

Midwest Fjord Horse Club

www.mwfhc.org

spring 2007

Midwest Fjord Horse Club
Laurie With
19067 Twin Lakes Rd
Little Falls, MN 56345

MWFHC Mission Statement

The mission of the Midwest Fjord Horse Club is to promote high-quality, versatile Fjord horses, encourage their use in any discipline, educate people about the Fjord horse and promote fellowship amongst Fjord enthusiasts.



President's Message

Hello everyone! Now that the snow is FINALLY melting from the Winter meeting weekend, the green grass is starting to appear, a young horseman's heart turns to ... what else but grooming his Fjords. Yes, that annual ritual of attempting to transfer the fur from one, or more, very fuzzy critters on to himself. I have even heard, though not from a very reliable source, that some folks actually make the attempt to get it into a bag or other receptacle. I will have to make a trip sometime to see if this later concept has any merit. (Mostly likely this is only attempted in Minnesota.)

As for things in the Fjord world, remember to get to one of the horse expos in your area if you can. The breed is always very well represented at both the Minnesota and Wisconsin events. Also keep an eye peeled for upcoming announcements in the Newsletter for two trail rides down here in NE Iowa. If any one knows of rides, and drives, in your area, please let the newsletter editor know so that they may be posted. Well that's about enough foolishness for now.

Take care. Chuck Kelly, President

The Road to Oz Goes Through Blue Earth

by Laurie With, editor

I thought perhaps as an introduction, for those who don't know me from the fjordlist, or from meeting at various events, I would share a little of my journey to the Fjord world and how I ended up with one of the best breeds there is out there. As do most little girls, I wanted a horse from the time I was old enough to know what they were. I drew them, I dreamed of them, I think one year in school I was voted the girl most likely to grow up and be one.

But, as happens to all of us, I did grow up, and life got in the way...marriage, a child, living in the 'burbs, work...we all have our reasons why we never reached that dream. That was, until I was 55, and had just remarried, and somehow we bought ourselves a farm. As soon as I saw the barn, I thought "HORSE."

I found myself a good instructor, but made the mistake of buying the first horse I was offered, thinking, hey, they're all the same. I found out the hard way after three years of struggle, that he was not the horse for me. We parted company after we parted company in my yard, at his insistence (he was bucking at the time), leaving me with broken ribs and some extremely colorful bruises on my behind.

I was lucky to find a beginning rider's forum online, and one woman there kept telling wonderful stories about her Fjord. I had never heard of them, but sure liked what I was hearing. One thing led to another, and then led to Linda Lottie's farm and meeting Sven, and then led to Patti Jo's place, and the big Fjord, Oz, officially Oslo Gull.

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Safety Driving Clinic Scheduled

The Dairyland Driving Club is hosting its annual Hands-On Safety Driving Clinic on Saturday, May 5, 2007, at Hickory Knoll Farm, in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. The clinic focuses on learning to drive and related safety topics. Talks include: harness selection and care, selecting a safe vehicle, how to fit the vehicle to your equine, and starting a driving horse. Participants also get experience driving a single or pair. Horses and vehicles provided by members of DDC. This clinic provides an excellent overview for persons just learning to drive and also is a great refresher for more experienced whips.

For more information and registration forms, please contact DONNA THOMAS, (608) 835-8549 or stablewoman@hughes.net



Calendar of Events

Hands-On Safety Driving Clinic
Saturday, May 5, 2007 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Dairyland Driving Club, Inc.
Hickory Knoll Farm, Fitchburg, Wisconsin
Contact: Donna Thomas (608) 835-8549
or stablewoman@hughes.net
Pre-registration Requested
www.dairylanddriving.org

The Road to Oz...continued from page 1

I heard a lot about Blue Earth, and the Fjord show there, and decided I just had to go, even though at the time, I had only owned him for 2 months. Plus, I had never really pulled a trailer. Nothing like doing it all by the seat of your pants.

What I discovered there that summer, is that when you buy a Fjord, he comes with an extended family. Nobody made fun of my inexperience, or my not quite show quality outfits. I did manage to win a prize in the costume class, dressing up as Dorothy, with my friend Oz. Until that time, I had absolutely NO horse show experience. But I did things I never thought I would do, and even though it wasn't pretty (watching the video of my first walk/trot class was a whole lot more than embarrassing) I loved the experience and the people.

Since then there have been quite a few ups and downs for Oz and me. My well meaning, but unknowing hubby overfed him, and our second year of Blue Earth he looked more like a pregnant mare than a gelding. I hardly rode him at all after that show, for reasons I couldn't figure, though I am sure there was fear left over from the unscheduled dismount from the Quarter Horse.

Then a year ago I had a knee replacement. I didn't think I would be able to ride again, so I decided to sell him. This was partly on the advice of my now former trainer, who never did really "get" Fjords, and didn't like him. The healing process has been tough, but at 4 months after the surgery, I rode him again. For a short time, and not well, but I did ride. I moved him to a new barn (supposedly so I would have a place from which to sell him, and rode a few more times. Thanks to a very encouraging new young trainer, I found out I really COULD ride him, and he accepted me and I started feeling confident in my ability and his trust. The For Sale sign was removed. And we both got thinner.

Since last fall I have been riding 3-4 times a week, working on conquering my fear of cantering...learning to post, and even on the correct diagonal...learning neck reining and finding out he has a mean western jog. And finally learning that he's a very special boy and I think we have finally bonded. In the time I have had him at this barn, he's never given me a bad ride, and tries to do what I want, even if I am not very clear in my directions. In a barn full of warmbloods, he is certainly one of the favorites with his endearing looks and charming personality. And then there's that mane...

What a joy this trip has turned out to be, and now, after turning 60, the girl who wanted to grow up to be a horse finally has a beautiful brown one with a stripe down his back, who makes her laugh when they ride, and smile all the way home.

Our NFHR Anniversary Show

by Hayley Boisen

Hello everyone, my name is Hayley Boisen and I am 12 years old. I live in Mazeppa, MN with my parents Tom & Linda Boisen and my older sister Hannah who is 16.

My sister and I show Quarter Horses in western pleasure, and of course our beloved Fjord Horses, Iduna Acres Oyer (3) and Iduna Acres Signe (4). We purchased Signe from "Iduna Acres Fjords" last fall, and she is Oyer's older sister. It was hard having to share one fjord between my mom, sister, and myself.

Hannah and I were lucky and got to show at the NFHR Anniversary Show in Winona, MN. It was exciting and fun! We even got three days off school. Hannah showed Oyer and did a great job. She won Grand Champion Gelding and received a beautiful leather show halter and a king size ribbon. She also got first place in western pleasure walk/trot class and second place in Junior Showmanship. I competed in English walk/trot and won fourth place. There were 9 people in my class and I was the only kid. Also, I got third place in Junior Showmanship. My mom showed Signe in halter class (4 & over mares). The class had 20 mares in it and Signe got 4th place. I was so happy because Signe is my horse!

My sister and I also got to perform in the stallion presentation of "Iduna Acres Fjords W.H Stone". Hannah rode Oyer in western tack and I rode Signe English. Signe was excited and wanted to long trot during the presentation. I did not want her to do that, but every one said it looked nice! It was a little scary, as it was our first ride in that big noisy arena. It was fun being part of the stallion presentation while being watched by so many people.

There were fjord judges visiting from Denmark, Switzerland and Holland. They were friendly and always said, "hello." They also gave away special ribbons they brought with them from their country.

The show was a lot of work, but luckily our trainer and friend Al Hartman was there to help us out. He also trained and showed W.H Stone for Jim and Vickie Hovre. Stone won Reserve Champion Stallion. That is cool, because he is Oyer and Signe's father! I was so proud of Signe, Oyer, and Stone for being so well behaved at the show, I sure love them a lot!

We did not make it to the Winter meeting this year because of the big snow storm we had. It was unfortunate because we were looking forward to going to the meeting.

It was fun writing this article and I hope you all enjoyed reading it.

Hope to see you all at the Blue Earth Show this summer!

Hayley Boisen

This picture is from the national show. Going from left to right, Hannah Boisen, Al Hartman, and myself, Hayley Boisen.



CSI - Blue Earth

We all love the CSI Shows, there's, CSI Las Vegas, CSI Miami, CSI New York - now there's CSI - Blue Earth.

The MWFHC Blue Earth Show could be called "The CSI Show," For Common Sense and Intuition -

For 21 years our show was run with old fashioned CSI, built each year with all of our members in mind. Each year a class was added or eliminated and sometimes brought back again, per your interests and participation. Each year our rules grew but remained simple, (common sense) and each year our class descriptions were written plainly (intuition gained from all of our years of showing horses). And we still remain the largest gathering of Fjords horses in North America.

Running a show and participating in a show is really JUST common sense. Safety should always be the first concern. It is the duty of all of us to keep all aspects of the show safe. The basic description for all the classes should be simple, commonly known and understandable - and we work hard to keep it that way. Let's all work together to keep this show what it was founded on; camaraderie, sportsmanship, care for our horses, and the opportunity for everyone to show this great versatile breed.

The 22nd - 2007 show is ready to go, the MWFHC show committee has worked hard to once again bring another great event to you this July 23, 24 & 25th. All of you will be receiving your show packets in May. The show is the SAME as last year with a few updates, that hopefully will allow the show to run smoother.

Our Judge this year is Mr. Phil Calahan and our photographers are Doyle and Shirley Gates.

A big thank you goes to:

Roger & Diane Whitney - Stall managers
Kit Davis - TD
Bob Gudknecht - TD
Jessica Katzman - Trail division
Andrew Hinrichs - Driving division and Versatility and Youth High Point chairman and TD
Rich Hotovy, Bob Gudknecht, Tyler Schlickman and Mike Sadlon - Draft division
Susie Sadlon - Trophies and office support
Dawn Schlickman - Tech support, Sponsorship, Advisory and office support.
Nancy Hotovy, Chuck Kelly, Patti Jo Walter - Advisory
Linda Syverson Kerr - Sponsorship and Advisory
Therine Gudknecht - Secretary
Mary Ofjord - Treasurer and show office manager

AND especially to all of those who jump up and volunteer at the show as needed:

Thank you to Philis and Gunner Anderson, Mike and Linda Neperney, Laurie With, the Ann Hans Family, Fred & Ranelle Brandt, Amy Evers, The Bob Gudknecht Family, The Roger Whitney Family, The Kit Davis Family, Ramona Redfield Family, Ann Longfellow, Kathy Monroe, Nancy Barmore, Jon Ofjord, Joanie Griffin, Deb and Gary Gunther, Stuart and Karen Hansen, Linda Lottie, Kristen Lee, Martha and Guy Martin, Carol Makosky, Judy Mathe-son, Randi Nielson, Karen Peterson, Ken Raspotnik, Anne & Syl Weyker, Melissa Boyd, Kay Van Netta, Gary Holland, Robin Holland, Tim Hamlett, DeeAnna Weed, Susan Crawford, Bob and Sally Kjorsvig, Jim Kerr, Jan Ethington, Chris Mason, Caren Halberg, Jim and Kay Barnhart, Gary and Shirley Johnson, Marlin - our one and only "Marlin the Announcer". And to that big green guy - who stands over us each year with never one compliant.

Thank you - thank you - thank you.....as you can see this is not a one man show, not just one small group calling the shots - this is one big great group effort - that without all of you, none of this could happen. You are ALL the best.

PLEASE take note of the following IMPORTANT matters:

1) Gate holds maybe called for necessary equipment or animal changes. Gate holds must be requested prior to the class call and are to be no more than 5 minutes

2) Once a class has been called, the time for gates holds has expired and judging has commenced, no exhibitor can enter the class.

3) ALL class entry CHANGES must be filed at the Show Secretary's office before 8:00 AM of that show day.

4) A form will be in your show packet for those participating in the Versatility and Youth High Point awards. You will need to sign up for those classes prior to the show, complete the form and send it in with your entries.

5) And a reminder - if you ride a horse in the walk/trot class, you cannot ride that same horse in a class (other than games) that requires a canter. If you are trying for the Youth High Point you cannot show in a walk trot class AND a canter class.

Please read the show packet when it comes to you, for safety rules and class descriptions. We are also working on having the rules and class descriptions put on the MWFHC Website.

If you have any questions regarding the class descriptions - PLEASE contact me - I promise I will get back to you

within 24 hours - no questions are insignificant - each and everyone of you are important to the show and I am here to help in every way I can, this great old show is very important to me. We hope to keep this show simple, safe and FUN. A place where everyone feels comfortable, happy, relaxed and looking forward to coming back.

With respect to all of you - See you in July!

Pat Holland, MWFHC Show Chairman
(815) 591-3658
pholland@internetni.com



Wind, Freezing Rain, Snow - The Winter Meeting

The 2007 Winter Meeting was held February 23-25, 2007 despite the wind, rain, freezing rain and snow. Out of the 60 people registered to attend, 45 were able to make it.

The weather on Friday held out and everyone was able to make it in. Friday night's social get together was well attended. Everyone met at the Candlelight Inn and the food was really great.

On Saturday morning we began about 9:30 am with the English saddle fitting seminar. Luanne Reames, of The Schleese Saddle Company, started with a lecture of approximately 2 hours, covering the science of saddle fitting, horse and rider anatomy, how to improve the comfort and performance for both horse and rider, what to look for when considering a saddle purchase, and how to prevent long term damage caused by ill-fitting tack. She demonstrated various saddles using Marcy, Phil Odden's mare. People were encouraged to come out into the arena to actually look and feel how the saddle feels and sits on the horse. Then Sophie Fiedler and Phil Odden each rode Marcy and tried out several different saddles. Luanne then fit a couple of different saddles on WW Reidar, Kathy Johnson's stallion for Kathy and Pat Holland.

The Western Saddle Fitting person was unable to make it due to the weather, so Luanne graciously filled in for her. Luanne and several people went out into the alley way where she covered some of the points of how a Western saddle should fit. Kay & Jim Barnhart brought their horses to participate in this seminar and she was able to help them with their one horse that had saddle fitting issues.

Rich Hotvov and Bob Gudknecht provided a very informative harness lecture and evaluation. They covered the proper fit of both breast collar and draft harness using horses provided by Jeff & Lisa Lovett and Phil Odden.

Saturday night we had our "Dinner in the Dirt", where the food was excellent. Syl, Anne Wecker and family did a great job on the auction. They raised over \$2700 dollars. The club meeting

went off with out a hitch and then it was on to the band and dancing. There were about 20 people who stayed to the end and danced. Our very own Bob and Therine Gudknecht can really "cut a rug".

Sunday, Ben Eyster, a local trainer who specializes in starting colts, working with problem horses and helping people become more effective with their horses gave a talk and demo. Ben showed us how to earn respect from our horses on the ground first, then transfer that knowledge to the saddle through preparation, feel and timing. Ben worked with horses provided by Jeff & Lisa Lovett and Tyler and Dawn Schlickman. We hope to bring him back for next year.

The Winter Meeting Committee would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who came! Your participation really shows the dedication that everyone has to this club and to our wonderful horses.



Rich Hotvov, Tyler Schlickman, Bob Gudknecht and Mike Sadlon using Edvard hitched to a cart. Edvard is owned by Jeff & Lisa Lovett. Picture provided by Cindy Alexander.

Classified Ads

This space is available for MWFHC members to place free Fjord-related ads, up to 70 words.

Training

Training: Pat Holland Training - proven trainer for Evaluations, riding, driving and draft. On home site offering excellent facilities and over 30 years of experience. www.pathollandtraining.info, pholland@internetni.com (815) 591-3658 Standing "Wood's Sven" Silver Medallion of Quality. By "Coleman's Jorge" (out of a Rudaren daughter) Dam is by "Finnmark" (Gromar). Draft in type, dark chocolate brown dun, quiet disposition Live cover only.

Training: Specializing in starting the young Fjord. Dressage/hunt/western/trail/jumping. Tailor made training to suit the owner. Can also show your Fjord for you in evaluation system or horse shows. Also taking a few in on consignment. Have a nice Fjord that you need to sell? Contact me, let's see if I can help you. Looking for a nice Fjord to buy, please check out my website. Patti Jo Walter, Francis Creek Fjords, Two Rivers, WI (920)755-4387 dwalter@lakeside.net / www.franciscreekfjords.com

Stallions/Breedings

Stallion Service: Smedsmo Graen, Gray Fjord stallion imported from Norway. If you want inherited first class disposition, solid conformation, free athletic movement, and up-headed appearance in your Fjord babies consider booking Smedsmo Graen. Live cover or AI breeding contracts available in 2007. We do our best to cooperate with you, the mare owner, to get her in foal. We can also transport your mare. Call Phillip Odden, (715)468-2780 email nww@norskwoodworks.com

Stallion Service: Fair Acres Ole. 14.3hh, 9 inch cannon bone, Blue Ribbon in Conformation, Rec'd his GOLD Medallion in the evaluation system, he is S2 G2. BEST part is his disposition -A+! Throws great shoulders, hips and substance on babies, plus a wonderful thinking brain. See www.franciscreekfjords.com for complete details on Ole and breeding/booking fees. \$1000 stud fee. Patti Jo Walter, dwalter@lakefield.net or (920)755-4387

Breeding Services Standing at Green Valley Farm are 2 of the top 3 NFHR Evaluated Stallions. Kastanjegardens Fernando received an 86 with a 9.5 for his trot and blue ribbons for his NFHR Intro English riding & driving (S2) and Adv English tests (G4). Thorvald has an 85.75 with a 9.25 for type and blue ribbons for Intro English & western riding and draft tests (S2). GVF Sjolokolade, a Fernando son, received very high scores in the NFHR Young stock Evaluation and was placed 1st by all 3 judges in the 2 & 3 year old Stallion Halter Class and then went on to become the NFHR 25th Anniversary Show Grand Champion Stallion. Live Cover or artificial insemination (fresh cooled or frozen semen) is available for these outstanding stallions.

For more information contact us at sophie@greenvalleyfarm.com and check out our updated website www.greenvalleyfarm.com

Stallion Service: "WW Reidar", son of "Gjest" out of "Sebastian" daughter "Ranka". Owned by Kathy & Randy Johnson, Montrose, MN (763) 972-8119 standing live cover or shipped cooled at Fieldstone Farm & Stable, Hanover, IL Pat Holland (815) 591-3658. 14-1 hds, brown dun elegance, refinement and outstanding movement. Proven in harness with Championships. The best of Gjest in the Midwest.

Stallion Service: WH Stone (Malcom Locke) Reserve Champion Halter Stallion at the NFHR 25th Anniversary Show. Blue ribbon NFHR Evaluation. NFHR Pedigree. Stone's gentleness, willing ways & correct conformation are passed on to his offspring. Iduna Acres Oyer, a son, received 3 Grand Champion Halter awards in 2006 at age 3, also a Blue NFHR Eval. Sons & daughter are receiving blues & reds in halter & performance classes. Live foal guarantee. Contact: James Hovre, Ettrick, Wisconsin, (608)-525-5282, idunaacres@aol.com

Services

Farrier Services: Vista Ridge Farrier, Joe Yanish

- Graduate of Minnesota School of Horseshoeing
- Member of American Farrier's Association
- Member of Minnesota Farrier's Association

"Balance specialist for peak performance!"
farrier@vistaridgefarms.com or 320-693-2007

Horses for Sale

FOR SALE: Green Valley Farm has a few exceptional Fjords for sale of various ages and disciplines. Our Fjords are professionally trained and come from outstanding bloodlines which have been NFHR Evaluated. Sign up for our quarterly e-mail by contacting us at sophie@greenvalleyfarm.com and check out our updated website www.greenvalleyfarm.com

Merchandise

All Things Fjord & More Specializing in Fjord Horse design gifts and clothing. www.allthingsfjord.com. Linda Lotie (715)689-2295, Kristin Lee (952)472-5617

Norwegian Fjord Horse 2007 Calendar Full color photos for each month. Huge 11 x 13.5", professionally printed. Order online: www.painteasy.com/calendar.html Order by mail: Totem Farm, 319 Waites Corner Rd, West Kingston RI 02892. Cost: \$20 mailed to the US; \$24 shipped to Canada. Produced by Totem Farm Art Studio.

Ingrid's Customized Artwork, Gifts & Embroidered Apparel for the Fjord, Friesian or Icelandic Horse Lover. Please visit my webpage: www.fullmoonfarm.us and follow the links, or call (440)236-9630. Thank you and happy trails!

MWFHC Officers

President: Chuck Kelly, (563)864-3201
coyote@acrec.com

Vice President: Susan Sadlon, (260)925-6043
ssadlon@lightningnet.net

Secretary: Therine Gudknecht, (507)824-2166
tgudknecht@frontiernet.net

Treasurer: Mary Ofjord, (218)387-1879
jofjord@boreal.org

Past President: Karin Peterson, (920)867-4718
pineridge@pitnet.net

New Members

Jeff & Lisa Lovett
Oregon, IL 61061

Lori Burns & Jerry Blizzard
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Catherine Kirsling
Waupaca, WI 54981

Calendar of Events

April 20-22, 2007 Midwest Horse Fair
Madison, Wis.
www.midwesthorsefair.com

April 27-29, 2007 Minnesota Horse Expo
St. Paul, Minn.
www.mnhorseexpo.org

May 5 Safety Driving Clinic
Hickory Knoll Farm
Fitchburg, Wisconsin
Donna Thomas
(608) 835-8549
stablewoman@hughes.net

July 23-25, 2007 Blue Earth Show
Blue Earth, Minn.
Contact: Pat Holland
(815)591-3658
pholland@internetni.com

August 11-12, 2007 NFHR Evaluation
LaCrosse, Wis.
Contact: Sophie Fiedler
(815)777-6008
sophie@greenvalleyfarm.com

MWFHC Membership

Name _____
Farm Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____

Dues: \$15 per year, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP (ONE VOTE)
\$25 per year, FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (TWO VOTES)
\$5 per year additional if desire to be listed as BREEDERS

____ New Member
____ Renewal (Due July 1)

Make checks payable to MWFHC Send to: MWFHC
c/o Mary Ofjord
428 Cty Rd. 14
Grand Marais, MN 55604