

## 2022 Trails4Transplants journal (Roger)

The 2022 T4T ride started with planning and visits with Dave Jensen and George Welk. Due to clearances with landowners west of Ft. Pierre we decided to limit the ride to three days centered around Ft. Pierre. The city, chamber, and businesses in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area were welcoming and accommodating and assisted in the planning process:

May 25, 2022: Doug and Nancy Lysford, Jim Johnston, and Cliff and Lindy Schulz came in a day early and stayed over so grandma (Julie) made us a great breakfast, then we made final preparations and we were on the road to Ft. Pierre by 9:30 a.m. The trip went well, stopping at Mobridge for lunch and arriving in Ft. Pierre at 3:30. We met with the fairgrounds manager (Scott Deal) and found all arrangements were made for us. We put the horses in stalls and visited with the group as they arrived. George and Jody Johnson, Ben and Joan Goodbird with their nephew Michael, and Econ and Josie had arrived prior. Paul and Erin Maloney, Nick Schroeder, Bill and Linda Pape, Jane and Randy Ecklund and R.J. and friend Kelly arrived.

Fellowship and visiting continued and Econ served up hamburgers. I made a trip uptown with Nick and Maloneys, arriving back at the fairgrounds at 10:30 p.m., then joined the group around the campfire and visited until midnight. I told a few stories and we had lots of laughs. I was again invited to sleep in Doug and Nancy's camper so I had a good sleep.

15 Riders am. 18 riders pm – 17 miles---May 26 2022. I was up at 6:00 a.m. and brought my horse (7) and got him groomed and saddled. Econ made burritos, and Sally and Jake provided coffee, pastries, and snacks for the ride. We gathered at 7:45 for an information meeting. Ben Goodbird led us in prayer, then George Welk led us out to our starting point which was about 10 miles southwest of Pierre. The starting point was at the end of a dirt trail that took us through the Ft. Pierre national grasslands. Darby Nutter and landowner Jim Carlyle led us through the Carlyle pastures through some amazing scenery. We saw a couple coyotes and a couple mule deer. At noon we arrived at the Bad River where the local Lions club had a food wagon set up. The weather was great, 80 degrees with a light south breeze. After the big lunch, we rode north over a high ridge, then back north arriving at Darby Nutters place at 3:30 p.m. I asked George Welk to ride my horse for the afternoon ride and he quickly accepted the offer. George is a first class cowboy and horseman, but had sold his horse and saddle a few years prior. My back was a bit sore due to recent surgery so it was a good decision to ride with Dusty in the Ranger. After putting the 3 horses up, Jim, Jody, George and I went uptown and enjoyed a few \$2.00 beers. Econ and Doug Lysford made a meal of brats with all the trimmings and all ate well.

All gathered around the campfire for the night with Don, myself, Nick and Paul closing down past midnight. J A wonderful ride with a group of wonderful folks riding for a good cause.

May 27, 2022 – 24 riders, 15 miles. Pam Jhanna joined us. An early morning under a clear sky and light south breeze. All were up and moving by 6:30 a.m. Eight rigs left the fairgrounds at 8:00 after an orientation meeting and prayer. A number of new riders were with us this morning. We met up with Darby Nutter at 8:30 and shortly after Dan Santeck with the TEJO news television station joined us for pictures and interviews. A newspaper reporter also joined us and took pictures and interviews. We were blessed to have the opportunity to ride across part of the 140,000 acre Ted Turner buffalo ranch with Foreman Justin and family as guides. We enjoyed a 3 hour ride and joined up with the food wagon provided by the Lions Club, and were joined by KETO news and all of our support staff. Sloppy

joes were delicious and all ate their fill and enjoyed a half hour break. All riders were in the saddle by 1:00 A great ride in the afternoon with temps in the low 80's. South breeze. I had an enjoyable afternoon and took the opportunity to have an extended visit with each of the riders. Justin provided trails of the Turner ranch and the 4,000 buffalo that reside on the ranch. Casey Hamm was a local rancher known for his horse skills of past days. Pam Shonrock was a local that knew the land, Sunny was Casey's sister and provided details of past locations where they went to school. Lots of young riders on well behaved horses today. We rode the ridges and coulees of the Turner ranch in the morning then the Jim Carlyle ranch in the afternoon. Coming down from the high country and following the Bad River the last few miles. A wonderful ride that ended with Darby giving a lengthy history of the area and past and present ranches. We put up the horses then all congregated for Pizza and chicken supper provided by Jake and Sally. Lots of talk with the riders regarding how lucky we are to be riding and how challenging it is for those waiting for or recovering from a transplant. Then on to the motel with Julie Ty Gracie and Annabell. A great day indeed.

May 28, 2022 – 20 riders, 10 miles. I was up just before 6:00 a.m. refreshed from a night at the hotel with Julie and the Grandkids. A hot shower was welcome and overdue, as was the comfortable bed, although it was not much better than the fold out- bed in the Lysford camper. I arrived at the fairgrounds at 6:00 and brought seven down for oats and grooming. The others started moving around with the Lysfords, Bill and Cliff always first. We delayed the start one hour and Cliff, Ty, Paul, Erin and Nick rode over to Darby's ranch (4 miles), and the rest followed a bit later trailering our stock. We gathered, had a safety talk, prayer and were on the road just after 9:00. The trip took us west along Bad River Road for a few miles, then a long grade northeast to the gravel pits where we gave the horses a deserved rest. Darby again led the way with Dawson and his cousin riding double. Ty continued riding my horse (7). Beth Remund, her mother, Emery and Andi joined us that day and were a joy to visit with. The day was a bit on the warm side but the light south breeze made for a pleasant ride. We enjoyed a break at the Hustad gravel pits, then wound our way to the Spruce Hill Cemetery, which was full of amazing history. We were met there by Julie, Annabell and Gracie, Bill and Linda, Dave, and Sally and Jake. We soon heard the story of Grama backing over some jagged tin and puncturing a tire. We enjoyed a noon meal of cold chicken. After a nice break, Ty stayed on 7 and Gracie rode Cliff's horse Harley down the winding road toward town. Beth's kids and horses tired quickly so I had Jim come with the trailer and haul them to the fairgrounds. The rest of the group finished the descent then rode through town to the fairgrounds. Paul, Erin, Nick and I rode back to town and enjoyed some \$2.00 beers at the Country Bar. I rode through the bar, then saddled up the green dinosaur outside for a few pictures. The rest of our group soon joined us and we barely made it out in time for our evening event, which consisted of a silent auction that raised \$1,500. A great meal provided by the Ft. Pierre Chamber and fellowship that included stories of transplant recipients and donors. It was an emotional experience to hear recipients praise the efforts of donors that provided life to them in their passing. The weather turned a bit sour after three gorgeous riding days as some needed rain rolled in. All headed for their bunks a bit early, being pleased at the entire three days, and especially the memorable evening event.

It seems each year we vow to quit the T4T event, but I have been contacted by a horse club in Minot and that may partner with us next year. Another great year for T4T with over \$20,000 raised. I thank God for watching over us and guiding us on this trail of life. Roger