



OFQHA NEWSLETTER

December 2008, January 2009

President's Message

Hi Folks. The Holidays are upon us again and another year is coming to a close. Thanksgiving has come and gone and we as horse owners do have many things to be thankful for. The price of hay has stabilized over what it was last year and it doesn't seem too hard to find. Grain prices have been dropping which is evident in the coffee shop talk every morning when the farmers come in to complain and my wife got rid of fourteen horses this summer. We are going into winter without having every stall filled with coming yearlings as we usually have and the price of fuel and gas have plunged. Will it stay that way for the summer show season? That remain to be seen.

Our 2008 show season was well attended and our show people are getting better and better. We also learned how difficult it must have been for the real cowboys to roundup cattle on the range. A few of us had that challenge last summer and we were totally out classed by one man that was unable to walk and could only do the roundup on a four wheeler. If this sounds like a mystery to you then you need to attend our shows and partake of the excitement.

Our fall horse sale was still a buyer's market but then when hasn't it been. We had a nice group of horses and many found new zip codes.

OFQHA put on another impressive Congress. The work that goes into that boggles my mind. If the economy is in dire straights it wasn't reflected during the Saturday that we attended. The trade show was jammed and a 250,000 dollar horse trailer had a sold sign on it.

In closing, let me state that I hope, with your help, to make the 2009 show season even better than last. It seems that the planning phase for our shows is more difficult that the actual work. I want to thank everyone who participated last year to make our shows run as smoothly as they did.

Don't forget the banquet in February. It will be great to see all our summer friends that we never seem to have time to touch base with during the winter.

OFQHA President
Larry Still

Election Results for 2009

President: Larry Still, Vice-President: Pat Badgero, Directors: Dave Chuich, Susan Elliott, Bob Weiser and Linda Yoder.

Congratulations to our elected officers and directors for 2009 and a special thanks to those who have served in an office in the past!

Year End Awards Banquet– February 21, 2009

The Year End Awards Banquet will be held on February 21, 2009 at 6:00 pm at the Perry Township Fire House. We always have a great time and lots of fun! Don't forget to bring a dish for the potluck and any items you may wish to donate to the silent auction. The February meeting will be held at the banquet.

Honest Harry's New and Used Horses

"I can save you money on gas!"

"All right folks, step right up! You don't want to pay \$4.69 for gas, no problem. I have the perfect vehicle for you. Needs no gas, no oil, or even a battery, just a little grass and water will do these animals fine. Now everyone has different needs, so choose from the following models:

"**Trail Horse:** Your average run-around-town animal. Has the energy to get where you are going, the brain to find the best way to go, big enough to carry the normal-sized American.

"The Western Pleasure: The right car for the high-end white-collar workers. This animal works harder and requires more special knowledge, so only the best can figure this out. Be sure to take your cell phone. You won't be stuck in traffic, you just won't be getting anywhere fast.

"The Parelli: Salesmen, stay-at-home moms and high school kids will all enjoy this dream. You can load him down with flapping Wal-Mart bags, ask him to walk in places a horse won't fit, and you can dance with him as you listen to the latest tunes.

"The Ranch: The most dependable animal available. He will go where ever you ask him to, at whatever speed is appropriate. You can tie him to the stop sign and he will be there when you get back. Best of all, this model has been specially engineered to be able to go without water for days and stay fat and slick by eating sagebrush and dead prairie grass.

"No horse is sold with a warranty, however maintenance plans are available in the event brakes, steering, or accelerator fail."

Anonymous from the internet.

125 Mile, 6 Day Ride on the Old Pony Express Trail (Continued from the Oct/Nov issue)

Day 5: We are up early again and today everyone is excited as we will be staying in Atlantic City in some A-Frame cabins with real showers! The scenery is just gorgeous! My knees are pretty well healed up, thanks to a swim in the mountain fed Sweetwater River where we delighted in jumping into the river off an old bridge built by the Mormons. They built it to collect a toll from the wagons on the Oregon Trail. Early in the afternoon we arrive in Atlantic City. We are way beyond filthy by this time but I felt like I was riding through town with Jessie James and his gang after being pursued by a posse for 3 days! Atlantic City had a population of 12 at that time. There is one store in town, which is the post office, grocery store, drug store, hardware store, bar and restaurant. The one and only phone in town is outside. I am really into my riding with an outlaw gang fantasy! We ride through town and the horses are picketed outside of town. We pile into the back of the stock truck which takes us back to the store. Michelle (my tent mate) and I arrive to find everyone's duffel bags dumped out in the middle of the courtyard where the A-Frames are. It was another free for all to find an A-Frame as we had to share with others on the ride. Of course Michelle and I just stood there wondering how we could find one without the N.J. women. Then we hear the French couple screaming "Pat, Michelle" and frantically waving us over to the A-Frame they had claimed. They didn't want the N.J. women either! We bunked happily with them! While we were unpacking, one of the N.J. women walked in the door, yelling "Pat, Michelle could you move to another A-Frame so we don't have to split up"? I look at Michelle and commented "oh oh"! Michelle said to me "Stand back, I'm from **New York City and I will take care of this!**" And she told her in no uncertain terms that we were NOT moving out!

After showers and clean clothes we gathered at the general store for drinks, dinner, a dance and a cowboy poet. What fun! A lot of the locals and ranchers come to the place knowing that this tour always stops there on that particular day. I got asked to dance by a very, very short rotund man who was quite an enthusiastic dancer! Of course one of the N.J. women had to come over and made fun of me for dancing with little man. I looked at her and said "Yeah, Well, well guess what? I got asked to dance and YOU didn't!" These comebacks were becoming a game with Michelle and I! Despite all the fun we are having we are in bed at a reasonable hour, ready for an early departure tomorrow.

Day 6: We are up early, eat breakfast and are trucked back to the horses. We mount up, ride back through town and stop for a group picture in front of the store, and we're off again! I finally feel like I could now ride 50 miles in a day and not be sore at all! This is our next to the last day of the ride. We are now riding in a wide valley which is part of the Oregon Trail. The valley and the Oregon Trail are several miles wide in some places which surprises me. Several buttes are scattered around and Skip finds one where we can ride all the way to the top. One woman waited below as it was a little scary, but the rest of us make it to the top! There was barely enough room for all the horses at the top and some are pretty much hanging over the side! Skip finds an eagle feather and performs a short but private Native American ceremony. We can see Oregon Butte in the distance. Skip explains there are many names and dates scratched in the rock from passing wagon trains back in the 1800's. We ride into South Pass City, which was built next to the easiest pass over the mountains on the Oregon Trail. South Pass City is restored and is a great place to visit. We eat lunch here, mount up and continue on to camp. We are now pretty much camping in a desert environment but it is beautiful with a spectacular view of Oregon Butte. We are in camp early and sit around and talk about the ride and how we really want to continue riding as we are all in good riding shape by now! We are already reminiscing about the trip. All of us comment on how we only saw one fence in 6 days of travel. Unbelievable for those of us from the eastern part of the country. While we are chatting the stock truck shows up and Skip announces there is shower behind the cab and in front of the bed that we free to use! What a nice surprise!

The only problem is we are out in the middle of the plains with no trees or anything to block the view of the truck. Everyone turns their chairs in the opposite direction to solve the problem. When my turn comes to shower I open the door to the shower from the outside of the truck and realize there is absolutely NO ROOM to remove your clothes while in the shower! After a few seconds, I realize I am going to have to strip to my birthday suit outside, in the middle of the Wyoming plains! It was actually rather liberating! I slide into the shower sideways and enjoy my 2 minute shower, slide outside again, grab my clothes and dress! We do have a campfire this evening and one by one we drift off to our tents for our final night on the trail.

Day 7: It's a short ride back to the rendezvous site. We stop at a stone marker commemorating the Oregon Trail and we all take pictures. We arrive at the faithful red stock truck, dismount, unsaddle and say goodbye to the good ranch horses that carried us so far, so fast and so well. Addresses and phone numbers are exchanged with our particular trail buddies, hugs were given and we were dropped off at our various motels. What an adventure it was!

2009 Tentative Show Schedule

The show committee met prior to the OFQHA meeting in December and proposed the following show dates. Please keep in mind that these are **tentative** dates!

May 16 and 17, 2009

June 20 and 21, 2009

July 18 and 19, 2009

August 22 and 23, 2009

Also, the committee recommended that we hold one AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Show, date to be determined based on availability of show manager, AQHA approval, judge availability, etc.

Best Wishes for the Upcoming Holidays!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! May Christmas and the New Year find you, your family and your animals in the best of health and spirits. Let us dwell on our blessings and think about the reason for the season!

Time to Renew Your OFQHA Membership!

Don't forget to renew your membership! You can send your dues to OFQHA, PO Box 2506, Zanesville, OH. 43702-2506 or you may wish to pay them at the banquet. Single memberships are \$20 and family memberships are \$30. Remember, in order to be eligible to earn points for year end awards you must be a member of OFQHA. Point accumulation begins the date you joined.

Partial 2009 OFQHA Meeting Schedule

Sunday, January 4th:	January meeting, Perry Township Fire House, 4:00
Saturday, February 21st:	Year End Awards Banquet and February meeting 6:00
Sunday, March 1st:	March meeting, Perry Township Fire House, 4:00
Sunday, April 5th:	April meeting, Perry Township Fire House, 4:00