



CAROLINA Marsh Tacky Association

www.marsh tacky.org

Volume 2, Issue 5

December 2010

Secretary Report – Susan Day

At the August 18, 2010 board meeting, the CMTA Board voted to close the stud book to foundation horses. The registry will remain open to offspring of registered horses and to undiscovered Marsh Tackies who meet the required conditions. The following conditions must be met to add a previously unknown Marsh Tacky to the registry:

1. Lineage of the prospective horse must be known.
2. Conclusive DNA test must match a current foundation horse.
3. The prospective horse must be presented to the CMTA Inspection Committee and pass a visual inspection.

Upcoming Events:

(Please visit www.marsh tacky.org for times and addresses)

February 5, 2011 - the SCHC Expo

February 27, 2011 - Hilton Head Beach Races

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ANNOUNCING!

THE THIRD ANNUAL MARSH TACKY BEACH RACES SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011



Registrations are being accepted for the Third Annual Marsh Tacky Beach Race! Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 27, 2011 and plan to head out to Hilton Head Island's Coligny Beach. The Marsh Tacky race will begin at 11:00 AM and is open to registered Marsh Tackies only. An open race for unregistered horses, sponsored by the Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association, will take place prior to the Marsh Tacky race.

Due to the tidal schedule, each race is limited to 20 horses. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis, so register early to reserve your place. Registration deadline is January 1, 2011. The registration form can be printed from the CMTA Website's News and Events page.

Check the Website for event updates. For more information, contact Troy Smoak CTSmook@scstp.org, 843-562-7774 or Marion Gohagan gohagansguideservice@yahoo.com, 803-625-4764.



Photos by Jackie McFadden

MARSH TACKY REGISTRY UPDATE

Studbook Update

Greetings from ALBC! We are proud to report that we currently have 257 live and registered Marsh Tackies in the studbook. There are 144 mares, 62 stallions, and 51 geldings reported as of November 2010. We believe the number of stallions is actually less because some may have been gelded since they were registered. For anyone who has gelded their animals, we request that you send us a note so that we can take their males off of the breeding stallion list. This is critically important information that will help us monitor the breeding status of the population as a whole. (You can e-mail me directly or mail the info to my contact info below the program.)

Because we have not as yet been able to secure funding to support buying and maintaining the studbook on-line, it's still on hold. We are still in process to identify financial support for this project. The following is a breakdown of the costs:

Registration Software Costs

\$500 for initial purchase of software and 1 year's license to use it on the web.

\$300 to pay the tech to get it up and running on our site, then transfer data to program.

\$250 per year (after the first year) to maintain the license to use the (professional version) program on the web.

With this program people can look at and search the studbook on-line but cannot change data or access the owner's personal information. Visitors to the site can also calculate inbreeding coefficients or do trial matings with the program.

Another important point with the studbook online is that anyone can research the database to see if a horse for sale is registered or not. On this point I wanted to spread the word on "buyer beware" about people selling unregistered Tackies. Over the past couple of years, there have been a good number of individuals claiming to have pure Marsh Tackies for sale now that the breed is enjoying popularity in the Carolinas. The only way anyone can be sure a horse is a real Marsh Tacky is through registration and studbook records in the official Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse Registry. This registry was constructed from over 5 years field research and from extensive DNA testing to ensure that the horses in this registry are indeed Marsh Tackies. There is no other official registry for the breed so again, "buyer beware" without proper paperwork and documentation!

Anyone interested in sponsoring the on-line studbook project please contact ALBC for more details.

*Jeannette Beranger
ALBC Research & Technical Programs Manager
Registrar, Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse Registry*

Molly and the DAR Visiting the Daughters of the American Revolution

by Janson Cox



Catawba Chapter, DAR

Over the ten plus years that Molly has been controlling my life, we have been at many different locations and groups. Many miles have been spent in a two-horse trailer behind a pickup truck. I think she would have preferred a 1956 Cadillac to pull her trailer. During the past year, the orange trailer has been visiting communities for the DAR's. The DAR ladies have been a backbone organization in the United States for more centuries than any other. They have great projects, have saved much of our national treasures, and above all deserve the respect of every American.

Molly's visits started as part of the campaign to gain support for the State Heritage Horse bill. One of the first visits was to demonstrate to a legislator that the Marsh Tacky was not an ugly horse—as he claimed. He did not even show for the presentation in his home town. However, the Catawba Chapter of the DAR was most gracious. Even a couple of the ladies took the opportunity to sit the saddle on Molly.



Patsy Stone riding Molly
General Marion's Brigade, Moncks Corner, DAR

The most common question poised to us, "Are all Marsh Tackies like Molly?" I cannot truthfully state that Molly is typical. Molly is a one person horse-- that person being me.

(Continued page 3)

(MOLLY CONTINUED)

With that understanding, Molly is a patient and quiet horse—easy to be around. Never forget that she is a horse. At many places we go she is tied to a picket line for hours. During those hours, humans and especially the little ones are around and under her. She would never do a thing to harm a child. When a child is in her saddle, the child is safe as long as they hold on and do not fall off. The same applies to the DAR ladies. It is a totally different story when a professed horse person climbs into the saddle—that is another story for another time.

The locations for these various DAR gatherings are interesting to say the least. We have travelled into downtown areas with narrow streets and tight corners. Ever parallel parked a two-horse trailer? I always try to find a parking lot with trees. The trees never shade the trailer. School yards are generally good locations—however; I am always carrying firearms and swords. The security people have never given us more than a passing glance. Then after off-loading Molly and arranging the necessary tack for the program, trying to locate the group is an adventure. We have stood outside of public buildings for what seems to be hours until someone finds us. Then they invite me in to speak to the group, but will not allow Molly inside. A small tree and just someone to watch my horse is all I ask for. One facility provided three inmates—all scared to death of a horse. After speaking, the ladies all come out to huddle around Molly. The President always has something to present to Molly. This presentation always amazes me. When the President starts to speak, Molly will turn her head to look at her and the ears come up. Molly will remain attentive to the speaker. Of course, a carrot, apple, or a pear is always appreciated.



Sumter Chapter, DAR

Molly has been honored to become a member of the DAR. She carries the DAR pin on both sides of her headstall. One pin was lost in Sumter a couple weeks ago. Molly has her own trophy wall in her stall.

If I have an extra person to assist, Molly's little one, Mariah, travels along. Mariah is developing the same attitude as her mother.

As I state—"Have Marsh Tacky and trailer--will travel."

(Editor's Note: Molly is a member of two SC DAR chapters – the Catawba Chapter and the Sumter Chapter.)

GATOR'S NEW HOME

BY JIM BROWN

Since purchasing Gator from Marion Gohagan at the end of August, I have been impressed each time I have ridden him. Initially, I was leery of how he might act around mares on the trails with him being a stallion, but Gator remained a gentleman each time he was placed behind or between different mares and when he met other horses while trail riding. Gator has done exceptionally well as a 3 1/2 year old and my wife and I are so pleased with him as a trail horse that we have finally gotten back into going away on trail rides and camping.



Gator Reading Trail Signs photo by Kim Brown

In the past 6 weeks, Gator has been ridden on the Buncombe horse trails in Whitmire SC, Woods Ferry trails in Chester Co. SC, Kings Mountain trails in Kings Mountain NC, Double J Ranch trails in Whitmire SC, Croft State Park trails in Spartanburg, Brattonsville trails in McConnells, and of course around the trails at home.

During the Brattonsville ride, Gator received many comments on his "good looks" and again people were impressed with him being a stallion. Gator also encountered the first (of several) small bridge crossings which brought a laugh from my wife and me and further convinced me of his (Marsh Tacky) intelligence and willingness. When Gator approached the bridge, which included steps, he stopped to inspect it, and then proceeded to "test" the bridge by first placing one foot on it and "patting" it. Deciding that it passed that test, Gator then put both front feet on it, leaned his weight onto it and stepped down. Seeing that the bridge was "safe," he slowly walked onto it, crossed, and went down the steps on other side. After this one, the rest of the bridges were deemed ok and Gator just walked right across them without hesitation.



(Continued page 4)

(GATOR CONTINUED)



In my opinion, Gator is everything I had read that a Marsh Tacky should be. He has "bulldozed" through thick brush, fearlessly lead the way on new trails, and been very gentle around kids that came to pet him. I want to again thank all of the friendly folks within the Marsh Tacky Association that have welcomed me as a new owner and I look forward to becoming more involved with South Carolina's Heritage Horse.

Darlington County Summer 2010:

Never doubt the Pee Dee Cowboy

by David Grant



The summer of 2010 will go down in my memory as one of hottest and at times driest and surely one of one of the most unforgettable ones. Our party of consisted of the Pee Dee Cowboy on Sage, Marion broach on Toogoodoo, Hunter Rogers on Ekosan, and newcomer Ashley Jones, farrier extraordinaire, on Simpson. The hogs had been coming to a corn field on a local plantation and wreaking havoc in the middle of the night and then without even waiting for the bill, or even leaving a tip, disappearing like four legged ghost into the worst terrain the big Pee Dee river bottom has to offer.

We turned our Pee Dee curs out around 9:30 a.m. and the temperature was already 85 degrees. Folks, I feel I need to interject this tidbit of information; you would ask why do you hunt in the summer and why don't you go earlier in the morning? Well, it is because of the dirtiest four letter I know that ol' Webster has in his dictionary that ends in "k" - WORK! The Pee Dee Cowboy does have a real job! The last morsel of information that I will add is that by 9:30 a.m. all of the pork is taking a siesta in their private jungle somewhere. The key is "where"??!!

We rode around the field to try to get some indication where they were headed when they left the cornfield. I decided that they were crossing an old abandoned railroad bed and going into a 3 year old pine plantation and "yep," you guessed it!!!

(Darlington Continued)

Covered with my nightmare of things that I have always wondered why??? Did God invent briars!! I started noticing a slight path headed toward where a ditch had been dug through the cut-down to draw out the water "which" I might add had been very slim this summer. We were riding single file when I noticed where a good size hog had stopped to wallow in what little bit of water was left in the ditch we were riding in. On a hunch, I good naturedly quipped, "Hey guys! There's a 'ol boar laying in that brier bed!" So on a whim, I slipped off Sage and started easing down the ditch. "Easing" is a oxymoron, more like ducking and shucking God's real forbidden fruit, "BRIERS!!!"

I had gone no more than 30 yards when from "behind" where I had already eased was a muffled "woof" woof." I knew real quick one of my Pee Dee curs had scented that 'ol boar hog. And then "bam" they hit him and without thinking a lot about it, I jumped right in the middle of the little boar hog "attitude addressing party" that was going in full scale in a spot about the size of your average back seat. When I poked my head into the party, all I could see was the head of "a nice'un" oops!!! I circled around that situation. "Let me interject another "tidbit" of boar hog info!! Never ever go at a big hog head on!! If he slings the dogs off guess what is the first things he sees?? That's right, and he is in a particularly bad mood by then!! I slipped around him and grabbed his huge back legs and then let out a load but proud, "I got 'em!" My doubting Thomas partners were snoozing out with the horses but it didn't take long for them to get in to help me dispatch a 350 pound plus big Pee Dee river bottom boar hog!!



After a few pictures and turning back toward the truck, I overheard Ashley tell Marion that was the last time he would ignore the Pee Dee Cowboy quietly slipping off his Marsh Tacky and getting his machete out and disappearing. Last but not least, I will mention, I rode Sage into a very tight spot and hooked him up to that boar hog and in true Tacky form through the brambles and mud, he brought him out where we could get some pictures.

Another good hunt, good friends, good Tacky horses, and Pee Dee cur dogs, doing what they were bred to do, hunt wild boar in the river bottoms of our great state!!by which they will forever be etched in history as the state horse of South Carolina!

ADIEU, PDC, 10-09-10

Houston's Trail Competition

by Wendy Soltis

I must have the only Marsh Tacky in the Carolinas who hates water. And this point was brought home strongly when Houston, my 6 year old Grulla gelding, and I competed in the recent Low Country Saddle Club Extreme Trail Competition on September 18th, at Mullet Hall on Johns Island. The first obstacle/challenge was a water trap – a descent into a muddy hole that was filled about two feet deep with water pumped into the pit from a tank truck. No alligators, no turtles, not even a polliwog. Houston refused to get closer than 3 yards. This made it a bit difficult to think that we had a chance of placing in the competition. But no matter, Houston and I went on to complete, attempt, or at least look at the remaining 15 obstacles/challenges.

The course was set up in a vague circle and went something like this: first the impassable (for Houston, anyway) water trap, then the drag-the-branch-through-the –weave-poles, then back-up through panels set in a U-shape. After that came the flag carry and the pinwheel, (don't ask!) Then, in quick succession, the Texas 2-step, the mailbox with a rain slicker in it, the gate that needed to be opened without dropping the rope handle, the walk through hanging Styrofoam swim noodles and dangling tarp strips. Mount Mullet-Mullet was next, two huge dirt piles with narrow paths up and down that reminded me of what I've been told the paths up and down the Grand Canyon look like.

Mount Mullet-Mullet was followed by the deadfall made of logs and branches, which any self-respecting Marsh Tacky would have taken one look at and avoided (which Houston did) as a danger to the fragile bones in his leg; the spouting fountains powered by a pump that sounded like a dying mule; a teeter totter made of a wooden platform set atop a fulcrum. The final obstacle/challenge was a stock trailer that the horses needed to load themselves into. Most horses were grateful for the opportunity to stop and rest. Needless to say, Houston was not.

We did successfully complete five of the obstacles/challenges. He refused a couple that he already knew how to do, and had no idea what to do with several that he'd never been introduced to before. But he was a champ when it came to backing up through those U-shaped panels – never even bumped into one. He also proudly carried the flag, let me make believe it was raining and the slicker in the mailbox was my only protection, and remembered that the noodles are his favorite thing to play with at home. We also did the gate successfully, for the first time ever! Houston is coping with an inexperienced trainer/rider/owner and I am dealing with a horse who is more concerned with saving both our skins than playing on some dumb-looking human-created playground. I'll take it. On October 2nd, we will complete in an ACTHA-sponsored competitive trail ride. Houston plans on placing in this one. I'll let you know if I can keep up with him.

American Competitive Trail Horse Association

By Susan Day

Red Rocket and Our First ACTHA Ride

First let me start by saying I am not a writer. With that being said, my first ATCHA experience was a total blast. I went with my friend Kathryn Heinsohn and her quarter horse Carolina. We arrived at Mullet Hall with great expectations. The trail ride through the woods was very nice and even though there were many other competitors you felt like the only ones there. The 6 obstacles were fun (a ravine, mailbox obstacle, a log jump, etc.) and some were challenging.

At the end of the day, my friend got first place in the pleasure division, and Red Rocket and I got 9th. One of the best parts of the day was the Belgian horse and children doing vaulting on the horse. I actually got to try it (funny picture attached) and it was exhilarating. Anyone that loves to trail ride, the ACTHA rides are great family fun, and if an obstacle is too scary, or you just don't want to do it, you can pass. I attracted allot of attention once people knew I had a Marsh Tacky. People just wanted to touch the SC State Heritage Horse. One Great Feeling!



Photo by Edwige Lee

Thought of the Month: If ya git ta thinkin' yer a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

RECENT EVENTS

Marsh Tacky Introduced at Aiken's Fall Steeplechase

by Jodie Reeves and Jackie McFadden



Riding Proud Photo by Jodie Reeves

Marsh Tackies were introduced to the equestrian community on Saturday October 30th, 2010 during the Carriage Parade at the 30th Annual Fall Steeplechase in Aiken, SC. Several riders showed our wonderful Marsh Tackies. We had Wendy Soltis with Houston, Jennifer Ravenel with Tacky Blue, Susan Day and Dylan Heinsohn with Red Rocket, Katherine Heinsohn with Southern Belle, Marion Broach with Toogoodoo, Wylie Bell with Simpson, Brandon Bell with Southern Breeze, and Leighton Bell with Sweet Home Alabama. The crowd fell in love with the Marsh Tackies.

Jackie McFadden, John Speisseger and John Speisseger, Jr. helped with the South Carolina Horseman's Council's booth, sold t-shirts, handed out information, and directed those who wanted to get a better look at our horses. In keeping with the long standing tradition of Steeplechase, we set up a hospitality area for our riders and volunteers. This quickly turned into the Marsh Tacky Media Center. The area was visited by no less than five different media outlets all wanting to get the inside story on the State Heritage Horse. All of our members were very accommodating to those wanting information. CMTA members fielded questions ranging from the numbers of the horses and breeding programs to how we were able to work the state heritage horse bill through the legislature. At one point, there were three different newspapers doing three different interviews in our hospitality area.



Photos by George Buggs

After the Carriage Parade, Jodie Reeves cooked for us in our hospitality area. This time, we were treated to fried turkey and hibachi grilled vegetables. Lorraine Dix helped to coordinate side dishes and others brought salads and dips and desserts. As we ate, socialized, and reflected on the day's events, we began to make

(Aiken Continued)

new friends from nearby tailgate parties. It seemed everyone wanted to know about our horses. There were stories told to us by folks who remembered Marsh Tackies on the islands before there was development; stories of the "old days" when horses would race on the beach at Hilton Head, when you could go out to Dufuskee Island and see Marsh Tackies roaming the fields and marsh, pulling a wagon, or tied in someone's yard. Wylie and Leighton Bell brought two of David Grant's horses, Southern Breeze and "Bama" to the hospitality area and people flocked to see the horses in person. And, as true to form, our horses were completely composed and never hesitated to indulge those many hands wanting to touch a real, live Marsh Tacky.



Wylie Bell



Susan and Dylan Photos by Jodie Reeves

We were thanked over and over again for coming to Steeplechase and were praised for our efforts in saving this piece of South Carolina's living history. Compliments have also been coming in through our website. One participant wrote, "Congrats! I really enjoyed seeing our state horse on display in all their vigor and appeal. They have a way about them that reminds me of the spirit that makes America great --fortitude, endurance, and alertness."

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association would like to thank the Aiken Steeplechase Association for their generous invitation and warm welcome. We were honored to be included in the event and appreciate the support that you have given us.



Dreaming Big!

Photo by Wylie Bell



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M. J. Goodwin practices equine law in all areas of South Carolina.

Let a Marsh Tacky owner and enthusiast, who also happens to be an attorney, prepare your next sales contract, breeding agreement, boarding contract or any other equine related legal document. Travel is not generally necessary as most documents can be drafted and transmitted via either email or regular mail.

- ❖ Don't buy or sell a horse without a good, solid contract in place!
- ❖ Don't board anyone else's horses without a good, solid contract in place!
- ❖ Protect yourself, your farm and your animals.
- ❖ Peace of mind is more affordable than you might think.

Documents are customized for the client's specific situation and become the client's property, including a Word document for the client's personal or business use.

CMT Association members get a 25% discount off the usual hourly rate.



Information and Requests

Website: Attending an event with your Marsh Tacky? Send event info to Jackie McFadden. Afterwards send your photos!

Newsletter items:

We need descriptions of events, activities, and stories of Marsh Tackies for upcoming newsletters and a historical manuscript. Send to: Jackie McFadden, 1434 Alexander Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732, marsh tacky@gmail.com. Photos and materials sent in become property of CMTA.

Marsh Tacky Registry:

Owners, remember to send Jeannette Beranger, P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312, updates on new births, sales, or deaths of your horses.

Announcements

Congratulations to Wendy Soltis and Marsh Tacky Houston! They were among 950 trail riders in 24 states that saddled up on June 13, 2010 and broke the **Guinness World Record for the Largest Trail Riding Competition!** Through the event, the American Competitive Trail Horse Association event raised over \$69,000 for horse rescue programs across the nation!

Contact Information

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Visit our website: www.marsh tacky.org

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association is a non-profit organization established in 2007 to preserve and promote the Marsh Tacky horse of South Carolina.

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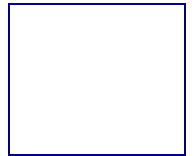
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