

MDHMA Spring Meeting – April 19-21st – Pryor, MT

The Spring meeting is just around the corner and here are the details. You may be wondering why we are doing it in April instead of late May or early June. First of all, we are doing it at my home near Pryor instead of at a fairgrounds type of venue. If we do it later, my pasture will be too high and our activity will ruin the hay. If we wait until after it is cut, we will be nearly into July and up against EXPO time. The big benefit is that staying at our place is FREE whereas fairground fees are really expensive. The plan is to save money with this meeting so we can expand and improve our meeting at Twin Bridges. The only charge for the Spring meeting is a voluntary contribution for the food. Meals will be at our home and lodging is provided for those that need it. There is plenty of room with hookups for your own trailer needs.

DETAILS

Thursday: arrive sometime in the afternoon. Get your horses settled in. You will need to bring your own hay. We have plenty of water buckets. We will have the association's wagons as well as some of mine for use. Dinner will be at 5:00pm. At 6:00pm we will pile into vehicles and take a short trip over to Dave Engel's Coach Shop in Joliet. Dave will give us a tour, demonstration on wheel work and other things, and see some of the work he has done over the years.

Friday: Most of the day will be spent doing work on the obstacle course. It will be set up for teams as well as carts. The idea is to not only do the routine but to also get better and practice a lot of parking and backing into tight spots. By the end of the day your horse should be pretty fearless to cones, plywood, scary things and be ready to compete at EXPO. If you are like me, my horse has about 5 things to learn and I have about 55 things. Our more experienced drivers are usually willing to work with the rest of us on technique and skill items. Claudia Hribicek has agreed to be one of our teachers. She helped me a lot at White Sulphur Springs last year.

If there is interest, a quick trip to the Plenty-Coup Indian Museum nearby can be done about 4pm, just before dinner.

Friday Evening: after dinner, we will hold our Spring business meeting so bring your concerns and your ideas with you. I predict the meeting will begin about 7pm. Tall tales and wild story telling (much exaggerated and barely true) will commence immediately following the meeting and during ice cream/milkshake time.

Saturday: around 10:00am we have a number of youth coming to join us for the day or at least the morning. We will involve everyone in doing some detail safety items around horses, youth driving blindfolded youth to get the communications with lines understood, and then some hands on learning to drive. The youth will be mostly early teens that have shown an interest in horses and driving. After the youth session, they will eat lunch with us and join us if they wish for a longer drive around the area.

There will be a Saturday night dinner for all who stay. Some may wish to leave after the Saturday events or you are welcome to spend the night Saturday for a Sunday departure.

Because we are not near motels, it is important that you let us know if you are coming, how many horses you are bringing (and if you have a wagon or cart), and what sleeping arrangements you will need. We have 8 bedrooms available.

If you can, we would like to make the Friday night meal before our meeting a pot-luck meal. We have ample refrigerator and freezer space to keep the food until Friday night.

Cost: none!!!!

Fun: abundant

Call Ed Jordan at 406-254-1267, or Email: mtpetvet@mac.com to reserve your spot or get directions.