



OFQHA NEWSLETTER

October/November 2007

President's Message

Dear Members,

This has been a very exciting year for OFQHA. Our shows were well attended and new members are joining our Association. The Trail Ride will be over by the time you get this and I am sorry I will miss it. We are showing our cutting horses that same weekend. It will be time to elect officers and directors real soon. You will have a new president and I must say I leave this office with mixed emotions. My work load has just gotten out of hand and I sometimes wish I could just have a day that I have to make no decisions. I must say that this group of officers and directors are just wonderful people. I really had no idea what I was getting into and they all have been very cooperative in any thing that needed done. I'm not saying that there weren't some bumps along the way, but it just seemed that so many people are involved with this group that all want the same thing in the end. The great American Quarter Horse is the equine giant of this land and we all love the time that we spend with them. They are our best buddies and sometimes the only one that we can really count on. Lets all work hard to make 2008 the greatest year yet.

Thank You,
Darrell

Fall Trail Ride and Potluck

The fall trail ride will be held at Salt Fork State Park on Sunday, October 28, 2007. The ride will start at 10:00 am and the November meeting will start at 3:00 pm, followed by a potluck dinner. Bring a sack lunch for the trail ride and don't forget a dish for the potluck! If the horse camp is full, activities will begin at the overflow area of the horseman's camp.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at the trail ride on 10-28. The next scheduled meeting is December 2, 2007 at 4:00 at the Perry Township Fire House.

Tentative 2008 Show Dates

Following are the tentative dates for the OFQHA 2008 shows/clinics.

May 17 and 18, 2008

June 21 and 22, 2008

July 19 and 20, 2008

August 23 and 24, 2008

Year End Awards Banquet

The Year End Awards Banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2008 and will be held at the Perry Township Fire House. Don't forget a dish for the potluck! Jane Belew agreed to take on the responsibility of year end awards for the second year. She worked hard to find great awards last year and I know this year's awards will be just as awesome!

'Just a Horse'

From time to time, people tell me "lighten up, it's just a horse" or "that's a lot of money for just a horse". They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for 'just a horse'. Some of my proudest moments have come about with 'just a horse'.

Many hours have passed and my only company was 'just a horse', but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by 'just a horse', and in those days of darkness the gentle touch of 'just a horse' gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you too think it's 'just a horse' then you will probably understand phrases like 'just a friend', 'just a sunrise', or 'just a promise'.

'Just a horse' brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy.

'Just a horse' brings our the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

Because of 'just a horse' I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not 'just a horse' but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

Thanks to Marisa Vetula and Karen Beam for this contribution

Propane Post Driver

Driving T-Posts to fence your 5,000-acre ranch is quite a chore. The task inspired Dennis Tippmann to invent his Propane Hammer. "I've got a ranch in Wyoming, so I do a lot of fence work," says Tippmann, who raises Quarter Horses and also leases his property for cattle.

The self-contained post driver runs off a standard 14-ounce propane tank, that can be found in most hardware departments. The driver weighs approximately 40 pounds and delivers up to 180 blows per minute. Tippmann says his driver can sink a post in 15 to 20 seconds, and one propane tank can drive about 600 posts.

Tippmann is still unsure of the price he'll ask for his new device, but expects it to start at around \$1,500. He hopes to lower the price as demand increases. For more information, on the Web visit propanehammer.com or call 866-286-8046.

From the November, 2007 issue of the Western Horseman

The West V, The Final Chapter

8-16: I planned on starting for Big Bend this morning, but the truck is acting up again. The manager of the Woodward Ranch suggested I take it to "Buddy" in Alpine. Buddy has a really primitive garage, but he changed the fuel filter and put some dry gas in the tank. I am not convinced the problem is solved so I will have to leave Big Bend for another visit. It is so remote and I don't want to get stuck down there. I decide to head toward Lubbock and Amarillo. I didn't get far. One mile from the Fort Stockton exit the truck refused to go over 15 mph. I limp into the local Chevy dealership and they take me in right away. Turns out it was the catalytic converter all along, which thankfully was still under warranty. They didn't have the part and had to get it in Lubbock. I had to wait for the part so I stayed overnight in a very nice Motel 6.

8-17: The part arrived at 1:00 and the truck was ready to go at 3:00! I am on my way to Odessa with all fingers crossed hoping that the truck is finally fixed. Odessa seems pretty depressed. It's 93 degrees and too hot to camp so I am staying in another Motel 6 tonight. Hope to make Amarillo tomorrow.

8-18: Arrived at Palo Duro Canyon, just outside of Amarillo, and camped on the canyon floor. The canyon is beautiful but the bugs are like something out of Star Wars! They are bigger and uglier than any bugs I have ever seen and they all bite like bees! I met a man at the park office that was trailering in 3 horses to trail ride. He was driving the trailer and his wife was hauling the Airstream trailer. Now that's the way to go trail riding! I'll bet it's going to be horribly hot here. Finally got the tent set up at 6:00 pm.

8-19: The heat and the bugs are killers here but it did cool down nicely last night so sleeping was not a problem. Today is a horror. I finally resorted to my can of RAID and it keeps the bugs away for all of 10 minutes. The bathrooms are filthy beyond belief. As I am writing this I am sitting in the truck with the air conditioner running. It is very pretty here but never again, not in August anyway. It is taking me forever to decide where to go from here. I want to go to a big rodeo in the SW part of Oklahoma and an Indian Pow-Wow in NE Oklahoma this weekend. I decide to go to Dodge City, Kansas first and then on to Oklahoma, and then it will be time to start thinking about heading home. I would like to go to Memphis and Nashville but I would want to spend days in both places and it would take too much time. Seems very strange to be worrying about time now.

8-20: Arrived in Dodge City and stayed two days. Dodge City burned down twice in the 1800's so most of the tourist attractions were recreations. Boot Hill, the famous cemetery, was pretty hokey, but it is in the original location.

8-21: Drove out of town and stopped at a little pull off, where the wagon tracks from the Santa Fe trail are still visible. The rolling prairies are gorgeous, but when I thought about the old wagon trains and their journey it occurred to me that it would have been very easy to lose their way. There are no landmarks, no rocks, no trees, no nothing except tall grass. I saw a sign for a huge feed lot that said "visitors welcome" so I drove in, hoping to be able to talk to someone who rode horses to work the feed lot. I wanted to find out what my horse learned about cattle and what he did when he worked in a feed lot in New Mexico before I bought him. I did find a man who was loading cattle onto a trailer on foot, no horse in sight. I had to help him load some cattle first before he would talk to me! He said he does use horses mostly for cutting sick cattle out of the pens. He told me the horses push the sick cattle with their noses and move them to another pen. He asked if my horse bites the cattle and I said "no" (at least he didn't bite at the time!) and he remarked that he likes a horse who will bite cows. I did notice a dead cow in one of the pens and it looked like it had been there awhile. Had a great dinner at the Cowtown Restaurant, down by the railroad tracks. Dodge City was nice but probably not worth another visit.

8-22: Drove to Altus, Oklahoma to see a "Coors Blowout" Rodeo. I found a great little motel, The Friendship Inn, with a fabulous room and an even better swimming pool for \$30/night. Drove to the Altus Chamber of Commerce and purchased my \$7 ticket for the rodeo. They told me they were having a free BBQ dinner at the rodeo for all ticket holders.

8-23: Did some antiquing around town, came back and spent the afternoon in the pool and I had it all to myself! The rodeo was great and the dinner was delicious. They had a huge Grand Entry. There were some good bull and bareback riders but no one I had ever heard of. They were bucking two sons of Bodacious. One son was very small but bucked and looked exactly like his daddy. The rodeo clown was very, very good. Just as the rodeo ended a huge storm came up; high winds, lightening and torrential rains.

8-24: Drove from Altus to Ponca City for the Ponca National Pow-Wow. On the way I stopped at Kingfisher to see the Chisom Trail Museum. What a treat. It's small but most of the artifacts have been donated by the long time town residents. The tags on the items state "Used by" (person's name) and "For" (what they did with it). There are also 2 log cabins, a school and a church, all original 1800's buildings that were moved to the museum grounds. The church and the school and all furnishing were original. Arrived in Ponca City late. I got two different stories on the Pow-Wow and a very sinking feeling. I finally found the Ponca Indian Casino and asked. The response was "Whoever was in charge of the Pow-Wow changed it to next weekend". I know some tribes are laid back about dates and times, but this was advertised in a national magazine and I was very disappointed it had been changed. Found another in a long string \$30/night motels but this one is very shabby but clean. I called home and my mother's neighbor was in the process of taking mom to the emergency room. Evidently she has a bladder infection and is dehydrated and not making much sense at all. Now I have to hurry home.

8-25: On my way home and in a hurry but I drove to Pawnee, Oklahoma to see the Pawnee Bill Mansion. Mom has been admitted to the hospital but seems to be doing OK. The mansion was worth the trip. It's a beautiful stone house on a hilltop with all the original furnishings. The tour guide for the house was very interesting. I could live there the rest of my life! Pawnee Bill had his own wild west show but later combined his show with that of Buffalo Bill Cody. They also have a pasture with herd of buffalo and long horned cattle that you can drive through and take pictures. Hurried to get back on the road and skirted Oklahoma City on the side roads. Passed Fort Sill, where my dad was commissioned as an officer prior to WWII. I drove all afternoon on the freeways, which just about killed me. I love traveling on back roads! Stopped for the night about 60 miles West of St. Louis.

8-26: Arrived back in Columbus about 7:30 pm and went directly to the hospital. Mom recovered and came home all was fine.

Lessons learned on the trip:

1. Take twice as much money as you think you will need!
2. The West is incredible and awe inspiring and there is so much I still want to explore.
3. I would go again in a heartbeat!
4. Stop in out-of-the way places. Most of the time they are well worth it!

2007 OFQHA Schedule—All Events and Meetings

- October 28** (Sunday) Fall Trail Ride and Potluck. Location to be announced. November meeting after ride at 3:00pm
- December 2** (Sunday) December meeting, 4:00