

Michigan Horse Council



Important Dates:

February 4—4-H Benefit Horse Clinic, MSU Pavilion
East Lansing, MI

February 7—MHC Meeting
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30
Trails Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

February 19-20—MSU Rodeo Spartan Stampede
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing

March 3-10—ANR Week
MSU, East Lansing

March 6—MHC Meeting
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30
Trails Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

March 9-11—MHC Horse Expo
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing
(www.michiganhorsecouncil.com)

April 4—MHC Annual Meeting
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30
Trails Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

April 13-15—Hoosier Horse Fair
Indiana State Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, IN

MHC News, February 2012

MHC's Meeting Scheduled for February 7.....

The February meeting of the Michigan Horse Council will be held on February 7 at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing, Michigan, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

There will be two guest speakers at this meeting. Tim Berry, from Farm Bureau Insurance, will discuss trailer insurance, what is and is not covered by your vehicle insurance. Other topics will include liability insurance on your horse when it is off your property, are you covered on your farm policy?

The second speaker will be Ted Welch, from Michigan Mountain Bike Association, who will address trail issues between mountain bikers and equestrians.

There will be an update on the 2012 MHC Horse Expo, as well as other information pertinent to the equine industry.

Also....the Trails Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., just prior to the regular board meeting, same date, same location.

R.J. Smith

(April 19, 1946 - January 4, 2012)



R.J. SMITH, age 65 of Clio, died Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at McLaren Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, January 8, 2012 at Mumford-Hudson Funeral Home, Pastor Bruce Malicoat officiating. Visitation was Friday from Noon-4PM and Saturday from 10AM-2PM and 4-8PM. Cremation will take place after the funeral service. Contributions may be made to the family.

RJ was a member of the Michigan Horse Council, Shiawassee Trail Riders, Michigan Trail Riders, Midwest Cowboy Association, and the NRA. He loved to write, raise buffalo, watch birds, and go trail riding.

Surviving are his wife: Jane Smith; four daughters; 2 sons; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and two sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents.

MHC is looking for pictures, videos and memories to be displayed at this year's Expo in memory of R.J.

College of Veterinary Medicine Alum Honored for Excellence in Equine Practice



East Lansing, MI - The Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to congratulate our alumnus and adjunct professor James A. Rooker, DVM, '54, for receiving the first Rooker Award for Excellence in Equine Practice. The award, which was named on behalf of

Dr. Rooker, was presented to him at the Annual Michigan Veterinary Conference in Lansing, Michigan, January 27, 2012.

The Rooker Award for Excellence in Equine Practice, established in 2012, is awarded annually by the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Michigan Equine Practitioners Association, to an outstanding Michigan equine practitioner that has devoted his or her career to the advancement of equine veterinary medicine

and the training of future generations of equine practitioners and professionals.

Dr. Rooker, a 1954 graduate of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine continues to have a highly successful career as a veterinary practitioner caring for Michigan's horses and their owners. He is an adjunct professor at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and also owns and operates the Rooker Veterinary Hospital in Davidson, Michigan. Dr. Rooker is an excellent role model and mentor for many high school, undergraduate and veterinary students, as well as veterinary practitioners.

In 1954, soon after he graduated from MSU, Dr. Rooker and his wife, Jeanne, purchased their choice from the MSU broodmare band and began a highly successful Arabian horse breeding program. In addition to their achievements in competitions, the Rookers are strong contributors to the development of the Arabian breed and the Michigan and national Arabian horse industry.

Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, a world-renowned institute of veterinary education, strives to develop a diverse academic community that fosters scholarly activity and encourages exemplary human qualities. The College imparts the art and science of veterinary medicine to its students, which is expanded by research, and extended to the public for the benefit of animal and human health. With more than 100 years of teaching excellence, CVM continues to prepare leaders, life-savers, and world changers to meet the challenges of Michigan, the nation, and the world.

2011 Racing Champions Lead by Cold Cash 123

Cold Cash 123 is 2011 World Champion Racing American Quarter Horse, Owned by T Bill Stables, Clare, MI



In a powerful year, **Cold Cash 123** earned the crown of 2011 World Champion Racing American Quarter Horse. The 3-year-old gelding follows in the footsteps of sire Oak Tree Special, who earned the title as a sophomore runner in 2003. Cold Cash 123 brings the world champion trophy home to Clare, Michigan, and fulfills a dream for his breeders and owners, Carolyn and Walter Bay, who race the gelding in the name of their T Bill Stables.

Cold Cash 123 resides in the barn of C. Dwayne "Sleepy" Gilbreath, who in 2011 also trained champion 2-year-old Ochoa.

As a 2-year-old, Cold Cash 123 demonstrated a love of the 440-yard distance not seen in years. The gelding won all three of his quarter-mile starts as a 2-year-old, scoring in the Southwest Juvenile Championship (G1), his trial to the All American Futurity (G1) and the All American Juvenile (R).

Returning as a 3-year-old, he won six of eight races, including five of six at 440 yards. In his Rainbow Derby (G1) trial, he kicked clear of a field that included champions JLS Mr Bigtime and American Runaway, winning

for fun by 2 1/4 lengths and returning in the final to win by a head over a sloppy track. Another powerful win in his All American Derby (G1) trial made him the fastest qualifier for the race, but in the \$1.3 million final, he hesitated at the break and lost all chance, finishing seventh. He returned in the trial and the finals of the Texas Classic Derby (G1), winning strongly. In his final appearance of the season, on the final day of the year, he defeated older horses to win The Championship at Sunland Park (G1) under a hand ride, running 400 yards in :18.733, the second-fastest time ever clocked for that distance. He earned \$818,447 in the year. During the year, Cold Cash 123 was ridden by Roy Baldillez, Joe Martinez and Jacky Martin. The horse has won nine of 14 lifetime starts and earned \$979,741.

Cold Cash 123 is the first American Quarter Horse foal and second foal out of his dam, the Takin On The Cash mare Hot Cash 123. The mare's first foal is American Paint Horse I Do One Two Three, who in 2010 was his sport's world champion, giving Hot Cash 123 an unprecedented achievement of two overall world champions in two years. Hot Cash 123 has a 2-year-old by Corona For Me named Buster 123.

A note from Sandra S. Batie, Chair of the Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS) 2011 Equine Trail Related Activities.

At this time of the year at which many reflect on the past year, I thought it would be good to note that 2011 has been a good year for equestrians. While not everyone got everything they may have wished for, there were many positive equine trail related activities. Here is some of the good news for trail riders that come to my mind.

- There is now an Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS) that has produced a report with 46 equine trail related recommendations.
- The Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund has approved \$300,000 funds (subject to legislative approval) to assist in developing and implementing a DNR Michigan equestrian plan. The plan will include implementation of many of the recommendations of the Equine Trailways Subcommittee --including providing an inventory and mapping of existing trails and facilities.
- There was a satisfactory resolution of the Michigan Trail Riders use of the Au Sable River at the Smith Bridge (in Crawford

- County) for the watering of horses on MTRA trail rides.
- Sleepy Hollow State Park opened a new and beautiful horse trail.
 - The DNR signed a land use order that reopened three distributed equine campgrounds at the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRCSF).
 - The PRCSF's destination campground is being reconfigured for longer horse trailers and more camping sites are being made available at the campground. A reservation system will be going into place.
 - The DNR is planning to provide approximately 53 miles of well marked looping equine trails in the PRCSF designed to avoid vehicular traffic.
 - The DNR is devoting resources to develop a website for improved communication with equine trail riders.
 - The Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund has approved funds (subject to legislative approval) toward the purchase of up to 2600 acres near Manchester, Michigan. If acquired, the vision is to develop the property to include equestrian trails and facilities. If the land purchase is successful, the area will be known as the River Raisin Recreation Area.
 - Improvements have been made to The Thunder Valley Trail in the UP.
 - There has been a rerouting of the Waterloo Recreation Area Baldwin Road route for enhanced riding safety.
 - There has been an addition of a new well and pump at the Brighton Recreation Area.
 - There have been upgrades to the Goose Creek Trail Camp.
 - Fort Custer has new trails with separate trails for bikers and horse riders.
 - There are new human sanitary facilities at the horse trail camp in Yankee Springs.
 - Waterloo riders were permitted to use an existing trail for a special ride to Green Lake.
 - Work is ongoing to provide horse trails on at least part of the CIS (Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee) rails-to-trails.
 - There is increased representation of trail riders on committees such as the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Committee and the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, and the DNR has provided many forums for trail riders to express their opinions and advice.

Thanks to all who helped make possible these 2011 equine trail riding contributions.

Dear ELCR Conservation Partners,

For the better part of 2011, ELCR and many other trail organizations have been working hard to protect the FHWA Recreational Trails Funding Program through the Coalition for Recreation Trails. Sadly, we cannot yet claim success in saving this critical program for trail funding across the U.S. We need your help.

Please review the email below from the Coalition for recreational trails. What would be helpful is an organized calling, writing and/or emailing campaign to your Senators.

If you choose this path, please develop text or a script that is consistent for use by all your grassroots members. If possible, include examples of RTP projects that have been beneficial in your state. Here is a [link to RTP projects](#) listed by state to assist you.

Here is the urgent message sent by the Coalition for Recreational Trails:

Dear Members of the CRT Council of Advisors:

The Recreational Trails Program is in very deep trouble. The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has approved transportation reauthorization legislation known as MAP-21 that would effectively eliminate the RTP by stripping the program of its dedicated funding.

But all hope is not lost.

CRT and its member organizations have been working to identify key Champions in the Senate with the aim of having an amendment to restore dedicated funding for the RTP added to the bill before it is considered by the full Senate.

Reaching this goal will not be possible without your help.

Now is the time for all organizations and individuals who support RTP to tell their Senators to protect dedicated funding for this absolutely essential program.

The key messages are simple:

- *Unless the bill is changed, MAP-21 will effectively eliminate the Recreational Trails Program; and*
- *Please amend MAP-21 to include dedicated funding for RTP.*

Other helpful messages include:

- *For the last two decades, RTP has received a portion of the gas taxes paid by users of off-highway motorized vehicles to fund trail building, maintenance and other trail-related projects. More than 13,000 projects have been funded across the country for all kinds of trail uses. This is a very successful program.*
- *At its current level of annual funding - \$85 million - RTP receives less than 42% of the Federal Highway Administration's conservative estimate of the federal gas taxes paid by America's non-highway recreationists. The Senate bill would reduce that percentage to zero and represents a substantial new tax on motorized recreation enthusiasts.*
- *The return of gas taxes to trail users through the RTP is in keeping with the user-pay, user-benefit philosophy of the Highway Trust Fund. Ending dedicated funding for RTP takes these gas taxes away from the people who pay*

them. Ending dedicated funding for RTP is bad public policy and just plain wrong.

The RTP is the foundation of state trail programs. If the RTP loses its dedicated funding, organized trail planning and development will simply vanish in many areas of the country.

Now is the time to act. Write, email or call your two Senators. Here's a link if you need it: <http://www.senate.gov/>. Make sure your entire grassroots organization is engaged as well.

We need to show the United States Senate just how many Americans are committed to the Recreational Trails Program. If we don't act, the very backbone of trails in America may be forever lost.

Michigan Horse Council is organized for the following purposes:

- To provide individuals and organizations with a central authority that will support, encourage, supplement, and coordinate the efforts of those presently engaged in the constructive conservation, development, and promotion of the horse industry and horse community in the State of Michigan;
- To educate and inform individuals and organizations through all available media, education programs, and cooperation; and
- To advocate the conservation and promotion of the horse industry and community in Michigan, regardless of breed, discipline or interest..

Benefits of Joining Michigan Horse Council

Organization Memberships:

- Seat a delegate on the MHC Board of Directors.
- Receive a monthly Email newsletter containing valuable information of interest to Michigan equine owners, that we invite you to share with your members.
- Makes ALL your members eligible for the three MHC member scholarships (\$1,000 each) which are presented annually (application form and information is on the MHC website).
- A link from the MHC website to your organization's website.
- Eligibility to participate in the AHC Advantage program, which provides discounts to these businesses: John Deere, UPS, Sherwin-Williams, Office Max, Hertz, and AHC Prescription Drug Card.
- Receive discounts on club and event insurance, through ARG.
- Receive discounts through ARG from these businesses: VPI PetInsurance, Hertz, hotels.com, AccuConference, Constant Contact, Office Depot, 1-800-PetMeds
- Receive a discount on Non-Profit Tabletops at the annual MHC Horse Expo
- Provides eligibility for a Table in the Trails Area at the annual MHC Horse Expo.
- Encourage your members to join as individual or family (enhanced) members, which provides a \$1,000,000 excess liability insurance policy with their membership (not available to industry professionals).
Individual and Family membership applications are available on the MHC website: www.michiganhorsecouncil.com

Individual Memberships:

Individual Basic:

- Receive a monthly email newsletter, keeping you informed of events that are happening in the state, current health issues, pending legislation affecting the equine industry, trail issues, and more.
- Be a member of an organization that is working to promote the Michigan Horse Industry - assimilate information about and promote all aspects of the equine industry in the state, including all breeds and disciplines, including trail riding and racing.
- Have a chance to attend monthly, open board meetings (except during June, July and August), many with informational speakers.
- Have the opportunity to become a member of one of the standing committees of the Michigan Horse Council, including Communications, Membership, Legislative/Land Use, Expo, Special Events (all events in which MHC participates, including Novi Equestrian Expo, Ag Expo, Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show, 4-H Horse Jamboree, MSU Autumnfest and more); Education; Trails and Philanthropy.
- Be associated with people who are working towards the enhancement, safety, preservation and enjoyment of both the horse and owner, whatever their individual interests may involve.
- Eligibility to participate in the AHC Advantage program, which provides discounts to these businesses: John Deere, UPS, Sherwin-Williams, Office Max, Hertz, and AHC Prescription Drug Card.
- Receive discounts through ARG from these businesses: VPI PetInsurance, Hertz, hotels.com, AccuConference, Constant Contact, Office Depot, 1-800-PetMeds
- Eligible for MHC's three Member Scholarships, see MHC Website for information and application.

Individual Enhanced:

- All of the above, PLUS
- \$1,000,000 Excess Liability Insurance through Equisure Insurance

Note: NO insurance is available for Business members or Equine Professionals.

Remember, the February MHC meeting is February 7; March meeting is March 6. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.