

Tri-State Riding Club Monthly Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Ashley Russell, president.

In attendance: Ashley Russell, Judy Brescia, Pat Brescia, Ann Menninger, Mary Gustafson, Paula Horne, Terri Ehrenfeld, Hila Wever, Liz Shockley, Linda Giannino, Elaine Meilahn, Susan Payne, Jill Widdiefield, Patty Tracy and guest speakers (listed below).

Minutes of Last Meeting: Secretary was not able to attend so no minutes were read.

Recent member equestrian accomplishments: Paula Horne achieved 6th place at training level in the prestigious Bengt Lundquist Memorial Dressage Championship at the Virginia Horse Center.

Jill Widdiefield successfully completed two recognized events on her very green thoroughbred.

Invited Speakers: Paula Horne introduced five speakers who shared their equestrian vacation experiences from around the world:

- 1) *Steffanie Burgevin traveled to Kenya for 10 days at the end of February 2010 (safarisunlimited.com). Her destination was the Masai Mara Reserve where they stayed the first night at Giraffe Manor and were able to hand feed the free ranging giraffes. The weather was excellent. Travel to the campsites for the rides out was initially by small plane and then by Land Rover. The horses, supplied by rancher Gordy Church were in good shape and were accustomed to the sight of wildlife in the reserve including hippos, lions, zebras, elephants, etc. The riders and horses ran with wild buffalo. All three daily meals were top quality and served in style, despite having to be transported to the campsites. Rides took place in the morning and evening with an afternoon rest and teatime in between. The total cost, including airfare, was around \$10K.*
- 2) *Ashley Russell traveled to the north coast of Ireland with Terri Ehrenfeld for a 5-day riding holiday in early August of 2019 (Ireland Equestrian Tours, organizer Laura Lamb). It was a very personalized private tour for the two riders with excellent horses (Bob and Blackie) from Shane's Horse Farm and guided by 'Fergal'. Rideout was for about 6 hours each day and including beach, forest, and mountain rides with lots of open land, staying at different B&Bs each night. The weather was very good as was the food. The cost, including airfare was about \$5K.*

- 3) *Warren Robst traveled to Wyoming for a 6-day Cowboy Camp at the Double Rafter Ranch (doublerafter.com) near Sheridan, in mid-September, 2013. The ranch has been in the family of Dana Kerns, trip guide, since 1888. For this trip there were about 10 riders who rode out every day near the Little Big Horn River for a full day of rounding up stray cattle from the summer mountain grazing area, called a 'clean up ride'. Cooking was done in cabins with morning and evening meals eaten in tents, lunch on the trail. Small tents were used for sleeping, conditions were rudimentary as would be found on a cattle drive with great food but no showers. Weather can be uncertain in the mountains. Cost was about \$3K not including airfare.*

- 4) *Patty Key traveled to Iceland (Equitours) for a 7-day riding trip in late August, 2016. There were 12 riders from all over the world (one other American) and 6 guides who rode Icelandic horses over 5 hours each day in beautiful open land and stayed in shepards' huts without electricity, with shared bunk beds for sleeping, and with outdoor shower and bathroom facilities. The farm's entire herd of about 70 Icelandic horses moved along freely with the riders for the whole trip.. Part of the ride was through volcanic ash which was done at a gallop for about a mile. The mornings were cool but the temperature warmed up to the 60s during the day. The horses were fit. There was an option to ride in a vehicle. The cost was about \$3K not including airfare.*

- 5) *Christiana Meister and her 11 year old son traveled to Mongolia (Equitours, Nomad Company) in late June, 2019 for a 14-day trip which included 6 days of riding. The main guide spoke English. There were 4 riders and 4 guides plus a support truck for supplies. Tents were provided for sleeping. They rode daily over varied terrain and visited a Buddhist monastery in a pine forest. They saw many different wildflowers and birds; the air often smelled like sage. They experienced riding through lava fields. The temperature was variable and quite cool. The horses were small and fit and were hobbled at night or tethered. The saddles for the visitors were Australian outback saddles and the guides rode in traditional Mongolian carved wooden saddles. Christiane brought a traditional Mongolian bridle for display along with a wooden carved sweat scraper. The cost of the trip was \$3,900 excluding airfare.*

Treasurer's Report: Liz Shockley, reported the Club's balance is currently \$18,041.00 with no outstanding expenses and all lesson invoices current.

Liz reported that the new liability insurance coverage will be in effect as of November 1.

Officer Signature Cards: Ashley Russell reported that the new signature cards are nearly ready.

English Lesson Program: Elaine Meilahn and Judy Brescia reported that the English lesson schedule has been somewhat reduced for November to be more consistent with signups and will be emailed to members tomorrow.

Western Lesson Program: Susan Payne reported that there were fewer Western lessons in October because the instructors were out of town but the November schedule will be full. On November 26 there will be cattle available for the lesson at Moran Ranch.

Equipment Inventory: Ashley Russell requested that anyone with TSRC equipment please provide an inventory to her.

Special Events: Paula Horne asked whether the Club wants to hold a one- or two-day Wendy Murdoch Clinic in March, 2020. She is also looking into setting up another fix-a-test with an instructor suggested by a member.

Tack sale: Ashley Russell reported that plans for a February tack sale are underway.

Holiday Party: Linda Giannino reported that all dates are open for Ride On Ranch in January for the party.

Nominations: Ashley Russell - Nominations are sought for the secretary and vice president positions by the November meeting.

Next Meeting: Ashley Russell announced that the November meeting will be held at the always popular Another Turn Tack.

Lesson Drawing: The free lesson was won by Terri Ehrenfeld.

Meeting was adjourned by Ashley Russell at 9:05pm.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Meilahn on behalf of Judith Lovegrove, Secretary

