

~~THORRABLOT~~

You are invited to join Winterhorse Park in Eagle, Wisconsin for a traditional Icelandic mid-winter celebration.

Saturday, February 16th, 2008. 5:00 pm

The festivities will start with the arrival of the horses and their riders at 5:00. These hearty little horses and their riders enjoy brisk winter rides through snow and ice throughout our long winters. Once in the arena, you will be entertained with a show of precision and speed at their natural gait of tolt, the four beat lateral movement that is quite smooth and exhilarating to ride. Some of the riders will also take part in a beer tolt competition. Winterhorse Park offers an indoor riding arena and heated lounge with full kitchen and restroom facilities.

Thorrablót is a traditional Viking festival, which is celebrated in Iceland at the end of January. Thorrablót was originally a sacrificial feast dedicated to Thor (Norse god of Thunder) and it began the ancient Thorri-month. When Iceland was converted to Christianity, Thorrablót was forbidden. The celebration of Thorrablót was revived in the 19th century.

The idea of the revived Thorrablót is to bring people together during the cold winter months and it is celebrated by eating, drinking, singing and story telling. The festive foods that are normally served at Thorrablóts can be quite unusual. They include *rotten* or fermented shark, *brutspungar* (ox testicles), *svid* (lamb's head) and *blodmor* (blood-pudding boiled in Lamb-stomachs). Some of the less extreme foods include whale steak, seal fins, *lundabaggar* (meat-rolls made of lambs-meat) and *hardfiskur* (dried fish eaten with butter). With these foods people drink beer and *brennivín* (Icelandic schnapps nicknamed 'black death')

While most of these delicacies are difficult to find here in the U.S. (thankfully so!), some of them will be available for you to test along with a traditional meal of lamb soup and cream of asparagus soup with bread. Coffee and soft drinks will be available. You are also welcome to bring your own beverage.

Entertainment usually is provided by the guests themselves. Be prepared to offer any skits, jokes, stories (taking good-natured jabs at fellow riders!!) and songs that you'd like to share from your own cultural traditions and/or experiences (riding or otherwise). The entertainers will receive a prize for their efforts.

Seating in the lounge is limited. If you can, please bring a chair (with your name on it).

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