

Kin Krest Saddle Club

2009 - A Year In Review

By Patricia Potvin

The New Year is well upon us. But I would like to take some time to reflect on the past year. In 2009, Kin Krest Saddle Club members had lots of laughs, plenty of good times, and an overall feeling of kinship and camaraderie. It was an eventful year, full of club activities. We gained several new members and many people stepped up to volunteered their time and energy to make the year a great success.

We started the year out with new club officers. For 2009 we elected President Jayne Henderson, Vice President, Jill Janz, Treasurer JoAnn Schmidt, and Secretary Tracy Discher. Sandy Robers was also elected Club ambassador. We handed out the year end awards for 2008 as such... Sportsmanship and Leadership award went to Jayne Henderson, Spirit award went to JoAnn Schmidt, the trail award was shared by Sid Dwyer and Patty Potvin and just because they are often the life of the party the Horses Ass award went to both Ralph Schauer and Sid Dwyer

February 2009 was a busy month for us. At the monthly meeting Pam Talsky from the Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association talked to us about Competitive Mounted Orienteering or CMO. Pam explain what CMO is all about, She also invited us to join her for an orienteering event in the Southern Kettles in July.

Also in February several members challenged the snow for a long drive to the University Of Wisconsin-Madison School Of Veterinary Medicine's Seminar for the Serious Horse Owner, on American Dressage with Mari Monda Zdunic. This annual clinic raises money to support UW vet school students. (Allison Janz, Jill's daughter, is one of the vet school students and she was also involved the year's clinic.) Mari was very entertaining. We reviewed things that some of us had already heard, as well as showing different ways to view the way we ride and train our horses. Mari also offered us many new, interesting ways to 'train' and practice with our horses. She built up the clinic to show us how to work into the Extended Trot, Half Pass, Passage and Piaf. We ate sandwiches on the floor of the vet school hallway, and we followed up the clinic with dinner at the Olive Garden. Before going home we got in a little shopping at a 'new' store recently discovered by JoAnn.

On Saturday, February 28th, 2009, the club returned to Slinger's Kettle Moraine Bowl for our annual few hours of CRAZY bowling fun! Gutters, Strikes and Spares were enjoyed by all! We were also entertained by the three tense matches. It was quite a fun rivalry! After bowling the group enjoyed appetizers and drinks at Amici's. Cabin fever! What's that?

At the March Meeting Kelly Hill, an equine lifestyle specialist from Landmark co-op in Albany WI, talked to us about equine nutrition. It was very informative.

Also in March many members from the club attended the annual Washington County 4-H Saddle Club Tack sale where we found many bargains and treasures. The club also had a promotional booth set up there. Look for us there again this year.

In April we had an awesome meeting with Dr. Rhonda Gildersleve a UW Extension grazing research specialist talked about managing our pastures for the health and welfare of our horses. We learned a lot of useful information about rotating pastures, what to plant and what to be aware of. We had 45 people attend the talk, our largest gathering in quite a while. There were many new faces, some folks we have not seen for a while, and three new members joined. Of course April is Midwest Horse Fair month. Kin Krest members met in groups to enjoy all there was to see, learn and shop for. We also had groups attend the Rodeo and Mustang event.

On May 3rd Patty hosted the clubs First group day ride of the year at the Hwy H parking area which is the beginning of the trail through the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest or the end depending on where you started out from. We had 15 riders, several club members and several friends who came along for the ride and then became club members. We all had a pretty good time except for a few people who's horses had not yet gotten out all those spring bucks. That marked the beginning of the trail riding season for most of us. There were many trail rides last year. Some of us even managed to sneak in a few rides during the week when we were not working. You just never know when a trail ride is going to pop up. Which is why we set up a Kin Krest yahoo groups page. Just a few clicks and you can see who's planning to ride where and when. Many of us also use Face books and



e-mail to let other members know of a possible spur of the moment trail ride.

At the May monthly meeting we had a great time with Dave Kluge, an equine clinician from Glenwood Springs Colorado. He has been doing talks and clinics around the country since 1994 and came to teach us about "Leadership for the horse." With an entertaining flair he discussed horsemanship from the horse's perspective, and how you can earn your horse's trust, instill respect and develop communication.



Also in May we had the years first overnight camp out and trail rides at New Prospect Horse Back Riders Camp Ground in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest. It was a bit cool in the morning but we enjoyed the riding and camping is always fun. Nothing like a hot cup of camp coffee and a good fire early on a dewy morning in the forest. Saturday nights pot luck dinner was great and we ended the evenings around the fire once again.

The First weekend in June we had an overnight camping weekend at Governor Dodge State Park. We had a great time. It is one of the clubs favorite horse camping spots. There are lots of great trails to ride on. We rode everyday that weekend even though it rained a little on Sunday.

At the June Club meeting we had a wonderful presentation on horse vision. by Shelly Oelhafen. It gave us a much better idea of how our horses view the world around them. We learned a lot about what a horse can and cannot see including colors. We learned how a horses vision is involved in how a horse behaves. She also helped us understand how a horses vision affects why, when and what a horse may be spooked. It was very interesting and I think we learned a lot of new things.



June 20 the club held its annual open horse show at the Washington county Fairgrounds. The show was a great success this year in large part because of all of the Kinkrest members who volunteered their time and expertise to help.

On July 11th Members of the club Joined Pam Talsky At the Horseback riders campground in Palmyra for an introduction to Competitive Mounted Orienteering or treasure hunt trail riding. Our team won. We found all the treasures and got back to the campground in the shortest time and we weren't even trying that hard. But we sure had a great time. That was really fun. We are planning to go again next year. We may even try to get something like it going at the northern Kettles campground.

July 12th about 25 members of Kin Krest Saddle Club went to watch The Great Circus Parade. We reserved our spot on the parade route several days ahead of time. We up tents and chairs and had a great party. It was blast. After wards, a nice dinner in downtown Milwaukee rounded out the fun filled day.



July 13th was the clubs annual picnic a Camp Qaud. We Grilled Burgers and brats. Members attending all brought a dish to pass and there was a lot of great food. We played horseshoes and learned how to use a GPS by doing a GPS scavenger hunt.

August 10th we had our annual club fundraised auction at Kandlite Stables. This is when members donate unwanted items to be auctioned to raise money for the club. We always have a good time with this because you never know what is going to be sold and our auctioneers who ever they turn out to be that year usually have a lot of fun with this.

August 29th A few members from Kin Krest Saddle Club Attended the Grand Opening and Dedication of the New prospect Horseback Riders Campground in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest. There was a short ceremony with a ribbon cutting. After the ceremony we had refreshments provided by NKMHTA and a chance to mingle and talk to everyone. We enjoy the PowerPoint presentation with all the great pictures of the campground, people working at the campground and people camping or just enjoying the campground. Some members of our Saddle Club then head out for yet another trail ride.

Over the Labor Day Weekend, Eight Members of Kin Krest Saddle Club spent time together riding the various horse trails at Wildcat Mountain State Park Horse Campground in Ontario WI. The weather was perfect and the riding was challenging and fun. Riders enjoyed the diverse spectrum of woods, fields, hills, creeks and river crossings. Sid says they are the best trails in the state. The views were spectacular. And we made good use of the picnic areas provided along the trail loops to rest the horses and have a snack. Friday night we went into town for a fish fry. There was a pot luck dinner Saturday night with great deserts. Sunday we ventured into town for a BBQ chicken dinner where we ran into 300 motorcyclist. Shopping at the Amish stores and a visit to local ice cream store was also a treat. Members of the club are already looking forward to the trip next year.

The weekend of September 25, 26 & 27 Kin Krest members booked cabins and campsites at Spur of the Moment Ranch for yet another camping trip. Located in Mountain WI. They had all sorts of trails to ride on from single track trails to old logging roads and railroad beds. There were roads to ride along and ATV trails shared by horses. You could get lost out there so a GPS unit is a good idea. The weather turned out to be great. We enjoy a ride along side a beautiful lake and there was a very nice river crossing. The cabins were really nice. This is a great place to take your horses on a trip if you are not really the camping type or just don't have all the gear for it. We found all the ATV riders to be very courteous whether on the trails or back in the campground. We also met some new friends while we were there. It was a very enjoyable trip.

On October 3rd Kin Krest Saddle Club's annual Fun Show was held at Kandlite Stables in Rubicon. There was all the usual fun show events and a few new ones. After the show we had a sort of treasure hunt/poker run trail ride around the property. That was a lot of fun except when we came to the creek crossing. After the first few horses refused to stepping down into the mud to cross, most every one after that had second thoughts. It was pretty cold that day but everyone seemed to be having a great time anyway. A big Thanks to Val and Steve for hosting the fun show.



In November several members from Kin Krest Saddle Club Showed their support of the NKMHTA by attending the annual Dinner Dance At the Amherhan in Kewaskum. The NKMHTA decided to use Kin Krest's donation to help provide music for the evenings entertainment. We eat a nice dinner maybe more then we needed to. We participated in the silent auction and won some nice items. We all enjoyed live county music by Dante's Bop, and some of us even danced.



At the November meeting we elected offices for 2010. And for 2010 Jayne will remain president. JoAnn will stay on as Treasurer and Tracy will serve another year as secretary. New this year will be Chip Mazurek as vice-president.

On Saturday December 5th the club had it's annual Christmas party at Heidel's. Once again the food was delicious. There was a cookie contest in which members made some of there favorite cookie recipes for the contest. First place was Jan Carlson with her Almond Raspberry Cookies. Second Place was Jayne Henderson with Peanut Butter Bon Bons, and third place went to Sandy Mazurek for her Cheesecake Presents. Again there was square dancing and everyone had a great time.



Of course there was a lot of horse back riding going on all year and I am sure I left out a few things. But there will be more fun to be had next year. We will of course repeat our favorite events and activities. Hopefully with all our new members we can add something new.