

Saskatchewan Long Riders

Starting off the Saskatchewan endurance riding season on a great note, the annual Midnight Madness Ride at Zwann Farms was a good time for all.

This ride consists of a 15-mile loop, in the daylight, down summer roads and through the Aberdeen community pasture followed by the same loop in reverse, after dark. As well as using the light of the moon, riders navigate the second loop with the assistance of glow sticks marking the trail, and the occasional use of a headlamp.

For first time riders, this ride can be an excellent introduction to the sport. In addition to the friendly group atmosphere and the fun of riding in the dark, it is an excellent opportunity to learn more about care and conditioning of the horse.

For more experienced riders, the 30-mile ride is an ideal way to assess the fitness of horse and rider. It is also a good way to prepare future 100-mile participants for the challenges of riding under the light of the moon.



In the 30-mile race, Diane Trundle took top honours followed by Bruce Guest in second, Rachel Croskery in third, Darcy Tomolak in fourth and Trisha Dowling in fifth. First place in the 15-mile ride went to Chris Vandale, followed by John Saum.

Thanks to Trisha and Brian for organizing and hosting the event, Dr. Hamilton and the first year vet students for making sure all horses were happy and healthy, and the volunteers who donated their time for a variety of important activities.

Elsewhere, Saskatchewan riders

were a strong presence. Heather Christensen and Sharon Elder shared fifth place in the 50-mile ride at Sandilands in Manitoba.

In Boissevain, Manitoba, Brian Zwann took second place in the 25-mile ride while Trisha Dowling and Diane Trundle shared first place in the 50-mile.

Watch this space in the coming months for personal introductions to members of the Saskatchewan Long Riders and their trusty mounts.

Rachel Croskery