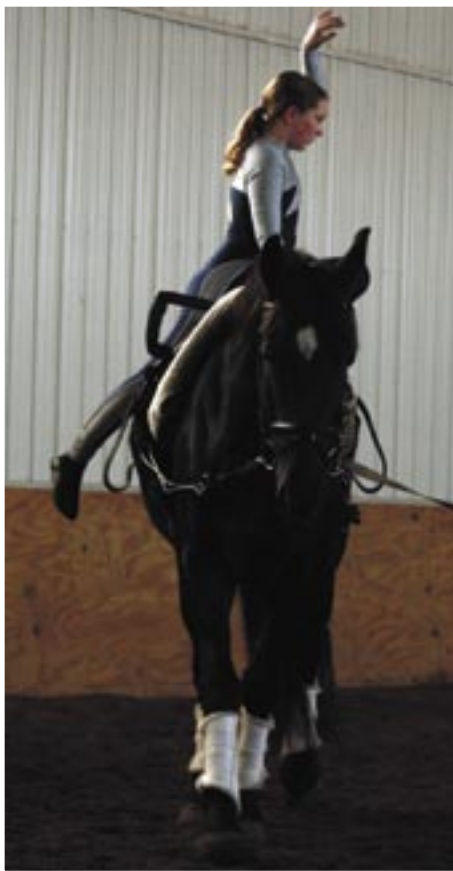


# NEWS BITS & BITS OF NEWS

## ***First Ever Recognized Vaulting Competition in Iowa***

Blue Sky Vaulters and Cedar Falls Equestrian Center are excited to be bringing the very first American Vaulting Association (AVA) recognized show to Iowa featuring AVA (r) Judge Kitchy Burdette. The two-day event will be held on July 16 & 17 at the Cedar Falls Equestrian Center in Cedar Falls, and will feature a clinic on the second day, with Kitchy Burdette as our clinician. The clinic is open to everyone—from beginners to advanced vaulters. Male or female, young or old! Unrecognized classes, as well as fun classes will be offered for those vaulters who are not AVA members.



Kylie McCaughey performs a "hanging side stag" on Mike, at Cedar Falls Equestrian Center

The exciting and beautiful sport of equestrian vaulting can best be described as a combination of gymnastics and dance on horseback. It was brought to the United States from Germany in the 1960's. The non-profit American Vaulting Association

was founded in 1966 to build and promote vaulting in the U.S., with an emphasis on safety and fun. Today the AVA has more than 100 clubs and 1000 members registered throughout the country. One of those clubs is the event host, the Blue Sky Vaulters. The Blue Sky Vaulters were founded in 2009 by local business owner and horsewoman Deb DeVries, and are the only officially sanctioned vaulting club in the state of Iowa.

Kitchy Burdette is a retired teacher from Soquel, California. She has been an active horsewoman for most of her life, and has been involved in vaulting for many years as a parent, longeur, coach, AVA board member, clinician and recognized AVA (r) judge. She is the founder of Pegasus Vaulting Supply, which is the only company in the world that deals exclusively with vaulting equipment and supplies.

For more information on the upcoming Vaulting Show and Clinic, visit [www.cfequestriancenter.com](http://www.cfequestriancenter.com), or contact Deb DeVries at [cfeonline@gmail.com](mailto:cfeonline@gmail.com).

## ***CPSC, Lasko Products, Inc. Announce Recall of Four Models of Box Fans Manufactured in 2002-2004***

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), Lasko Products, Inc. of West Chester, PA, is recalling approximately 4.8 million box fans manufactured from July 31, 2002 through July 31, 2004. A potential electrical failure in the fan motor can pose a fire hazard. The recall includes four models of box fans which were sold at major retail stores, home improvement centers, hardware stores and other retailers nationwide between late 2002 and as late as 2005.

Consumers should stop using these fans immediately. If your fan is affected by this recall, you can register on-line or call Lasko Products toll free any time at 1-800-233-0268 to receive a free fan protection cord adapter that is designed to easily connect to your fan plug and protect against a potential hazard resulting from an electrical failure in the fan motor.

**IMPORTANT: You can not register to receive more than a total of four(4) fan protection cords during a single registration process.**

## ***Amana Trail Ride***

**June 11-12th & September 17-18th, 2011**

Bring your horses or mules for two days in the spring and fall for outdoor family fun! Ride through more than 2,000 acres of aged logging trails of the scenic Amana Colonies.

***Horses are allowed on the Amana trails only during this event, making it especially special.***



Even the most inexperienced rider can ride the trails without the danger of injury. Venture out on your own or join one of our guided rides & dance to country music. Located on a 65 acre campground facility with electrical and water close. Laundry, shower house & restrooms are available. Amana Colonies offers numerous gift shops, antique stores, wineries, restaurants and an 18-hole public golf course.

**Contact** Rick & Virginia Caspers at 319-361-3434, or [buckskinridge@yahoo.com](mailto:buckskinridge@yahoo.com), for more information.



## ***ACTHA Trail Challenge***

Dear Trail riders,

In case you missed it, the ACTHA trail challenge on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Brushy Creek is being sponsored by Iowa Trail Riders Association (ITRA) and the **ride proceeds will go directly to purchase needed materials for trail building/repair.**

The Iowa Trail Riders Association has

*Continued next page*

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been aware that funding is expected to be cut and that trail closures have been a looming threat. Your participation in this ride will help support equestrian trails in Iowa and ITRAs efforts to mobilize people around the issues facing our equestrian trails. It will also be an example of how Iowa's equestrian community can come together to keep our trails open and maintained. Perhaps a solution to our current issues will be born that weekend!

Brushy Creek State Park was chosen as the location for the ride because we will have access to their all-season trail where horses are welcome rain or shine. Other trails will also be used, weather-permitting. Brushy Creek is a horse-friendly park and their staff has been wonderful to work with in planning this event.

If you have never ridden an ACTHA trail challenge, here's some info...

\* An ACTHA trail challenge is a 2-3 hour pleasure ride with 6 judged obstacles along the way. It is a fun, supportive atmosphere

\* There are awards for 1st through 6th place and optional jackpots

\* Thanks to our sponsors, there are tons of prizes and no one goes home empty handed

\* The first 5 Juniors (age 7-15) ride for no ride fee (regularly \$25). Due to the generosity of ACTHA sponsors covering these ride fees, we still get paid for these entries... **this is free money for our cause from ACTHA sponsors**

\* ACTHA is currently giving over \$100 worth of 'stuff' (including a 1-year subscription to Trail Rider magazine) to new members and annual memberships start at only \$35. Plus, ACTHA has donated over \$400,000 to horse charities helping our equine friends in need.

**Riders must register online in advance.** Ride fees are \$58 for Open or Pleasure Divisions, \$40 for Buddy Division and \$25 for Juniors (after the first 5 registrants claim the free ride fee spots)

To register for the May 7 ACTHA ITRA trail challenge at Brushy Creek ... Go to [www.ACTHA.us](http://www.ACTHA.us)

Under the "Rides" tab and click on "View Rides & Locations"

Scroll down and click on "May 7 Mother's Day ITRA ctc to support equestrian trails in Iowa."

You will need to join ACTHA (annual membership starts at \$35 for 1 horse, 1 rider) and you can then register online for the ride.

Sincerely, Susan Andersen,  
ACTHA Affiliate, Ride Manager

[WWW.APPLESNOATS.COM](http://WWW.APPLESNOATS.COM)



## World Record Ride for the Mustangs!

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*In support of the Mustang Heritage Foundation's mission to increase the number of adoptions of American Mustangs, ACTHA has selected the Mustang Heritage Foundation as its main beneficiary for the 2011 Guinness™ World Record Ride. [www.ACTHA.us](http://www.ACTHA.us)*

**Be a Part of History...** and you will be doing an amazing thing to help the great American Mustang. This is a Charity ride and net proceeds from *each* rider entry fee will go directly to the Mustang Heritage Foundation.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, trail riders from across the Nation will saddle up and ride for a common cause. Each Competitive Trail Challenge on this one amazing day will benefit the Mustang Heritage Foundation. Be a part of this extraordinary annual event! Bring your friends and your favorite Trail Horse, enjoy a beautiful ride and have fun, knowing you're doing something special. Join thousands of other trail riders as we ride in support of America's Horse, the Mustang.

If you don't see a ride in your area, please keep checking back. We are planning on more than 100 rides for this historic event! If you are interested in hosting a ride or for more information, please contact [pam@actha.us](mailto:pam@actha.us). Let's do something good, together!

You could win a new trail saddle and / or a new barn just for participating in this ride!

In Iowa, one ride is at the Whiterock Conservancy, near Coon Rapids. Whiterock, in the scenic Middle Raccoon River Valley, is situated on 4,300 acres. The land base called Whiterock is dotted with sandstone bluffs carved out by the Middle Raccoon, oak savannas bursting with prairie wildflowers, and an abundance of wildlife thriving in its natural habitat.

Susan Andersen, [HorseHugR@aol.com](mailto:HorseHugR@aol.com), 515-343-4744. [www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org)

Whiterock Conservancy is an Iowa nonprofit land trust providing sustainable agriculture, conservation, outdoor activities and recreation and environmental education.



**“ROY ROGERS  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
100 YEARS OLD  
THIS SUMMER.”**

Wayne Williams, "Speaking of Horses TV"

## Brushy Creek Competitive Trail Challenge



### Benefits: Iowa equestrian trails

On May 7, a Competitive Trail Challenge was held at Brushy Creek, with all proceeds going toward Iowa equestrian trails. This was the first ride in a series of rides where you could win a new trail saddle – just for participating!

A new trail saddle will be awarded to the lucky winner of a drawing to be held at the end of the series of the following central Iowa rides:

- **May 7** - Mothers Day ITRA CTC to Benefit Iowa Equestrian Trails
- **June 4** - Whiterock Conservancy World Record Ride for the Mustangs
- **August 20** - Wildwood Hills Ranch Benefit CTC
- **September 24-25** - Wild, Wonderful 2-Day CTC (each day counts as a separate ride)
- **October 22-23** - Fall Foliage & Fun CTC at Jester Park (each day counts as a separate ride)

Riders must pre-register at [www.ACTHA.us](http://www.ACTHA.us), and the number of riders is limited.

Contact: **Susan Andersen**, (515) 343-4744, or [HorseHugR@aol.com](mailto:HorseHugR@aol.com).

[www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state\\_park\\_list/brushy\\_creek.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state_park_list/brushy_creek.html)

## The Biggest Little Draft Horse Show in Iowa

The South Central Iowa Draft Horse & Mule Association is sponsoring a draft horse show and clinic on June 4th at the Saddle Club Arena in New Virginia.

The FREE driving clinic is held in the morning, from 9:00 to 11:30. Topics to be covered are conformation of draft horses, harnessing, driving, and showing. This will be a 'hands on' clinic so come dressed to work with the horses! Students will be given the chance to practice driving a team under the watchful eye of an experienced teamster. The horse show will have a special class for amateurs who want to drive.

In the afternoon we will have our

hitch show (we have moved our farm type classes to the fall). We have lost several draft horse shows around the state and this is one of the few that are left. This is a low-key show with no entry fee or prizes! (We do give trophies for our youth classes). Gerald Stuart will bring in several wagons for people to hitch to so you don't have to bring your own wagon unless you want to. We limit our classes to 5 teams at a time so we can easily share wagons. We are having the show early in the season in hopes that some of the show hitches in the state would like to come down and get in a practice session before the main show season starts, maybe try out a new horse, or let the support crew do some driving.

All classes are mixed – horses and mules – and include the following classes:

1. Ride a draft
2. Men's single horse cart class
3. Women's single horse cart class
4. Youth single horse cart class
5. Men's Team
6. Women's Team
7. Youth Team Class (16 and under)
8. Senior Team (69 and older)
9. Amateur Driver
10. Unicorn
11. 4-Horse Hitch
12. 6-Horse Hitch

We hope to see you at the show.

For more information contact: Jim Stuart, 1121 G76 Hwy, New Virginia, IA 50210; 515-971-1254; [jstuart@iowatelecom.net](mailto:jstuart@iowatelecom.net)

## Minnesota EquiFest

**Nancy Duggan, Executive Director**  
**763-421-5750**

[nancyduggan@rtduggan.com](mailto:nancyduggan@rtduggan.com)

Preparation is well underway for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Equifest held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, October 15-16.

The Extreme Cowboy Horsemanship Challenge is back by popular demand. Watch Cowboys and Cowgirls maneuver through a series of 13 obstacles while demonstrating both speed and horsemanship. The majority of obstacles that riders will encounter in a sanctioned North Central Region of the Extreme Cowboy Association (NCR EXCA) Events are typical of what you will routinely encounter while on the trail or at home on a ranch. The NCR EXCA is specifically designed to invite riders of all levels to participate and enjoy the "fastest growing equine sport, "the Extreme Cowboy Challenge". Sign up to show off your partnership and skill with your horse!! For entry information please contact Chris Vinson at 715-928-0816 or [chris@3S-Ranch.com](mailto:chris@3S-Ranch.com).

Dan Grunewald, a judge, clinician and life long horseman will be presenting "Through the Judges Eyes Series." He will give tips on to what a judge is looking for in the show ring. Dan offers a vast amount of knowledge and expertise in the show world, whether it has been through his experience as an exhibitor, clinician or judge. Most recently Dan was chosen to be a featured clinician at the 2010 Alltech Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY.

Dressage will be represented by two excellent clinicians, Karen Lee & Suzette Sontag.

Karen Lee, from Hay River Equestrian, Boyceville, WI, will present Musical Freestyle Dressage, and explain how to create one.

Suzette Sontag, Rick Schmitt and Kari Augustine of Smart Start Stable, Somerset, WI, help people understand how to ride and train Dressage from the horse's point of view.

With carriage driving becoming more and more popular, the EquiFest is again focusing on driving aspects. Marc Johnson, Wenham, Massachusetts, is the featured driving clinician. For the past 16 years, Marc has dedicated his time to training driving animals and drivers, organizing competitions, course design and being an ADS Technical Delegate.

Returning this year will be Werner Thiedemann, of Thiedemann Performance Horses. Werner again will be offering four different Horsemanship Workshops. Pre-registration is required. Mr. Thiedemann conducts educational clinics and seminars on a variety of topics from horse equipment to horsemanship, with the focus on creating a better communication and understanding between the horse and rider, with a main background in Reining and Ranch Horse. His training experience ranges starting colts to working performance horses.

Tom Tweeten, ATH Science, Prior Lake, MN, will present a Grooming Competition with horses in hand. Participants will have the opportunity to prepare their horse for the show ring and will be judged on it. Spectators are welcome.

You won't want to miss the Festival of Horses, which includes a daily Parade of Breeds, a Stallion Row, and the Equine Extravaganza (Saturday only).

In the horse barn, check out the breed horses, stallions, horses for sale, commercial horse business, booths and a demo area.

The Tack Sale and vendor booths provide some great shopping opportunities.

Other clinicians at the Minnesota EquiFest include shoeing demos by the MN Farriers Association; Dr. Tracy Turner, Anoka Equine

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Veterinary Services discussing Pre-Purchase Exams and Lameness in horses; Renee Hogendorf, Equine Defined, demonstrating Equine Touch, Aromatherapy & Reiki; and Dale Froyum, judge, talking about Bits and Biting. Karen Clark, Rainbow's End, will head up a trainers' panel discussion. Ginny Pomije, Big Black Horse, will demonstrate harnessing the carriage horse.

For more information regarding booths or horses, volunteering, or sponsorships, please go to [www.MinnesotaEquiFest.com](http://www.MinnesotaEquiFest.com) or call the EquiFest office at 763-421-5750.

Join us on Facebook and invite your friends to join. For advertising information contact Linda Dahl, Dahl Graphics and Printing, 651-353-8188.

## Prairie Meadows has Given Back \$1 Billion

Since it began operations in 1989, Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino has given back \$1 Billion. Of that figure, Prairie Meadows has returned \$500,000,000 in charitable giving and funding to city and county community betterment programs. Through the years, our mission as a non-profit corporation has remained the same: to promote economic development, agriculture, jobs, tourism and entertainment and provide financial contributions to programs and organizations that improve the quality of life for all Iowans and, in general, to promote social welfare.

As part of our ongoing commitment to Polk County and the state of Iowa, Prairie Meadows supports a broad range of nonprofit proposals and projects through our Community Relations department. By doing so, Prairie Meadows hopes to provide qualified organizations the funding necessary to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Polk County and surrounding areas.

Since 1996, the lives of thousands of Iowans have been touched through public service programs made possible by millions of dollars paid by Prairie Meadows to Polk County, Iowa, and direct donations to more than 500 local charities.

The Prairie Meadows Community Relations Department administers the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Program, the Prairie Meadows Legacy Grant Program, and all community giving from Prairie Meadows.

The Prairie Meadows Grant Advisory Committee consists of 15 voting members and two non-voting members who review

and score all Community Betterment Grant Applications. Together, this group brings a wealth of knowledge regarding community issues, community projects and programs, and non-profit services.

The Prairie Meadows Grant Advisory Committee presents its funding recommendations to the Prairie Meadows Board of Directors, which vote on the recommendations at the December board meeting. [www.prairiemeadows.com](http://www.prairiemeadows.com)

## River City Rodeo (RCR) Iowa Trail Ride

From September 17-24, an awesome week of trail riding fun could be in store for you, as the River City Rodeo & Stock Show organization is planning a week-long group trail ride across Iowa, honoring our western heritage.

Created in 1982 at a Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben board meeting in Nebraska, the River City Roundup, focusing on our Midwestern Heritage, has spawned many events, one of which is the *River City Roundup Iowa Trail Ride!*

The ride started out with a small group of individuals, but over time it has become a spectacular week-long, fun-filled event! These days, the ride starts at Brushy Creek State Recreation Area in Lehigh, Iowa, and progresses southwest to Omaha, NE. It takes place every year at the end of September.

This year, Saturday, September 17 marks the beginning of the fun at Brushy Creek, where riders get to enjoy 45 miles of horse trails through timbers along the Des Moines River and around a beautiful lake. While at Brushy, we enjoy meals by the campfire and

great conversation with wonderful friends, who truly become like family. Wagons are welcome and we encourage people who have wagons to come. There are wagon trails at Brushy Creek and typically, as the week goes on, the wagons will go on a separate ride from the saddle horses due to the types of trails offered.

On Monday morning, we load up and head to Coon Rapids, Iowa, to ride at the Whiterock Resort, which offers 33 miles of dirt trails through timbers, along ponds, and over the Middle Raccoon River.

From here, we ride through the beautiful Iowa countryside on gravel and dirt roads, heading to Elk Grove Park, also in Coon Rapids - a 17-mile day. We end up Tuesday at Audubon, where the Audubon Saddle Club is our host.

On Wednesday, a poker ride to Harlan, Iowa, is a 27-mile ride. Once there, we can ride the area around Harlan, and make a day of it on Thursday.

Friday finds us on our way to Neola, Iowa, where we headquarter at Arrowhead Park. At the end of the day, we trailer to Freedom Park in Omaha, Nebraska.

Saturday morning, we ride in the River City Rodeo parade in downtown Omaha, which is the culmination of the week-long extravaganza. We say our good byes with tears in our eyes, and start planning for the 2012 September ride!

Our Trail Bosses for the 2011 ride are Jackie Nelson, 402.981.6057 and Julie Nelson, 402.238.4302 ([rcr:iowaride@gmail.com](mailto:rcr:iowaride@gmail.com)). WEBSITES: <http://rcr-iowaride.webs.com/> or <http://iowaride.phanfare.com/>  
Come join us!! You'll have a blast.

