:59 pm on May 18th. The winner will be announced May 19th.

For complete details, please go to the MCHC website Home Page.

You can't win if you don't enter.

Good luck to all,

Jenis Ellingwood

(312) 451-1917

### Future Contests

3rd Quarter:  
Email and FB announcement posted on August 6th  
Post your Photo August 7th – 13<sup>th</sup>, winner announced August 14th

4th Quarter:  
Email and FB announcement posted on November 5th  
Post your Photo November 6th – November 16<sup>th</sup>, winner announced November 17th