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Volume 16 Issue 2



## 2009 Awards Banquet

I have some sad news to share with you, Pete Peterson has resigned his position as board member because of ongoing health issues that he and Penny have been enduring. He felt it unfair to continue and asked that we find a replacement. Hopefully their health issues will be resolved and they will soon be able to join in Club activities again.

Because the bylaws don't seem to fully address this issue I will appoint a replacement temporarily. We will open the position for nominations until May 15th and send out a ballot by the end of May to be voted on and the votes will be tallied and announced at the next meeting held during our Show in July.

Randy

*There is just as much horse sense as ever, but the horses have most of it.*

*~ Anonymous*

## The First Celebration 1959

The first Celebration took place Saturday, Sept. 26, 1959 on the baseball diamond at the Douglas County Fairground in Ava, MO. Eight model classes were held in the afternoon. Six performance classes showed that night. No Grand Champion was selected at the first Celebration because there was no stake class.

People hauled their horses to the show that Saturday morning in trucks and pickups. Horse trailers were a rare item. Rain caused an unplanned afternoon intermission during the model classes. Many of the performance horses were inspected and approved for registry just prior to entering their classes.

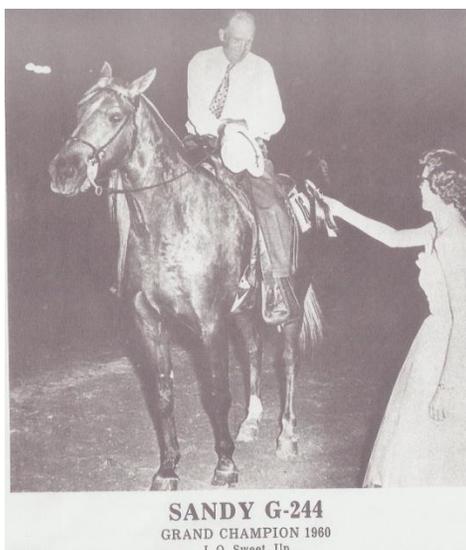
Here is a complete listing of the classes and the winners at the first Celebration.

### MODEL CLASSES

CLASS	HORSE	OWNER	TOWN
Colt Class 1959 Foal	Place Star	Otho Hamilton	Marshfield, MO.
Mare & Foal	Bess & Brownie	Hubert Welton	Ava, MO.
Yearling	Esther Star	Dale Esther	Lebanon, MO.
Two Year Old	Pepper	Joe R Hinds	Willow Springs, MO.
Three Year Old	Little Sis	M.J. Brown	Independence, MO.
Sr. Gelding	Golden Banner King	Virgil Newcomb	Tulsa, OK.
Sr. Mare	Charming Princess	Paul Thompson	West Plains, MO.
Sr. Stud	* Johney Ester	Eugene Hollis	Vienna, MO.
	*Name later changed to Golden Johnnie		

### PERFORMANCE CLASSES

Two Yr Old	Lucky Ladd	Haydn Evans	Willow Springs, MO.
Jr. Stud & Gelding	Rusty	L.O. Sweet	Springfield, MO.
Jr. Mare	Hollie Sue	Otis Wood	Lebanon, MO.
Sr. Gelding	Golden Banner King	Virgil Newcomb	Tulsa, OK
Sr. Mare	Society Ann	Paul Thompson	West Plains, MO.
Sr. Stud	Golden Governor	Dale Esther	Lebanon, MO.



**SANDY G-244**  
GRAND CHAMPION 1960  
L.O. Sweet, Up

## Sandy G-244 Grand Champion 1960

The first Grand Champion Missouri Fox Trotter was Sandy, a palomino gelding owned and shown by L.O. Sweet of Springfield, MO. Sandy won the title at the only Celebration not held in Ava, MO. The 1960 Celebration moved to the Howell County Fairground in West Plains, MO. when a feeder calf sale pre-empted the use of Ava's facilities on the scheduled show date.

Sandy's sire, Tony, was a palomino son of Ozark Golden King by Old Fox. Tony's dam was an American Saddlebred mare owned by Ed Grewball of Ozark, MO. Joe Wilson trained Sandy and showed him for several years throughout the Ozarks and sold him to L.O. Sweet.

L.O. Sweet was a familiar figure on the show circuit in the late 1950's. He showed a performance class winner at the first Celebration. At the 1960 Celebration he rode Sandy to victory in the Senior Gelding Performance Class. When the judges cards were scored after the first Championship Stake, Sandy

an eight year old palomino gelding, carried the title of Grand Champion. Sandy continued his showing career for several years after winning the title. In 1963 he was sold to M.D. Ellis of Seymour, MO. That fall he returned to the Celebration and won the Children's Class, 14 years and under with Connie Ellis up.

## Fall Gather & National Trail Ride

August 27-28, 2010

This year's ride and gathering will be at the Wall Creek Wildlife Area just south of Cameron, MT on Hwy 287. This is a very beautiful area that we have ridden before.

Pete Petersen is the Camp Boss and has arranged the area. We are going to have the usual activities that have made our rides highly attended in the past.

There is a great possibility that we will have some very good entertainment at our camp fire on Saturday.

BSFTHA BOD member Chad Miller has stepped up to the plate in a big way for the BSFTA National Trail Ride!

Chad has volunteered to bring his cooker and smoke some Boston Butts and extras for some fine eastern Carolina-Style pulled pork for the Friday night fireside supper at Wall Creek. Then he will be in charge of the steak fry on Saturday night. This fella knows his way around BBQ so it is with great anticipation that the Trail Ride Committee welcome's Chad's Expertise!!

For more info contact Mark at  
mrg1947m@netscape.net.

### Important Riding Rules for "39 and Holding Riders"

1. Helping someone on or off the horse does not mean the rider is an invalid. It only means the horse got taller overnight.
2. When a horse is acting up we will accept that the horse is just having a bad hair day and it is not the rider's fault.
3. Mentioning it is too hot, too dry, too humid, too wet, too buggy, etc., is considered self expression, not whining.
4. We will acknowledge that horses are very strange animals and sometimes for no reason at all we fall off of them. If this happens to any rider the other riders will ascertain that the person is okay and then not mention the incident to another living soul, especially husbands, wives or significant others.
5. We need to keep MFT mysterious and strange sounding. If everyone else finds out how much fun they are the price of the horses will go up and we won't be able to afford a dozen of them.

BSFTA members, we now have a calendar of the points rides necessary to qualify for the **Trail Rider of the Year award**. You don't have to go to all of them to win, but I guess someone who goes to all of them will be the winner.

Also, you don't have to be part of the trail rider of the year competition to come and enjoy these rides. In fact, we hope that you bring someone with you who is interested in trail riding and getting better at their trail riding skills.

Trail Skills presentations will be held at all these rides by qualified presenters. If you would like to present a trail skill please let me know, remember you can accumulate more points toward the title by presenting, and you don't have to be a pro, just have some good ideas to share.

Sorry for scheduling one so close in, with so little notice, but it is the only time Chad can do it. So be there or be square.

Here is the schedule. All rides start at 11:00 am.  
May 8th hosted by Chad Miller at the Miller ranch outside Florence MT.

June 12th hosted by Mark Goss at the Lost Horse Creek camping area outside Hamilton MT

July 31st hosted by Mark Goss at Lost Trail Pass in the Cross Country Ski area 10 miles south of Sula MT

August 28th hosted by BSFTA as part of the national trail ride at Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area south of Ennis MT

September 11th hosted by Mark Goss at Coyote Coulie off Lost Horse Creek rd south of Hamilton MT

September 25th hosted by Mark Goss at Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area east of Hamilton MT

October 9th hosted by Mark Goss at Lost Horse Creek camping area south of Hamilton MT

October 23 hosted by Mark Goss at Larry Creek Day Use Area north of Stevensville MT

These dates are firm, locations may change if someone else gets off their butt and decides they can host a ride somewhere else.

There will be other non-points rides, including a great ride from Annette Padgett in Arlee MT, which will come out on another calendar soon.

Remember, you have to register to be involved in the Trail Rider of the Year Award. And also remember, that you don't have to be in the Trail Rider of the Year program to ride these rides.

Remember to start logging your trail hours for points starting May 1. Go to the website for details on how to get started. No points without registration, so get registered today.

Directions to these rides will be coming out the week of the rides or you can find them shortly on the website. Or you can call me at 406-961-3119 or email at [mrg1947m@netscape.net](mailto:mrg1947m@netscape.net). Mark Goss Trail Ride Committee Chairman

## Big Sky Fox Trotter Association

Minutes for the April 17, 2010 meeting (draft version)

Jerry Christisons' house

**Call to Order:** President Randy Olson called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m., Officers and board members attending the meeting were President Randy Olson, Vice President Bobbi Dyrud, Secretary Annette Padgett, Eastern Director Lauren Johansson via Skype, Central Director Jerry Christison, Western Director Kristina Tracer, Others attending the meeting were Rick Padgett, Jerry Shriner, Diane Shriner, Cathy Olson, Eldo Heinle, Karen Philip, Thea Gervais. Thirteen were in attendance.

Randy thanked Gen & Jerry for the use of their house and the lunch that Gen made for the club members. Lauren attended the meeting through Skype on the internet.

Randy asked those present for some focus as to what they wanted their fund raising efforts to go towards? The answer was as indicated in our Mission Statement that we want to promote the Missouri Fox Trotter through our Shows, Trail Rides, Clinics, and our Youth. These items should be the focus of our fund raising activities.

Randy asked the club to think of ideas for next meeting. Like what do we want for do Youth Scholarships, Youth Awards, etc? Would Unviar like to give money for the Scholarships? And Mark asked for funding to get the Trail Ride Award program off the ground, and the BOD passed the cost for this. Randy asked "Karen, how do you ask to get sponsorship money." Karen said, when she goes to the businesses she lets them know this will be to help with the expenses for our show, and that they will get their business card in the program book, the business will be announced during the class that they sponsored. This will be a great way of advertizing for them. Also Karen reminds the club to please patronize the businesses that sponsor us. Bobbi spoke to the Washington Foundation and she found out that they already sponsor the Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding Club, and they did not want to sponsor a second time. There was a discussion on where the fundraising money should go. It was agreed on promoting our youth, and to channel all of our energy into one thing, and not a lot of other causes. Also we need to make sure that the thank you notes get mailed back, the members decided that we should to have a person go around and pick up the thank you cards from the winners, and make sure that the thank you cards get signed and mailed back to the business, and other people that sponsor our show.

**Web Site:** Randy thanked Lauren for the great job she is doing on our web site and the use for all of our different committees. Annette asked Lauren how our **Yahoo group site** is doing, Annette said that she signed up for it but has not been accepted into the group yet. Lauren looked at the Yahoo group site and found several club member that have signed up and upgraded them to log on to the BSFTA Yahoo group site. Annette will send out an e-mail again to let the club member know about this group site.

**Minutes:** Jerry Christison made a motion to accept the on line minutes, and Kristina Tracer seconded it. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry gave the treasurer's report for Gale Mowry.

Income:

We started out the year with \$5,833.49,

Membership and Stallion fees \$1,100,

Annual Banquet \$1400,

Total income \$2,500.

Expenses:

Annual Banquet \$1,679.83

Annual Show –Sapphire Deposit \$300

Misc, Supplies/Legal \$103.13

Year to date profit/loss \$417.04

Balance as of April 17, 2010 \$6,250.53

Annette Padgett made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Thea Gervais seconded the motion. Motion passed. Karen asked for Gale to design a budget, so the club will know what kind of money we have to work with.

**Correspondence:** Karen spoke with Catherine Hansen and Gary is starting his stem cell treatment, and he started back on chemotherapy. Please keep them in your prayers. Catherine thanked the members who helped out with the meals, helping with their horses and their dogs, when they were both very sick.

Randy said that he got a correspondence from Pete that they are still having some medical problems. He asked for the club to keep them in your prayers.

Annette received a thank you card from the WY Show, for one of the classes that we have sponsored.

**By-Laws;** Randy asked Karen how she was doing on the revised by-law changes. Karen said that she is in the process of getting it changed. Karen will send them to Lauren when she gets this done. Karen also will get the Hall of Fame members to Lauren also for the BSFTA web site.

Karen said that we are good for a quorum for the meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Trail Committee:** Mark Goss is absent for this meeting. Randy said this Award program is a good idea. And this was passed by our Board members. The survey that was sent out to our members wanted more Trail rides, and a close second was Clinics. Cathy asked if the membership got the information on the Trail rider of the year. Annette said that she did forward it out to the club. Also Lauren said it is now on the Web site. The trail ride points will start on May 1, 2010. And that the sanctioned BSFTA rides will count for 10 points. And a non-sanctioned ride counts for 1 point. Cathy said that Mark will place the winners from 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place this year. Randy said that the club will have to decide what type of awards the club will give out for this year. Also Cathy made a suggestion about making an award for life time horse and rider team, (1 horse and 1 rider) award, it was decided to change it to a team achievement award. The Trail Rider of the Year that Mark as designed up is for one rider and any horse. But the one that Cathy suggested is the life time of 1 horse and 1 rider, maybe we could give a patch that awards logged 25 hours, 250 hours give a different award, etc. Randy said we will continue this at the next meeting. Also Randy asked for Cathy and Mark to continue to work on this throughout the year. Randy asked for the members to think of different idea for this. Mark asked Lauren to post the rules for the Trail Rider of the year on our BSFTA web site. Lauren said that it is up on the web site. You may go there to find the rules for the Trail Rider of the Year. Diane asked about having a way to contact members about trail rides where they have been or where they are going. Annette suggested that we use our Yahoo group site to let members know if any member is going to go for a trail ride, where and when, and how the trail was when they went for a ride. Randy said that was the whole idea behind the Yahoo group, so the club members could have some communication between each other without an official meeting. Annette asked for Lauren to send her the info on the Yahoo group again so she can forward out to the members. Thea suggested using Face Book also. Lauren did not think this would work well. Annette talked about the trail ride that she is putting on. The date is July 17-18, 2010

The ride will be in Arlee, MT. Annette did mention that there will be a fee to purchase a Tribal Recreation Permit. Annette will email to all the members the information on her trail ride.

The Fall Gather Ride will be on August 27-28, 2010 and will be at Wall Creek, MT

Thea will call Mark about the Fall Gather ride to be held at Indian meadows.

**Clinics:** Suzanne Nebeker will be have a Horsemanship and Gait Clinic on April 24-25 open for 8 riders, 3 are signed up so far, so more can still come, at Salmon ID. Then May 28-29 is another clinic, Thea said that they are changing the date for this clinic since this conflicts with the WA show. This clinic will be a horsemanship and relationship, and will be at Salmon ID again. Then after the clinic they will possibly have a trail ride after. Thea is doing some research on some clinicians Thea found a good trainer out of Drummond that specializes in working

cow horses, Dan Verder, Also Thea is working on getting Carla Camp she is a Cutting horse trainer out of Red Lodge. The is working on getting a Elaine Collar clinician for Jumping or get into a pony club to learn how to jump your horse. Thea asked the members what clinics the members want?

Some members suggested Tack fitting, Gaiting, and how to shoe your horse. Also Thea will get a clinic together on how to show your horse in a show ring. Diane asked what the criteria for Novice classes are. Thea said it could be a new rider or a young horse. Also you can look in the rules in the show program.

**Sponsorships:** Karen passed out a Sponsorship form to the members that were at the meeting. Karen will be mailing the Sponsorship forms out within the next week. Karen asked for all members to please go to one business that you patronize and ask them to sponsor our show. Randy agreed with Karen to please go to the people that you know and ask them to sponsor. We need to raise about \$4,000 for our show this year. Karen also asks to make sure to get their business card so she can put them in the show program that we pass out to all spectators. The cost for the sponsorship classes is still \$35, Memorial Trail ride is \$50, and the Championships \$75.

**Hall of Fame:** Randy is asking the club members if they have any member that they would like to nominate for the Hall of Fame to please send them to Bobbi Dyrud. [bobbidyrud@aol.com](mailto:bobbidyrud@aol.com).

Then BOD will get together to decide who will be in the Hall of Fame. Karen asked Lauren if the Hall of Fame criteria in on the web site. Lauren said the criteria for the Hall of Fame are on the Hall of Fame page. Pete Peterson wanted to know if a horse could be in the Hall of Fame. Randy said that we need to revisit the criteria to possibly add a horse to this.

**BSFTA Show:** Randy sent out an email put out by Chad Miller and he has outlined objective for the Youth. For youth recruiting and he also tackled the Montana Law on the horse issue. Karen asked if he has any youth interested, Randy said that he does have some youth interested. Kristina wanted to know if she let a youth use one of her horses if she could be there to make sure her horse will be okay and also help out the youth in instruction. Randy said that you could do this. There was a discussion on the outline. Karen asked about the club insurance. Randy said that we only have spectator insurance. Randy said that the parents sign a waiver and a hold harmless. Kristina made a suggestion that the youth must wear a helmet. He would like to have the youth participate in the show. Randy said that he could put them into the novice classes with no problem. The Memorial Trail ride has not been set yet, and also the caterer. Mark will do the Memorial Trail ride after the show. Randy asked for a member or members to step up to be the Show Chairman and Show Secretary for next year. So he can mentor them this year, so everything will go smoothly for next year. This is extremely important that we get a member to do this or we will not have a show for next year.

The Intermountain Circuit will go on again this year. Randy said they had a meeting in Utah. They will do 6 different divisions Versatility and Ranch all 3 levels, and a Ranch Champion.

The shows that are involved are: BSFTA, July 8-10, WY August 12-14, and Utah July 15-17.

Also contestants cannot enter multiple entries. Cathy looked in the new rule book and it said that the contestants could not do this. We will be hosting our Show at the Sapphire again this year. The stalls will be \$30 per night includes the first bag of shavings, shavings is \$8.00 per bag. Karen asked about a barn steward, and if you bring your own shaving the cost will \$4 per bag, charged by Sapphire for the cleanup. We need to start to look into a new venue for next year. Mark will get the cattle for show. Randy will bring back the dinner after the show so anyone would like to get together and have a nice dinner. It was decided not to have the Bitterroot Therapeutic riding for this year. Randy said that we can put some classes on that night. Bobbi will call them to let them know about the club decision. Randy passed around a ranch that helps out troubled youth. It was decided that we not do this at this time.

#### **Old Business:**

**Flyer:** Annette and Lauren are still working on it. Randy asked for suggestions on how to keep track on things we vote on.

#### **New Business:**

Randy asked that we start thinking about our new board for next year, our banquet, and the banquet awards.

Randy asked for Jerry to help out Gale to do the Audit.

Also, Randy would like a member to step up for the Show next year.

Karen passed around the PNFT Show information. Karen asked Lauren to please add this to our calendar and also have a link to print out the show program. Lauren said she can do this.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on July 9, 2010 at Sapphire Event center, after the last class of the evening.

Kristina motion for the meeting to end, Cathy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Annette Padgett

Secretary

**Lazy JW Guest Ranch Trail Ride  
July 17 & 18, 2010  
72676 Arlee Pines  
Arlee MT  
[www.lazyjwguestranch.com](http://www.lazyjwguestranch.com)**

**The cost for the Lodge: is \$150 per night which sleeps four, and has a fully equipped kitchen, large bathroom, TV and DVD player, a queen sized air bed is also available.**

**The cost for the Bunkhouse: is \$75 per night sleep three, has a bathroom and a kitchenette, TV.**

**The cost for camping: is \$15 per night, and the use of recreation area.**

**Gas barbeque is available**

**The owners will provide a Barbecue Steak dinner on Saturday night the cost for the dinner will be \$15. I need to know if you will have the Steak dinner by July 10, 2010**

**Please let me know by July 10, 2010 if you can attend this spectacular trail ride.**

**First come, first serve to the Lodge and Bunkhouse.**

**Here is the info for the Tribal permit-**

**The web site is - [www.app.mt.gov/Als/Index](http://www.app.mt.gov/Als/Index)**

**If you are a resident you can buy online if you have an ALS number. This number is on the top of all outdoor licenses - it is your birthday plus a number that would have been assigned to you. If you have ever purchased hunting, fishing or rec permit in past you would already have an ALS number. If you don't know it - you can get it on that website as you fill out the application. If you don't have one then you need to buy the Tribal permit in person - Ronan Sports & Western in Ronan or on Reserve. (So they can verify residency). If you are a non - resident you can buy the permits on line and they will issue you an ALS number.**

**You can let me know by**

**Phone: 406-777-0577**

**Or email: [Annette@bitterrootcustomapparel.com](mailto:Annette@bitterrootcustomapparel.com)**

**God Bless and Happy Trails,**

**Annette Padgett**

## **Gaited Horse Clinics scheduled**

Gaited Horse Clinic; tools for effective communication with your gaited horse and preparation for the show and trail. Salmon Arena, May 28-29. Limited to 10 riders and everyone is invited to audit the second clinic. \$75/day riders, \$10/day audit Potluck dinner Saturday night. 1838

Please contact Thea Gervais or Suzanne Nebeker to reserve your placing. Thea 406-544-1838

[mtgervais@hotmail.com](mailto:mtgervais@hotmail.com) Suzanne 208-756-7168 [moabnp@netscape.net](mailto:moabnp@netscape.net)

About Suzanne;

Suzanne Nebeker is a MFTHBA carded judge and a tough competitor in the show ring. She's been showing horses since she was knee high to her dad, winning in the AQHA and PRCA. When she discovered foxtrotters 18+ years ago she sold 30 head of quarter horses and jumped in with both feet breeding, showing, and promoting the foxtrotting horse. Suzanne has been making the pilgrimage to Ava to compete in the World Championship show since 2004. She has won the Open World Grand Champion Versatility or Open World Grand Champion Ranch Horse Versatility or both every year since 2004. To top this off, she accomplishes it on a new young horse every year. She has coached several youth and amateur competitors to World Championships and World Grand Championships in both Versatility and Ranch Horse Versatility.

PS; If you have any specific clinic requests please contact me. I'm looking for future clinic ideas and locations. Cattle, showmanship, horsemanship, colt starting, trail safety??? Thanks, Thea

## **BSFTA members celebrate 2009 accomplishments**

Forty BSFTA members and their guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening and a great meal on January 16, 2010, at the Missoula Country Club in Missoula, MT.

Preceding the event, 28 members attended the annual general meeting in which final votes were tallied and 2010 officers and directors were announced. Other business included making plans for the annual points show, the National Trail Ride, regional trail rides, distance conferencing for meetings (using software like Skype), youth activities, and clinics.

A social hour followed the meeting and as banquet attendees filtered in and relaxed, they shared stories from 2009 and watched the Power Point presentation of photos submitted to and organized by Annette Padgett.

President Randy Olson welcomed everyone to the sixth annual affair and introduced new members Lori Conner, Paul Buffington, and Jerry and Diane Shriner. He then announced the newly elected officers and board members:

President (himself!), vice-president Bobbi Dyrud, secretary Annette Padgett, treasurer Gale Mowry, western director Kristina Tracer, central director Jerry Christison, eastern director Lauren Johansson, and directors-at-large Chad Miller and Pete Peterson. Bob Womack then said a blessing before the meal with a special request that we keep members Gary and Catherine Hanson in our thoughts and prayers as Gary faces a tough battle with cancer.

Following the meal, masters-of-ceremony Mark Goss and Bob Womack announced awards and recognitions. Thea Gervais and Randy Olson were recognized for their accomplishments in the National High Point competition. Thea won championships in Showmanship, English Pleasure, and Western Pleasure. Randy won championships in Reining, Western Horsemanship, Trail, and Barrels. Thea and Randy were the winners of all National High Point Versatility classes in the competition! Thea was also recognized for her unprecedented achievements at the Show and Celebration in Ava, Missouri, where she won World Grand Champion in both Amateur Versatility and Ranch Horse. Quite a sweep of versatility championships by these two!

Mark thanked 2009 show chair Jack Womack, show secretary Cathy Olson, announcer Leslie Womack and sponsorships chair Karen Philips. Great job by them and everyone else that helped make the show a success.

Bob recognized webmaster Lauren Johansson for her excellent work on the website. Lauren has made bigskyfta.org a very important communication link for the club and its members. It is a tool we rely on, and due to her efforts it is a reliable and current source of information.

Outgoing treasurer Donna Goss was thanked for her four years of serving the membership as the keeper of the books for the club's finances and for the annual points shows. And to her credit, the books were always in perfect order!

Western director Kristina Tracer was recognized for organizing and leading several trail rides in the western region she represents. Our members love to ride and by organizing these rides, she provided a valuable benefit to them.

The final acknowledgement went to "super-star" Annette Padgett. Annette organized the club's booth for a local county horse expo in September. She has organized the annual celebration banquet all six years, and these events are always a first class affair. Annette represents the best qualities of a BSFTA member and a volunteer, and we are mighty proud of her!

Last, but not least, BSFTA members thank Mark Goss and Bob Womack for announcing the awards and achievements and adding fun and humor to the evening. Bob tried to get Mark to perform a rap poem for a grand finale, but Mark refused on that one. We appreciate their efforts and look forward to more fun times in 2010!

## Calendar of Events

May 13<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> Kathy Dorius Classic UABHA MFTHBA Point Show. Contact Val Strong at 801-885-0259 or [vals0259@aol.com](mailto:vals0259@aol.com).

May 17<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>- Jane Zubia will be conducting lessons in Rigby, ID. Contact Kristi at 208-754-4493.

May 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> - Extreme Horseman's Challenge in Idaho Falls sponsored by Gunn Ranches. For more information see [www.extremehorsemanschallenge.com](http://www.extremehorsemanschallenge.com).

May 28<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup>- Pacific Northwest Fox Trotter Show, Moses Lake, WA

May 28<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> – Suzanne Nebeker Gaited Horse clinic. Contact Thea at 406-544-1838 or [mtgervais@hotmail.com](mailto:mtgervais@hotmail.com) or Suzanne at 208-756-7168 or [moabnp@netscape.net](mailto:moabnp@netscape.net).

May 29<sup>th</sup> CTC Competitive Trail Challenge at Mantel Ranch in Three Forks, MT. Contact Kail or Renee at 406-285-3541 or [montanahorses.com](http://montanahorses.com).

June 18<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup>- Utah Grand Schooling Show, Spanish Fork, UT. Contact Val Strong at 801-885-0259 or [vals0259@aol.com](mailto:vals0259@aol.com).

July 9<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup> – Extreme Horseman's Challenge in Idaho Falls, ID Contact Ben at 208-680-3777.

July 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> - Big Sky Fox Trotter Show, Sapphire Event Center, Corvallis, MT, Contact Randy at 208-745-7631 or [colson10@msn.com](mailto:colson10@msn.com).

July 12<sup>th</sup> – BSFTA Memorial Trail Ride at Lost Horse Trail contact Mark at [mrg1947m@netscape.net](mailto:mrg1947m@netscape.net) for info

July 15<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup> – Great Western Celebration in Farmington, UT. Contact Val Strong at 801-885-0259 or [vals0259@aol.com](mailto:vals0259@aol.com).

August 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>-Dennis Reis No Dust Tour at Majestic Arena in Kallispell, MT 406-753-5366.

August 12<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup> – Wyoming Fox Trotter Show, Thermopolis, WY contact Robin at 307-335-7984.

August 27<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup> – Fall Gather & National Trail Ride at Wall Creek Wildlife Area, Cameron, MT contact Mark at [mrg1947m@netscape.net](mailto:mrg1947m@netscape.net)

## BSFTA Members First and Third in Extreme Horsemanship Challenge

BSFTA members Rod and Kristi (esteemed BSFTA newsletter editor) Thompson finished first and third respectively in the non-pro division of the 2010 Extreme Horsemanship Challenge held April 17<sup>th</sup> in Idaho Falls, ID.

The Extreme Horsemanship Challenge horse and rider teams are judged on how they negotiate an obstacle course and also on time. The competitions are held in Southeast Idaho with 4 more competitions throughout this summer and fall.

Rod competed on his 10 year old Missouri Fox Trotter mare Tazz's Ebony Star while Kristi competed on Cruiser's Gentle Ripple a 14 year old Missouri Fox Trotter gelding. This was Rod and Kristi first time competing in the Challenge.

The Thompson's Missouri Fox Trotters were among 4 MFTs in the Challenge. Rod and Kristi competed in the non-pro division which is for Amateur riders. There were 8 horses in the non-pro division.

The Thompson's have shown the Extreme Horsemanship Challenge that the Missouri Fox Trotter is America's most versatile horse. If you would like to know more about the Challenges contact Ben Gunn at 208-680-3777.

## Notes From the President

\* We are looking for someone that would take on the challenge of the 2011 Show Chair and also a Secretary. This would be a great opportunity to assist and learn during the 2010 show season.

\* We need a volunteer in the Corvallis area or someone that could be available as a Barn Steward for the 2010 show. We will be taking care of the assignments and collection of fees this year.

\*Hall of Fame Nominations should go to Bobbi Dyrud, her email address is in the minutes.

\* The yahoo site will be used to communicate for those going on a ride and those looking for a ride. It's just a great tool to keep in touch so please join.

\* We need any volunteers we can get for set work during the 2010 show in Corvallis also. Show Chair: Randy Olson [colson10@msn.com](mailto:colson10@msn.com)

## American Competitive Trail Horse Association

ACTHA is a national organization, founded by 2 horsewomen looking for a way to enjoy their horses and trail riding in a fun competitive environment. Their vision has grown into a registry for trail horses of all breeds, showcasing the attributes of the great American Trail Horse. ACTHA maintains a point designation system for each participating horse throughout its lifetime to grant these horses and their riders the recognition they deserve. ACTHA rides are sanctioned by the organization and hosted by local groups as fund raisers. A portion of the fees is returned to ACTHA each year. ACTHA makes donations to eligible horse charities each year to enable the humane treatment of horses in need.

ACTHA rides (called Competitive Trail Challenges) are 6-10 mile trail rides with judged obstacles along the way. These are not timed events. You may ride with a group, but obstacles are performed one horse at a time. Most rides take 2 -3 hours to complete. There are ACTHA prizes and cash awards for the top 6 finishers in each of 3 divisions at each ride. You can receive other benefits just by being an ACTHA member and competitor (for more information check out the [ACTHA](http://www.actha.us) website).

There are ACTHA rides all over the country with more rides being added all the time. Rod and Kristi Thompson recently attended an ACTHA ride in Utah on Antelope Island. It was a great place to show off our MFT breed. Close to half of the horses entered were gaited horses. Rod Thompson and his mare, Tazz's Ebony Star finished 1st place and all of the top placing horses were gaited horses. It was a fun relaxed trail ride with everyone cheering each other on at the obstacles. A great opportunity to see new places, meet lots of nice people and learn new places to ride. Nightly activities are also included from karaoke around the fire to team penning depending on the specific ride attended.

See the ACTHA website for information on rides, video's of the proper way to negotiate the obstacles and much more at [www.actha.us](http://www.actha.us).



*If your horse says no, you either asked  
the wrong question, or asked the question  
wrong.*

*~ Pat Parelli*

One of the most common problems that I hear from gaited horse riders is that they can't go riding with other horses on the trail, because there are some horses in the group that go too fast, while other horses go too slow. The most common thing that happens when a horse goes too fast on the trail is the rider puts a bigger bit in the horse's mouth to slow their horse down. On the other hand when horse does not want to go, the rider uses spurs to speed their horse up. For horses that go too fast, this leads to larger and more severe bits, while the slow horses get kicked and spurred. This also leads to another common problem which is known as "herd sour" horses. In the short term, you can cover up the problem with larger and more dramatic equipment, but eventually you will run out of equipment. What we need to do is fix the problem, which is that your horse is following the other horses and not listening to you!

In my travels around the USA, I get to see a lot of horses and riders. We will commonly have horses that are very agitated. Their owners use large bits to try to gain control of their horse. Some riders are scared to ride their horse in the clinic because their horse is out of control, so I get to ride their horses. The first thing I do is use my saddle and my bridle with a snaffle bit. I prefer my saddle because of the way it sits me in a balanced position. I use the snaffle bit as a training tool, we will describe in later issues why we prefer a snaffle bit versus a shank bit. The snaffle allows us to work with the horse that needs training, not intimidation.

When I get on a horse that goes too fast it typically will start by running off. To work on this I focus on one of the horse's feet that I want to follow and concentrate on that one foot. I don't try to pull the horse around or jerk on the reins. It's not time to punish the horse; it's time to work with him. Once I can feel my horse's foot going up and down and start to follow that foot, I can start to move that foot or slow that foot down through my seat. As soon as I feel that foot and get my seat and my body leading that foot, I can get that horse to walk, gait & canter. It doesn't take a lot of time, but it does take a lot of practice and patience.

A horse that won't go has the same problem. When I ride this kind of horse, I still think about following one foot. Once I get in rhythm with that foot I can ask that horse to walk stronger by squeezing with my calf each time that horse brings his foot up so that way the horse will take a longer stride. As soon as the horse finds he can move more freely and in rhythm with me, he will begin to move easier and more relaxed.

In both of the examples above, the only exercise I work on is feeling the horse's feet through my seat. When you feel your horse's feet, you can control your horse's feet and when you get control of your horse's feet you control your horse's brain. So...FEEL THE FEET, CONTROL THE FEET, CONTROL THE BRAIN = SAFER HORSE

How do you do this you might ask? What the rider wants to feel is the horse bringing his foot up. When you can do that and you can concentrate on one foot at a time, you can ask that foot to do anything. When that foot is up, the rider can ask that foot to extend, move left, move right, back up, or slow down. If your horse has its foot on the ground, his weight is on that foot. It is impossible for the horse to move his foot if it's on the ground, if you ask him to it will only confuse him.

Once you can feel the horse's feet, it is time to have some fun. When the rider feels the hind feet come off the ground, the rider can ask that foot to extend or speed up. The rider can put light pressure with their calf on the foot that is coming up allowing the horse and rider's hip to extend. If the rider wants to slow the horse down, all the rider has to do is slow their hips down. This is something that you can practice while the trail riding. It will take some time and practice but once you are aware of what your hips are doing, you can do more!

If you are wondering what I mean when I say extending your hip or slowing your hip down, try to picture a child riding one of those spring ponies or a play rocking horse. When they want that spring pony to rock faster they allow their hips to increase their motion, moving more forward and backwards. When the child wants to slow down, they slow their body down by slowing down their hips. Keep in mind, if the child uses their whole body to try to get that rocking horse to go faster, the horse might tip over because they are out of balance with it. If the child gets out of rhythm with the rocking horse, it won't work anymore or she might even fall off.

Not only will feeling the horse's feet help with speeding up and slowing down, this will also help with gaiting. This helps with gaiting because you are loose in your hips and it will allow the horse to work underneath you.

As you practice feeling the horse's feet, practice feeling the horse's feet at a gait. When your hips get into rhythm with the horse's walk, this is the feel the horse is going to have at gait. When you ask the horse to gait, try to keep your hips in this type of rhythm. One thing to remember when working with different horses is that each horse has their own rhythm, so you as the rider have to change how you ride to get into rhythm with them. Once you get this feel for the rhythm of the horse's feet, it is an amazing experience to be in balance, timing and rhythm with your horse.

## Classified Ads

(1 free classified listing per member. If you would like a listing in the next newsletter please send it to Kristi at modit@srv.net. All listings are for one newsletter only and will be removed unless you email to say that you would like to renew your listing.)

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### ***Gaited T Ranch***

Horses for sale. See our website for information on our horses available. [www.gaitedtranch.com](http://www.gaitedtranch.com). or contact Kristen Tracer at Gaited T Ranch, 126 Pistol Lane, Victor, MT 59875. 406-642-6464 home, 406-239-9440 cell, email [foxtrotters@gaitedtranch.com](mailto:foxtrotters@gaitedtranch.com).

**Wyoming's Horse Whisperette, Jane Zubia**, can do everything from proper gait training, solving gait problems... to improving behavior problems and teaching riders how to achieve harmony with their horses. Jane can be reached at [www.janezubia.com](http://www.janezubia.com) or 307-354-0666

**Gabby** - 8 yr old grey mare. 15 h and 1200 lbs. Great trail horse. Great for team penning or sorting. 2005 world champion open working cow horse. Open Res WC in open cutting, roping, ranch conformation. \$3000

**Emma** - 2 yr old grey filly out of Gabby, sired by Southern Sunrise. Will be stocky QH built, but with a great fox trot.

Contact Mark Goss 406-961-3119 or [mrg1947m@netscape.net](mailto:mrg1947m@netscape.net)

**7 year old spayed sorrel mare**. Blue papered stout, about 15.1 hands, experienced in the mountains. Pretty, animated. Loads shoes and bathes. Professional training by Richard Miller and Jane Zubia. Located in Bozeman. Call Janis 406-586-4110 or email [jcbpal@aol.com](mailto:jcbpal@aol.com). Pictures available

My wife Karen and I have been traveling and living in our 4 horse living quarter trailer and our MFT's for over three years now. We are looking for a place to park our trailer and turn our MFT's out for the summer in WY or MT. Would love to be able to plug in, but not necessary. We are self sufficient. Let us know if you know anyone. David & Karen Magee  
903-445-2187

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## BIG SKY FOXTROTTERS STALLION LISTINGS

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dynamite R</b></p> <p>Double Creek Foxtrotters Eldo Heinle 3090 South Alaska Rd Bozeman, MT 59718 406-388-4206 Cell 406-600-0002 <a href="mailto:Dbb1foxtrotter@earthlink.net">Dbb1foxtrotter@earthlink.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GR Patriot's Climax</b> Black</p> <p>Thea Gervais 3162 Mittower Rd Victor, MT 59875 406-642-6546 <a href="mailto:mtgervais@hotmail.com">mtgervais@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://GervaisFoxtrotters.com">GervaisFoxtrotters.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cloud's Real McCoy</b> Grey</p> <p>Double Luck Ranch Cliff &amp; Laura Brown Beautiful, Stylish and still going strong. Don't miss your chance for a McCoy Baby. 360-435-1760 <a href="mailto:Lucky2ranch@aol.com">Lucky2ranch@aol.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Honkie Tonk</b> Black</p> <p>Aajker Creek Farm W. Toney Bishop Jr. Ellen J Bishop 3100 Branding Iron Road Bozeman, MT 59715 406-223-9477 <a href="mailto:bishopapp@earthlink.net">bishopapp@earthlink.net</a></p>
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