

2023 Trails4Transplants journal (Roger)

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 Day 1

Arrivals this day at the Reville County Fairgrounds in Mohall. A great reunion with the T4T crew—Ben and Joan Goodbird, Ben's brother and nephew (Michael), Sue Helm, with new recruits Tracey, Shannon, Kristi, and Jean, all from the Newfolden area, Jim Johnston with newcomer Theresa, Bill and Linda Pape, Econ, Doug, and Nancy Lysford, Lisa Beuning, Julie, I, and our grandchildren Ty and Gracie Gustafson, Don Anderson, Beth, Emery, Andi Remund, Paul and Erin Maloney, Nick Schroeder, and Cliff and lindy Schulz. (Paul and Erin came Wednesday night). A great get-together and recollection of previous rides and catch up. We were missing Randy and Jane Ecklund due to health issues, as was Kathy Tyler. Sally and Jake are scheduled to come in Wednesday, as Sally has been doctoring.

After the visit, all went to the prairie Bistro for a great supper hosted by Soni. The Remunds arrived later, after the meal. The facilities at the fairgrounds were great ...Panels were used for corrals, some graze available, water, and a barn and outdoor shelter, all at no cost!! A great present from the city and the local 4-ah club. Plenty of visiting, all helping to get set up.

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 Day 2 12 miles, 13 riders, 11 support staff.

A later than usual start, all being in the saddle at 8:00 AM, stopping off at the local Fire Department for a superb breakfast hosted by the fire and ambulance crew. Breakfast consisted of pancakes, eggs, juice, milk, toast, and breakfast sandwiches. A great way to start the day!! We were soon off the local assisted living facility 1 mile east where Sue Helm and sister Lisa led us in song under a bright and sunny sky. The residents thoroughly enjoyed seeing the horses and singing along. All wore smiles after this fun and enriching visit. Even the kids. We were off to Renville Corner, 12 miles east. Lots of visiting on the way. Ty rode my horse #7, and was a good horseman and helper. Gracie rode Tex and was constantly visiting with others along the way. Beth's kids were fun and enjoyed the company of Ty and Gracie. We arrived shortly after noon, had some refreshments, and returned to Mohall. Gooseneck Implement provided a great supper of pulled pork, chips, soda, bars, and free caps. What a great meal and great opportunity for all to introduce themselves and share their stories...some laughter, some tears, some healing, and lots of fellowship. The Gooseneck Implement folks stayed and joined us for the fellowship. All 'hung out' and visited. Julie and Gracie left for the Lansford hotel, Jake and Sally to Minot, leaving the rest of us to a long night of visiting. Ty again selected to sleep in the horse trailer on a cot. He has been a big help with me as well as helping others. A great day with fulfilling visits, hosted meals, and healthy horses. A great first day indeed worthy of prayer prior to shut eye, knowing tomorrow AM would be busy breaking down camp and putting away corral panels. A big thank you to the support staff that did all the trailer moving!

Thursday, June 1, 2023 Day 3 18 riders, 13 miles, 11 support staff.

I was up early, knowing there was much work to do. Horses were fed and saddled, then all corral panels were taken down and stacked in the shelter, then all areas were cleaned up. Everyone worked together getting panels stacked, electric fences taken down and manure and excess hay cleaned up. All tasks were completed and horses loaded by 8:30, then off to Renville Corner, where the support staff had talked with the owners and directed each rig into an approved and designated parking spot for the day. Been Goodbird led us in prayer prior to heading out and Bill had us lined up for photos. The day was warming, so without further delay we followed Hwy 83 south 13 miles to Forfar, where Sally and Jake provided a late lunch with cooling lemonade, sandwiches, and chips. As always, Jake was feeding treats

to the horses. The younger crowd rode around bareback until the support staff brought in the trucks and trailers. With only a short delay, some of the crew headed to the Fairgrounds in Minot, the remaining crew (Sue Helm, Shannon, Kristi, Tracey, Cliff, Paul, Erin, Nick, and I) drove to the assisted living facility in Minot where the residents were moved outside and we sang, played harmonica, visited, and had hot dogs and chips. It was a rewarding experience to see the folks sing along. After the meal, one of the residents brought out his saddle which he had made, and shared stories of his rough and tumble cowboy days of breaking horses and roping cattle. He was a true cowboy indeed!! We then trailered back to the ND state fairgrounds where we found bathrooms, barn stalls for the horses, and a spacious campground. It had been a hot day and warm evening, so a cold beverage or two hit the spot. Julie and Gracie stayed at a Minot hotel, and Ty again hung out with the crowd and slept in the horse trailer on a cot. I was amazed at Beth's energy, as well as how her kids helped with the horse chores. A great day 2, just a bit on the warm side. An early night of visiting at the campground and a badly needed rest. A great group of folks supporting a great cause!!

Friday, June 3, 2023 Day 4 14 riders, 14 miles

I am generally the first one up in the mornings, but this morning Beth Remund and Sue Helm were already up and feeding their horses. I guess it may be due to a late night for me. Horses were fed and watered, again a warm start to the day. All were saddled and ready for loading at 8:30. All gathered (including Sally and Jake) to listen to pastor Mark Ellingson's morning prayer and message. With the support crew riding along, we trailered to T=Forfar and again rode south along Hwy 83. The support crew took the rigs to Ruthville and parked them out of the way for the day. The temp climbed to the high eighties so Jim stopped twice to water the horses. Jake and Sally were set up just over halfway with sandwiches and drinks that were much appreciated by the riders. The four youngsters – Ty, Gracie, Emery and Hayden had fun galloping ahead of the group and needed to be called back. They all proved to be good riders and were well mannered, helping with horse chores. I helped Jim load up one of Beth's horses that was acting up, then joined the ride, arriving in Ruthville just after 1:00.

NOTE: Doug Vesey and his granddaughter joined us on the ride, Shirley moved their trailer.

The horses were happy to be done for the day and waited patiently as we enjoyed burgers and beer at Pinks Bar and Grill. A rain shower moved through and cooled everything off, getting some of us wet as we loaded horses and trailered to the fairgrounds where Doug and Econ Lysford prepared a delicious meal of pastrami, and burgers. Econ provided hats for all and has become a staple in our T4T family. We are blessed to have them provide meals, support and fellowship. Linda Pape took charge of the schedule, moving the Lysford meal and silent auction to this night, as a number of folks planned to leave after tomorrow's ride. The silent auction was auctioneered by Nick Schroeder and brought in good revenue, with all being generous in their bidding. A fun evening followed with music, dancing (Nick and me) and visiting. The fun spilled into the early morning hours with all enjoying the pleasant evening and despising the mosquitoes. A great evening and good reschedule by Linda so that all could be included. The Lord has been good to T4T, again watching over the group and their horses and this year, the young crowd.

Saturday, June 3 – 15 riders, 12 miles. Day 5

All were up early, some a bit tired from a short night of sleep we were again greeted by a pleasant and sunny morning, a bit on the warm side. Horses were fed, saddled, and loaded and we were soon

unloading at Ruthville, embarking on the last leg of this 4 day, 51 mile journey, the 11th annual ride. The ride followed CR19 two miles east, leading to an abandoned railroad bed that led us 10 miles south to the north limits of Minot. The weather again pleasant, a bit on the warm side as we followed the trail toward Minot. Jake and Sally set up a stop at a church parking area. Just over halfway Jim watered horses and we enjoyed some fresh cold lemonade. The horses again did well as did the riders. Don and Bill were busy as always, snapping pictures, erecting flags, and moving rigs. They are a blessing, as are Linda and Lindy. The ride went well, especially along the RR bed. As we approached Minot, Linda, Lindy and crew provided traffic control as we followed 4th avenue to the fairgrounds. Cliff, Lindy, Ben, Michael and Ben's brother had Sunday commitments so they loaded up and after a thankyou and wishes for a safe journey home drove off...Always sad to see the journey end and folks go home, but was made better knowing the trip went well with no major accidents or injuries to riders or horses. With all the planning and riding behind us, it was time to relax and celebrate. Most of the ladies again cleaned up and showered at my hotel, then again joined the evening gathering. Dave Hanson drove up and joined us for the afternoon and evening, spending time and visiting with Jake, Sally and the rest of the gang. The evening was again pleasant...5 days of good weather!! Good weather makes for pleasant riding and limits work! Hard to think back for thank-you's, as all contributed, but special thanks to Julie for taking care of Gracie and moving trailers, Lisa for driving up from Colorado, Econ and Josie for providing food, support and fellowship, Beth and family for coming up from South Dakota Sue Helm for recruiting 4 new folks from Minnesota, Paul and Erin for making the trip, Nick for his antics and of course the "rocks" of Cliff, Lindy, Ben, Doug Vesey, Michael, Joan, Doug Lysford, Sally and Jake, Don, Dave, and the rest.

Day 6 Heading home

Beth Remund again beat me to the horses as we started loading out and cleaning stalls. All stalls were quickly cleaned as the remainder of the group joined in. The facility at the Fairgrounds was a blessing, with no worries about security, water, or other issues. Lots of hugs and thank yous as we bid goodbye and headed out. I was missing Ty, as he had been a big help with the horse chores. He, Julie, and Gracie left after Friday's ride as they had company coming at home from Minnesota. The T4T family is a wonderful family and I feel blessed to be a participant again this year. I give thanks to all for their contributions and participation and also give thanks to God for his guidance and presence along the trail and gatherings. Doug Lysford and Sue Helm are already planning for next year's ride in Minnesota. Roger.