

The Arena

A newsletter dedicated to keeping NWRDC members in the know about club business, news, history, events and equine issues.

A Monthly Newsletter

November/December 2010

I'm Your Huckleberry

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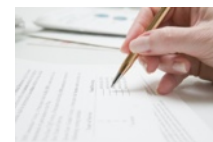
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Editors: Veronica Williams, Pierce Williams

Club News

Next Meeting: December 14, 2010 at 7:00pm at the VFW on Lake Street in St. Albans

October 12 Meeting Summary & November 6 Annual Meeting

With the annual meeting already having been held in November, it seems belated to report on the October meeting, so it will be brief. Participation was at 19 attendees this meeting, a little less than the last few meetings, but still a good turn-out. Thank you to those that continue to be dedicated even though the season is over. Following are few highlights:

The hottest horse event in the area, The Extreme Cowboy Race, took its debut at our club on October 9th with 25 riders competing in many aspects of horsemanship and versatility. All went well and though there were a few complaints, none were major. Areas to improve include whistles being hard to hear, splitting up the judges, and improving the method of timing at each obstacle. Great job committee members, judges and participants!! It was voted to hold 3 of these events in 2011.

A discussion occurred regarding the setting of dates in 2011. It was agreed that all committee heads should meet prior to December 31 to set the dates together and also work with other



Joe Saprano, middle, Melissa Ballard, right, and Abbott Lovett, left, the winners of the Extreme Cowboy Race.

clubs and organization dates that our members attend to avoid conflicts where possible.

The new equipment building was well under way at this meeting and has since been finished with only the tin remaining to install on the roof. The trail course ring was postponed until spring but the sand is expected to be donated.

Members questioned "what is the vision of the club?" Also, a proposal was made to create a 5 year plan. Several ideas were tossed around which followed by some discussion as to the difference of a long-term vision vs. a budget. It was suggested that committees bring to the

Board of Directors what they want to see improved at the club, but as time was running short, this topic will be picked up again at the December 14th meeting. We encourage all members to attend and have a say in what is most important to YOU!

A set of club "ground rules" were drafted and reviewed at the meeting. A few proposed changes were made and the final version will be voted on at the December meeting. The idea for establishing these "ground rules" is to standardize as many rules as possible among all events held at the club from open shows, to gymkhanas, and now the Extreme Cowboy Race.

The annual meeting and awards banquet was held and was a great success. The Abbey Restaurant did a wonderful job with the food. The officers elected for 2011 include Pierce Williams as President, Sue Tice as Vice President, Sandy Hatin as Treasurer and Barbara Rousseau as Secretary. Only one Director position was up for election and Abbott Lovett was re-elected. Congratulations to all...we look forward to an exciting and successful 2011 season!!!

Agenda Items for December 14:
* Discussion on the vision/strategy of the club
* Vote on Club Ground Rules
* Update on dates for 2011

I'M YOUR HUCKLEBERRY

Howdy,

My first year as your club president is just about over and, come January, I'll be starting my second year of service to the club. I hope by now you know my goal is to help the club be what you, the members, want it to be. Together, the members, the board of directors, and the officers have made some good progress this past year. In case you weren't paying attention, here are some things that have happened:

- *We've improved communications with the facebook page, The Arena and the website. Facebook.com/nwrdc has become a place where information and ideas are exchanged. The Arena is now emailed to more members than sent via postal mail and we generally have a great open rate. The website, nwrdcvt.com, where many items are archived and where you'll find forms and rules, went live in 2010.*
- *The committees continued to put on well-run, enjoyable events.*
- *We hosted a successful fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital.*
- *We added a new type of event - the Extreme Cowboy Race - and look forward to even more of these events next summer.*
- *The old race track building has been replaced with a shiny new storage barn.*
- *Membership was up in 2010 thanks to all of you!*

All-in-all, it was a good year. Let's hope 2011 proves to be an even better year for the club. Always remember Scars are Cowboy Tattoos with better stories.



Pierce Williams

Equine Wellness



Castration

Your colt has just been castrated (gelded) by your veterinarian. He is now a gelding. In this procedure, both testicles and the epididymus

(also known as the "squealer") are removed through two vertical incisions. Emasculators crush the cords, and the incisions are left open for drainage. The incisions are not sutured, because the horse's body responds to the procedure by secreting serum that needs to drain. Some swelling will occur after the procedure, usually descending into the sheath due to gravity. This is normal.

The day of the procedure, it is best to keep your horse confined to keep the blood clots intact. Starting the day after the castration, you need to exercise your new gelding once or twice a day for 15-30 minutes for 7- 10 days. This exercise needs to be an active walk or trot to aid in drainage of the incisions, which keeps the swelling to a minimum. Or, if your colt self-exercises in the pasture (not just standing around), you can turn him out for exercise. If the scrotum or sheath swells too much (more than a grapefruit), the most common reason is not enough exercise!

Your new gelding should act normally (eat, drink) after this procedure. Although this is considered a "routine" surgery, complications sometimes occur. Possible complications of this procedure include:

1. Local infection at the site of surgery
2. Excessive bleeding (steady stream instead of dripping)
3. Eventration of intestines through the inguinal ring.

If your colt should go off feed, run a fever, or if the swelling does not go down with exercise, he may have developed an infection. If this happens, please contact your veterinarian. Your vet will examine

the incision site to check the drainage, and may put your horse on antibiotics.

After the castration, some bleeding will occur because the incisions are not sutured, and the skin blood vessels may bleed. Slow dripping of blood up to an hour after castration is normal. If this should change to fast dripping or a stream of blood, contact your veterinarian right away. A blood clot from one of the cords may have come loose.

The third possible complication is intestinal eventration. If you should see anything abnormal hanging through the incision, please contact your veterinarian immediately. The testicular cords descend from the abdomen through two openings, the inguinal rings, into the scrotum. When the testicles are removed, there is a remote chance that a piece of intestine could drop through the inguinal rings. This problem is directly related to the size of the rings, being most common in Standardbreds who have the largest rings. This is very rare in other breeds.

If you suspect this problem, keep your horse calm until the vet arrives... offering food often diverts the horse's attention.

After castration, your colt could get a mare pregnant up to 3 days because of residual sperm in his system (which will be urinated out). As for "stallion" behavior, it usually resides within a couple weeks after the procedure. Geldings that continue to act stud-like (sometimes called Proud-cut) do so because of either memory (they have bred mares and KNOW what it is all about) or increased steroid production from their adrenal glands (a gland next to the kidneys). A "TRUE" proud-cut stallion has testicular tissue left in – possibly a cryptorchid stallion where only one testicle was removed by a non-veterinarian, or a lay person gelded the horse and has mistaken the epididymus for the testicle and didn't remove the testicle. A blood test can check for this condition.

Now that your colt is castrated, we hope you both will enjoy his new social life as a gelding.

Spotlight

The Pony Track comes back to life but with a new event. With the success of the October 9th event the Extreme Cowboy Race will continue in the 2011 season with 3 events. Check out www.nwrdc.com or the club's Facebook page for more information.



So we can learn more about each other, we ask that each month, members spotlight a fellow rider within the club. Share the story of one of our exceptional riders and their horse and family.

On Saturday October 9, 2010, a sunny yet windy day, 25 horse and rider teams competed in the Club's first ever Extreme Cowboy Race. Teams rode through 16 different obstacles showing off their horsemanship skills and their speed in completing the course. Some examples of the obstacles were opening, going through and closing a gate, jumps, log pull around barrels, a teeter totter and a cowboy curtain (hanging tarp flying in the wind!).

Taking 1st place and \$200.00 was Joe Sprano and Ladd. This horse and rider team demonstrated true horsemanship as they navigated each obstacle with ease. They even received extra points for completing more advanced or extreme maneuvers on a variety of obstacles. Their side pass over the first log on the course was especially impressive! Coming in second place and winning \$95.00 was Melissa Ballard and Maggie. This duo put in a nearly flawless run as they completed each obstacle with patience and partnership. Abbott Lovett and Breeze finished in third

place and took home \$30.00. This amazing team wasted no time in making easy work of each of the 16 obstacles. They actually loped through the log drag around the barrels!

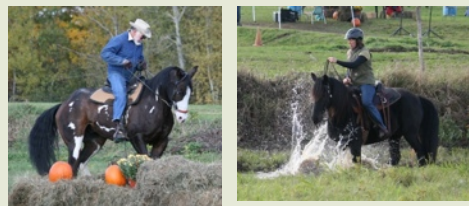
Competitors and their horses came in all ages and abilities. Club member Michaela Ross, 12 years old, competed with her horse Rosie, a Paint. While our most experienced rider Abbott Lovett took third place on his Appaloosa, Breeze. A variety of horse breeds were represented that day including Morgans, Quarter horses, a Paso Fino, Tennessee Walker, Arabians, a Rocky Mountain, a Shire cross and a Pinto. For this first event, there was only one category regardless of age and ability. Everyone competed against each other. The Committee will be looking for input and ideas on

groupings for next years races. Send us your thoughts.

The pony track will now be available for use as a playground. Some of the obstacles from the race will be there for your use. The Committee is interested in your ideas for more obstacles that can be added to the playground in the future and used for the Extreme Race events. In addition to the logs, the teeter totter and the log pull, what would you like to see on the playground? Contact a committee member with your questions or ideas. Extreme Cowboy Race Committee members; Melissa Ballard, Abbott Lovett, Shirley Langlois, Aileen Pearo, Katie Boutah, Linda Wood and Marta Merrick.

Many thanks to the Committee members and volunteers for all their help putting on this great new event! Volunteers include Pierce Williams, Maureen Hoague, Richard Bayer, Tracy Webb, Barbara Rousseau, Tracy Bennett, and Brendan Lamos. Also thanks to our judges Heather Reynolds and Cheryl.

Submitted by Marta Merrick.



Left, Abbott Lovett and right Aileen Pearo at the Extreme Cowboy Race.



Pee Wee Gymkhana

2010 YEAR END AWARDS

The Pee Wee Committee would like to thank the following people for all the help throughout the year:

Patricia & Benjamin Lafar, Sandra & Ray Hatin, Stacy & Dan Bennett, Linda & Ray Wood, Lorraine & George Rand, all of the parents that donated snacks and drinks at the shows. We would also like to thank all of our year end sponsors; The parent family, Don Pinett Flooring, Scussel family, Wright family, Nina Egger, Megan Breyette, Curtis family, Blaney family, Nicholas Martin, Rausseau family, Pinette family, and Bushey family.

Lead Line Champion

Jenna Bennett & Winters Rebel

Lead Line Reserve Champion

Nick Blaney & Sierrahs Really Grand

Non Lead Line Champion

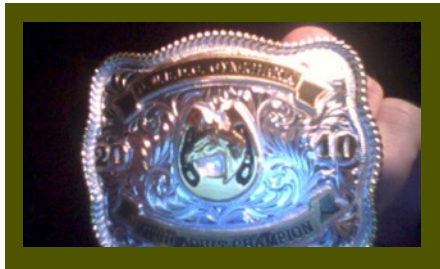
Sarah Lunn & Winter Hawk

Non Lead Line Reserve Champion

Braylen Parent & Miss Molly

Participation Winners are:

Aiyana Albu & Katie
Kenneth Bushey & Indy
Nicholas Martin & Shenandoah
Amber Rousseau & Abby
Hailey Roberts & Sammy
Felicity Gregware Dixie & Lily
Hunter Rousseau & Coco
Corbin Schreindorfer & Arizona
Ellie Depatie & Katie
Lily Pinett & Cocnut
Abagayle Kinsman & Shelby Loo
Rory Schreindorfer & Pixie
Megan Bruyette & Shenandoah
Clifford Patterson & Indy
Briannia Parent & Miss Molly
Brock Curtis & Whiskey



Gymkhana

2010 YEAR END AWARDS

Most Improved Youth

Emily Fournier

Most Improved Adult

Barbara Rousseau

Sportsmanship Award

Ray "Woody" Wood

High Point Same Horse & Rider Youth

Cassie Fraser & Nell 198 points

High Point Same Horse & Rider Adult

Johannes Jobst & Gallant 168 points

Youth Champion

Bridget Mayo & Rock in My Sock

Youth Reserve

Courtney Stearns & Cachina

Youth Open Champion

Cassie Fraser & Nell

Youth Open Reserve

Michaela Ross & Rosie

Novice Champion

Bridget Duhamel & Foxy

Novice Reserve

Brittnay Rousseau & Coco

Intermediate Champion

Ursula Ovitt & Reno

Intermediate Reserve

Barbara Rousseau & Diamond

Adult Open Champion

Johannes Jobst & Gallant

Adult Open Reserve

Sue Tice & Country

Congratulations to everyone. Look forward to seeing everyone in the 2011 gymkhana season.



Horse Show

2010 YEAR END AWARDS

Lead Line Champion

Jenna Bennett & Independence Day

Lead Line Reserve Champion

Nicholas Blamey & Sierras Really Grand

Lead Line Participation Winners

Aiyana Albu & Mighty Maxed Out

Emily King & Cameo Contender

Adult Champion

Jessica Guenter & Partner In Crime

Adult Reserve Champion

Krista Paradee & Pinicon Prince

Senior Champion

Brooke Mobbs & Cha Ching

Senior Reserve Champion

Ayla Atherton & Summers Eternal Star

Junior Champion

Jennifer Dickinson & Zoe

Advanced Beginner Champion

Kim Wolf & Skys The Limit

Beginner Champion

Hannah Martel & Colorless Crimson

Beginner Reserve Champion

Brianna Parent & Miss Molly

Green Horse Champion

Lisa Johnson & Smokin Jacks Cash

Green Horse Reserve Champion

Ashley Valade & Chips Final Gift

Novice/Green Rider Champion

Stacy Bennett & Lightning Stikes

Novice/Green Rider Reserve Champ.

Michael Hebert & Sam

Model English Champion

Amy Parent & Prime Time Sinner

Model Western Champion

Lisa Johnson & Smokin Jacks Cash

Model Western Reserve Champion

Ayla Atherton & Bonanzas 007

High Point Champion

Brooke Mobbs & Cha Ching

High Point Reserve Champion

Jessica Guenther & Partner In Crime



Please Print;

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email*: _____

2011 Membership Application

Early Bird Membership Dues:

Family: \$15.00 Single: \$10.00

Date of Birth: _____ Please send me the newsletter via postal mail

**By providing this information, you are granting NWRDC permission to send you the newsletter and other updates via email*

For family membership, please list all the children to be included and their ages. Children 18 years and older must have own individual membership.

Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____
 Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____
 Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____

Please check all interests that apply:

____ Trail Rides ____ Gymkhana ____ Pee Wee Gymkhana ____ Horse Shows ____ Extreme Cowboy ____ Administration

I understand that the activity of horseback riding involves risk of harm and I knowingly assume that risk in consideration of participating in and using the property of Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc.

Recognizing that wherever animals are in use, there is the potential for accidents which can cause injuries to other horses, cattle, riders, participants, and guests and spectators, I do hereby release, hold harmless, and indemnify the Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc., its members, directors, officers, affiliates, agents, employees, family, and volunteers from any damages or claims that may arise out of or due to the use by me, my animals, my spouse, my children and any minors, for whom I act as a de-facto or legal guardian, of the grounds, arenas, stables, jumps, cross country course and other property owned, leased or used by the Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc. owners, members, managers, directors, employees, affiliates, associates, agents, and volunteers. I further bind myself, my heirs, administrators, and executors to indemnify said entities and individuals from any judgments, costs of defense or suit, including attorneys' fees, and to reimburse said entities and individuals for any such losses. This agreement shall also apply to any claims or damages arising out of the negligence of The Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc., its owners, members, managers, directors, employees, affiliates, associates, agents, and volunteers.

I have carefully read and do understand the above and hereby fully release the above entities from any responsibility as stated or implied. I also agree to no alcohol use, no abusive language and no abusive treatment of horses while engaged in any riding activities or any activities on the premises. To do so may result in being asked to leave the premises.

THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT.

Rider's Name (Print): _____ Rider's Signature: _____
 Emergency Contact: _____ Emergency Phone #: _____
 Parent / Legal Guardian: _____ Signature: _____
 Date: _____

--We will need a signed release form for every rider.--

Mail completed form and check to:

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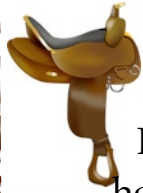


Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/NWRDC



J.P. North Tack Auction



English and Western tack, horse care products,
helmets, blankets, leather care products and more.

February 19, 2011, preview at noon, auction starts at 1 p.m. at
the Alburgh Community Education Center. 10% of the auction proceeds
and 100% of concessions go to support the Alburgh 8th grade class trip.
Childcare available on site.