

STARK COUNTY CHAPTER FOUNDED JAN. 29, 1979

STARK CO OHC Chapter was founded Jan. 29, 1979 by a group of concerned horse persons. They met to discuss the possibilities of joining OHC and starting a chapter for 3 counties, Stark, Carroll, and Tuscarawas. Stark Co had President, Dick Baus - Vice President, Dick Wentling – Secretary, Jane Smyth and Treasurer, Mary Ann Walter. Dick Baus, Bob Chovan, Al Zaleski & Dick Wentling attended the State OHC Meeting 2/24/79 in Xenia, Ohio.

They had the first meetings at The Red Dog family Restaurant. Al Zaleski & Tosh Norman owned it. They had board meetings, reg. meetings & banquets there for quite a while. Pat Battista remembers riding there & tying up outside to go to the meetings.

In the early records they did not include membership lists. So some of these names are not in the right order. We found Linda Miller, Penny Malavite, Pam Goldsworthy, Lois Henson, Jan Slutz, Betty Holland, Thelma Armstrong Dyer, Pat Battista, Jan David & Shirley Smith as early members.

They used to have some complete trail rides at Malavites and worked a lot of the Haunted Woods and Rodeos at Bear Creek. In 1986 they were still having all 3 county meetings and joint council meetings. The joint council meetings included Tusc Co, Stark Co, Carroll Co, Holmes Co, Massillon Saddle Club, Buckeye Trail Riders, Tri-Co and Country Estates Pony Club. The meetings stopped shortly after this.

Back in the day they rented a bus to go to Cleveland to the Rodeo a couple of times, to Columbus to tour Ohio State and to West Va. to the horse races. We also did a lot of car parking & worked the beer stand for Lee Soehlen & the Rodeo & various concerts he had at Bear Creek. Eventually the Rodeo moved to Gus Malavites and then down to Dover Fairgrounds. Then most of our meetings were held at Bill Natali's barn. They also rented a lot of movies for the meetings and toured Hannon Frisian Farm, Locust Arabian Farm, Schneider Thoroughbred Farm. We used to have quite a few progressive barn parties which were a lot of fun. Mary Hill used to host the costume Halloween Parties at her farm on Riceford.

Over the years Stark has done a lot of work with other counties to help them start a camp ground & trail system. Cuyahoga Valley, Salt Fork, Beaver Creek, Tappan, Jefferson, Harrison, Mohican and Pleasant Hill to name a few. Hank & Jerry Fitch, Gloria Deeser, Ron & Pat Hoffman, Jan David, Al Walter, Stacy McGill, Thelma Armstrong & Pat Battista all did a lot of work to start the trails at Salt Fork and on opening up the campgrounds there.

Through all these years Mary Hill, Stacy McGill and I are the oldest members mentioned in the meeting notes that are still active in OHC. That is not to say that we are the only ones. We have a really good group of active people in our chapter now. Last year in 2013 our chapter has the honor of having the 2013 OHC State Gibby Award Winner Jo Ellen Reikowski (her picture is posted on the next page) as a member. And that award is not easy to get. It takes years of dedication and hard work. So if you would like to find out what is going on today in Stark County Ohio Horseman's Council please attend one of our meetings and see for yourself?

STARK CO OHC works with the Stark Park District to allow equine use on their trails.

STARK CO OHC has adopted the horse trails at Quail Hollow State Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Eckroad
Jan. 2012