

Message from Lynda Zimmerman, President MAPFHA

November 22, 2018

Hello Members and Friends,

This message includes update details on several topics. Sorry it's long, but it's been a busy summer of riding and horse care for me, in spite of the hotter than usual summer weather, wet Sept. and now early winter. I hope you, too, were able to get out and enjoy the trails with your wonderful Paso Finos!

Labor Day Weekend Event

Several of us had a great time socializing and riding the hills, woods and fields, and crossing the creeks multiple times between rain showers, as guests of Jim and Susan Bartels over Labor Day weekend. They are warm, welcoming hosts, and their trails were in great shape thanks to Jim's persistent efforts. It was a relaxing weekend with good friends, good food, a rousing game of charades and a few card games, too. New member Pam Farmer and her husband Dale joined us for the first time (she has a handsome chocolate Rocky Mountain gelding, Echo). Regulars Chuck, Sharon, Jan Meyer (and husband Marv) Helen Funk, Dan and Barb Scherer, Bob and I also attended, and Susan's niece, Tatia and her family came over for part of Sunday. Although it rained on the trail riders Monday morning, we all managed to pack up and depart just before the serious rain hit, 8" flooding the Bartels' lower trails and fields.





Annual Meeting

Chatters Restaurant and Bar in Monticello will be the new location for our Annual Meeting, **January 5, 2019** (see website below for details). That's a week earlier than usual due to availability of their banquet room. **Free lunch for current members**, and we'll order off the menu (alcoholic beverages available at your expense). Jan and Marv toured Ireland with Dan Casey's group this fall and will give a short presentation about their trip over lunch. Join us at 11 a.m. for socializing, lunch at noon, and business meeting 1-3 p.m. (approx. times). <https://www.chattersrestaurantandbar.com/>

Elections

The Treasurer and Director at Large positions are up for re-election. Chuck and Sharon have both indicated a willingness to continue, but we will hold an open election at the meeting in case anyone else would like to step into one of those positions.

Membership Renewals

MAPFHA membership switches to the calendar year cycle starting in January, so renewals will be due before then or at the meeting (see Chuck at the meeting or the attached form).

PFHA also now follows the calendar year, and they are offering a new **Recreational Rider membership** level for a reduced cost from full membership. Although the PFHA website or renewal form don't yet indicate the new level and fee, an 11/12/18 email from the Rec. Rider Committee Chair states:

*The PFHA Board of Directors have finally approved a price for the Recreational Rider membership. It was unanimously approved to be **\$35 RR Membership fee.***

This membership allows you access to the PFHA website Members section. It allows you to participate in all the Recreational Rider programs. It DOES NOT include the magazine subscription, any breeding rights or the ability to show in a sanctioned PFHA show.

Please share this with your members and Paso owners.

Thank you

Judi Bradbury

I've emailed the PFHA officers and committee asking them to update the forms or inform us how to indicate this new membership level on our renewals. Stay tuned. I want to renew at this level, too, and will notify you when or how we can do this.

You may, of course, still choose to be a **full** PFHA member. PFHA membership is separate from MAPFHA membership but required for MAPFHA Board Member positions. PFHA recently emailed renewal notices or you can renew through the website.

<https://www.pfha.org/index.php/member-login/join-pfha/>

Expo 2019

MAPFHA will participate again at the **MN Horse Expo** in April 2019. Currently five members have expressed interest, and MAPFHA will pay up to \$500 for stall rentals. Participants will share the additional costs. However, cost is minimal, as PFHA reimbursed us last year as part of their efforts to promote the breed at public events. We anticipate they will do that again for 2019. The event is held at the MN State Fairgrounds the last weekend in April, and we will attend for the full four days (check-in on Thursday through Sunday, 5 p.m.). We hope you will come out to watch and support our Paso Finos!

Crow-Hassan Season Kick-off

The MAPFHA will again host the Trail Season Kick-off at Crow-Hassan Regional Park, Rogers, MN, on **Mother's Day weekend, May 10-11**, and pay for camping Friday and Saturday nights (FREE camping). Daily trail passes can be purchased at the trailhead kiosk or seasonal passes purchased in advance through the website. Guests will be welcome for a nominal fee; potluck Sat. night. Trails are usually in great shape there, and it's often early enough to beat the bugs. There is a shelter available for our potluck if it rains, but we've been able to hold the potluck outdoors by the campfire the past 3-4 years.

That's always a busy weekend with family activities and MN fishing opener, but camping attendance has primarily been Board members the past few years. This event is open to all members, and we do not want to give the appearance that it is a Board member perk. So for 2019, we will poll members at the Annual Meeting to determine how many members actually plan to camp. If there's not enough sufficient participation beyond Board members, we feel it is in the association's best financial interests to cancel the camping opportunity (~\$300 for the group camp site). We may still be able to hold a day ride and picnic potluck out of the main trailhead parking lot. There is a small campsite with picnic tables and a fire ring (no shelter). Please consider your plans for that May weekend and come prepared to commit or abstain so we can make the appropriate decision.

My Announcement

For those who may not know, Chaco earned the **PFHA High Point Award for Endurance** this year! This was his first full year of competition, and we had some interesting challenges, but the first year or two is always a learning experience, and he made good progress. On two occasions, he competed both Sat. and Sun events, for 50 and 60 total weekend miles. On the 60-mile weekend, he got off the trailer tie late Sat. night and took off out of camp. He loves to go, and he may have run the whole course again in the dark! Who knows? He was picked up by the sheriff about 11 p.m. and taken to the county impound lot, where I retrieved him early the next morning! That escape could have ended badly, but thanks to a local woman and her daughter who found me on Facebook (Chaco was wearing Zia's award sheet with my name on it), we were reunited quickly. I truly think he was so enthralled with those trails that he wanted to run them again, and we did on Sunday, another 30 miles! He's come a lot farther than the 265 miles on his record this year, and I look forward to many more miles and memories with him!



I also received my 3000 mile patch for completed competition miles, all Limited Distance miles with my Pasos except for one 50-mile ride in 2013 with my Arabian, Santana. Lots of miles and smiles thanks to my equine partners! What fun we've had!



Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! We Board Members appreciate your friendship, camaraderie and continuing support of the association, and more importantly, the Paso Fino breed! After the devastating hurricanes in the southeast this summer and the disastrous wildfires out West this fall, we have much to be grateful for in MN this year! Please contact me or one of the other Directors if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. See you in January!

Your Mid America PFHA Board of Directors:

Lynda Zimmerman, President

Chuck Hauser, Treasurer and Membership Coordinator

Janice Meyer, Secretary

Sharon Gallagher, Director at Large

To ride, to ride; oh, what heaven to ride!

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