

Circle T Trail Riders Newsletter

January 2012

The year in review

New Year's Day Ride
Middle Creek Wildlife Management
Weiser State Forest Haldeman Area
Pat Wilson Memorial Ride – Valley Forge
Green Lane
Saddle Up! For St. Jude Benefit Ride
Michaux Ride
Brandywine—Tubing
Steve Frantz's Ride
35th Annual Horse Shoe Trail Ride
Valley Lea
Artillery Ridge, Gettysburg Battlefield (canceled due to flooding)
Codorus State Park (canceled due to flooding)
Circle T Fun Day and Picnic
Hamburg Ride
League of Maryland Invitational Ride
Jacobsburg / Green Lane
Brandywine – Wine Tasting Tour
Anna Shaak's Ride (canceled due to snow)
Birdsboro (canceled due to snow)

First ride of 2012

January 1, 2012
New Years Day

Ready to ride: 10:30 AM

They say what you do on New Year's Day you will do for the rest of the year. With that in mind we will be riding the Horse Shoe Trail starting at Dresher road and finishing at the Lazy Acres Ranch. About 2-1/2 to 3 hours ride time.

I have seven separate areas where we can put the horses out while the drivers head back to pick up the tow vehicles (I will provide the transport vehicle). After we get back stick around, socialize and enjoy a bottomless bowl of Adele's famous chicken corn soup.

I will make arrangements to have any side dishes and your horse's blanket brought back to the Ranch.

DIRECTIONS:

Parking is somewhat limited so if possible share a ride. From the intersection of route 322 and route 117 in Campbelltown (zip 17078) take 117 South for .3 mile, bear right on BELL road for 1 mile to stop, turn left onto LAWN road for .1 mile, turn left on DRESHER road for 0.6 mile. Parking on the left.

RSVP to Don Newcomer at dnewc@dejazzd.com or call 717-664-3980 (email preferred)

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Check our web site to view the newsletter in color.

www.CircleTTrailRiders.com

Once again we had a year full of great rides! **Many thanks** to our ride hosts for all your hard work and planning to make these events possible. In addition to our hosts, a great big **Thank You** to everyone who pitched in behind the scenes. Without everyone's efforts we would not be able to enjoy all the riding we do.

If I missed anyone who hosted a ride in 2011 please forgive me. And if anyone would like to host a ride in 2012, please speak up! We'd love to add some new rides or events to the schedule.

Don and Adele Newcomer

Mike Getz

Debbie Brodowski

Eleanor Vallone

Tracy Hower

Wayne Burrows

Jeanne Hunsicker

Steve Frantz

Karen Benn

Deb Billman & Kevin Wolf

Keith and Janine Hahn

Anna Shaak

Davey Waters

Rosie Simmons

Kristi & Matt Reading

Barb Conover

To have a horse in your life...

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turnout, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people- which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses--or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

Circle T Trail Riders, Inc.

2012 Membership Application/Dues

Dues must be received no later than **January 31, 2012.**
 Make checks payable to **Circle T Trail Riders.**

Membership Type: Amount

Individual \$25.00

Family * \$35.00

Senior (Age 62+)

Individual Senior \$10.00

Senior Couple ** \$15.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$

Mail this form along with your check to:
 Tracy Hower
 242 S. Fort Zellers Road.
 Newmanstown, PA 17073

* Family - Members living at the same permanent address.

** Senior Couple - Both members at same address AND both age 62 or older.

If one member is less than 62 and at the same address as a senior, Family rate applies.

<i>MEMBER NAME</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>PHONE NUMBER(S)</i> <i>HOME AND CELL</i>	<i>E-MAIL ADDRESS</i>

Circle T Trail Riders will send out the Newsletter via e-mail to anyone with an e-mail address on file. Please help your club and only request a snail mail copy if you do not have access to the Internet. If you do not have e-mail you will still receive a copy through the mail. Be sure to keep your membership email address updated with Tracy Hower at TracyGHower@Comcast.net. The newsletter is also available for viewing on our website: www.CircleTTrailRiders.com.

Yes, please continue to mail me the newsletter.

No, I'll help save the club money and look for an e-mail notification for the newsletter.

Circle T is always looking for suggestions and/or ride ideas. Is there somewhere you would like to go? Let us know your thoughts and preferences. This is **YOUR** club; please share your thoughts and ideas.

Would you be interested in hosting or help to organize a ride? Yes No

Do you have a favorite ride? Yes No Which one?

Suggestions/Comments:

Circle T Trail Riders, Inc.
242 South Fort Zellers Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

