



# Montana Walking Horse News

Tennessee Walking Horse Exhibitor's Association of Montana

## Rendezvous and Versatility Show - June 21-22

Sapphire Event Center, Corvallis, MT

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The Rendezvous is THE opportunity for all of us who love the Tennessee Walker to get together and revel in the fact that we own this fine breed.

In addition to show classes demonstrating the natural gait of the Walker, we have included additional events and activities in the hope of encouraging more TWH enthusiasts who have not shown.

If your primary interests do not include showing your TWH, we encourage you to bring your horses and take part in the variety of fun classes at this year's versatility show. You will have the opportunity to meet other TWH enthusiasts, share stories, and ride together at this fun event.

The show is also a great opportunity to learn more about the breed and the fundamentals of the flat-walk, running-walk, and rocking-horse canter. All levels of rider can experience the beauty of a correctly performed gait.

Nestled in the Bitterroot Valley, the Sapphire Events Center is nearby to epic mountain trails if you are interested in adding this to your itinerary. Contact Amy Yalon or Lisa Emory for more details.

Trailerside socializing provides an opportunity for those new and old to this event to share training ideas, breeding experiences, favorite tack, or just good stories. We hope you come join us.

Sapphire Event Center  
1750 Eastside Highway, Corvallis, MT

Judge: The Honorable Dee Dee Sale,  
NHSC Judge

Show Director: Pat Nikrasch, Huson, MT

Show Manager: Laurie Kress, Huson, MT

Ring Steward: Nancy Stoverud, Missoula, MT

Show Secretary: Shirley Swingley

For more information about the Rendezvous contact: Barbara Jennings, Huson, MT (406) 626-4439

Trails Info: Amy Yalon (406) 531-2127 or  
Lisa Emory (406) 961-1363

**SEE YOU AT THE RENDEZVOUS!**

### Sapphire Event Center Layout



Image Courtesy of Google.com

## A Letter From the President

Rick Wies

***"I Look forward  
to seeing you all  
at this years  
Rendezvous and  
Versatility  
Show!"  
-Rick***

### TROPHY WINNERS

**Adult Rider**  
Pat Nikrasch

**Plantation Horse**  
John Gonitzke

**Lite Shod Horse**  
Barb Jennings

**Trail Pleasure Horse**  
Pat Nikrasch

**Youth**  
Megan Auch

**Pearl Tompkins Award**  
Sandy Jankowski

Our horse show is coming up on June 21 and 22 and I hope all will bring their horses and have a good time. There is a division for everyone. Please consider a class sponsorship as that info was with the show program. It will be appreciated.

If you are in region three and would like to serve as a director that position is open and you need to let me know as I will make that appointment. This position is through the annual meeting in 2009.

From our By-Laws:

**Region One** shall consist of that portion of the state west of a north/south line through and including Missoula and includes the Flathead Valley. Its Director shall be elected in even numbered years.

**Region Two** shall consist of that portion of the state west of a north/south line through and including Townsend, west to the boundary of Region One and shall include Helena, Butte, and Anaconda. Its Director shall be elected in odd numbered years.

**Region Three** shall consist of that portion of the state west of a north/south line through and including Big Timber and will include Bozeman and Great Falls, west to the boundary of Region Two. Its Director shall be elected on odd numbered years.

**Region Four** shall consist of all points in Montana east of (and not including) a north/south line through Big Timber and shall include Lewistown and Billings. Its Director shall be elected even numbered years

I am looking for volunteers to serve on a trail committee. This committee will be fully responsible for the trail activities associated with TWHEAM. Meaning, the

organization and all functions, including but not limited to setup, workers, safety, location, dates, insurance, fiscal accountability etc. In other words, similar to our existing show committee.

Also, we need volunteers for the youth scholarship committee.

Thanks, to those who attended the annual meeting and clinic. Jenny's Walking horses (and they were a walking) and morning demonstrations were awesome. Thanks to the Perry's for letting Jenny bring their horses.

With an agenda being presented to the members, (the first time in my recollection) I was very disappointed that this agenda was voted down prior to the reports being made etc. If the by-law changes failed that is okay, but to not have them presented and discussed seemed unnecessary, not to mention the lost time on new programs etc. Oh well.

I have attended one group ride with over ninety riders and saw moose, elk and bear with new cub. What are the odds?

The national TWHBEA trail ride in Montana has been cancelled due to lack of funding. If you are not aware our national organization is not in the best financial condition. As a member of the current administrative/fiscal committee I can relay that this condition was handed down to us and steps are being taken to improve, but it is tough.

I have agreed to serve as the TWHBEA Equine Trails Initiative coordinator for Montana.

Also, thanks to Amy for taking on the job of newsletter editor.

Have a great Summer.



## 2008 Annual Meeting and Clinic Recap

The Board of Directors of TWHEAM was proud to host its 2008 annual meeting and clinic

### Clinic Recap

#### Saturday & Sunday, April 22 – 27th TWHEAM Clinic

This years annual clinic took place at Rea Quarter Horse's near Helena, MT. Folks arrived Friday afternoon through Saturday. Only a few hearty souls spent their nights on-site. Friday night saw heavy wind and a few inches of snow, but the rest of the weekend improved to t-shirt warmth and sunglasses.



Jenny Caulkins was our 2008 clinician. She practices Parelli training techniques and provided the attendees with a few demonstrations.

Saturday morning she worked with a young gelding in the arena as attendees watched from outside the ring. The horse was in-tune to her movements on the ground as she worked with him in a halter and without a halter. She also rode him bridle-less with a bareback pad.

After her demonstration, attendees were encouraged to bring their horses into the arena with a halter to work on ground work. Several toys, obstacles, and 'scary-life-threatening' objects were available to work with your horse on.

After lunch, Jenny returned to center stage and demonstrated the Parelli Seven-games. Afterwards the attendees were again given the chance to bring their horses in and improve their groundwork and handling skills using these techniques. Hopefully everyone gained some horsemanship skills from these opportunities.



Sunday resumed with Jenny riding a black mare that had



some show background. She demonstrated patience in working with your horse and getting them in the correct mindset to work on gaiting. This mare displayed the hard work and consistency some horses require to pull out the

fundamentals in the walking horse gaits.

After lunch, attendees saddled up their horses and rode in the arena. They worked on attempting the obstacles and gaiting. Jenny provided gaiting tips and tricks and other training techniques to the riders.

### Annual Members Meeting

The General Members Meeting took place around 4 pm on Saturday, April 22nd. Veterans and new members alike took part in discussing the club issues and events coming up.



### Important Issues

**Membership Registrations/ Renewals and Dues** - All registrations and fees for the club must be sent to Pat Nickrash, Club Treasurer. Please do not use the PayPal account linked on any website, as the club officials do not have access to these accounts. You can also contact your officials (see list on page 2) for a registration form.

### Thank You

A big thanks to Sandy Jankowski for her work leading to an awesome event.

**Thanks Sandy !**

## Member News

### Horseback Riding Adventures

#### Walkers on the Little Missouri: A Postcard from Dan and Emily Aadland

In mid-May Emily and I enjoyed a trip we'd recommend to any walking horse owner who loves cruising the trails in big, open spectacular country. Since I'm working on a book about the horses and hunting of Theodore Roosevelt, spending some saddle time on his famous turf was mandatory.

We camped at the Elkhorn Campground approximately thirty miles northeast of Medora, North Dakota. So early in the season, this horse-friendly campground was devoid of all guests but us! There was a hitching rail for Partner and Redstar, a hand pump for water, and limitless riding both north and south on the Maah Daah Hey Trail.



Emily Aadland and Redstar on the Maah Daah Hey

Heading north the first day we rode sixteen miles on the bluffs high above the Little Missouri. The trail is extremely well marked and mostly mild, though there are some ledge portions with drop-offs where the trail might be risky when wet. Lunch by the swollen river under stately cottonwoods was a high point.

The next day, time constraints and a wind so fierce I couldn't keep a tightly-fitting baseball cap on my head (my cowboy hat had become impossible) cut our riding short, but we made it down to the original Elkhorn ranch site (administered by the National Park service). A short, pleasant hike took us to the foundation stones of Roosevelt's original ranch home.



Dan Aadland with Partner on the Little Missouri

Gaited horse fans should know that Roosevelt frequently comments in his writings on the gaitedness of the cow ponies he found when he came west. He often mentions their running walk, foxtrot, and single-foot, and says no one who spends days in the saddle cares for a trot. (All this confirms what Emily's grandfather passed down to us from his cowboy days in Montana in the 1880's.)

For more information on this area just surf Theodore Roosevelt National Park, email me ([draa@montana.net](mailto:draa@montana.net)) or talk to Sasha Olson ([walkinghorse@hotmail.com](mailto:walkinghorse@hotmail.com)), who knows the area extremely well and has ridden many miles on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Happy Trails!



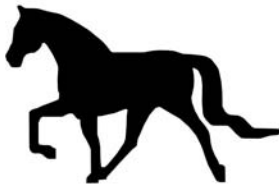
## Member News

### Horseback Riding Adventures

#### Extreme Trail Rider

Member Jack Emory, who lives in the Bitterroot Valley, participated in the Ride the West Extreme Trail Challenge May 17, 2008 in Spokane WA. He rode TWHBEA "Rock's Gone Country" and although he didn't place in the top ten was 18th out of 40 riders. Not bad for his first time to town.

Jack riding Rock's Gone Country during the competition. What a beautiful horse!



#### Campout in the Rattlesnake Wilderness

Amy Yalon, with her trusty 16 year old TWH gelding Luke, and chocolate lab Turkish went for an overnight trip into the backcountry near Missoula. After riding 19 miles past high country lakes and tundra, the crew settled in a beautiful valley next to Rattlesnake Creek.



Luke taking a break above McKinley Lake



Ready to head out from the Rattlesnake horse trailhead near Missoula



Camping out under the stars near Rattlesnake Creek

## Sousa Ranch Get-Together - June 13th-15th

Mike, Jan, and Kate Sousa



You are invited to the Sousa Ranch for a weekend of socializing, riding, and enjoying the outdoors. We are located in the beautiful Nine Mile Valley, just west of Missoula. Nearby riding areas include trails, mountains, pastures, and streams. You can ride from camp or choose from multiple forest service trails in the area that require a short trailer ride to the trailhead.

You can begin arriving on Friday, set up camp, circle the wagons, and take an evening ride. Maps and directions will be available, so groups can go out on their own and explore. Saturday and Sunday we can coordinate for more riding and other events.

A catered meal will be provided on Saturday evening. Please bring potluck items and drinks for other meals, as sharing food is a great way to relax and to get to know one another. A grill with griddle will be available and the cowboy coffee will be ready early. We are planning a couple nights around the campfire after a good trail ride.

Please bring your human accommodations - so far most people will be camping in tents. A few have RV's. For the horses we have several options that will be decided upon arrival and space - we have a limited number of small corrals not far from the camping area, and we have a lot of space for individual hot lines. Some like to tie to trailers or on a high line.

There is plenty of grass if you don't have certified weed-free hay for your horses. Also, remember your flashlight and lawn chairs. With fifty people coming and as many horses, it might be better to leave your canine friends home for this weekend.

If you haven't yet, please let us know if you plan to attend so we can count for dinner and for horse accommodation. Contact us at [sousaranch@gmail.com](mailto:sousaranch@gmail.com), or call (406) 626-4757

So come join the fun!

## Tidbits

**Members** - please respond to the editor with your updated mailing and email addresses. The TWHEAM Officers would like to confirm these addresses to make sure that you receive all club correspondences.

You can find the editor contact information on the last page of this issue. We appreciate your response!

**Electronic Newsletter** - Are you interested in receiving an e-only version of the TWHEAM newsletter? Please let us know of your choice.

E-newsletters will be distributed from the editors email address and in PDF format. You will need Adobe Reader to open the files, which is free software. Make sure your spam filters will allow it.

## 2008 TWH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Regional and National Listings

June 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Western States Horse Expo at the Cal-Expo in Sacramento, CA

June 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> TWHEAO Horse Show, Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR

June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Great Northern Regional Versatility, Haymaker Arena, Thorsby, Alberta, Canada

July 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Packing for the Backcountry Clinic. Contact Brandon Carpenter at (406) 947-5600.

July 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Gaiting Clinic, Standing Rock Ranch, Billings, MT. Contact Deb at (406) 656-2549

July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Grand Champion Pleasure/Colt Walking Horse Show. Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro, TN

August 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, TWHBEA World Show. Tennessee Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro, TN

August 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration World Grand Championship Show. [www.twhnc.com](http://www.twhnc.com)

October 4<sup>th</sup>&5<sup>th</sup> Horsemanship & Gaiting Clinic at Natural Horsemanship Barn, Stevensville, MT. Contact Brandon Carpenter at (406) 947-5600.

December 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, TWHBEA Annual Banquet & Meeting

## Trail Rider Challenges

### Horseback Riding Adventures

By now, you've probably noticed the growing popularity of "Extreme Trail Challenges." These events test rider and horse against a series of obstacles that are common to a regular trail ride. Some even incorporate cowboy or ranch hand chores as obstacles.

These events are popping up all over the country. Lisa Emory, a TWHEAM member and member of the Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen wants to invite you to the BCH Extreme Trail Challenge this summer. It will be an exciting event with classes for all level of rider and horse.

Don't ask Lisa to spill the beans about what obstacles to anticipate. Those secrets are guarded until the day of the event. If you want to try a bribe, or just have a question, she can be reached at 406-961-1363 or at [lisaemory2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaemory2001@yahoo.com). She encourages you to give it a shot even if it's your first time. Good luck!



**EXTREME TRAIL CHALLENGE**  
 Saturday, August 2, 2008  
 River Ranch • Hamilton, Montana



*Limited openings • Register by  
 July 20 • Hurry! Filling Fast!*

**4 Class Divisions:**  
 • Youth 12 & under • Novice • Open • Pro

• *Free to Spectators • Vendors*  
 • *Almost-World-Famous BBCH Lunch Wagon*

*Presented by*  
**Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen**  
 Contact: Lisa Emory 406-961-1363  
 Info and registration:

 [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot/extreme.htm](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot/extreme.htm)



“Have a Walkin’  
good summer!”  
-Amy



Special thanks to Marie Lanier for her TWHEAM newsletter templates.

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TWHEAM

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