



SPRING NEWSLETTER

By Pattie Stalder, KHC Administrator

Check the Events tab of the KHC website www.kansashorsecouncil.com to see a complete list of upcoming equestrian activities.



14th Annual EquiFest of Kansas

February 11, 12 & 13, 2011

Mark your calendars and make your reservations now for the next EquiFest of Kansas.

We have a new management company,

Horseplay Promotions,

There will be fresh and exciting activities in 2011. Visit the EquiFest website,

www.EquifestofKS.com.

Stay up to date on what's happening in 2011!

Flint Hills Trail Survey

Over 1,600 riders took the time to answer eight questions on the Flint Hills Trail survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine how much local and nationwide interest there is for trail riding in the Flint Hills of Kansas.

Dr. Tom Warner of Kansas State University has a vision to create a Flint Hills Trail Ride System encompassing all counties of the Flint Hills, possibly from Marysville (home of the site of the Pony Express in Kansas) all the way to Sedan. The potential rides could be anywhere from 2 hour loops to one week or more in duration. Survey results showed approximately 95% were in favor of this program and 92% would travel with their own horses. These results were very encouraging. We'll keep you informed as the project progresses.

We are happy to introduce our newest KHC Purchasing Package partner --

www.equinebusinessforms.com

All KHC members will receive a 15% discount – just call the KHC office to get the promotional code to enter when you make a purchase.

Equine Business Forms provides risk management contract forms to stable owners and professionals. Forms include: boarding, training, breeding, sales contracts; liability waivers; stable policies and many more! Customize them with your personal logo or letterhead.

ANY ANIMAL, ANY DISASTER, ANYWHERE

The Kansas State Animal Response Team (KS SART) is a non-profit organization that builds and supports a partnership between governmental, not-for-profit organizations, animal industry, and volunteers in order to facilitate local animal disaster preparedness and response development.

When local disaster response capacity is exhausted, KS SART assists in multi-agency disaster response coordination efforts throughout the state when activated by the Kansas Animal Health Department, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, or local Emergency Management.

KS SART assists county teams in training and credentialing volunteers, along with building and maintaining a resource inventory in support of County and Regional County Animal Response Teams (CARTs and RCARTs).

When emergencies occur these teams are often in need of additional shelter, transportation and feed/hay for horses and other animals. As a horse owner if you are willing to board a horse, loan your truck and trailer for evacuations or donate hay/feed, your local Animal Response Team needs to hear from you.

To become an emergency contact person for horses in the Topeka area contact Julie Castenada of the Capital Area Animal Response Team at 785-925-3678. For other areas in the state contact Dr. Christen Skaer, 316-619-1723 or clskaer@aol.com. For more information visit www.kssart.org. Next time it could be your animals that need help.

Elk City Ride, 2010

By Cheryl Thomas

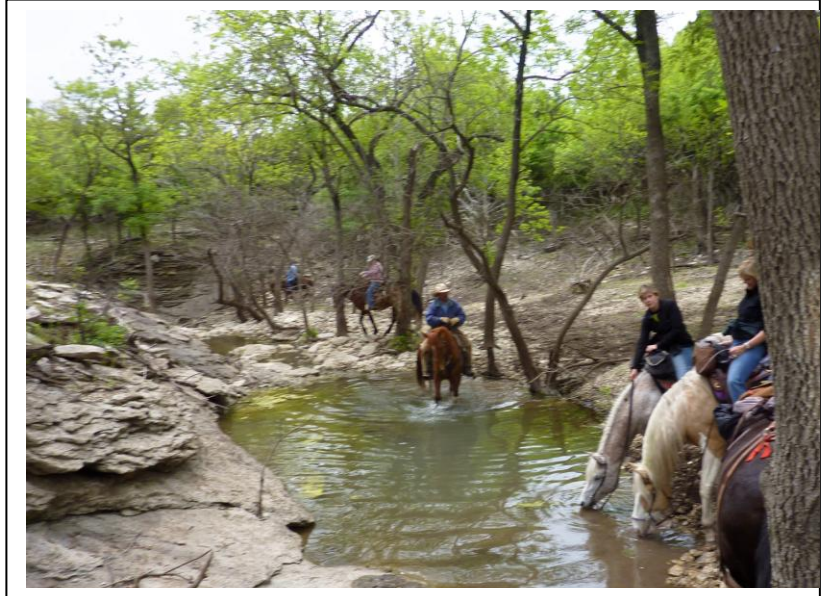
Despite a forecast that was anything but promising, a group of 50 brave riders headed for Elk City Lake in southeast Kansas the weekend of April 24th for the **Kansas Horse Council Promotional Trail Ride**.

The Saturday ride began at 9am under overcast skies. A light jacket or sweatshirt was all that was needed as the group of riders took to the trail. The trail entered the forest of hickory trees and ancient oaks, and riders were soon awed by the giant limestone formations and vertical bluffs. In several places the trail was bordered on one side by 30-foot rock bluffs and boulder fields. Views of the lake could be seen through the trees and at several overlooks. The sun began to filter through the leaves shortly before noon as the trail narrowed between vertical rock walls on both sides of the group. After a lunch break, the group 'about faced' and began the ride back toward the dam. Of course, the view is always different when heading back the opposite direction! There were a couple of cutoffs that went out to the road for anyone



who preferred an easier, shorter route back to camp. But, the majority of the group was ready for the trek back through the forest and the rock formations.

Arriving back at camp a little before 4pm, horses had just been unsaddled and put away when a light shower came through the area. But, skies were clearing up in time for a wonderful dinner catered by Mettes Ranch House in Coffeyville. Riders feasted on pulled pork, smoked brisket, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, green beans, and a choice of desserts while sharing the day's adventures. Tickets were drawn for prizes donated by Classic Equine with Mary Frances Haake winning the grand prize, Contourpedic saddle pad.



After a quick continental breakfast Sunday morning, 27 riders were ready to go again for a 9-noon ride, including Mary Frances riding with her brand new saddle pad. Even though this trail is rocky and strenuous in parts, the majority agreed that the Elk City Trail is an incredible ride and makes you feel like you're not in Kansas anymore!!

Congratulations to the following riders who became new KHC members at this ride:
Rebecca Erwin, Stephanie Jensen, Jennifer Carnahan, Carol McLaury, Sam Triebel, Kelly Fleming, Vicki Kunkel, Sheryl Tasker, Bruce Hargreaves, & Shorty/Maxine Thorne – Lifetime Membership.

They join hundreds of riders throughout Kansas who share the benefits of KHC membership and become part of the unified voice of horse owners throughout the state supporting and promoting the horse industry in Kansas. Join today @ www.kansashorsecouncil.com or 785-776-0662!