

Season's Greetings, MAPFHA Members and Friends!

Summer trail riding was great with this year's drought, and I hope you all were able to take advantage of the opportunities with your Paso Finos! Our group's picnic at the Riverbend Campground at Crow Hassan Park had a beautiful evening and offered a nice opportunity to meet a couple new members and socialize over sub sandwiches, paid for by the association.

Due to ongoing Covid concerns and safety protocols, the MAPFHA Board has decided to again make an exception to the Bylaws and cancel plans for an indoor Annual Meeting in January 2022. Our plan is to hold **another picnic get together** next season, date and location TBD. Stay tuned for details next spring, and we hope more of you will be able to attend an outdoor event.

At this time, the Minnesota Horse Council is planning to hold the **MN Horse Expo** in mid-April, and MAPFHA riders are planning to attend and represent the breed in the Parade of Breeds, as well as with a choreographed routine for the Breed Demo. The dates have been changed due to a mix-up with fairgrounds reservations, so note the earlier time frame: **April 14-16, 2022**. Expo will run Thursday through Saturday as this is also Easter weekend, and they want to allow everyone to head home for the holiday if desired.

I joined the **Minnesota Trail Riders Assn.** (MTRA) last spring to learn about the organization and their activities. Chaco, Bob and I attended one of their weekend rides at Beaver Falls County Park near Redwood Falls and a full-week trip at Hell Canyon Horse Camp near Custer, SD. The highlight of the Custer trip was riding to Mount Rushmore to celebrate my birthday!

The MTRA is a valuable resource for MN trail riders. They apply for and disburse \$40,000 in federal grants each year, all of which goes to support horse trails, parks and campgrounds. They work with the MN DNR to avoid overlap, often supporting local horse parks (like Beaver Falls) that the DNR cannot (DNR can only support state parks, trails and forests). If you are not yet a member, I heartily endorse and encourage you to join and support their efforts on behalf of all horse riders!



*Chaco and I riding to Mount Rushmore.
MN.*

Jan and Mesa, Kona and I at OutWest Ranch, Buffalo,

Season Activities

Jan Meyer, Pam Farmer and Erica Woytcke have had fun introducing our horses to team sorting with calves at the **OutWest Ranch**/Arena near Buffalo, MN. After an excellent lesson introduction to allow the horses to overcome any fear of cattle (they all did!), Jan and I even entered league competition for five weeks in July–Aug., which further allowed our horses, Mesa and Kona, to become familiar with moving the calves. It's great for horses to learn that cattle are not fearsome and that they will move away from a horse, especially if you ever plan to ride out west where you may encounter cattle on a trail. The more comfortable your horse is around cattle, the safer for both of you.

We Board members are thinking the introductory lesson may be a **fun group activity** for more MAPFHA members and horses! Lessons are usually held early evening, outdoors, and this year cost \$60 each.

Lessons are held in two adjoining round pens, and after the horses get over any fear, two horses at a time take turns moving one calf from one pen into the other. It's all done very slowly at the start to build the horse's confidence. A small group of 8 is ideal so your horse can participate with a variety of others. If you are interested in participating in the lesson, please let one of the board members know. I will also mention it again as we get closer to spring.

If the weather cooperates in our favor (we've been rained out the past few years), we hope for another camping/riding opportunity at **Bartels' farm** next summer or fall. It was unfortunate that after a drought summer, it finally poured on the weekend we had designated for our event. It's bound to change, right?

Over Labor Day weekend, Jan, Pam and I (and husbands) took our horses to Devil's Hole Ranch in WI for a **Cattle Drive Clinic**. We rode with and learned from the wranglers how to maneuver our horses into the correct placement positions to turn cattle or to push them forward depending on the overall goal. For this particular clinic, we helped move approx. 500 cows and calves from one pasture to another and then gathered them into corrals so the calves could be vaccinated. Again, it was a good learning format and experience for riders and horses.



Pam and Echo, Jan and Mesa, Kona and I at the Devil's Hole Ranch, WI.

Later in September, Jan & Marv, Bob and I took Mesa and Chaco out to Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah for the trip of a lifetime, guided by Candy Phillips of Western Equine Adventures. We had outstanding weather and spectacular scenery and vistas! It was a magical place with red, orange, pink and yellow spires and rock formations like no other! Very different from the Grand Canyon, Bryce is more intimate, yet still immense. We rode down the zigzag trail to the bottom and back up again and through the Peek-a-Boo arch for an incredible experience. Other days, we rode Kodachrome Valley State Park, Bulldog Mountain, Casto Canyon (in the Red Canyon area) and Willis Slot Canyon, which were also memorable yet different experiences. Bob and Marv rented an ATV for their own self-guided tour in Casto Canyon and had the serendipitous experience of seeing our group riding far below on the Bryce Canyon trail from an overlook at the top. If you ever get the chance, it's a unique destination with or without your horse. Group trail horses and mules are available to rent through Bryce Canyon concessions.

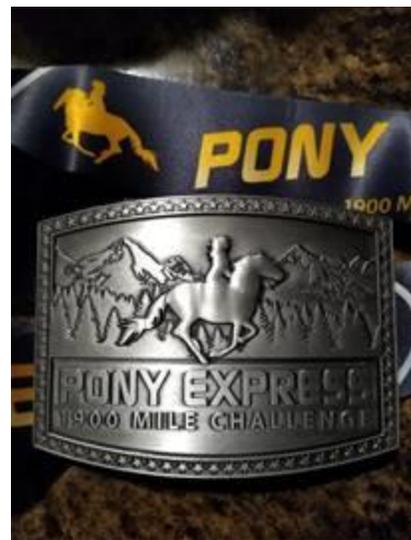


Jan and Mesa, Chaco and I at Casto Canyon and Kodachrome Valley, Utah.

I'm planning a couple more guided trips with a Candy next year, and I recommend her also. She guided our Medora, ND, trip last year, too (with Jan & Pam). Candy does have mules to rent if you don't want to bring your own horse, and she tours a variety of destinations. Jan, Pam and I also have a recreational trip planned next September to Broken Arrow Horse Camp near Custer, so 2022 has the potential to be another fun year of horse adventures!

With Covid concerns last year and this, I have not competed in endurance, but that hasn't kept me off the trails. I've been logging mileage through the Warhorse Endurance Challenges, which support various charities. Most are 100-mile events, completed at one's own pace, place and timeframe, tracking and reporting mileage on a website, recognized with artistic medallions. While participants can walk, run or bike, I record only outdoor miles in the saddle. A couple much longer events were introduced, and after finishing several 100-mile events quickly, I signed up for the **1900-mile Pony Express Challenge**.

This virtual event marks the distance from St. Joseph, MO, where the Pony Express riders began their journey, to San Francisco where they ended, if they survived. The original riders sought were “young, skinny, wiry fellows, not over 18, expert riders, willing to risk death daily, and orphans preferred.” Of course, I don’t fit that description, but mine was a virtual event that didn’t involve the many dangers they faced. All of the initial 500 challenge participants, including me, have their names inscribed on a plaque hanging in the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, which I plan to visit this off-season and which was supported by a portion of our entry fees. Starting in April 2020, I completed 1900 miles Nov. 7, 2021, with all of my equine partners and am proud to wear the lapel pin, display the sticker on my trailer and sport the beautiful commemorative belt buckle!



Warhorse Challenge medallions and Pony Express belt buckle earned by team efforts.

The challenges have been a fun way to stay motivated and to have a measurable goal. They are open to anyone, not just endurance riders. Google “Warhorse Endurance Challenges” for the website. Last year, I rode 850 miles, but so far this year, I’ve ridden over 1100 miles. Each ride has been under 15 miles, not hard or fast, usually 1-2 hours at a time, but frequent, nearly every day due to our dry, bugless summer. My next challenge is the 5,000-mile Mustang Discovery Ride!

For those who haven’t heard, **another Paso Fino gelding** has joined my herd this fall, Francisco de Camelot. He is of the Coral LaCE bloodlines, which generally have had good success with endurance competition. I will spend considerable time getting acquainted and then conditioning before we see about competition. He is reported to be very forward, bold and fearless, prefers to ride solo, so even if we don’t compete, I think we’ll have a lot of trail riding fun together accumulating miles towards the Mustang Discovery Challenge. He is setting in well with Nevado, Chaco and Kona.



Francisco de Camelot

Kona at Devil's Hole Ranch, WI.

Membership

Membership renewals are due for the 2022 calendar year. The membership application is attached; please print and mail with your check to Treasurer, Chuck Hauser, at the address on the form.

While getting together has been difficult these past two years, I hope you will continue with the organization and look forward to better days ahead. Trail riding is still a very good and safe option for socializing, enjoying nature and staying healthy! Please stay in touch, post pictures and news of your own activities and horse adventures on the MAPFHA Facebook group page. Let's stay together as much as we can virtually.



Nevado, Chaco and Kona, Christmas

2020

Happy Holidays to each of you! Happy trails, good health and warm wishes to you and your horses in 2022!

*Lynda Zimmerman, President
Mid America Paso Fino Horse Assn.*

Board Members:
Chuck Hauser, Treasurer
Janice Meyer, Secretary
Sharon Gallagher, Director at Large

Please notify me if you no longer wish to receive these messages.