



Kansas Horse Council

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February 2016 Newsletter

March 9, 2016

Yikes - this newsletter is a little late! EquiFest takes over our office this time of year - but it's worth it. I hope you are making the most of the abundant sunshine and longer evening light. If you're a trail rider it's not too late to join us at Kanopolis State Park April 30 - May 1. There's more info on the ride below.

Happy Spring,
Pattie Stalder
KHC Executive Director

EquiFest of Kansas 2016 - what a success!

High praise for EquiFest 2016 at the Kansas Expocentre



Where to begin? After 18 years of EquiFest being held in Wichita, our first year at our new home, the Kansas Expocentre, was phenomenal! Approximately 12,500 fans joined us February 26-28 to celebrate all things equine.

There were over 150 vendors offering a vast array of shopping options from western furniture, boots, tack, clothing, jewelry, unique pieces of art, Dodge trucks, trailers and much, much more. If you saw a vendor there and didn't quite get enough shopping during the 3 days, visit www.equifestofkansas.com to see the full list of vendors.

The volunteer help was outstanding! Thanks to ALL the volunteers including members of the Douglas County Trail Riders.

We'll be celebrating our 20th anniversary next February at the Kansas Expocentre! Stay tuned for updates!

KHC Foundation Silent Auction

Funds raised for 2016 Scholarships

The Kansas Horse Council Foundation is a 501c3 organization that holds an extensive Silent Auction each year at EquiFest to raise funds for scholarship awards.

Thanks to generous donations and generous patrons, proceeds from this years' auction totaled \$8,500!

All KHC members are eligible to apply for financial assistance. Applications are due by April 1st. The application and complete information are available on the KHC website, www.kansashorsecouncil.com.

KHC Spring Trail Ride

Join us for our spring ride at Kanopolis Lake

When: April 30 - May 1

Where: Kanopolis State Lake, Rockin' K Campground

Cost: \$30 / KHC members; \$40 / non-members; \$15 / kids under 12

No refunds after April 12th.

[Click here for ride flyer.](#)

[Click here for ride registration form.](#)

Rocky and moderate-to-steep inclines. Horseshoes or boots recommended.

Negative coggins required for out of state horses.

Reserve campsites at:

www.reserveamerica.com



Legislative Update

Efforts to re-open Kansas horse tracks continue in the State House

Kansas Racetracks Provide a Positive Impact to the State Economy

Race for Kansas supporters share economic benefits of Horse and Greyhound racing with legislators, Topeka, Kan., March 3, 2016:

As Kansans learn that the State received \$53 million less than, expected in tax revenue during February 2016 - forcing a \$17 million budget cut to higher education, Race for Kansas

(HB2537) offers a solution to supplement the budget shortfall with more than \$23 million of additional revenue to the state of Kansas. On February 25 legislators in the Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee hosted an informational hearing on the economic impact of Horse and Greyhound racing to Kansas commerce.

Representative John Barker, Abilene, sponsored HB 2537 and sees it as a positive move for Kansas. "Passage of HB 2537 is a boost to the Kansas economy, is good for Kansas agriculture and supports the addition of several thousand jobs in Kansas. The ranchers and businesses who support this legislation are not asking for any state incentives. They are simply asking that the tax rate be set at an economically viable level," Rep. Barker stated during the hearing.

Dr. Arthur P. Hall presented his economic impact study on the Kansas racing sector to legislators today saying, "The bottom line is that the net economic impact of Horse and Greyhound racing is very positive."

According to Dr. Hall's economic impact study, the "restoration of live horse racing and greyhound racing in Kansas will generate an estimated 4,475 jobs, \$291 million in annual wages, and \$23 million in annual state and local tax revenue-not counting revenue derived directly from gaming."

Dr. Hall added, "No economic development incentives are involved with restoring the racetracks. To motivate at least \$160 million in private investment, the investor seeks only the opportunity to compete on a level playing field with the destination casinos, by partnering with the State on the same terms as the casinos."

For more information and to support the initiative, visit RaceForKansas.com. Find your legislator and tell them why Race for Kansas is important to you, your business and your community.

Specialty License Plates

Horse license plates - how many have you spotted?

There are more and more KHC horse license plates on the road and they look great! You don't have to wait till it's time to renew your plate, just take your current tag in and trade it in for the horse plate. They're available at every county treasurers' office for an annual fee of \$30 and a one-time \$50 charge due to the State of Kansas at the time of purchase. Show your horse pride and display this plate! Plates are available for everyone, not just KHC members.



Homes for Horses

HOMES FOR HORSES



Talyah

DOB: 1996 ~ G: Mare ~ HT: 15h2

This monthly feature provides contact details for a horse adoption facility in KS. Please contact the rescue or adoption service directly. All registered facilities are welcome to submit pics & info.

Simply needing a new home, this beautiful mare has competed successfully in competitive trail. Talyah is super friendly and cooperative.

www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com

Quick Links

[EquiFest of Kansas](#)

[American Horse Council](#)

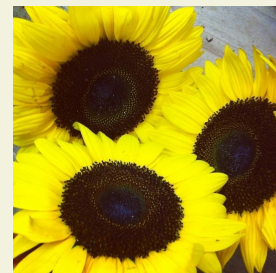
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Abilene, KS



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