

## TWHEAM

### TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE ENTHUSIASTS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA

Hello Members!

Today is the summer Solstice and our club is well underway with summer activities. In May we held our annual Trail Obstacle day at Dunrovin Ranch in Lolo which was attended by approximately 40 riders. It was a beautiful spring day and, thanks to Ethan and Lorri, everyone received value from the day.

Last Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, we held a Square Dance with our horses with Dani Ede acting as our choreographer. We had many laughs with the horses asking us "What the Heck?" Definitely a fun way to spend time together with friends and horses. We also got to celebrate ( a day early) Trish Foster's birthday.

Our first trail ride is June 30<sup>th</sup> out of Pat and Joe Nikrasch's in Huson. So far we already have 13 riders planning on attending.. We will be guided by our trail boss, Barb Jennings with me assisting. Afterwards, there is a cook-out with Pat and Joe providing hamburgers.

This year we formed a Youth Scholarship committee, since one of the club's stated purposes in our by-laws is to sponsor youth activities involving gaited horses. Our first recipient is Aaron Holland who rides at Dunrovin Ranch. Here is his essay:

*Essay for Tennessee Walking Horse Enthusiasts' Associations of Montana's  
Scholarship*

*By Aaron Holland, a 16 year old Montanan*

*I was 2 the first time I sat on a horse. My folks were very nervous because I was not a risk taker and didn't know my uncle or his horse. Their concerns were unfounded. I loved the horse and the short ride. My enjoyment of horses and riding has continued thanks to Dunrovin Ranch. I have attended many summer camps and now I participate in their apprenticeship program. This afterschool program has provided me the opportunity to learn about caring for Tennessee Walkers and to spend time with one of my favorite horses, Micky a Tennessee Walker.*

*The Tennessee Walking Horse Enthusiasts' Associations of Montana's scholarship will provide me with the opportunity to continue my education and experience in working with Tennessee Walkers. The scholarship will provide me with education and training at Dunrovin Ranch. This training and education will increase my knowledge and skills related to Tennessee Walkers' gait and their versatility in trail, arena, and obstacle course riding. The scholarship funding will allow Dunrovin to continue educating me in all aspects of the Tennessee Walker.*

*My time with Dunrovin's staff has been a pleasure. Because of their vast knowledge of Tennessee Walkers, watching and learning alongside them has fostered my own admiration for these creatures. Additionally, the staff and I have benefited from our discussing many opinions both those opinions in which we disagree and those we agree. I have learned many things from the Dunrovin's Ranch staff. For example, Kelly has shown me how to better attend to the needs to the horse I am working with. She also has*

*taught about obstacle course riding, bareback riding and riding only using legs. The scholarship will allow me to continue to learn skills such as these in the future. One of my dreams is to become an accomplished horseman.*

*Micky, a Tennessee Walker at Dunrovin, is one of my favorite horses. He responds very well to leg signals. Additionally, he is a well trained horse. He seems to like and appreciate his peers, caretakers, and riders. Micky is an especially intelligent horse. For example, when I was riding Micky Kelly, my instructor remarked that his intelligence gleams in his dark brown with a hint of hazel eyes. A funny thing about Micky is that he is an intelligent horse but the thought of food often takes away that intelligence. Receiving the Tennessee Walker Horse Enthusiasts' Associations of Montana's scholarship would be very exciting. First because it would give me more time at Dunrovin Ranch to get tips and education from the owner and the ranch staff which will increase my riding skills and knowledge regarding caring for horses and also increase my appreciation for Tennessee Walkers unique gait. Additionally, I think working with the horses and staff will make a positive contribution to my development. In particular, working with Micky and the other horses at Dunrovin add to the development of my moral compass. Self-sacrifice such as cleaning up after the horses is learning to consider the needs of others. As I learn more about caring for and riding I can be a better advocate for Tennessee Walkers in my local community and beyond. Finally, I appreciate and want to follow the nation organizations goal of increasing youth leadership and promoting community interest in these intelligent and wonderful creatures.*

We presented a check to Dunrovin Ranch in the amount of \$250 to pay for lessons this summer to aid in Aaron's education with horses. He has also been gifted a lesson with Brandon Carpenter who will be coming this summer for a clinic. Accompanying me for the presentation was Barbara Jennings and Trish Foster who serve on the Youth Scholarship committee.



Still upcoming is the two day clinic with Sara Tharp at Big Sky Horse Park. I understand Friday is filled but there are still openings for Saturday. There is no limit on auditors. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to work with or observe a clinician who specializes in gaiting. She will be teaching, as well as sitting on the horses, to evaluate their gaits and help the riders find and maintain that perfect trail gait.

We also have another trail ride on our calendar for August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Larry Creek. Again this is a free ride with a cook-out afterwards. Time will be 10:00 in the saddle ( it gets hotter then!).

We are always looking for those that would be interested in volunteering with the club on the events. Please contact me if you would like to assist.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the clinic or on the trails!  
Jane Sparks, president