



Northwest Saddle Club Bits

Northwest Saddle Club, Inc.
Mailing Address : P.O. Box 405, Hugo, MN 55038
Show grounds : 26950 Lyons St. NE, North Branch, MN 55056
Clubhouse Telephone: (651) 484-0920 <http://www.nwsaddleclub.org>

Youth News

A blanket tying party has been scheduled for February 26, 2011, 5:30 p.m., at Ashley Bona's house, half the blankets will go to Haiti relief and the other half will go to St. Jude's.

WE discussed the horse tack swap of April 9 and were thinking about having an Easter egg hunt that day for the youth.

We discussed that to get a year end award we must do at least one service project.

We can get apparel for half off with the northwest group; We were thinking along the lines of ring-crew shirts/ring-crew polo's.

We are planning a time to go to Caitlyn Gentsch's aunt's house.

Submitted by Ashley Olson

North Metro Banquet

A good time was had by all who attended the North Metro Banquet on Sat., Feb. 19, 2011. Congratulations to the NWSC members who won awards.



Barb Charpentier, Melissa Danielson, Emma Wheeler, Jordan Clauson, Jessica Rehak & Meagan Pittman.

Welcome New Members

Niki Altow
Jean Bour
Andrew Bradley
Wayne Bradley
Corey Chester
Teresa Chester
Bridget M. Edgar
Samantha Jensen
Shelby L. Gibson
Karyl Hylle
Sarah Kilgriff
Taylor Peterson
Justin Retherford
Nichole Retherford
Clarence Smith
Sommer Sova



New Members from Oct. 2010 - Present:

Left to right back row: Sandy Knight, Ellen Brown, Erin Olson, Taylor Hall, Kris Anderson, Jerrie Anderson
Left to right front row: Devon Olson, Jesse Jacobsen.



New Members from Oct. 2010 - Present:
Tom Hoch, Mary Hoch, & new member, Corey Chester.

Volume 7, Issue 03
MARCH, 2011

Special points of interest:

- **Next Meeting Agenda:**
- **March 1, 2011 at the Club House**
- **Youth Meeting: 6:30 p.m.**
- **General Meeting: 7:15 p.m.**

HOSPITALITY:

Melissa Williams

Come early to make coffee and bring cookies or a snack. Clean coffee pot at the end of the meeting.



The Dreaded Hoof Abscess

If you have never had any experience with hoof abscess, it can be a frightening thing indeed. Confusing at first, your horse may exhibit signs of being lame, or may simply baby one of their feet depending on the severity of the abscess, but have no worries. Hoof abscesses are a natural part of life for a horse, and occur more often than one might think.

A great deal of the lameness or lack of activity that horses exhibit come from hoof abscesses. They occur when objects get into the hoof; such objects are occasionally called 'gravel.' The foreign object can lead to an infection in the hoof that can be quite painful. Hoof abscesses can also be caused by something sharp having pierced the bottom of the hoof. If left untreated, a hoof abscess will get worse.

Weaknesses in the sole of the hoof can occur for a variety of reasons. Hoof imbalance from trimming mistakes and other things can lead to such a condition. If it is left untreated an abscess will move up the hoof and get progressively worse.

If your horse appears to have gone

lame all of a sudden, consider the possibility of a hoof abscess. You may not always be able to see the wound in the hoof, as it is possible that it may have closed before the abscess formed. To properly treat an abscess, it is important to catch it as early as possible. Draining the infection is one way of treating an abscess, but the wound should not be large enough so that another abscess can occur. For the first two days of treatment, the use of poultice in draining may be an effective option. This way, the foot does not have to be soaked (in most cases).

Remember that you should never try to drain an abscess on the sole of the hoof. This can make matters worse, leading to other infections and possibly infections of the bone. The treating veterinarian may make a puncture at the white line or in the sub solar tissue to attempt to cure this infection.

Occasionally, antibiotics may be administered to ease some of the pain of a hoof abscess.

Remember that hoof abscesses can be prevented! This is not a problem that

just occurs in some horses and not in others. Proper trimming is a great way to offset the possibility of a hoof abscess, as imbalance is one of the leading causes, as is removal of the protective horn. Sure this may be more appealing to the eye, but it does not contribute to the health of the horse's hooves at all.

Too much wetness can lead to abscesses as well, so proper foot dressing is also an option when trying to prevent painful abscesses in the hoof.

<http://www.horses-and-horse-information.com/articles/0398abscess.shtml>

Congratulations to the NWSC 2011 Royalty

Queen - Meagan Pittman
Game Princess - Jordan Clauson
Pleasure Princess - Emma Wheeler
Little Miss - Sydney Broz



Get ready to ride! How to make sure you and your horse are ready to go!

Although you probably have a year-round maintenance program in place for your horse, it's time to check his condition for the upcoming riding season. Longer days and the end of winter mean increased riding time and frequent hauling for many, whether gearing up for competition or the trail.

Every conditioning program should include proper health care and nutrition, as well as exercise, training and grooming. And, both horses and riders need to be mentally fit, besides physically conditioned, before heading out the gate.

Your horse's health care

Good nutrition is essential for your horse. It does not happen overnight but it can be improved quickly. Take the time to learn about feeds and how they meet your horse's nutritional requirements.

Make sure vaccinations and blood tests are up to date. If your plans include traveling, check the USDA for regional or state recommendations for those areas. Today, the majority of shows, facilities and organized rides require a negative Coggins test and some require a health certificate. Call to find out specific requirements for your event and what you need before crossing state lines.

Carrying a heavy parasite load can significantly affect a horse's health and fitness. Regular deworming is necessary for optimum performance.

Don't forget hoof care. Have your farrier evaluate each horse, whether it is for trimming or shoes. Remember, changes in ground surface affect footing and can impact your horse's way of going.

Pre-season conditioning

How do you tell if your horse is out of shape? The easiest way is to look at him. Make it routine to check your horses daily. Use appearance to monitor body mass. Obviously, if he looks like the Pillsbury Dough Boy, there may be a weight issue. Horses carrying extra fat are unable to eliminate heat as efficiently as their trimmer counterparts. But, being underweight can be a problem, too. If your horse is apparently laboring, sweats profusely, or is easily winded with light work -- and does not have other contributing health issues -- he is probably out of shape and would benefit from a conditioning program.

If you're unsure how to start conditioning your horse with exercise, it is best to start slow. It may take longer, but is a lot safer. Remember to warm up before any serious work, and cool your horse down after riding. It is a good idea to become familiar with your horse's normal temperature and respiration, and indicators of fitness and condition.

Grooming

It is amazing how quickly horses transform sleek hair coats into shaggy, thick ones after the first cold day. But how do you start the process back? Although there are no secrets for a good hair coat, there are a few proven methods to utilize, once the weather has turned warm.

The first thing to remember is there are no shortcuts. Regular grooming is necessary for shiny coats and to remove that long hair. Bathing is not always necessary. It dulls a horse's coat if done excessively. Limit frequent washing to tails and white legs as much as you can. Of course, for some horses, there will be no choice except for a full body wash. A silicone spray or coat conditioner can be used on matted manes and tails to detangle and reduce hair loss and damage. Be sure to have sunscreen and fly spray handy.

Training

All horses can benefit from simple suppling and balancing exercises, especially after a layoff or a vacation. These could include patterns of work with straight lines, circles, figure eights, serpentine, and lateral movements. The key is performing them correctly.

Most of today's training objectives include the components of collection and head-set. If you have concerns with either, put them aside until you have established a connection between the front and back ends of your horse. Volumes have been written and taught about collection and it is difficult to reduce that theory into one or two sentences. However, a horse has to be able to move forward to lengthen his frame and develop balance and rhythm. And, he has to be able to lengthen his frame and have balance and rhythm before he can shorten it or achieve any degree of collection.

And also ...
Check your tack. Does your tack fit your horse? Does your tack fit you? If you have a question on either, check with a

professional for advice.

Keep your equipment simple. Now is a good time to use leather cleaner and conditioner or oil on your saddle, headstall and reins and to make any needed repairs.

Keep your horse fresh. Vary his jobs from time to time. Open and close gates while riding. Follow cows on him. Pony other horses off of him. Make a schedule. I find it useful for my students to plan out the season and year before it begins. That way we won't have any surprises with scheduling, and know when we need peak performance.

Find professional help if you need it. If you aren't sure how to improve your horse's performance or question your riding skills, find someone to help you. It could save you money and time in the long run. On the road again

Before heading out "on the road again" with your horses, do a safety check of your truck and trailer. Take care of routine maintenance and make needed repairs.

Whether your destination is the show arena, cattle pen, cross country competition or trail riding, good preparation will go a long way toward a safe, enjoyable and successful riding season.

Christine Wilson is a trainer, instructor, clinician, judge and member of AQHA Professional Horseman's Association. She lives in Summerfield, N.C.

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Wanted/For Sale:

FOR SALE:

1996 Dun AQHA Registered Mare

"Digger" is an 1D Youth Barrel/Pole mare. She is by Doc's Bixby Cash. She also knows all the WSCA games. Runs 11 second poles, just coasting. Beginner safe! Sane & Sound! Ridden by all ages. Runs 2D with large adult rider (not pushing). Great HS rodeo or step-up horse. If you want to win, then you must have this mare! She is also a great producer. She is great for trail riding, and has experience on trails in Montana. Only selling because owner is starting medical school and will not have time for horses. Asking \$9500/OBO. Please call Cyndi McCormick @ 406-697-5987 or email: ssnitro@citlink.net Located in Minnesota Search ad posted on barrelhorse-world.com for "Cash Into Gold". Video & pictures listed with ad.

Nice supply of clothing with the Northwest Logo can be seen in the NWSC clubhouse. Check it out!!

Membership Renewal for 2011

Please send your completed **NWSC Membership Form and Nominate You and Your Horse Form for 2010 & fees (check made out to NWSC)** to:

NWSC

P.O. Box 405

Hugo, MN 55038

When completing your membership form, be sure to fill it out completely by including a clear email address, as well as your birth date and division that you show in. You can print the forms from the NWSC website www.nwsaddleclub.org.

FOR SALE:

2007 WW 3 Horse Slant Load Trailer, in excellent condition, with a dressing/tack area. Steel, \$4,300.

Round Pen, 65 ft. wide x 110 ft. long. One main gate and one opening gate, 23 12 ft. panels. Will haul and help install it, \$2,400.00.

Round bales and square bales. Call below for pricing.

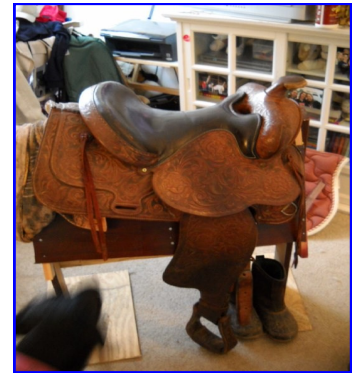
EZ Glo Industrial Golf Cart, with large box to haul hay, bedding, etc., \$2,000.

Room to board 2 horses in Stacy, MN! Great trails for trail riding, & indoor & outdoor riding arenas.

Call Jim Charpentier on any of the above at (651) 462-1900.

FOR SALE:

15" dark brown trail/game saddle SQHB. \$300 Call Allison Jacobson 651-675-7723.



FOR SALE:

15" barrel saddle, lightly used but still in good condition, \$250 obo CASH ONLY. Please call (651) 269-2762 or e-mail for more in-



If you have any newsletter information, wanted/sales ads, email or address changes, please send them to:

Laura Bolz

E-mail: labolz@comcast.net

Phone: 651-429-1263

(Please leave a detailed message.)

Address: 6 Bayhill Rd

Dellwood, MN 55110

You are invited to a Baby Shower!

For: Celeste Porter

When: Saturday, March 12, 2011

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Northwest Saddle Club Club House

Please RSVP to: Jenny @ 763-350-2596

Celeste is registered at Target and Babies R Us



Letter from Sue.....

Hello Everyone!

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping and I'm so sick of SpongeBob I could scream! I've had Bina, my 6 y/o granddaughter since Friday and have been trapped in the house with her during the storm. As soon as I finish this we can go out to the barn and play and shake some of the barnacles off.

Last week I went riding for the first time since the last nice piece of weather and it was GLORIOUS! I can hardly wait until show season as last fall Jay (my horse) and I finally had all of our issues resolved and started working as a team. It's amazing what can be accomplished if you have an actual arena to practice in as opposed to a bumpy, vole-ridden field. I'm sure all of you can identify with that. I also finally have a job after two years of unemployment so I can afford to actually put that practice to work. My next check I plan to buy pvc pipe for my pole bases and who knows? Maybe my barrel horse will also turn out to be a good pole horse.

I've promised Bina that I will get her another pony this spring, so if anyone knows of a good pony for sale I'd love to hear about it. I need something small....Shetland size or just a tad bigger. Color, age, and sex doesn't matter as long as it's kid safe and bomb proof. She's been riding Jay and he's just a little too big for her.....16H and 300 lbs. He's been good with her at home practicing so last spring I took her to a show in Plymouth and he got into the arena fine and had a textbook first barrel and then halfway between first and second barrel his head went up and I could see the light bulb go on "Hay, I'm a barrel horse!" and off they go at a high lope around the rest of the pattern and he adds a couple of victory laps for good measure before he finally stopped at the gate (she stayed on!) The rule at my house is "no blood, no tears" but I made an exception this time and as soon as she got back to the gate I looked at her little scared white face and told her she could cry because what happened was really scary and she was awesome! I made her ride him back to the trailer and everyone was telling her how awesome she was and giving her high fives, so she didn't rain very long and halfway back to the trailer the sun came out and she felt good about what she had done. We took care of Jay and then dashed up the hill to see if great-grandma needed the paddles! My 85 y/o mom only comes with once every few year and so this is the one time she sees her great-granddaughter doing a Whiplash imitation on an impossibly huge horse.

This month's tip is borderline horse. The things you see advertised on TV that are supposed to "smooth away" unwanted hair and exfoliate at the same time are nothing more than 400 or 600 grit wet/dry sandpaper. Works the same and are a lot cheaper. This is horse related in that if you ride in shorts in the summer you can cut down on wind resistance by getting rid of unwanted hair. I know, it's a stretch.

As always, Yeehaw and Happy Trails!

Sue

NORTHWEST SADDLE CLUB'S SCRAPBOOKING WEEKEND

Northwest Saddle Club
26950 Lyons St. NE
North Branch, MN 55056

SATURDAY April 2, 2011 at 7:00 am to Midnight for
\$25.00

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be an assigned potluck.
Free Make 'n Take and Door Prices!!!

Space is limited so please register early. Registration will
close on 3/22/2011. Please contact below:

Barb Sabo
5377 352nd St
North Branch, MN 55056
651-674-8706 after 6 pm
bsesabo@q.com

The club house has a small refrigerator and 6 burner stove
with oven, microwave and coffee pot. Coffee will be sup-
plied. There is no TV or internet connection.

Please bring light for work area, extension cord, and pillow
for sitting.

NWSC Tack Swap!
New & Used Items!

Saturday, April 9th
10am - 3pm

April 9th between 7am - 9am
register and drop off items in
Northwest's Club House

4pm - 6pm is pickup for leftover items!

Pre-drop off for sale items is
Friday, April 8th
between 2pm & 8pm

Retail Vendors and Custom Tack Designers Welcome!

Prize Raffle Drawing
with a Donation Thanks to
VIKING SADDLERY

Northwest Saddle Club is located @
26950 Lyons Street NE
North Branch, MN 55056
15% Commission and a \$5 entry fee

Any Questions? Call/Txt: Laura @ 651-328-9347 or 651-353-7339



Hope Rides 2011 Clinic Events

May 14th Lloyd Anderson Horsemanship Clinic \$100.00 9-5
Oasis Equestrian Center Lindstrom MN.

Lloyd fits it all in... makes you feel great and gives you the tools
to improve your skills all at the same time.
You won't want to miss this clinic!

Who is Lloyd Anderson?

- Lloyd has been instructing and teaching clinics in Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Equitation and English Pleasure for 35 years
- He is a successful AQHA World Show competitor
- Many of his students are top riders in the AQHA and WSCA circuits
- Lloyd provides instruction for any level of rider... from beginner to advance
- He instructs in a fun, positive and educational manner

Saddle Fitting Clinic with Cordia Pearson April 9th, 2011
10am-4:00pm \$30.00
Equine Haven Stacy, Minnesota

Cordia is one of 15 Society Master Saddle Fitters in the US. Olympians to weekend riding warriors she has fitted them all.
Learn the key elements to proper saddle fitting. This clinic will allow you to get your hands under various saddles of various breeds of horses and help you to become better equipped at determining saddle fit on your or clients horses.

Call Today To Reserve Your Spot - Registration is Limited
Call 612.310.6350 or email info@hoperides.org to register.