

What happens when we support each other...

By Sue McLain

For the most part, throughout my life I have had the pleasure to experience good people doing good things for others. Spin back the hands of a clock and I remember sharing the trail with Mary Nunn and Anna Sampson – from the mid 1980s through to the early 2000s. They weren't just avid participants, they were accomplished horsewomen, caring parents and grandparents, best of friends and helpful colleagues in this strange little sport of ours. At some point early on, they also made the decision to become devoted volunteers.



Mary and Anna were ardent champions of our sport and the people in it. Irrespective of where one's personal trails might have led, Anna and Mary were there to encourage, support, welcome and make distance riding possible for many. Without their taking on ride manager, ride secretary, trail marking, water hauling, timer, pulser, and other associated volunteer efforts, many a ride could likely have gone by the wayside. They helped at both EDRA and AERC events and it is because of who they were and what they did that we all seem to come together to remember and honor their legacy.



As many observed, Anna and Mary supported youth – sometimes by finding or training the “right” kid's horse, sometimes giving a child a home with security and love. Their advocacy of youth was unlimited. Their offerings to children unyielding.

With their passing and this background in mind, and as the administrator of the Anna & Mary Memorial Youth Fund (The Fund), I am providing a mid-year report on the status of The Fund and wish to publicly recognize those who have been instrumental in our collective success. The Fund supports ride managers, youth participants and their families, and it also ensures Anna's and Mary's legacy is alive and well – which means the world to those of us who were mentored by these women.

The list of those donating to the cause is long and there are a wide variety of contributors:

- Ride managers who provide a “Kids Ride Free” ride entry pricing policy. This policy has been adopted by many rides within the PNER footprint and is a huge benefit to any family with a child who rides endurance.

- When ride managers offer this level of a discount, they can choose to be reimbursed for half the amount of a regular ride entry from The Fund. If they do not request reimbursement, they are making a virtual donation and are ensuring monies will be available to other ride managers. Those ride managers providing this generous support (in alphabetical order) include: Jessica Cobbley (Top of the World, 2019-2020), Charleen Farrell (Oregon 100, 2019), Jessica Huber (Autumn Sun, 2019-2020), Jamie Hughes (Hughes Highland Hay Day, 2019), Darlene & Max Merlich (various rides, 2019-2021), Kathleen Pillo (Renegade Rendezvous, 2021), Regina Rose (City of Rocks, 2020-2021), Sue & Dennis Summers (various rides, 2019-2021), Jannelle Wilde (Bandit Springs & Still Prineville, 2019), and a number of 2020 events managed by Endurance Riders Association of British Columbia.



- Then there are ride managers who donate proceeds from their ride directly to The Fund – Trout Lake 100 and Anna & Mary Memorial rides have provided this incredible support for several years and both committed to take this action again in 2021.
- Individuals (too many to list, but those donating \$100 or more include Bridget Ferguson, Carol Giles & Ron Sproat, Max & Darlene Merlich, Frank & Rita Nunn, Ralph & Jo Weinstein, Sue & Dennis Summers, Terry & Julie James, Leisl Lemke, Elayne Barclay, and Sue McLain).
- Companies (Smultea Environmental Sciences Lab, Seamstress Unlimited, American Trail Gear, Crazy Leg Tights and Wilco) who have either donated directly to The Fund or they sponsored ride awards, thus lowering costs to ride managers, who subsequently made a donation to The Fund.
- And, PNER (holding a Team Basket fundraising raffle at convention in 2020 and making a corresponding donation to The Fund).





DONATIONS
Fund Inception thru 07/03/2021

2018 Ride proceeds donation from EDRA	\$5,120.15
2019 Individual donations – various	\$1,270.00
2019 Ride proceeds donation from Darlene & Max Merlich	\$1,250.00
2020 Individual donations – various	\$678.00
2020 PNER Team Basket Raffle donation	\$2,815.00
2020 Ride proceeds donation from Darlene & Max Merlich	\$5,000.00
YTD 2021 Individual donations – various	\$1,100.00
YTD 2021 Ride Manager donations – Grizzly Mountain (Darlene & Max Merlich); Don't Fence Me In (Sue & Dennis Summers); City of Rocks (Regina Rose); Renegade Rendezvous (Kathleen Pillo) ¹	\$2,710.00
YTD 2021 Ride proceeds donation from Trout Lake 100 (waiting on USFS permit fee)	TBD
YTD 2021 Ride proceeds donation from Anna & Mary Memorial (to be held on August 28)	TBD
Total over 3+ years	\$19,825.65

¹ Ride managers who do not request reimbursement for youth ride entry fees from The Fund – this is the equivalent of making a donation, but was not tracked in detail until 2021.

PAYMENTS
Actual & Estimated
From Fund Inception thru YE 2021

2019 Payments - actual	\$4,554.17
2020 Payments - actual	\$2,502.50
YTD 2021 Payments - actual	\$1,930.00
YTD 2021 Payments – additional eligible ²	\$2,710.00
Remaining 2021 Estimated Payments ³	\$9,350.00
Total anticipated over 3+ years	\$21,046.67



With an estimated total need in 2021 of almost \$14,000, EDRA is focusing on ensuring sufficient funds will be available for the remainder of the year, as well as beginning to prepare for an even larger demand in 2022!

You can help – attend or volunteer at fundraising rides, consider making a direct donation to show your support for the next generation of riders. Every little bit supports kids and ride managers, and allows Anna’s and Mary’s legacy to flourish.

² The YTD 2021 eligible payout amount reflects amounts that would have been paid out except that the ride manager chose not to access The Fund. This figure is required in order to balance with the ride manager’s donation reported in the corresponding section.

³ Through July 3, 2021 there have been 18 ride dates and a total of 86 eligible youth participants. We have experienced an average of 5 youth riders for every day of rides. Although the Canadian ride schedule is still in flux, the PNER footprint is on track to hold 50+ days of riding in 2021. (38 AERC, 7 EDRA and 7 ERABC.) The remaining estimated payments listed above assumes an average of 5 youth per ride day for the remaining potential rides and an average payment of \$55 per eligible youth.