

THE PENNSYLVANIA RANGERS

Ranger Review

December 2011

www.parangers.com

If you have any changes to your address, phone number, or email address please notify Dan Sheetz at dvsheetz@gmail.com or call 717-877-2173 so that you can continue to receive the newsletters and other correspondence.



Rangers, this is your newsletter. If you have any ideas for what you would like to see included, please let me know.

There is just as much horse sense as ever, but the horse's have most of it.

He knows when you're happy.

He knows when you're comfortable.

He knows when you are confident.

And he *always* knows when you have carrots.

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

Dec 13th @7:00PM

Next Meeting

Dec. 13th 7:30PM

Ranger Banquet

March 10th

Hanover Elks Lodge



I am enclosing a membership application with this newsletter.

Lifetime members, please disregard

Thank You to Susan Fogarty for the Flyer on Trail Etiquette in this months newsletter.



The Pennsylvania Rangers

Upcoming Events-2012

Date	Event	Place & Time	Contact Person	Phone Number
January 10th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
February 14th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
Feb 18th	Trail Ride	Freeland Rail Trail	Jane Sample	717-229-2579
March 10th	PA Ranger Banquet	Hanover Elks Lodge	Sally Cookson	717-637-3949
March 25th	Trail Ride	Morgan Run	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
April 10th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
April 15th	Spring Judged Trail Ride	Codorus Park	Susan Fogarty	717-225-1730
May 6th	Benefit Ride	Codorus Park	Brenda Grubb	717-637-0589
May 8th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
May 17-20th	Camp & Ride	Cook Forest	Joyce Frank	717-259-7823
May 27th	Trail Ride	Spring Valley	Joyce Frank	717-259-7823
June 2nd	Trail Ride	Ivy Smink's Place 2:00	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
June 10th	Fun Show	York Springs Equestrian	Dan Rodgers	717-229-2841
June 12th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
June 17-23rd	Camp & Ride	Cook Forest	Joyce Frank	717-259-7823
June 26th	Evening Trail Ride	Codorus Park	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
July 10th	General Meeting	Trail Parking Lot 7:30		
July 15th	Trail Ride	Union Mills	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
July 27-29th	Camp & Ride	Teaberry-Micheaux	Diane Winand	717-359-0377
August 12th	Trail Ride	Little Bennett	Joyce Frank	717-259-7823
August 14th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
August 16th	Parade Ride	Good Old Days Parade	Brenda Grubb	717-637-0589
August 26th	Poker Ride	Codorus Park	Diane Winand	717-359-0377
Sept 11th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
Sept 15th	Trail Ride	Montgomery AG Farm	Amy Triantafylion	717-683-3074
Sept 23rd	Trail Ride	Liberty 9:30	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
Oct,5-7th	Trail Ride	LMH Invitational	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
October 7th	Trail Ride	Fair Hill	Susan Fogarty	717-225-1730
October 9th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
Nov 3rd	Trail Ride	Union Mills 11:00	Ivy Smink	410-875-5691
Nov 13th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		
Nov 18th	Trail Ride	Codorus Park 11:00	Dan Sheetz	717-877-2173
Dec 11th	General Meeting	Park Office 7:30		

Trail Riding Etiquette

The trails are there for everyone and showing each other respect goes far in avoiding problems. Now, let's focus more specifically on riding. Here are some important points:

1. When riding in a group, the leader should always ask fellow riders if they're ready to change gaits. If the leader doesn't and jumps into a canter or gallop, the other horses will do the same within a fraction of a second. Unprepared riders will likely end up on the ground with possible injuries. Therefore, if you're the leader, make sure everyone with you is ready for the change BEFORE you initiate it.
2. If you're in the middle or behind, don't ride too close to the horse in front of you. It could spook him and elicit a quick movement that gets someone dumped or otherwise hurt. You and your horse will also need enough room to react and stop if the horse in front does so quickly for whatever reason.
3. The leader should announce trail hazards so following riders are made aware. The leader doesn't have other riders in front and is therefore better able to see hazards as the group approaches. Important hazards to announce are low branches over the trail, holes in the ground in or beside the trail, dogs or other animals approaching, hikers or bicyclists approaching, a bees nest with bees hovering or entering and leaving the nest, rocks, logs, roots, or other tripping hazards across the trail — you get the idea.
4. Ride to the level of the least experienced rider. If that rider can't canter, don't go above a trot. If there are young children in the group, pay special attention to their safety and not riding beyond their abilities.
5. When at a watering area, take turns letting the horses drink and don't put too many horses together. If you do, they may feel crowded and nip at one another. Let each horse drink his fill before moving away from the water. When you do move, stay close by so the remaining horses can calmly drink. If you start to move on, the thirsty horses will forego their drink rather than be left by the herd — that's unfair to them.
6. If you're riding group is going downhill and meets a group coming up, let those coming up keep moving while you stop your group. It's harder for the up-going group to get restarted than for the one coming down.
7. If your riding group meets a large riding group, let the larger group go first. Larger groups are harder to control and they don't need a small group or a single rider to help mess things up further.
8. When passing other riding groups, horses are usually curious and want to smell one another — don't let them. Letting your horse to "get to know" another horse out on the trail is looking for trouble. For horses, part of "getting to know" each other includes establishing a pecking order. This is best done in a paddock when the horses are by themselves, not in a large group with mounted riders who can get bitten, kicked, or otherwise hurt.
9. If your horse is a kicker, tie a red ribbon on his tail. If he's a stallion, tie a yellow ribbon on his tail. If she's a mare in season, stay especially away from horses with

a yellow ribbon. (While this is common sense, I'm always astounded at riders who completely miss the point.)

10. If a rider must dismount on the trail for any reason, all riders must also stop so the rider's horse doesn't keep going with the group. Wait until the dismounted rider completes whatever task required the dismount (pick up a dropped item, examine a leg or hoof being favored, etc.) before continuing the ride.
11. Don't litter the trail with anything, including food.
12. You'll occasionally come across other trail users that you'd probably rather not see on the trails, such as motor bikers or hunters. Often, these other users understand the unpredictability of horses and will pull over, turn off their engines, and otherwise exhibit considerate and courteous behavior. Be sure to thank them and help maintain good relations. While some riders may not like the noise of motorbikes or the idea of hunting, some of those users don't like to give horses the right-of-way or deal with piles of horse poop on the trails. Our forests and parks are for everyone's use and we must all work together.

Finally, you'll sometimes come across other riders, either in your group or in another group, that don't know good trail etiquette. Expect that could happen and be prepared for the unexpected so as to remain safe. If it appears they would appreciate trail etiquette advice and you can say it in a respectful and constructive manner, you can consider saying something. If you have any doubts, let it go and enjoy the ride — they can learn from someone else.

Happy Trails!

Pennsylvania Rangers, Inc.
Member Application Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____ Birth Date: _____

Place of Employment

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

In case of accident notify

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Information Questionnaire

Do you have a horse? _____ How many? _____ Horse Trailer? _____

Do you have access to a horse? _____ Horse Trailer? _____

Do you have skills in any of the following: Roping? _____ Radio Equipment? _____

Map & Compass Reading? _____ Precision Riding? _____ Competition Riding? _____

Other Skills? _____

Activities you would like to see developed in the PA Rangers group

If accepted into the PA Rangers, Inc., I agree to abide by the rules which pertain to members, uniforms, and equipment, and sign this waiver of responsibility, realizing that the PENNSYLVANIA RANGERS, INC. will not be responsible for any accidents, injuries, or loss of equipment which may occur during my association with the PENNSYLVANIA RANGERS, INC.

Annual dues are \$25.00. Lifetime membership is available after the first year for a one time fee of \$50.00 and attendance to at least six PA Ranger functions. Make checks payable to PA Rangers, Inc. and send along with application to: **Diane Winand**

144A Mehring Rd
Littlestown, PA 17340

Signed: _____ Date: _____