

THE MINNESOTA HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 45, ISSUE 2 - JUNE 2014

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THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

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THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

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## PUBLISHING SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

ISSUE	ADS & ARTICLES DUE	MAILED
Fall	August 1	September 30
Winter	November 16	December 22
Spring	February 6	March 13
Summer	May 22	June 30

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*Letter to our members*

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*by Tracy Grandstrand, MHJA President*

Summer weather has finally arrived! I know I'm not the only one excited to see the sun and the beginning of our show season.

This is the time of year the BOD is gathering nominations for 2015 board members. If you are interested in running for a position on the board please contact Elizabeth Lampert at [tinyelz@mac.com](mailto:tinyelz@mac.com).

Thank you to those of you that responded to our survey. The results are posted on the website. We value our membership's opinion.

Please feel free to contact myself or any board member with questions or suggestions, we're here for you.

See you down the road,

*Tracy Grandstrand*



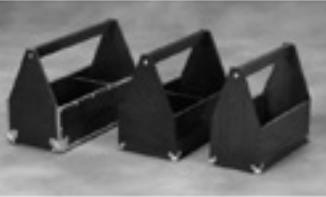
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# TENTATIVE 2014 MHJA CALENDAR

MHJA Recognized Shows

**THIS IS A VERY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – LISTS ONLY THOSE SHOWS THAT ARE ON THE USEF CALENDAR**

**Midstates Spring** | May 28- June 1 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Midstates Summerfest** | June 4-8 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Midstates Summer** | June 11-15 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Alpine Farms Classic** | June 18-22 | A rated | Long Lake, MN | Alpine Farms 763-473-1361

**Alpine Farms Preview** | July 9-13 | A rated | Long Lake, MN | Alpine Farms 763-473-1361

**Alpine Farms Equestrian Fest** | July 16-20 | A rated | Long Lake, MN 763-473-1361

**Two Rivers Summer Fest I** | Cumming, IA | July 30 - August 3 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Two Rivers Summer Fest II** | Cumming, IA | August 6-10 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Two Rivers Summer Fest III** | Cumming, IA | Aug. 13-17 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Minnesota State Fair** | August 20-22 | A rated | St. Paul, MN | Patty Humphries 952 442-5321

**Otter Creek Farm** | August 27-31 | A rated | Wheeler, WI | Lena Werner 715 658-1602

**Mid States Fall** | September 10-14 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Madison County Fall Classic** | Cumming, IA | September 17-21 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Minnesota Harvest** | September 30-October 5 | A rated | MN State Fair Grounds | St. Paul, MN | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Note the change in date for the Mid States Spring Horse Show**

**IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PRIZE LIST FOR A SHOW,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSON LISTED.**

# LAST OF THE WILD HORSES

TONY FISHER  
ANIMAL COLLECTION MANAGER  
MINNESOTA ZOO



Horses have been living on Earth for millions of years, and during that time, they have either become extinct or been domesticated by humans – all, that is, except for one species: *Equus ferus przewalskii*. Known by many names, including Asian wild horse, takhi, and Przewalski's horse, this horse roamed the grassland steppes of Europe and Asia for millennia (maybe as early as 70,000 BC) until it was driven to extinction in the wild in the late 1960s due to human persecution, grazing competition, and high mortality from harsh winters.

But thankfully, before Asian wild horses disappeared entirely, several zoos rescued some and over the next several decades, the zoos bred these horses in captivity with the hope of someday reintroducing their descendants back into the wild. And today, because of these zoos' efforts, there are more 500 Asian wild horses running free in the Asian steppes. And to ensure their continued survival, zoos have joined together to launch True Wild Horse, a campaign to raise awareness about Asian wild horses and funding for

their continued conservation.

The Asian wild horse species is not the same as the American West's wild mustang (*Equus caballus*). The mustang escaped from the Spanish conquistadors and ranchers after many years of domestication and was derived from a closely related and now extinct species of *Equus*. The dun-colored Asian wild horse was never domesticated and differs from its domestic relative by having a short, erect mane and a dark dorsal stripe that runs from the mane to the tail.

Also contrary to domestic horses, all the mane and tail hairs of the Asian wild horse shed every year. And, most importantly, the fixed DNA chromosomal number of the Asian wild horse has one extra pair ( $2n=66$ ) over the number for domestic horses ( $2n=64$ ), providing clear evidence that these two horses are distinct and separate species.

The story to save the Asian wild horse began in 1990, when the Minnesota Zoo sent a young stallion named

“Amraa” to the Netherlands to be a breeding founder for a population of Asian wild horses that could be released into the wild. The plan was to breed these horses and reintroduce them into Hustai National Park, a 350 square mile reserve near the capital of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia.

Fortunately, Amraa was prolific, and today, Amraa boasts 196 descendants, 82 of which are still alive in Hustai National Park where there are almost 300 wild horses. But more work needs to be done to ensure the Park can maintain a healthy population that can withstand the very threats which caused the horses’ extinction in the wild more than 50 years ago: severe winters, disease, and predation.

Biologists from the Minnesota Zoo and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute are joining forces with Mongolian biologists to study the Asian wild horses in Hustai National Park and lay the scientific ground work necessary to secure a future for these animals. Projects are now being initiated to track the daily and seasonal movement of horse herds and to assess critical habitat parameters that will guide the future management of the Park resources. Ultimately, the goal is to realize an expanded and stable wild horse population in their native habitat.

To the West, in the Xinjiang Province of China, Asian wild horses were reintroduced in 2001. But again, they

are competing for habitat as local Kazakh nomads have used the Kalamaili Nature Reserve for centuries for their livestock which is the herders’ primary source of income. During the winter, herders bring thousands of livestock down from the mountains to find forage in the reserve which then compete with the Asian wild horses for the same pasture areas. This close contact between these populations increases the risk of spreading livestock diseases.

Again, biologists from the Minnesota Zoo and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute are working with the Xinjiang Forestry Department and the local people to establish community-based conservation efforts to help improve relationships between the local herders and the Asian wild horse populations.

The Asian wild horse returned from the edge of extinction, thanks to the dedication and cooperative work of zoos and field conservation staff around the world. And the horses’ future looks bright – from just 14 animals to more than 500 in the wild. We can look back with pride in saving this species from extinction on this planet but we look forward to ensuring that the “last of the wild horses” survives and thrives. Join us by learning more about this project and how you can help at [truewildhorse.org](http://truewildhorse.org).



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# JUNIORS!



We would like to have a Junior Chapter with a Board of it's own to plan activities. We are going to meet at Punch Pizza on Friday June 27 at 2:00. We would like to elect a board and go over ideas for the year. If you're interested email Jane Martinson at [janemartinson1@gmail.com](mailto:janemartinson1@gmail.com) or Sharon Golden at [sgolden4@yahoo.com](mailto:sgolden4@yahoo.com)! If you can't make the meeting but want to join the junior chapter just let us know.

Typically we have an ice cream social in June at Mason City, a junior table with treats and prizes to give away at Alpine, as well as a few other activities. The idea is that Juniors can meet and get together with other Junior MHJA members during some fun activities!

All MHJA junior members are invited to attend an organizational meeting...

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# SMARTEST HORSE IN THE U.S. ARMY WHISKEY OF FORT SNELLING

BY: MARILYN L. SLOVAK

1921, a horse that would earn a place in Minnesota history arrived at Fort Snelling from Fort Reno, Oklahoma. Chestnut in color, with a white star on his forehead and a white sock on his left rear leg, the ten-year-old from the Montana plains was no more than 15.2 hands tall. Aside from disproportionately long hind legs that caused him to walk with a slight stagger, his looks were quite ordinary.<sup>1</sup>

The future initially appeared bleak for this wild horse that reputedly "didn't even wear shoes" and "could kick a hole in a battle-ship." Considered unsuitable for the army because of his rebellious spirit, he might have been destroyed were it not for another 1921 arrival at the fort, Lt. William Reuben Hazelrigg. Seeing the possibility of greatness beneath the horse's unruly exterior, the experienced equestrian selected the chestnut as his assigned mount and, perhaps because of the sway in his walk, named him Whiskey.<sup>2</sup>

At this time, horses were still very much a part of the U.S. Army. Remount stations around the country supplied military posts with horses to replace those lost to war and old age. Many stations had breeding programs; others collected wild horses, which were sent on for evaluation and training. In the years after World War I, the army promoted equine sports such as polo and fox hunting, as well as horse-show competition, to keep troops and animals in top form. It would be the early 1940s before motorization and officers who had grown up with it - and the necessities of another world war - completely eliminated live horsepower from the army. Until that time, most officers considered horses an indispensable part of the military.<sup>3</sup>

Nowhere was this more evident than at Fort Snelling, home to the Third U.S. Army Infantry Regiment. Though not required to be mounted, officers were assigned army horses. Most owned personal mounts, as



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well.<sup>4</sup> These animals, along with the horses and mules that pulled the artillery and escort wagons, filled the fort's barns.

The shared love of horses and equestrian sports led to the development of a close-knit relationship between fort personnel and Twin Citians. Some civilians participated in equestrian activities at the fort, while others came out in droves to watch. Officers and their families, in turn, supported and participated in civilian-sponsored events at the Minnesota State Fair, local horse shows, and fox hunts.

In 1922, post commandant Col. A. W. Bjornstad authorized two horse shows a year on site. That same year, Fort Snelling officers hosted the first of many international polo tournaments. Fox hunting flourished, with civilian-owned hound packs providing a weekly hunt until 1928 when fort officers acquired their own hounds and established the Fort Snelling Hunt.<sup>5</sup>

Hazelrigg assumed responsibility for Whiskey's training and, along with the usual methods, spent time quietly talking to the horse.<sup>6</sup> No one is sure what he said, but he earned the horse's trust. The two became inseparable.

The lieutenant soon discovered that Whiskey had a variety of talents. Excelling at polo, he showed an "instinct for the game" that soon had sportswriters claiming that he "qualified as one of the best polo players on the field: Whiskey quickly mastered tricks such as lifting the lieutenant's cap from his head by its visor and replacing it, removing a handkerchief from a pocket, searching for a hidden treat, sitting on his haunches, lying down and playing dead, and bowing. According to Dana F. Christian, a warrant officer and, later, historian and president of the Third Infantry Regiment Association, "Any tricks a horse is capable of doing, it seems Whiskey could do. Hazelrigg would throw a bunch of handkerchiefs on the ground, and Whiskey could pick out a special colored one."<sup>7</sup>

Whiskey's greatest talent was jumping. Combining spectacular jumps with a repertoire of tricks, the horse and his rider did double duty at fort polo games, also supplying the half-time entertainment. No obstacle deterred the fearless, high-flying horse, be it a team of mules hitched to a supply wagon; the white mule, Snelling, standing between two fences; a group of diners seated at a table; a human hurdle; or a blazing jump. When the crowds in the stands clapped and shouted their approval, the Minneapolis Star reported, "it seemed Whiskey knew they were cheering at him."<sup>8</sup>

Before polo games, the lieutenant often rode Whiskey to the mess hall. Whiskey would walk up the steps to the front door, where army cooks waited with lumps of sugar. Regarded as the fort pet, he had free run of the post. During the day, when not being worked, he wandered

about the grounds, grazing on lawns and soliciting treats.<sup>9</sup>

At night, using a front hoof to maneuver the two-by-four that held the door closed, Whiskey routinely escaped from his stall. "I'd meet this horse in the aisle every night," recounted Stewart Montgomery, a former sentry and Third Infantry band member. "I'd try to get him back into his stall with no success. Whiskey wasn't going to follow my instructions. He just didn't like to be locked up."<sup>10</sup>

Whiskey was also a natural in the show ring, garnering his first ribbons at the 1922 Gopher Gunner Horse Show, a two-day event jointly hosted by civilians and officers at the Kenwood Armory in Minneapolis. He followed up with wins at Fort Snelling's Spring Horse Show, demonstrating the success of Hazelrigg's training by taking Mary Anderson, a civilian teenager, flawlessly around the course for ladies' hunters. Because military duties or other commitments occasionally kept officers from exercising their horses, help from civilian saddle club friends was welcomed and encouraged at the fort.<sup>11</sup>

At the Minnesota State Fair that year, the lieutenant took Whiskey over the jumps in a hunt class without the benefit of reins or stirrups. The round was a crowdpleaser, but the judge, bound by horse show rules, placed Whiskey fifth. Then the little range horse, considered untrainable just one year before, received the blue ribbon and coveted silver cup in the E. N. Saunders competition for the best polo mount. During his long show career, Whiskey did not always win. As the Minneapolis Journal put it, though, his "embarrassing habit of jumping higher and farther than the most aristocratic of his rivals" often made up for his lack of elegant conformation.<sup>12</sup>

Whiskey's popularity ensured that stories and photos of him appeared regularly in newspapers. A reporter once mused that because Whiskey "brought home the bacon - and a pair of silver candlesticks and a picnic basket and blue ribbons," he "can have anything he wants out at Fort Snelling today - more oats, a lump of sugar, or even a new blanket." A 1922 state fair promotion showed Whiskey holding the handle of a tennis racket in his mouth. Ears perked forward and eyes on the camera, he seemed acutely aware of the words in the caption: "Smartest Horse in U.S. Army."<sup>13</sup>

Hazelrigg and Whiskey often performed outside the fort. At the May 1924 University of Minnesota Senior Class Circus, for example, the audience looked forward to seeing Whiskey jump a flaming eight-foot hurdle, beginning no more than two strides away. When asked if Whiskey would also jump over a man lying on an army cot, as he often did during polo half-times, Hazelrigg wryly replied, "provided we can find the man."<sup>14</sup>

On the first evening of the circus, the act went smoothly until Whiskey attempted to jump over the mule Snelling,

standing between two hurdles. Usually flawless in executing this stunt, Whiskey caught his front feet on the mule's hindquarters, somersaulted in mid-air, and landed on his back with the lieutenant underneath him. Whiskey escaped injury, but Hazelrigg was carried out of the armory unconscious. When he regained consciousness, the true horseman's first words were, "Is Whiskey hurt?"<sup>15</sup>

Doctors stated that a fractured rib and possible internal injuries would prevent the lieutenant from riding again in the show. Not only did this tough pair appear, as scheduled, but they also won the visitors' act trophy.

Shortly before the February 1926 Mid Winter Military Horse and Style Show at the Kenwood Armory, Hazelrigg received orders to depart in April for a two-year stay in the Philippine Islands. Kenwood Armory, the site of his first horse show with Whiskey, would be the site of their last.<sup>16</sup>

At the show, Whiskey seemed to sense the coming change. According to one newspaper: "He knows that he has only a few more weeks left with Bill," horsemen in the stables explained. Entered in the jumps, and ridden in one event by Miss Mary Anderson, Whiskey seemed nervous and upset, as he approached the obstacles. At every hurdle, he crouched low, and almost stopped before he unloosed his plunge. But in spite of the fact that he failed to place in the women hunters' event, the crowd cheered.

"I never saw Whisky act like that before," N. S. Davis,

manager of the show said, as he watched the horse hesitate at every jump.<sup>17</sup>

Whiskey's confidence was not restored until the lieutenant was in the saddle. Then, in "the most exciting of all events, the hunters' 'touch and go'" where horses take a four-foot jump and are disqualified if they touch a rail, Whiskey placed second. The crowd heard Hazelrigg urging, "Up, good boy;" at each jump.

The lieutenant and Whiskey had one final treat for their fans: a week of performances on the vaudeville stage at the Pantages Theater in Minneapolis. Box seats were reserved for members of Twin Cities riding clubs, a testament to Hazelrigg's prominence in the local riding community.<sup>18</sup>

Before his April 1926 departure, Hazelrigg raised funds to buy his beloved horse. He sent a request to the War Department through his congressman, asking permission to purchase Whiskey or take him to the Philippines as his mount. Some local civilians tried to help by writing to Gen. A. W. Bjornstad, former Fort Snelling commandant and riding partner of Hazelrigg, in hopes that the senior officer might bring some influence to bear.<sup>19</sup>

Unmoved by these efforts, the secretary of war denied the request. While the army paid transportation costs for up to six horses assigned to cavalry officers, infantry officers were not allowed to take their army mounts to a new post.<sup>20</sup>

And so Whiskey, noticeably depressed, remained at Fort



Snelling after Hazelrigg's departure. It took the wife of an army captain, Mrs. Walter P. O'Brien, who arrived at the post in the summer of 1927, to bring Whiskey out of the doldrums. Their partnership, however, got off to a shaky start. The first two nights of the state fair show, "the 'one man' horse became stubborn," for the most part refusing to jump, a local newspaper reported. By the third evening, Whiskey, though "balky and nervous," showed "brief flashes of form" with several "magnificent effortless leaps."<sup>21</sup>

In their last class, one jump consisted of a mannequin dressed in a red coat lying on a picnic table. Other obstacles, like brush jumps, mimicked circumstances that might be found in the hunt field. Perhaps the tricky jumps and the mannequin brought back memories of earlier, happier days, because Whiskey finally clicked with Mrs. O'Brien, earning first place.

As Hazelrigg's scheduled return to the states in March 1928 drew near, one local newspaper learned that he and Whiskey "were to be reunited" and that "Fort Snelling will lose Whiskey."

An agreement was made before the lieutenant went to the Philippines that he might buy the horse on his return and friends at Fort Snelling said Tuesday night that he probably will. He will have to pay only about \$160. Army regulations provide that horses shall be sold [to] officers on occasions at the prevailing average price of horses. Whiskey now is worth much more, officers say, but because Lieutenant Hazelrigg's work and training made him valuable, the sale will be made.<sup>22</sup>

At the suggestion of his commanding officer in the Philippines, Hazelrigg had waited until he returned to the states to submit his application to purchase Whiskey. Hoping to enhance his chances, he sold the horse he had bought for personal use in the Philippines to the U.S. government. While the lieutenant was out of the country, however, War Department rules concerning the purchase of army horses had changed. The amended rules stated: "No horse that has been in the army organization for six months that has been developed and is particularly valuable for that organization may be sold to any individual."

The Minneapolis Journal reported that the fort commandant could have bent the rules but, determined to keep the popular horse at Fort Snelling, he recommended that the lieutenant's application be turned down.<sup>23</sup>

When Hazelrigg visited the fort in October 1928, Whiskey greeted his old master with a nuzzle and a kiss. As teary-eyed onlookers watched, Whiskey picked up the lieutenant's swagger stick and returned it to him, then performed his tricks once again with his original trainer. An article about the reunion caught the attention of R. F. Pack, vice president and general manager of Northern

States Power Company. He sent the news clipping to the Secretary of War along with a letter requesting that Hazelrigg be allowed to buy Whiskey. This request, too, was denied.<sup>24</sup>

Whiskey soldiered on. For most of 1928, during Mrs. O'Brien's pregnancy, Lt. Walter R. Miller rode him. In June 1929, just hours before a fort horse show, Miller was wounded in a duel over the affections of a St. Paul girl. Mrs. O'Brien was a last-minute substitute. As if no time had passed since their last ride together, Whiskey made jumping look easy with ribbon-winning performances. The Minneapolis Star enthused: "Whiskey had more fun than anybody there! Whiskey jumps as if he really enjoys it. . . . The gladness of Whiskey lights up a horse show." But soon, history repeated itself and O'Brien was reassigned to Hawaii. Captain Raymond T. Seymour became Whiskey's principal rider.<sup>25</sup>

That September, Hazelrigg, now a captain, passed through the Twin Cities. Aware that his old horse was competing at the state fair, he went directly to the Hippodrome. Arriving just before Whiskey's class began, the captain walked out to the judges' stand in the middle of the arena. The Minneapolis Tribune reported that he was shaking hands with friends when the ringmaster announced that Whiskey was next on the course. "Captain Hazelrigg stiffened. The greeting of friends was forgotten. . . . There were tears in the captain's eyes as he followed the horse around the ring."<sup>26</sup>

At the awards ceremony, Whiskey was led into the arena with the other winners. "See your old friend out there; wonder if he remembers you," Captain Hazelrigg was reminded. "Sure," he snapped and gave a low whistle. Whiskey's head went up and he cocked his ears and looked around and then spied his old friend and trainer. A lunge and the lead strap was jerked out of a groom's hand and he trotted over to the gate in the judges' stand.<sup>27</sup>

Coming directly to his first trainer, Whiskey bent his head down for a pat and nodded when the captain whispered in his ear. "Remember me, old fellow?" asked Hazelrigg as he stroked the great old campaigner's neck, and Whiskey replied by reaching out, grasping the visor of the captain's cap between his lips, lifting it and setting it back on his head—one of the first tricks he was taught.

It was too much for Hazelrigg. Tears welled in his eyes and rolled down his cheeks. Another pat and he whispered to his old friend, "Better go back, son, and get your ribbon," and Whiskey trotted off. Hazelrigg turned on his heel and strode from the ring.

Over the next few years, Whiskey continued his career as a polo pony and performer. He also competed successfully in horse shows, ridden by Captain Seymour as well as Barbara Townsend and Margaret Boyers, the teenage daughters of army captains. In September 1931,

Mrs. Orin D. Haugen, newly arrived at the fort with her lieutenant husband, became Whiskey's rider. She adored the mascot, now 20 years old. Whiskey, returning the affection, performed beautifully with her at the St. Paul Civic Auditorium Show in January 1932. At the Fort Snelling Society Circus in February, they reprised some trademark stunts, including jumping over a dinner table and diners. After a summer of exhibitions and several blue ribbons, their act was featured nightly at the state fair.<sup>28</sup>

Whiskey's last season as a regular entertainer and show horse was 1933. When he won the open jumping class at the Fort Snelling Horse Show and Steeplechase, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that the "veteran Fort Snelling performer . . . was in good form and never jumped better in his life, in spite of advancing years." Whiskey finished the year with wins at the Woodhill horse show in Wayzata and the state fair. That fall, Mrs. Haugen left the fort when her husband was transferred. Whiskey would perform several more times over the years but never again with the same energy and spirit.<sup>29</sup>

In June 1934, when the fort was preparing to host the All-American Rodeo, Hazelrigg, on his way to a new assignment in Fargo, stopped in to see Whiskey. Eyewitnesses reported that the horse trotted over, whinnied, and rubbed his lips gently on the captain's face. The surprised officer told onlookers, "Gosh, I didn't think Whiskey would remember that kissing stunt. I taught him that a long, long time ago."<sup>30</sup>

"If a horse can grin, that's what one United States army horse was doing today at Fort Snelling," the Minneapolis Star told its readers. The captain and Whiskey gave an impromptu show in which "the spirited horse soared over high hurdles, danced, picked up handkerchiefs and did other stunts ordinary horses never even think about while they are munching their oats." This would be the last time Hazelrigg and Whiskey performed together.<sup>31</sup>

As a special event at the rodeo, "Fort Snelling's Pride" went through his paces. This performance, Whiskey's final exhibition under saddle, culminated with a leap through a circle of fire.<sup>32</sup>

On June 22, two days before the rodeo ended, the Minneapolis Journal reported that Fort Snelling's commandant, Brig. Gen. David L. Stone, announced it was "time to say 'well done'" to Whiskey. "It is the general's intention that Whiskey shall have no more 'work' to do. He will be well fed, well treated and ridden just enough to keep him in condition. For all practical purposes he is retired: From here on out, there would only be "deep pastures, full feed bags and plenty of pleasant memories" for Whiskey, the paper stated. But the general also made it clear that this was not "going to be a complete and final retirement . . . . The army doesn't do that with its horses. No 'deadheads' are carried on the

army list: Nevertheless, Whiskey's fans were sure that he would "think it a very thorough going rest after the lifetime of activity that has been his."<sup>33</sup>

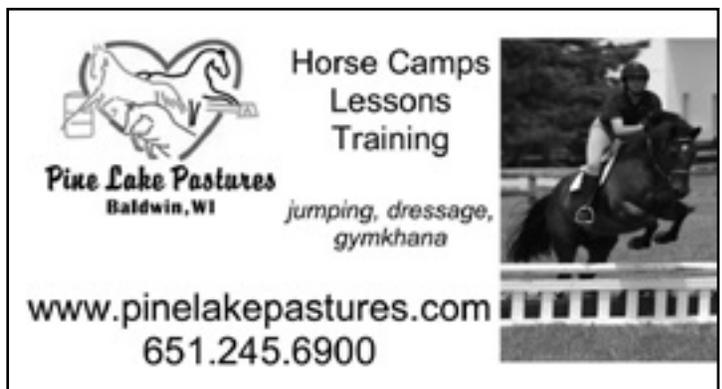
That announcement prompted new attempts to reunite Whiskey and Hazelrigg. Barbara Healy of St. Louis Park even wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, asking for his help. The letter was forwarded to Secretary of War George H. Dern, who replied: "Whiskey" is an Army horse . . . he belongs to a regiment and to an Army post whose officers and men are proud of his achievements and very much attached to him; so much so, that when a few years ago the question of his sale came up, they refused to part with him. And I have no doubt they would refuse to do so again. At that time they thought, and I agree with them, that the regiment and the post had a higher claim upon him than any individual.

I have no doubt the officers and men at Fort Snelling will see that "Whiskey" enjoys a serene and comfortable old age, and I believe they are justly entitled to continued enjoyment of the pleasure which the presence and performance of this exceptional horse have brought to their regiment and their post.<sup>34</sup>

In late August, a board of officers decided that Whiskey would be assigned a personal handler and turned out to pasture with 35-year-old retired army mules Snelling and Nat. The retirement orders read, "It would be a severe blow to the morale of officers and enlisted men if the animal should be sold or destroyed. The board recommends public horse Whiskey be classified as superannuated, retired and put out to pasture to die a natural death."<sup>35</sup>

Several years later when the fort commandant reigned as king of the 1939 St. Paul Winter Carnival, Whiskey took part in its military pageant and horse show. The Fort Snelling Bulletin related that in a "touching highlight" to the program, the "retired trooper" was led into the arena where he was presented to the dignitaries and given an honorary membership in the American Legion and Winter Carnival Committee.<sup>36</sup>

By the early 1940s, the military had become fully motorized. Whiskey was the only army horse left at Fort Snelling, and the army stopped providing his forage.



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Privately owned and supported riding ponies remained at the fort, but field artillery horses and mules had been moved elsewhere. Whiskey could have accompanied them, but the Fort Snelling officers reportedly "didn't think much of that idea." As a result, some officers, including Whiskey's handler, Sgt. Hurley Evans, paid for his oats, hay, and sugar treats. Knowing that they might not always be there to provide for him, the officers decided to hold a benefit. According to the press release, "Whiskey has announced he wants to do his part for national defense by helping to entertain selective service trainees and other soldiers stationed at Fort Snelling. Whiskey will perform some of his old stunts between boxing matches at the smoker and he will make future public appearances if his health will permit."<sup>37</sup>

"Whiskey's eyesight is growing dim," a local reporter revealed, and his legs haven't much of the old spring left, and he is growing a sizeable crop of grey whiskers, but the old wonderhorse of Fort Snelling is coming out

of retirement once more - this time in his own personal defense program. Whiskey, who will be 30 years old this spring according to army records, is finding his old age just a bit insecure. To be brutally frank about it, he's a little short on hay."<sup>38</sup>

At the March 12, 1941, benefit, Whiskey "stole the show;" as the Fort Snelling paper put it. He picked up the correct color handkerchief, found sugar in Sgt. Evans's pockets, and stood with his front feet on a box. Then, riderless, the graying and bewhiskered horse capped off the exhibition by jumping over a flaming hurdle. That stunt put him on the front page of the next day's Minneapolis Tribune. That same morning, the soldiers presented Whiskey with a feedbag filled with coins. His meal ticket was secured."<sup>39</sup>

In September 1943 Hazelrigg, now a colonel, paid another visit to Fort Snelling to see the "old fellow." The attachment between the two had not lessened with the passing years. When Whiskey caught sight of his friend,



he walked a few steps then charged across the remaining distance as fast as his ancient legs would carry him. He nuzzled Hazelrigg affectionately, then stood quietly as the colonel "chatted with him in a language only he and Whiskey know," the Minneapolis Journal related. Hazelrigg spoke softly in the same unique way that, some 22 years earlier, had calmed and earned the trust of a wild horse. This quiet time shared by the two aging soldiers was their final visit.<sup>40</sup>

As the fort stables steadily emptied of private horses, Whiskey became lonely. His health deteriorated noticeably after the last horse, a mare named Chicken Little, to whom he was quite attached, was transferred to Texas. Late in the evening of December 30, 1943, fort officials announced that Whiskey had "died peacefully in his stable." As they described it, "Old age just crept up and took him." For the first time since 1820, Fort Snelling had no government-owned horse.<sup>41</sup>

At 11:30 A.M. on January 1, 1944, Whiskey was laid to rest with full military honors near the three huge elm trees that bordered the pasture in which he had spent his retirement years. Mourners stood solemnly in the snow as Commandant Col. Harry J. Keeley placed a wreath on the grave and taps sounded. The only gravesite within the boundaries of the fort, the spot was located on the northeast corner of the polo grounds.<sup>42</sup>

Learning of Whiskey's death, Col. Hazelrigg wrote to Col. Keeley and enclosed a check for ten dollars, requesting that a Whiskey Memorial Fund be established. Keeley used the donation as partial payment for a grave marker, and the Officers' Club paid the remainder. A

likeness of Whiskey's head was carved on the traditional white stone military marker above the inscription: "WHISKEY / A GREAT HORSE / A STOUT HEART / 1911-1943"<sup>43</sup>

At the time of Whiskey's burial, fort officials promised that his gravesite would "never be marred by roads." However, Fort Snelling closed as a military post in 1946, and subsequent urban expansion necessitated additional thoroughfares. During the renovation of Highway 55 in 1964, Whiskey's grave was moved to a location near the Bishop Whipple Federal Building on the fort grounds.<sup>44</sup>

In 2002 Whiskey's remains, in the path of a light-rail system, were unearthed a second time for reburial in a Flag Day ceremony. This site, on a bluff overlooking the Minnesota River, is adjacent to Historic Fort Snelling. The white picket fence around the grave is new, but the stone marker is the original. As has been the case since Whiskey's burial in 1944, small bouquets of flowers continue to be placed anonymously on his grave.

Whiskey, a legend in the military and equine history of Minnesota, is part of the nation's history as well. During his lifetime, army officers and enlisted men from all over the United States were assigned to Fort Snelling. Thousands spent time at the garrison referred to as the "Country Club of the Army" in the 1920s and 1930s. Thousands more received military training there before and during World War II. Since every soldier at the fort was acquainted with the post's pet and mascot, the Minneapolis Star Journal's epitaph rings true: "Any man ever stationed at Fort Snelling knew Whiskey's story."



## Notes

1. *Official Program, Whiskey Reburial*, June 14, 2002, p. I, Whiskey file, Historic Fort Snelling research files; *Minneapolis Journal*, June 6, 1929, p. 1; *St. Paul Dispatch*, June 26, 1934, p. 2; "Men's Light Weight Hunters under I5.2," *Program, Spring Horse Show*, June 2 and 3, 1922, Jean Anderson scrapbook, family collection; Aileen K. Henderson, "A Stout Heart," *Equus*, Sept. 1994, p. 49, copy in Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). As teenagers, sisters Jean and Mary Anderson belonged to the same saddle clubs as Lt. Hazelrigg and also rode at Fort Snelling.
2. Third Infantry photo album, Old Guard Museum, Fort Myer, VA (quotes); polo program, ca. 1924, Mary Anderson scrapbook, family collection; *Reburial Program*, p. I; Henderson, "Stout Heart" 50.
3. Author's telephone interviews with Bill Robbins, former president of Minnesota Horse Council, Aug. 26, 2002 (remount stations), and Alan Bogan, Old Guard Museum, Jan. 19, 2005 (motorization), notes in author's possession; *Fort Snelling Military Show Program, Sept. 20-30, 1928*, p. 7, MHS.
4. Here and below, John H. Daniels, correspondence and interview with author, July 31, 2002, notes in author's possession. Daniels, a master of foxhounds for the Long Lake Hounds, played polo at Fort Snelling.
5. *St. Paul Daily News*, June 2, 1922, p. 7; *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Nov. 6, 1921, 3d sec., p. I, Sept. 3, 1925, p. 9; *Official Polo Program, Fourth International Polo Tournament, 1925*, MHS; *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Nov. 23, 1928, p. 4, Dec. 13, 1929, p. I; photo of hunt, *Minneapolis Star*, clipping, 1929, M. Anderson scrapbook.
6. *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Sept. 10, 1943, p. 5.
7. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Aug. 4, 1924, p. II; *Minneapolis Star*, Dec. 11, 1973, p. IC.
8. Daniels interview; *Minneapolis Star*, Dec. 11, 1973, p. IC. Photos at the Old Guard Museum and MHS document the jumps.
9. *Minneapolis Star*, clipping and photo, May 1924, Whiskey file, Star Tribune library, Minneapolis; Henderson, "Stout Heart" 50.
10. *Minneapolis Star*, Dec. 11, 1973, p. IC.
11. *Minneapolis Journal*, Apr. 22, 1922, p. 2; "Civilian and Army Riders Compete," clipping, 1922, J. Anderson scrapbook; Nancy Lane, interview with author, Aug. 29, 2002, notes in author's possession. Lane rode and hunted at the fort; her husband, James, played polo there.
12. Minnesota State Agricultural Society, State Fair Scrapbooks, Minnesota State Archives microfilm 109, roll 37 (1922), frame 177, MHS; *St. Paul Daily News*, Sept. 6, 1922, p. 10; *Minneapolis Journal*, Sept. 5, 1924, p.19.
13. "Horse Show Honors to Snelling Entry," June 8, 1924, and "Smartest Horse in U.S. Army," *Minneapolis Journal*, clippings, Sept. 1922, J. Anderson scrapbook.
14. *Ski-U-Mah*, May 1924, p. 17; *Minnesota Daily*, Apr. 26, 1924, p. 1.
15. Here and below, *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 17, 1924, p. I; *Minnesota Daily*, May 20, 1924, p. 1.
16. Horse and Style Show program, 1926, J. Anderson scrapbook; *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Sept. 10, 1943, p. 5.
17. Here and below, "Mid-Winter Horse Show," clipping, Feb. 19, 1926, J. Anderson scrapbook.
18. *Minneapolis Journal*, Mar. 7, 1926, amusement sec., p. 4; *Saddle Horse*, Dec. 1922, p. 1, J. Anderson scrapbook.
19. *Minneapolis Star*, June 14, 1934, p. I; Hazelrigg's request via congressman, copy, in "From 1934 File Whiskey Information," Old Guard Museum, original in Records of the Quartermaster General, Record Group (RG) 92, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C.; letter to Bjornstad, Mar. 15, 1926, copy, J. Anderson scrapbook.
20. Secretary of War to Mr. Newton, "From 1934 File Whiskey Information," original in Quartermaster General, RG 92, NARA.
21. Here and below, *Minneapolis Star*, June 7, 1927, p. 13; "Minneapolis Horses Take Honors," "One Woman Rides Enough Horses for Cavalry Troop," and "Wife of Officer Masters Trick Horse," clippings, 1927, J. Anderson scrapbook.
22. "Lieutenant Hazelrigg and Whiskey. . . to be Reunited," clipping, Dec. 1927, J. Anderson scrapbook.
23. *Minneapolis Star*, June 14, 1934, p. I; "Whiskey Kisses Former Trainer," *Minneapolis Journal*, clipping, Oct. 1928, M. Anderson scrapbook.
24. *Minneapolis Journal*, June 22, 1934, p. 15; R. F. Pack letter and denial, copy, "From 1934 File Whiskey Information," original in RG 92, NARA.
25. "Aged Hunter Wins Woodhill Club's Ribbon," clipping, J. Anderson scrapbook; *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Jan. 4, 1929, p. 3; *Minneapolis Star*, June 5, p. 7, June 8, p. 3, and Aug. 15, p. 3-all 1929; *Minneapolis Journal*, Aug. 10, 1929, p. 2.
26. *Minneapolis Tribune*, Sept. 5, 1929, p.10.
27. Here and below, *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 17, 1934, p. 8.
28. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, June 1, 1930, p. I; *Minneapolis Journal*, Sept. 4, 1930, p. 10, Feb. 21, 1932, p. 2; *Minneapolis Tribune*, "Horse Show Thrills Crowd," clipping, Sept. 1932, M. Anderson scrapbook, and July 2, 1933, society sec., p. 2; *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Jan. 8, 1932, p. 4.
29. *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 19, 1933, p. 9, Sept. 8, 1933, p. 6; *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, June 19, 1933, p. 14; *Minneapolis Journal*, Aug. 6, 1933, p. 8.
30. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, June 18, 1934, p. 2; *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, June 15, 1934, p. I; *St. Paul Dispatch*, June 14, 1934, p. 1.
31. *Minneapolis Star*, June 14, 1934, p. I.
32. *Official Daily Program, First Annual All-American Rodeo*, June 20, 1934, MHS; *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 16, 1934, p. 9.
33. *Minneapolis Journal*, June 22, 1934, p. 15.
34. Healy to Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Secretary of War George Dern to Healy, copies, "From 1934 File Whiskey Information," originals in RG 92, NARA.
35. *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Aug. 22, 1934, p. 2; *St. Paul Dispatch*, Jan. 23, 1961, p.9.
36. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Jan. 27, 1939, p. I; *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Jan. 21, 1939, p. 3, Jan. 28, 1939, p. 3.
37. *Minneapolis Star Journal*, Mar. 7, 1941, p. 1.
38. "Whiskey in Come-Back," clipping, Mar. 11, 1941, Whiskey file, Historic Fort Snelling.
39. *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Mar. 14, 1941, p. 12; *Minneapolis Tribune*, Mar. 13, 1941, p. I; *Minneapolis Times-Tribune*, Mar. 13, 1941, p. I9.
40. *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Sept. 10, 1943, p. 5; *Minneapolis Journal*, Dec. 31, 1943, p. 9.
41. *St. Paul Dispatch*, Jan. 1, 1944, p. 6, Jan. 23, 1961, p. 9; *Minneapolis Daily Times*, Dec. 31, 1943, p. 1.
42. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Jan. 1, 1944, p. I; *Minneapolis Star Journal*, Dec. 31, 1943, p. 9; *Minneapolis Tribune*, Jan. 2, 1944, sports sec., p. I; *St. Paul Dispatch*, Jan. 1, 1944, p. 6; *Blue Devil*, Sept. 30, 1988, p. 17, Whiskey file, Historic Fort Snelling.
43. *Fort Snelling Bulletin*, Jan. 22, 1944, p. I.
44. Here and two paragraphs below, *Minneapolis Star Journal*, Dec. 31, 1943, p. 9; *Reburial Program*, cover, p. I; *Star Tribune*, May 29, 2002, p. B3; Henderson, "Stout Heart," 55.

# Class of 2014

JOHANNA BALAS

My name is Johanna Balas, I am a senior this year and I will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall. I plan on joining the riding team at Madison and trying out. I am very excited to try out for the team and I definitely have to keep on riding in order to keep me sane throughout college. I plan on double majoring in biomedical sciences and economics and I want to focus on cancer research. It has been quite the journey throughout my riding career but I will say that I finally found a sport that I love. It is not only a sport for me but it is a part of my life and it will be very sad when I have to say goodbye to my mare in the fall and go off to college. Horses have kept me so humble and it is such a rewarding sport.



# Class of 2014

## MEREDITH DOYLE

I'm Meredith Doyle and I am a senior at Maple Grove Senior High. This fall, I will be attending Iowa State University to study business. I first started riding horses at a small Morgan horse barn in Plymouth, MN when I was four years old. Then, at the age of 10, I started to take lessons with my trainer - Johnny Salazar on Merlot - who is a Morgan and who was only 4 years old at that time. So both Merlot and I had a lot to learn! I have continued to ride and do lessons and shows, since then. Now I ride and show one of Sara Hogan's horses, Alaric, in hunters. I plan on riding on the ISU equestrian team and will continue to ride my own horses - Merlot, and Cabernet when I come home at break. I do not plan to take Merlot and Cabi to ISU with me. They will stay at Horseplay Ranch out in Corcoran, where my family and friends can enjoy riding them, so it will be fun to see them when I am home at break.



## AUDREY FERMANICH

My name is Audrey Fermanich and I graduated from Minnehaha Academy. I will be attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison in the fall. I plan to major in Biomedical Engineering with hopes of attending medical school. I hope to continue riding in college and might even consider joining their equestrian team. I currently train with Heather Parish at Spring Meadow Farm. Heather has brought Ollie and me a long way and I really appreciate all that she has done for us. I look forward to another great show season with everyone at Spring Meadow!



## SYDNEY GROSSMAN

Hi, I'm Sydney Grossman and I'm a graduating senior this year from Lakeville South High School. I've been riding for eight years, starting at Golden Ridge Stables before moving onto the Hunter/Jumper world. I currently ride with Cathy Barrea at Summit Oak Stables, and have been riding with her for about five years. I've had my horse, Riley (an eight year old Thoroughbred Jumper), for about three years and have enjoyed retraining him from a (slow) racehorse to a successful Low/High Children's Jumper.

After graduation, I will be attending St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and hopefully majoring in Mathematics or some sort of engineering. Since I'm staying close to home, I hope to continue riding at Summit Oak when I have time and to keep showing in the summer.

I've been lucky to have such a great barn family that's been supportive of me from the beginning, and to have the opportunities that I've had throughout my riding career. Thank you to Summit Oak and the MHJA community for great memories I've made throughout the years. Have a great summer!



## JAYDE HULL

I sat on a horse for the first time before I could walk, and from that moment I was hooked. Upon moving to Minnesota in 2000, my four year old self begged my mom to sign me up for riding lessons. The only barn she could find that would take me was a saddle seat barn, so I spent the next few years riding Saddlebreds until I was old enough to move to a hunter jumper barn. When I was finally old enough I moved to Silver Creek Riding Center where I rode with Diane Stockstead, who I owe all the fundamentals of my riding to. I can't imagine a better teacher or better slew ponies to have learned from. Eventually I moved to riding with Heather Parish and after taking a few years off from competitive riding, was able to enthusiastically return to Heather and Spring Meadow Farm last year. Next fall I will be attending Colgate University in Hamilton, NY with tentative plans to study Political Science and Journalism. I hope to continue my riding career in to college, whether that means joining the equestrian team at school or riding with Spring Meadow when I'm home for breaks - regardless after 14 years, I have no intention of giving it up! I have been so lucky to have made so many great friends and memories during my riding career and am so excited to start this next chapter in my life.

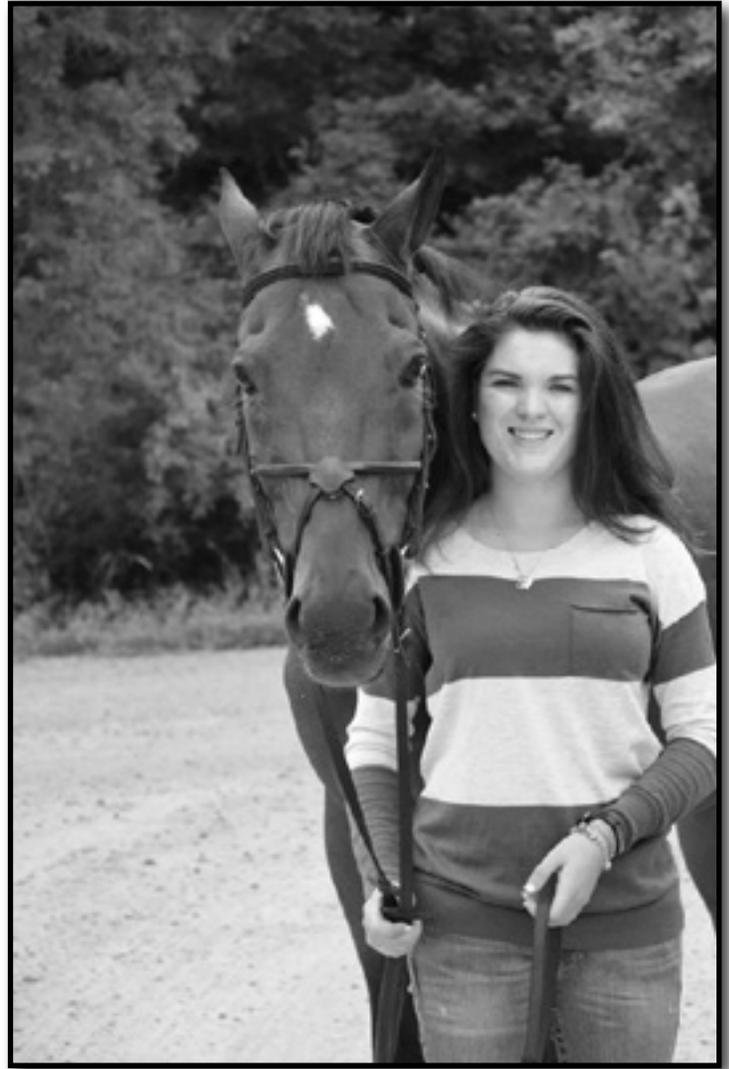


## Class of 2014

### QUINN LESLIE

Hi Everyone! I have been riding and showing since I was 7 years old. I now ride with Kim Barone and lease Kid Rock and show in the 1.10m child/adult jumpers. I am really looking forward to this show season before heading off to college in the fall. I will be attending The University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall and am super excited to be able to ride on their Equestrian team. I will not be keeping a horse after this summer.

I hope everyone has a great show season !



## Class of 2014

### HELEN LINDSAY

I have been riding for most of my life. I started on Alpine Farms' donkey Milo when I was six years old. Once I outgrew lead line classes, I took lessons on my mom's horse, Gallagher. When I was eleven I began showing my pony Clancy in the Children's Hunter Pony classes. I fell off Clancy more times than I can count, but he taught me valuable lessons about riding. I then rode another of my mother's horses, Felicity in the Long Stirrup for a few years, but really wanted a horse of my own, that I could connect with. We were lucky enough to find Granted Wish who I was able to move up from Long stirrup to Children's to Junior Hunters with. I plan to show him in the Amateur Owners this summer. Thanks to Ashley Woodhouse who has been training me for the past few years, and everyone else who has trained me or helped me along the way!

In the fall, I am headed to Boston University to study engineering, but I hope to come back during the summer and continue showing!



# Class of 2014

## ANNA NORDIN

Hi everybody! Most of you probably know me, but for those who don't, my name is Anna Nordin and I've been around the MHJA circuit riding with Tracy Grandstrand at Stonegate Farm for the past 6 years. You might remember my long stirrup/children's horse Fabiola, or my junior hunter Aspen. I've had a great experience with MHJA and have so many fun memories, from driving the golf cart to Target in Mason City to teetering on high heels while getting my awards during my first year end banquet. I'm really going to miss our "home" shows and the whole MHJA family.

I'm graduating from high school this year (crazy!), which meant some changes. From my first pony ride, I always knew I wanted to do "the horse thing" for the rest of my life. Everything I've done since then has been with the goal of becoming a professional in mind. I've been doing online school to pursue my riding for the past few years, so when the opportunity came up for me to go be a working student at WEF, I was able to jump at the chance. I went down in January to work for Jack and Josee Stedding of Driftwood Stables for the WEF and Spring circuits. I've learned so much and made so many connections and friends! My parents were even nice enough to send Aspen down to me until he is sold.

I was fortunate enough to be offered a more permanent position with Jack and Josee, so now I'm back at their home



barn in Pennsylvania for the summer before we head down to Wellington in November. I'm really looking forward to this summer, since I'll be competing at Junior Hunter Finals and in the Hunterdon Cup with Aspen! However, I am really going to miss MHJA and all my friends in Minnesota. Good luck to everybody this show season and I'll miss you!!



## KENDALL WERNEIWSKI

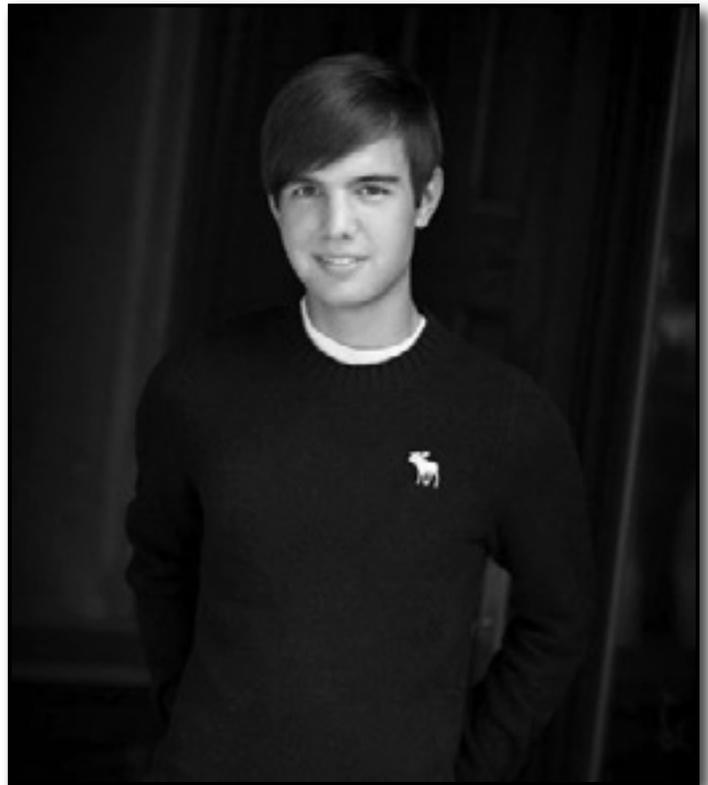
Hello everyone, for those of you who don't know me, I am Kendall Werneiwski and I just recently graduated with honors from Holy Family Catholic High School in Victoria, Minnesota. Since moving to the Twin Cities when I was eight years old, my sister and I have been actively involved in MHJA.

I first began riding at the age of five with my mother and sister with a local trainer in the St. Charles area of Illinois. Although I initially began my riding career by walking out the horses my sister would ride, I soon progressed to lessons on the lunge line. I didn't start riding on a serious and competitive level until my family and I moved to Minnesota when I was eight years old. Soon after moving, my mother quickly found Suzy Bethke through a mutual friend and we began taking lessons at Sunset Farms. I learned a ton from Suzy and gained valuable experience riding a variety of horses and ponies that brought me from walk/trot to the rated pony divisions. And in 2008, I competed in the large green pony hunters at the USEF Pony Finals abroad my favorite pony, "Bay Watch," or known around the barn as, "Annie."

After six years, we made the hard decision to switch trainers. We then moved to train with Heidi Hildebrand and Pat Vogtle at Roundabout Farm. Here, Pat and Heidi helped me transition from ponies to horses with our thoroughbred, "Watch Me Dance." I had lots of success with Dancer in the low and high children's jumper divisions and also gained valuable saddle time that helped me become a better rider. Also, while at Roundabout, I had the opportunity to work in the farm as a working student, which was the best job because I got to be with horses all day!

Then, during the summer of my junior year, I found a working student position for a dressage trainer in St. Charles, Illinois through a mutual friend. I was able to work for Ryan Yap for two and a half months during the summer of my junior and live on my own! This was a great opportunity because it allowed me to experience a full-time working student position, gain valuable riding experience, learn more about dressage, and life outside my parents' house! During this time, I also had the opportunity to help train a large green pony with the help of Lynn Jayne, which was a blast since I hadn't ridden or jumped a pony since my pony days! When I got back from this job, I had the opportunity to ride and train with Nora and Morgan Thomas of Norgan Inc. With Nora and Morgan, I was able to train and compete in Wellington, Florida at the Winter Equestrian Festival for the past two seasons! The past two years with them has changed my riding drastically and allowed me to gain experience riding and showing a wide range of horses in Florida and Kentucky!

This fall, I will be attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison and I could not be more excited! As of now, I am planning on majoring in either International Business,



International Relations, or Political Science. For my riding plans, I plan to take a short hiatus from riding for at least my freshman year of college to get the true freshman experience, but I know that I will definitely be back in the saddle during the summer months!

I would like to take a moment to thank all the trainers that have helped me become the rider that I am today; I wouldn't be the person and rider I am without any of you! Most of all, I would like to thank my parents for their unyielding support behind my horseback riding goals. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for both my riding and academics! On Wisconsin! 



# INTERCOLLEGIATE HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION

BY: KATIE WIFVAT

I recently had the opportunity to ride at the IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association) National competition at Harrisburg, PA. Even though I go to the University of St. Thomas, my school does not have an equestrian team, so I get to ride for the U of M – Twin Cities. Unfortunately our coach Tracy Grandstrand was not able to go with me, but my trainer Laura Rohlfing graciously offered to prepare me for the event and even come with! To save money we drove down, and it was a very long 17 hour drive, but it flew by pretty quickly with good scenery and laughs. When we got to the equestrian center early in the morning we oriented ourselves with the huge arena, and looked around at all the vendors and various prizes. It was pretty awesome! It was also cool to watch the horses warm up, because they were all pretty fancy. I was lucky enough to randomly draw “Mickey Mouse,” an adorable bay brought to the event by Centenary College. In competitions like this, we don’t have a chance to get to know our horses before we show, but I had seen him warm up and knew we would get along well. My goal was to just make myself proud, but I was still really nervous when we all lined up and listened to the results. I couldn’t believe it when I was still in the lineup after numerous numbers had been called. Finally, I heard it. I got 4th! I’d always wanted to compete at the equestrian center in Harrisburg, but I never knew it would actually happen. I am so grateful to be able to accomplish the dream I had, and I’m very thankful to everyone who helped me along the way!!





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# **EHV-1NN MSP 2014**

## **(EQUINE HERPES VIRUS 1 NON NEUROTROPIC STRAIN, MINNEAPOLIS ST PAUL 2014 OUTBREAK)**

March 7, 2014 we were called to a client's farm in Chisago County to examine two barrel horses that were "not right behind." Both horses were ataxic or showing neurologic deficits in the hind legs. Nasal swabs and blood tests were immediately run on both horses and within several days we had our first diagnosis if EVV-1 nn (non neurotropic strain).

It seemed odd to have two isolated cases of EHV-1nn, but it does happen. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health was contacted and they informed us that the EHV-1nn strain was not a reportable disease and thus they had little authority to act. The client started a self-imposed 30 day quarantine of the farm.

Ten days later a horse owner called from western Wisconsin and wanted to bring in a down barrel horse. We became suspicious and concerned of another EHV-1 case. After discussing the situation with the client they kept the horse on their farm and successfully, with great effort, treated the horse. The horse would later test positive for EHV-1.

Upon talking to several veterinarians in Western Wisconsin they each mentioned cases they had seen in the past month which now appeared suspicious for EHV-1. At this point I walked up to our young receptionist and said "Ok, teach me how to Facebook." We put up our first post and had over 78,000 views.



March 19th post on Facebook:

\*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\*\*

On March 7, 2014 two barrel horses located North of Stillwater were tested positive for EHV1. One horse was euthanized.

On March 17, 2014 one barrel horse located North of Stillwater in Wisconsin showed signs consistent with an EHV1 infection, and is currently down and unable to get up. Tests are pending.

On March 18, 2014 a Barrel horse was taken to the University of Minnesota for neurologic symptoms ( EHV1 like symptoms) and was euthanized. Tests are pending

On March 18, 2014 a Barrel horse was examined in the west metro area for neurologic symptoms (EHV1 like symptoms) and is being treated. Tests are pending.

On March 7-9 there was a barrel horse event at a show facility in Southern MN. One horse at that event came up positive (case 3). The next weekend, on March 13-16, there was a quarter horse show at the same show grounds and one horse at that show came up positive (case 6). Now it was March 19 and hundreds of Arabian horses were on the road as we were getting this information, headed to the same show grounds. The Veterinary community became concerned and mobilized to assess the risk. Was it safe to hold the Arabian show on the same grounds the positive horses were the previous two weeks? The answers were not clear or unanimous. The show went on with daily trainers meetings to discuss adequate responses and protocols. The concerns that the show grounds were a source of infection were well-founded but turned out to be not true. Case 6, it was later found, came to the quarter horse show showing neurologic signs as it walked off the trailer to enter the show grounds, the horse was infected before coming to the show.

From March 7 to April 4, 2014 there would be 10 cases of EHM ( Equine Herpes Virus Myeloencephalopathy is the neurologic form of EHV-1). The majority of these ( 8/10) were in barrel horses or on farms with barrel horses.

On April 15 it came to our attention that there were three cases of EHV-1 in North Dakota. It was found that the first two cases were in a closed herd of horses with no exposure to outside horses for at least two months. However the third horse was a barrel horse that competed locally. One reply to our post said that MN horses had been to these shows meaning that it was possible the MN horses brought the virus. We never found out if MN horses were exposed to the positive ND horse.

On April 26 we received a phone call with potentially devastating effects. A horse owner called from Southern WI, her horse had signs of EHM (later confirmed). It had been to a very large (about 1000 horses) barrel event in Lincoln Nebraska April 10-13. There were horses from many Midwestern states at this event. Then a second case (from Kansas) was confirmed this horse was stabled very

close to the Southern WI case at the Lincoln show. Both horses were euthanized on April 24. Now we were two weeks past the event and these horses had traveled to states throughout the country, would this continue to spread?

On May 3 we heard of another possible case in SD. The horse came from a closed herd of horses in MN and was now in a boarding barn in SD with many barrel horses. The horse developed neurologic signs on April 24th. (One day after the two cases from Lincoln Nebraska). How or if this case ties into the MN cases or the Lincoln cases has not been determined.

This outbreak of EHV-1 non neurotropic was a two month (March and April 2014) episode mainly involving one discipline (barrel 12/14) and involved 7 states (MN, WI, ND, SD, IA, KS, NE). We do not know that all of these cases are tied together but the timing and discipline of the horses involved is suspicious that they might tie together.

Social media was instrumental in getting information to horse owners. Some of the people involved in these cases were willing to share important information about these cases; others did not wish to share. It was not our objective to criticize people for their actions, it was only our intent to share information so owners could make appropriate decisions.

There were many complicating issues in managing this outbreak. Many of the state Veterinarians were not prepared, or not authorized to handle, or advise how to handle, this outbreak. The lack of a governing body in the horse industry to advise its membership also fragmented the response. On the positive side social media was greatly helpful in informing owners of emerging issues. The Veterinary community networked together to share information.

Eventually a policy evolved to

Quarantine any EHM barns for 21 to 28 days. The positive horse would be isolated from all other horses to prevent further transmission of the virus to other horses. EHM horses shed the virus for 14 days. After the 21 to 28 day quarantine the horses could be tested (nasal swab) or just release from quarantine because the test can have false positives.

The temperature of all other horses on the premises of the EHM horse would be taken two times a day to identify any asymptomatic horses that may be shedding the virus. Any horses that developed Temperatures of greater than 101.5 would be isolated to prevent further transmission of the virus to other horses. This would stop the "domino effect" of one horse having the virus for 10 then passing it to the next horse that would have it for 10 days then pass it to the next etc. (Asymptomatic EHV-1 shedders will shed the virus for 10 days.

Notification to other horse owners that may have come in contact with the positive horse. This would include



notification of all show entrants at the events the positive horse was at over the last 21-28 days. Horses that came in contact with the positive horse should also be quarantined for 21-28 days and have their temperatures taken daily to prevent the domino effect. Horses with Temperatures should be isolated from all other horses.

Cancellation of specific horse shows/events that involved the discipline and geographical area of the outbreak. In the future horse show organizers may have to exclude horses of certain areas and disciplines to enforce the policies outlined above.

As we wrote this article Colorado reported two cases of EHV-1 in their state. The Colorado Department of Agriculture quickly reacted to the situation by imposing the same policy as mentioned above.

It is our hope that these policies will be reviewed modified, if needed, and adopted by the state organizations so a quicker and more unified approach can be put in place for future outbreaks.

Case history below:

EHV-1 Outbreak MSP (Minneapolis St Paul)

Case 0 WI St Croix County high suspicion euthanized 2/15/2014

Case 1 MN Chisago Euthanized EHV-1 positive 3/8/2014

Case 2 MN Chisago Recovering EHV-1 positive 3/8/2014

Case 3 MN Dakota Euthanized EHV-1 positive 3/18/2014

Case 4 WI Polk Recovering EHV-1 positive 3/20/2014

Case 5 MN Hennepin Recovering EHV-1 positive 3/21/2014

Case 6 MN Freeborn Recovering Test positive 3/26/2014

Case 7 MN Wright Test positive 3/26/2014

Case 8 Iowa and MN Freeborn and Hennepin Positive 3/26/2014

Case 9 MN Wright county Test positive 3/29/2014

Case 10 WI St Croix County Recovering Test positive 4/4/2014

Case 1+2 are on the same farm

Case 0 + 10 are on the same farm

10 cases (MN 7 WI 2 Iowa 1)

10 cases ( Barrel horses or Game horses 7/10 )

10 cases (Northern suburbs 8/10 )

EHV-1 cases in north Dakota

ND Case 1 January 2014 on a closed herd

ND Case 2 February 2014 same closed herd

ND Case 3 April 5 2014 barrel horse

EHV-1 cases from Lincoln Nebraska event

NE Case 1 WI Lafayette County Euthanized 4/24/2014 test positive

NE Case 2 KS Northeast Kansas Euthanized 4/24/2014 test positive

Case 1 and Case 2 were stabled in the same barn very close to each other during the BRF ( April 10-13 2014).

EHV-1 case South Dakota

SD Case 1 Brown County, S.D., 4/24/2014 test positive

This case is a horse that came from MN to SD and is in a barn with barrel horses.





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To find out more about reaching MHJA members through our quarterly Newsletter or website advertising, please contact Nicole Salazar.

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# 2014 MHJA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome to the MHJA! For 2014 there are 2 types of individual memberships:

- **Competing Membership: Dues of \$60.00 per year.** A Competing Member is entitled to receive all the publications and prize lists, be listed in the directory, participate in MHJA Clinics as a member, and all other regular member benefits, **plus the Competing Member and all horses owned by the Competing Member will be eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards.** *In order to be eligible for a year-end award in the hunter or jumper classes, the owner of the horse must be an MHJA Competing Member. If you are riding a leased horse, please be sure the owner is an MHJA member in order for points to count. To be eligible for an equitation award, the  rider  must be an MHJA Competing Member.*
- **Non-Competing Membership: Dues of \$40.00 per year.** A Non-Competing Member is entitled to receive all the publications and prize lists, be listed in the directory and all other regular benefits, except that **the Non-Competing Membership does not include eligibility for MHJA Year-End Awards.**

Both memberships are from December 1 to November 30, the same as USEF and USHJA. Membership becomes active on its postmark date if mailed or date received by a representative of the MHJA if hand delivered. All memberships expire on November 30, regardless of the date activated. The 2014 membership list will be purged on March 1, 2014. If you have not renewed or joined by then, you will not receive any more mailings or be listed in the 2014 directory. The MHJA sends reminders before the March 1 deadline. **It is the member's responsibility to make sure all the membership requirements are met for eligibility for awards.**

For more information, contact: Lee Gremillion, lee-gremillion@comcast.net, Chair, Membership:

**2014 MHJA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
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Check membership type:

Individual Competition Membership - Annual: **\$60.00.** Competing members receive all regular benefits **and are eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards** in equitation and any horses owned by the member are eligible for hunter or jumper awards. (**\$55.00 if paid before January 1, 2014.**)

Individual Sustaining Membership - Annual: **\$40.00.** Sustaining members receive all regular benefits, but **are not** eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards. (**\$35.00 if paid before January 1, 2014**)

New  Renew  If this is a renewal and the 2013 information was correct, you may list just your name below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age Group as of Dec. 1, 2013: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name (required only if horses are owned by a farm or company): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include area codes)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you have multiple memberships at one address and would like to receive only one mailing.

Check here if you do not want to be included in the directory.

**Please Mail To:**  
**Lee Gremillion**  
**4900 Emerson Ave S**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55419**

**Thank you for joining the MHJA for 2014!**



## Arbor Hill

How nice it is to write these eyes and ears at 7:00pm, after a full day OUTSIDE at the barn, and the sun is still shining! Many of our friends are returning from showing in Des Moines, and we are gearing up to head to Mason City. Show season is upon us, ready or not! We are excited for the end of the school year, and really looking forward to showing as much as we can this summer. By the time you are reading this, Rebecca Renier will have gotten married and been on her honeymoon. Thank heavens the weather is getting better, or I feared she may not come back. Becca is excited to show Conner in the Adult Amateurs this year, and has her eyes set on a derby or two.

# Eyes & Ears

NEWS OF NOTE FROM AREA BARNS

Lindsay Vail is having a blast with Luke, loving her new job, and looking forward to summer hours that are coming just around the corner. We are always happy when Sophia comes home to visit, and we are happy that she has enjoyed her freshman year at Georgetown. It will be great to have her home for a longer visit this summer. Mimi Lyons is preparing to watch another Brother graduate from high school! Carter will have a graduation party early in June, and prep for college in the fall. Sheri is already wondering what the house will be like with only one of the three cubs at home, but I think we will keep her busy enough this summer to distract her from too much worry. We are looking forward to having the whole Lyons family home this summer, and excited to see their progress with their new lake home. Emily Pope trekked back to New Jersey on a Thursday, jumped in the truck and trailer with her Mom and her horse, Nikki, and they arrived at the farm early Saturday morning. Just call them road warriors! It is exciting to have Emily and Nikki on board to show this summer in the A/O jumpers and the Grand Prix. Elizabeth Goodman

is getting her feet wet with the idea of horse ownership, and you may see her playing at the schooling shows with a young horse this summer. Emily and Julia Sagstetter have been practicing hard, and they are looking forward to hitting some of the RPHSA shows this summer between their busy camp schedule. Zoe is loving riding her ponies, and Ivy is loving riding her bike, so the Lampert Girls are happy as usual. The big excitement on campus is to congratulate Barb Scheiding on being accepted to Vet School!! We are sad to see her going out of town, but happy to think of visiting her in AZ next winter. It seems crazy to be talking about winter already, but I fear that it won't be long before it is knocking on our door. Enjoy the summer!!!

## Greenwood Stables

It's a beautiful day and we are preparing to embark on our big 3-week adventure to Mason City! We are looking forward to getting out to show and seeing everyone again.

After the winter that would not quit in Minnesota, everyone was happy to have Johnny back from Florida. They have been working hard in preparation

for the show season. Ireen will debut with her horse Nikki in the hunter ring at Mason City. Caitlin Patterson joined us over the winter with Smartini, and they will be heading to the jumper ring. Both teams have worked really hard and are looking great!

Julia and Meredith spent a lot of time at the barn this winter working hard in more ways than one. They kept Julia's horse, Zia, in great shape and also found that the barn is a very productive place to get homework done! Julia will soon be behind the wheel on her own after a big birthday coming up this summer. Meredith is graduating and will be heading off to school in the fall at Iowa State! What happened to our little girls?

We welcomed Anna Cook to the barn in May and she is partnering up with her new lease horse, Morris. They are a great team and we are very excited for her. She has been working very hard on her academics (ACT SAT oh my) and she is ready to enjoy a summer of riding and showing. We will miss her this next month as she is currently vacationing in Hilton Head and will spend a couple of weeks at camp after that. She looks forward to more horse time and showing at Alpine in July.

Sara is settling back into being in MN after the first winter at her beautiful new farm in Wellington. She loves her new place and especially being able to look out her window and see her horses grazing on beautiful green grass. Johnny, Niki, and Isla loved being in Florida too. It was incredible to be able to watch the competition there and take in the whole experience. Seeing those big classes live is amazing. What is also amazing is the whole picture of the community. There are horses everywhere you look. Both Sara and Johnny were able to get into the show ring. Sara and Guilder brought home a 2nd place in her very first class. Sara and Niki also got out on the trails with

Guilder and Gabe, and both horses and riders enjoyed this new activity.

Isla had her first birthday down in Florida. She is a true horse girl and will take any opportunity to get on a horse. If she tries to buy a pony from any of you this summer, make sure you ask her Mom and Dad first!

Wishing you all a safe, fun, and successful summer both in the saddle and out. See you all soon!

## Raven Ridge

With warm weather comes horse show season. Our first horse show was Maffitt Lake. Everyone had a very successful show, Kami Marcuseen and her new horse Bull Run's Guardian (Zinnia) were champion the first week in the Modified Juniors. Cindy Bulwicz's Get n' Line (Getty) made his show jumping debut in the jumper ring and looks forward to more opportunities to show this summer. Cyril was champion in the first year greens and also champion in the low amateur hunters. Both Julia Mason and Paige Junker had a great show on their horses Kenzo and Impression (Notjo).

Back at home there have been five babies. The 1st is a filly Wachiwi out of Daisy by Westporte. Azalea had a colt by Kannan named Kando. The third was Escada's filly named Galetta by Liocalyon. The next arrival was Peri's colt by Escudo who is yet to be named, the most recent is Serena who is out of Delilah by Stolzenberg and is owned by Alex Grant. We are still expecting a foal by Ragtime out of Nanette and a foal out of Sophie by Ironman.

Quinn Leslie and Julia Mason are getting ready to graduate in a couple weeks and then will be heading to college in the fall. Quinn is going to University of Nebraska, and Julia will be attending Miami of Ohio. Alison Golden graduated from Indiana University and will be spending a few months in Europe this summer. Grace Leslie is very busy running

track and riding. Anne Meyer and Sharon Golden are both new home owners and are looking forward to moving into their houses early this summer. Hannah Pattermann and Jade Styburski have started their working student positions for this summer and have been doing a great job.

We look forward to continuing this summer show season and wish everyone good luck!

## River Bend Stables

We can hardly wait for more good weather! Getting to write Eyes and Ears after a day mostly spent outside is a treat.

Congratulations to Katie Wifvat! She was the sole representative of the U of M Riding team at the IHSA Nationals and came home with a 4th place in the Intermediate Flat Equitation. We're very proud of you, Katie.

Village Riding is now the proud owner of a truck and trailer! Jimmy has been seen taking her students to the North Run Farm Schooling shows. The program is booming and old schooling ring down below will officially become "Jimmy's Ring" for her students this summer. Much easier for the ponies to make it around that ring.

River Bend will be hosting a Red Pine schooling show this summer on June 28th. We're looking forward to having a show again, although one with not so much work involved. The big jumps are already out in the ring and we all wish the weather would cooperate. Every time Gaylord gets the ring dragged and it's perfect, we get another thundering rain storm!

The "big kids" are ready for their first show. Laura and Jessica have quite a group going to Mason City and we're looking forward to it. Just hope the temps on the 10 day forecast hold true. I hate making runs to Target or Kohl's to buy extra clothes. Ivan and Joanne Rumble, Linda Ostberg

and Clancy, Betsy Kieffer and Garth, Emmy Frigo and Gunner and Vanessa Savoie and Hooper are set to make the trek. Hatty Schiele and her young horses will meet us there.

Our “alumni” have done well this year. Kelsey Ostberg and Figo spent the winter in West Palm, with Kelsey working for her trainer Lisa Jacquin and also helping out at Charles Ancona Coats. As I write this, she’s at Devon. Figo and Kelsey have figured each other out, and they’re jumping the big fences now. Phil Kieffer continues his veterinary education. He received a residency in surgery at the University of Georgia, and will be working toward a Surgery Diplomate and a PhD. Betsy says – “Ooh, someplace warm to visit in the winter.”

On a sad note, our thoughts and prayers go out to the Kieffer family. John lost his brother Bob to pancreatic cancer in late May.

## Skyrock Farm

The birds are singing, the sun is shining, and Skyrock Farm is rocking and rolling into the summer show season. We just wrapped up a week at the Maffitt Lake Spring Horse Show, where all horses and riders were superstars. Grace Nutting moved right up to the High Junior jumpers on her new mount, Grasshopper, and our long stirrup riders went directly to the Junior Hunter ring, taking both tricolors. Meanwhile, Stacy and Ashley were busy campaigning their new horses in professional divisions. Stacy rode Skyrock’s new zebra-horse cross—known around the barn as “Stripes”—to the 3’3” pre-green championship. Ashley, on the other hand, didn’t have such luck on “Molly the Mule,” as they stopped out in each class. Luckily, she avoided any unintentional footing inspections by grabbing Molly’s ears on the way down each time. Both Stripes and Molly were scheduled to give it a go in Saturday night’s Grand Prix, but the riders elected to save them for another day. Though Bill was disappointed that

he wouldn’t have any entries in the prix, he’s optimistic that they’ll be ready for the Harvest Show.

In other news, pigs were seen flying over Skyrock...

## Spring Meadow

It’s been a busy few months here at Spring Meadow!

Kaylyn has taken some time out of her busy work schedule to join us this summer, showing both of the boys, Henri and Phantom. Meanwhile during the week, both of the horses and numerous projects have been keeping Mary Jo busy. John has moved into his new digs. He is willing to show the new “bachelor pad” to visitors.

Congratulations to Emily Walker, who graduated from Hamline University this spring! Another recent graduate of ours, Libby Collins, is now busy at her new job in crop insurance at Wells Fargo, but still pops in to ride when she can! Audrey and Jayde are getting ready to graduate high school and head off to college, but not before they squeeze in a few horse shows! We wish them both the best luck in the next chapters of their lives, and look forward to seeing them during their breaks!

Another congratulations to Kate Kemp on the lease of Fajita! They have been working hard this winter, and can’t wait to watch them in the ring this year! Also watch out for Alyssa and Elton (Good Idea) this summer in the jumpers! They have been impressing us all this spring in their lessons!

Christine has been having a blast on Tank this spring, even with a broken ankle and without stirrups on her saddle.

Jan has been busy riding Canelo, getting him ready for Courtney who’s been away at school this winter. She has been able to make a few weekend appearances, but is now back for the summer!

Welcome to Sophia Urbaniak and Sargent Pepper! They had a great debut at 3 ring circus, and look forward to having them with us this summer! Jeanette Marino has recently joined us and been putting her dressage skills to the test, and trying out jumping on Rolly.

Jagr the unicorn is finally back home after spending a few weeks at the U. His person, Katherine is beginning her clinics at the U of M and can see a light at the end of vet school. Tyne Hovda was home for a few days before beginning her clinical rotations at Texas A and M. She will have a busy summer including an externship at Rood and Riddle. Our third vet student, Laura, has been back during her breaks to ride and hang out with everybody, another third year; she is in clinics all summer. Alison, who is in law school in Wisconsin, will be showing with us the summer too!

Kendahl has been busy traveling for work, but still makes time for her two boys. We have all been having fun watching her baby, Marco, come along!

Heather recently celebrated her big 40th birthday, but we don’t think she looks a day over 25. Thea also had a birthday recently, and everybody was able to keep their mouths shut long enough for her surprise party to be a surprise!

Another huge congratulations to Rolando and Maria, who recently welcomed a new baby girl, Valentina! His family recently moved into the house, after John moved into his fancy new apartment! Jose Hernandez joined the crew with his wife Evelyn and son Gabriel. He is a fabulous electrician working for Lynch Electric, how lucky are we?!

## Summit Oak

Show season is finally upon us and all of our riders at Summit Oak Stables are ready to shed the winter coats and break out the show clothes. It seems like we were destined to



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remain in the cold weather forever, but our jumps have made their way outside and we are enjoying the outdoor arena in the sun.

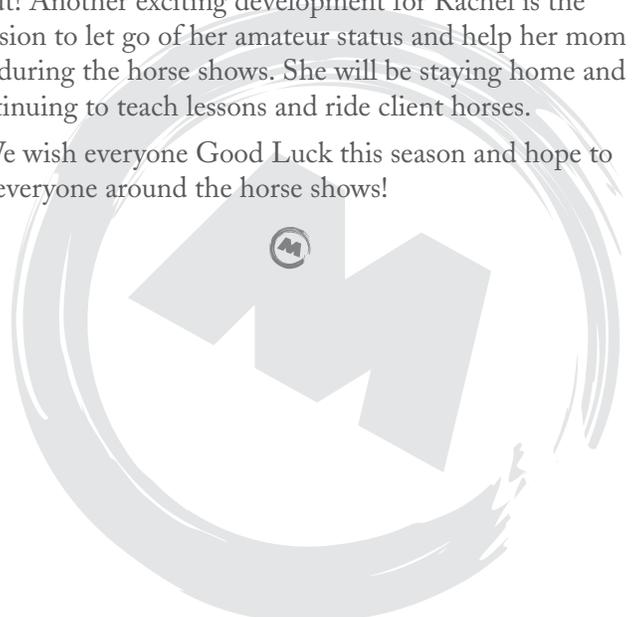
Some new faces joining the Summit Oak team include Riley Christianson who will be leasing Spellchek, Jessica Pendlebury and her horse Matchbox, Jamie Speicher riding quite a few horses around the barn, Abby Lowen who is leasing Power Play, Heather Fites leasing Erika Kluge's horse Ashley and Emily Nelson. We are excited to have everyone of you join the barn and we are looking forward to making many new memories!

In addition to some new faces, we have a few four-legged friends that have recently joined our team. Addie Elliot has a new jumper, Blaye de Vy, who was recently imported from Belgium. This is exciting news for Addie because Blake is her first horse and she plans on debuting in the Jumper and Equitation rings. Cathy Barrea has bought a jumper that she plans on showing throughout the summer. This is quite the change from buying horses for her daughter Rachel. Sparks Fly, or Remy has spent his career in the hunter ring, but has recently switched to showing Jumpers.

We would like welcome back Allie Haggerty from college who has returned to show for the summer. She will be leasing Abadon, Michelle Hogler's jumper. Both of them will be showing him in the jumper ring this summer. Joining them will be Claire and Lori Garduno, Tegan and Kobie Zimmerman, Emily and Sydney Grossman, Bailee Jackson, Shyenne Bryant, Megan Giese, Maddy Johnson, Masen Thormodsgard, Lindsey Kuzma and Theresa Jacobsen.

Rachel Barrea has completed the Summit Oak Stables website which has new information and a lot of fun pictures, so whenever you have a free moment go check it out! Another exciting development for Rachel is the decision to let go of her amateur status and help her mom out during the horse shows. She will be staying home and continuing to teach lessons and ride client horses.

We wish everyone Good Luck this season and hope to see everyone around the horse shows!



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