

West Michigan Friesian Horse Association



West Michigan Friesian Horse Club has been around for 6 years, and our members enjoy getting together and showing off the versatility and wonderful temperament of our beautiful horses! We have participated in the MSU expo in the past, as well as various parades around the West Michigan area, including the big Tulip Time parade each spring. Our members participate in a variety of disciplines with our Friesians including dressage, driving, saddleseat, western, and trail riding. We are pleased to join forces with the Friesians on Mackinaw for this performance!

Friesians on Mackinac

Friesians have found the perfect home on Mackinac Island!

This beautiful and historic island, located in the Straits of Mackinac, has a long and rich equestrian history. In 1898 the City of Mackinac banned the use of motorized vehicles in favor of the quiet clip-clop of horse's hooves when the horse-less carriages were frightening the local livery horses. Visitors and residents travel only by horse and bike and enjoy the wooded trails and high bluffs first treasured and revered by Native American tribes. Many different breeds of horses are used on the Island for pleasure riding, driving and work and the newly arrived Friesian fits right in.

Friesians were first introduced on Mackinac Island in 1995 when cottagers Jay and Janet Stingel brought four Friesian geldings with them to summer on the Island.

The combination of thousands of visitors, hundreds of horses, boat whistles, firing cannons and other exciting activities can pose challenges to the Island horses. The Friesians' quiet, adaptable and gentle disposition serves them well. Tourists and residents love to see these spectacular horses out on the trail or taking an evening stroll on Main Street. They certainly contribute to the romantic and quiet pace of this historic and unique Island.

An excerpt from "*Friesians On Mackinac*": www.friesiansonmackinac.com

The Friesians and the Island's many other breeds can be seen at the Mackinac Island Festival of the Horse July 20th - 24th, 2011 www.mackinacislandfestivalofthehorse.org