

Michigan Foxtrotter Assoc.,Inc.

The March 28th meeting was held in GOOD weather this time at Char & George Ostrom's Paladin farm in Charlotte, MI. With six Foxtrotters basking in the nice weather outside, the members of the MFTA enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Ostrom's inside their home sharing the food each member provided.

President Jim McKenney called the meeting to order after we ate. The February 2009 Secretary report was accepted as read (It can be read on Michfoxtrotters.com under the News section). The Treasurer's report was tabled as Treasurer Justin was unable to attend the meeting due to his job needing him more.

Officer elections were held with the following outcomes:President- Jim McKenney(reelected), Vice President- Chuck Fanslow, Secretary- Marilyn Mannino(reelected), Treasurer- Char Ostrom, MHC Delegate- Jennifer Kivela. Miranda Mannino is a Director. Congratulations all!

Miranda Mannino showed a CD of the performance of Jen Kivela on her MFT gelding, Demolition's Fantasy Ride, from the 2009 Stallion expo held in March. They both did a great job demonstrating the Foxtrot in the main arena at the MSU Pavilion. Thanks go out again to all of the MFTA members who assisted in the set-up, manning of and tear-down of the MFTA booth at the expo. Chuck Fanslow offered to ship the raffled off biothane bitless bridle to its new owner,Pat Galloup of Boon, MI.

The MFTA is offering a gaiting/driving/colt breaking clinic at Steph Leavitt's Last Stop Farm in Grand Haven April 24 & 25 with Jim McKenney as the clinician. Reservations must be made by April 10 by calling 616-846-3326. Cost is \$100 per horse/rider, MFTA members get a \$20 discount. The Potter Memorial trailride will be held at the Ionia Recreation area May 15 & 16. Chuck Potter was a pioneer in that he was one of the first to introduce Foxtrotters to Michigan. He passed away in 2007. Now an annual trail ride honors him. His nephew, Rob Potter, handles the Trail Boss responsibilities. On July 18 & 19, Chuck Fanslow will be hosting a trail ride at South Branch. Campers may arrive on Friday nite to set up.

Liz Graves will be a clinician at Liberty Hill for Horses in Hanover,MI July 10-12. Call Jeanie at 517-524-6112 for more information.

Jim McKenney will be the featured clinician June 5-7 at his farm in Yale,MI. He will train horses to drive, work on problems and break a colt or two. Trailriding and camping will be available. June 14th he will be conducting a clinic in Kalkaska also.

It was noted that there will be gaited horse classes offered in the Ingham County 4H horseshow circuit this summer the weekends of May 16, June 30, July 11 and August 29. There is your chance to show the spectators the smooth foxtrot gait!

Chuck Fanslow reported that April 28th is the day slated for the Michigan legislature to vote on the important trails bill. He has requested that all horsepeople wanting this bill to be voted in to be present that day at the Michigan Capitol to show their support for it.

MFTHBA Director and Region 8 Representative, Charleen Ostrom, reported that the drug testing issue on random horses at the MFTHBA shows has been sent back to committee but progress is being made to define a rule with teeth. Their next project is to address the DNA issue.

It was voted favorably to allow the MFTA board to conduct business over the summer as no formal meetings will be held until September 12.

This riding season go forth and promote this awesome breed on the trail, at shows and everywhere you can. Demonstrate to all the fun you have riding the smooth gait on the horse with level-headedness and game personality. Prove to all that one horse can be used for many purposes. Encourage those unfamiliar with Foxtrotters to try yours out. They will find that once they ride one-they will want to own one!

Respectfully submitted- Marilyn Mannino (MFTA Secretary)