

Recreational Riding Year End Summary

The following is a synopsis of this year's Rec Riding Events and some notes on our future plans.

May 1, 2011 Fun Show at the Maine Trail Rider's Clubhouse in Litchfield.

This show was small this year but we love holding it because the youth attendees have a lot of fun at it and it gives all attendees, youth and adult, a chance to brush up on their skills and bring out green horses for some exposure. Our plans for 2012 include holding this show again.

July 9, 2011 Fun Show at the Maine Equine Super Showdeo in Topsham.

The Rec Riding Committee considered the Showdeo a good opportunity for MeQHA to interact with other horse clubs in the state and possibly spread the word that we offer opportunities for all horse enthusiasts. The show was not very well attended with only six riders but we feel our Judge, Wanda Lounder, offered them learning and practice and they all left the show happy. We collected ribbon sponsors for almost all of the classes before the show so it actually turned out to be a small money maker (around \$300). Plus, we recently received a check from the MESS for \$210 which was our share of the overall profits of holding the event.

The MESS is already talking about the 2012 Showdeo and the Rec Riding Committee has made tentative plans to participate. Another club has made plans to hold a fun show/equitation show so MeQHA would have to compete against them for attendees. For that reason, our plan will be to possibly hold a Trail Trial instead.

August 20-21st and October 15-16th, 2011 AQHA Affiliated Trail Rides in Chelsea and Parkman.

Both of these trail rides had little to no attendance. During recent discussions at our Strategic Planning Sessions it was brought to light that all AQHA Trail Rides have experienced a reduction in participation. Due to the economy money is tight and people are choosing to ride on their own for free rather than pay for a club ride. Our plan for 2012 is not to hold any trail rides.

September 18, 2011 Trail Trial at Glowin' Dreams Farm in Livermore.

This year's Trail Trial had the highest attendance of the Trail Trial's to date. The Rec Riding committee donated or received donations for the prizes and supplies for the event. Due to these efforts we took in \$295.

Tentative plans for 2012 are to hold three trail trials at different locations and give out some sort of year end award to the high point rider. We are hoping this will help get the attendance level up. One of the first steps will be the creation of a Trail Trial Committee.

Saddle Up Maine

We continue to collect hours from participants of this program but would love to see it grow in 2012.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED, JUDGED, AND PARTICIPATED IN EVENTS FOR MEQHA REC RIDING IN 2011. HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK IN 2012!!!