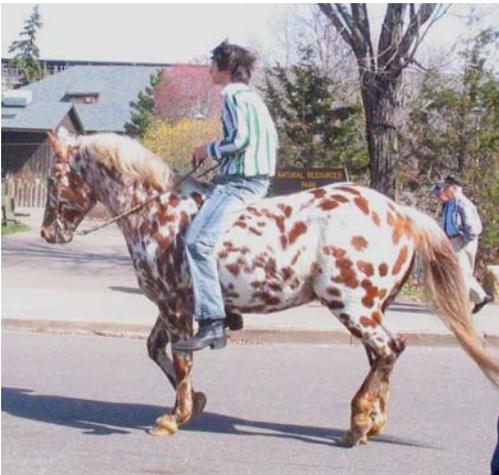




10,000 SPOTS!

Submitted by Michigan Sooner member, Dar Arrowood kdjj_appaloosas@yahoo.com

April 24th, 2009, we attended one of our all time favorite events. The Minnesota's Horse Expo's www.MnhorseExpo.org, sponsored by the Minnesota Horse Council at the MN State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. This year marked its 27th year and it's always a 3-day event! The profits from this non-profit event are distributed for such benefits as scholarships, equine facilities developments, direct funding support, individual recognition awards, grants, and the MN Horse Council Trail Blazers committee for the development of trails. They have contributed nearly three million dollars over this span of time. <http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/> We traveled 300 miles to our WI home near Superior/Duluth Thursday and then around 150 miles south to St. Paul early Friday morning, just in time to arrive for the events to start fresh at 8 a.m. It was a gorgeous morning and a cool 56 degrees when we arrived.



With only one day to attend, our itinerary was carefully mapped out days ahead! As soon as we entered through the gate, we were thrilled to see a young man riding a very loud Chestnut Leopard. (at left) The red and white leopard is DREA Chief Fireagle, he is ridden by Colten Sothman of Dreammakers Appaloosas. We watched the two of them several times throughout the day, riding up and down the streets; proud, loud and well behaved! A perfect ambassador for promoting the Appaloosa!



We wanted to make sure we had time to check out all the Appaloosas that attended this year and again, just like the past several years we've attended, we weren't disappointed. Heading to the humungous horse barn, I anticipated all the Appaloosas we might see and my steps grew quicker and quicker. First up was a foundation stallion we knew would be there, DREAM MAKERS RIO. (at right) <http://www.dreammakersappaloosas.com> We bred our black foundation Leopard mare, Akumal Dreamer, to this heavily bred foundation stallion back in 2006. A perfect match we had carefully selected. (Akumal Dreamer is pictured at the top of the next page.) Heartbreaking enough, we lost the colt to an unknown systemic infection. In 15 years of breeding, it is the only foal we have ever lost!





The Arrowood's mare, Akumal Dreamer. (above)

As you can see, he was a remarkable, large, black-spotted Leopard. Ill bet Editor Gerry remembers him!

Pictured at right is the black leopard colt sired by Dream Makers Rio, and out of Akumal Dreamer.



We stopped in and talked to the Sothman family and learned when Rio and the rest of their horses would be doing their demos. Highlighting the time slot, we left their booth/stalls with promises to be at the coliseum.



Pictured at the left is the Sothman's stalls and display tables.

Pictured below and to the left is Courtney Karels and Dream Makers Eclips.

Pictured below is owner Dean Michaelis with Dream Makers Destiny. The foal following behind is currently being called War Eagle, and is sired by Dream Makers Rio.



This article can also be viewed online, after June 1st, by going to www.sooner-aphc.com and following the newsletter links to the May/June 2009 issue.



10,000 Spots



Inside the coliseum (pictured above) are all the Dream Maker horses.



Editor's note: Back in the '80's, when I was still living in Illinois, I was a member of Indianhead ApHC for a few years.



We also found the stalls of Jodi and Mike Grence. <http://www.yellowmedicineappaloosas.com> Although no horses were in the stalls, we figured they were out promoting their beloved Appaloosas. (above)

Next, I scanned the program for the ApHC booth number and off we went.

The booth was put on by dual clubs, Indianhead Appaloosa Club <http://www.indianheadappclub.webs.com> and Glacial Ridge Appaloosa Club www.glacialridgeaphc.bravehost.com I barely got a word in edge wise as Nicki Rickard was solely manning the booth (photo at left) and people were so inquisitive, I didn't want to interrupt. I did manage to buy a tee shirt (Indianhead Appaloosa Club) that I just couldn't live without! (pictured below)



One of my all time favorite events is the Minnesota University Large Animal Hospital tour. This year we could see the new (completed in Oct. 2007) Leatherdale Equine Center. www.cvm.umn.edu/umec. My highest interests was/is the PSSM research, Polycaccharide Storage Myopathy-a type of tying up, by Dr Stephine Valberg, DMV, PhD. <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/umec/lab/PSSM/home.html> When we walked into the obviously new facility, there was a stallion in the arena showing off for us. Our guide, one of the Equine surgical Doctors, explained the stallion in the arena is a carrier that is used for the PSSM research. We were able to ask a few questions referring to the research, how it was conducted and its findings. Public testing thru U of M is now available!

For information on public PSSM testing thru U of M, go to <http://www.vdl.umn.edu/vdl/ourservices/equineneuromuscular/home.html>. From there we toured the equine gait analysis system, which is profoundly high tech for accuracy, and U of M is one of the few places using gait analysis for lameness issues. We then toured Physical Therapy dept viewing the diagnostic equipment and watched some demos of the AquaPacer, high-speed land treadmill and Neuromuscular Electrical stimulation. We also viewed the surgical and recovery rooms. This hospital was as equipped with the latest technology as any "human" hospital I have ever worked in! I couldn't help but fantasize what fun it would be to "work" in such a state of the art facility for horses!

Well we have all seen the video's of Stacy Westfall <http://www.westfallhorsemanship.com> and her breath taking, bridleless rides. Her demo here at the MN expo was no exception.

Susan Harris and "The Invisible Horse" was my next "must see". I must say, the form to function really is incredibly notable on a live anatomically painted horse doing any type of movement. See some of her "Appaloosas students" here: www.anatomyinmotion.com



Editor's note: I knew I had these pictures stored somewhere, though am unsure who sent them to me a number of years ago. The horses used in Susan Harris' demonstrations are, indeed, painted to appear as if you looking at a live x-ray. If you check out Susan's website, you'll notice a number of Appaloosas in the pictures that she used.

We would never miss the chance to watch Craig Cameron <http://www.craigcameron.com> and his demo was just as fun to watch as his TV show, "Extreme Cowboy Race", one of my favorite shows.

There really was so much more we wanted to see. We hated to miss anything, but as the sun started to set and my steps slowly dragged back to the car, I couldn't help but reflect on next years foal season and how Ill miss the travels we took to see our Appaloosa families promoting our beloved Spots! I miss it already...

Many thanks to our Sooner member from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Dar Arrowood, for sharing this experience with us!

Pictured at the right is Stacy Westfall's booth at the Minnesota Horse Expo.



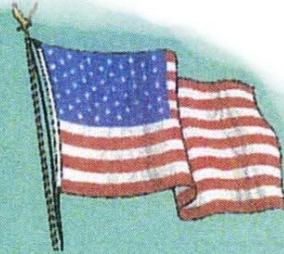
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RECIPES

From AVA Farms



Makes 4

Easy Beef Fajitas



- 1 lb. beef fajita strips
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 medium onion
- 4 tablespoons oil

- 1/2 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon taco sauce
- 1 medium bell pepper
- 4 flour tortillas, warmed

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place beef strips in shallow dish. Combine lime juice, black pepper and taco sauce and pour over beef. Cover and refrigerate several hours. Remove meat from marinade; drain thoroughly.
2. Cut onion and pepper into one inch chunks. Place 2 tablespoons of oil in frying pan. When oil is hot, brown onion and pepper until onion is slightly brown on edges. Remove onion and pepper and set aside.
3. Add 2 tablespoons oil; brown beef. Add onion and pepper; cook for 1 minute. Serve in warm flour tortillas.

Fudgey Toffee Cookies



- 1 1/2 sticks salted sweet cream butter, room temp
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup pecans (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups toffee chips or 2 Heath candy bars, chopped



- 2 teaspoons vanilla flavoring
- 3 eggs
- 5 tablespoons dry cocoa
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon dry cocoa to mix w/powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Cream butter, vanilla and sugar with electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs and beat until smooth.
2. Sift together all of the dry ingredients and add to cream mixture gradually. Beat on low speed until well blended.
3. Stir in toffee chips and pecans.
4. Mix powdered sugar and cocoa and set aside.
5. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Using a teaspoon, form well rounded balls and place on a greased cookie sheet with some space for spreading. Bake for exactly 7 minutes.
6. Remove cookies from cookie sheet as soon as they come out of the oven and place on aluminum foil to cool.
7. Dust lightly with powdered sugar and cocoa mixture. Makes about 50 cookies.



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More To That Picture.....

Two Most Special Photos



Submitted by Marian Alton

Photo by Gerry Lukacik

True—it's a perfect photo of a super nice mare and foal, but the facts relating to them add to the beauty. They are owned by Editor Gerry who waited 8 years for this gorgeous colored filly! Her mama looks great after recovering from a fractured pelvis years ago.

In the background, headed north on the highway, Jerry and Marian are hauling Gerry's ApHC mare, Easy Clipper who survived travel founder last year thanks to Joleta Ingersoll's determination to save her and Editor Gerry's excellent care of her when she was able to come home to Oktaha.

She was formerly owned by Sooner member, Judy DeMuth of Michigan, and is a splendid result of Sooner member, Bill Conley's breeding program. She has been bred to Bugs J Man for 2010. She is a strong 22 years old, and all involved with her wish Gerry the very best of success for a 2010 foal.



Photo 5-23-09 by Marian Alton

Easy Clipper (left) returns to Hatbrand Reproduction and Joleta Ingersoll—Spurlock's supervision. Breeding plans had to be cancelled May 1st due to dangerous highway and section lines flooding, but resumed the latter part of May.

Editor's note; After Jerry and Marian arrived, dropped off Chelsea, and picked up Clipper, I knew they would be passing by on the highway, and returned to the pasture with my camera. I was taking pictures, and when I saw their rig come into view, purposely snapped the above photo to capture them in the background.