



Mechanicsville Riding Club

The Hitching Post

Issue 63

AUGUST 2008

2008 Officers

President	KAREN H
Vice President	DONNA H
Secretary	CINDY G
Treasurer	DEBBIE W

August Birthdays:

Joan B, Donna C, Julie G, Alyson S

Next Club Meeting will be Sept. 24th at the Mechanicsville Little League Bldg. Social will begin at 7:00 and our meeting will start at 7:30. Our speaker will be Rebecca Precious. Hope to see everyone there.

2008 Board Meeting Dates (2nd Wednesday each month at 7pm)

Sept 10	Nov 12
Oct 8	Dec 10

All members are welcome to attend board meetings. Locations to be determined, details will be e-mailed prior to meetings

Club Editor- **Bunny H**
Web Editor- **Diane T**
Ways & Means – **Bethany M**
Historian – **Judee C**
Parliamentarian – **Nancy M**
Publicity – **Diane T**
Show – **Barbara H, Debbie M, Deb D**
Special Events – **Jim R & Bev C**
Activities – **Maria S**
Membership/Telephone Tree – **Joan B**
Parade- **Nancy M, Carolyn D**
Activities 17 & under – **Linda L**
Corporate Secretary- **Paula H**

CHUCK WAGON:

Determined by membership roster order

SEPT: Maria S & Diane T

OCT: Debbie W & Mary W

NOV: Kathy A & Sandy B

Please let us know as soon as possible if you can't supply Chuck Wagon.

Heads Up:

Remember to bring Southern States feed proof-of-purchases to the meetings. They help with our horse show.

ANY MEMBER OF MRC MAY SEEK APPROVAL TO ORGANIZE AND CO-ORDINATE A TRAINING CLINIC OPEN FOR THE FULL MRC MEMBERSHIP. GUIDELINES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING.

If anyone would like to share their bio please send me your info...especially new members.

It'll help us get to know each other. MRC

Membership bio guidelines:

- Name:
- What is your riding interest or discipline?
- How did you develop your connection with horses?
- Tell about your early experience with horses?
- What are your goals and interests for you and your horse?
- Tell about the greatest achievement for you and your horse.
- How has your riding experience enhanced your life?

FOR MRC PLANNED EVENTS

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.MECHANICSVILLERIDINGCLUB.NET

MRC also appears on Woodside Equine Clinic website now...



PERSONAL ROUND-UP:

Let's continue to keep all our recovering members in our prayers.

Send your BIO to the editor and let us know more about you and your horse interests

"HORSE QUOTES"

There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse.
- R S Surtees

One way to stop a runaway horse is to bet on him.
- Jeffrey Bernard

Money, horse racing and women, three things the boys just can't figure out.
- Will Rogers

The profession of book writing makes horse racing seem like a solid and stable business.

- John Steinbeck

Horse racing is animated roulette.

- Roger Kahn

A difference of opinion is what makes horse racing and missionaries.

- Will Rogers

Nobody has ever bet enough on a winning horse.

- Richard Sasuly

"Barn Humor" Strange Horse Laws

Just some wacky, odd, strange laws from around the US (and a few from other countries too!).

The horse is New Jersey's state animal.

It's illegal in Marion, South Carolina, to **tickle a female under her chin with a feather duster** to get her attention while she's riding a horse.

In New York City, it is illegal to **open or close an umbrella** in the presence of a horse.

It is **illegal to fish from horseback** in Washington D.C, Colorado, and Utah.

Tennessee prohibits **riders from lassoing fish**.

A British law states that an Englishman **must not sell a horse** to a Scotsman.

Horses are required to wear hats in hot weather in Rasario, Argentina.

A fine of \$25 can be levied for flirting. This old law specifically prohibits men from turning around on any city street and looking "at a woman in that way." A second conviction for a crime of this magnitude calls for the violating male to be forced to wear a **"pair of horse-blinders"** wherever and whenever he goes outside for a stroll.

In Guerneville, Illinois, it is illegal for women weighing **more than 200 pounds to ride horses in shorts**.

In Kentucky, it is illegal for a woman to appear in a bathing suit on a highway unless she is: escorted by at least two police officers; armed with a club; or lighter than 90 pounds or heavier than 200 pounds.

The ordinance also specifically **exempts female horses** from such restrictions.

In London, England, law required taxi drivers to **carry a bale of hay** on top of their caps to feed their horses. The law was in force until 1976.

In Arizona, it is illegal for cowboys to walk through a hotel lobby wearing their spurs.

In Raton, New Mexico, it is illegal for a woman to ride horseback down a public street **with a kimono on**.

In South Carolina, it is legal for adult males to discharge firearms when approaching an intersection in a non-horse vehicle to **warn oncoming horse traffic**.

A misworded ordinance in Wolf Point, Montana: "No horse shall be allowed in public without **its owner wearing a halter**."

In South Carolina, no horses are allowed into Fountain Inn unless they **are wearing pants**.

In Omega, New Mexico, every woman must "be found to be wearing a corset" when riding a horse in public! A doctor is required to inspect each woman to make sure that she is complying with the law.

Pennsylvania law states: "Any motorist who sights a team of horses coming toward him must pull well off the road, cover his car with a blanket or canvas that blends with the countryside, and let the horses pass. If the horses appear skittish, the **motorist must take his car apart, piece by piece, and hide it under the nearest bushes**."

In Hartsville, Illinois, you can be arrested for **riding an ugly horse**.

In the state of Queensland, Australia, it is still constitutional law that all pubs (hotel/bar) must have a railing outside for patrons to **tie up their horse**.

Pattonburg, Missouri, Revised Ordinances, 1884: "No person shall hallo, shout, bawl, scream, use profane language, dance, sing, whoop, quarrel, or make any **unusual noise or sound in such manner as to disturb a horse**."

Abilene, Kansas, City Ordinance 349 declares: "Any person who shall in the city of Abilene **shoot at a horse with any concealed or unconcealed bean snapper** or like article, shall upon conviction, be fined."

Marshalltown, Iowa, it is against the **law for a horse to eat a fire hydrant**.

HORSE TREAT RECIPES

Easy Horse Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup carrot grated
- 1 apple grated
- 2 Tablespoons corn oil
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup flour

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Lightly grease cookie sheet.
3. In a large bowl, mix carrot, apple, corn oil and molasses together.
4. Fold in salt, oats and flour until well mixed.
5. Spread dough out in one big piece on the cookie sheet.
6. Score dough with a knife to make it easier to break apart after baking. (Or, roll dough out and cut with cookie cutters)
7. Bake for 20 minutes or until brown.
8. Let cool.

Apple-Carrot Horse Biscuit

Ingredients

- Honey
- 1/2 apple
- Grated carrots and carrot chunks
- Milk
- Whole-wheat flour
- Oatmeal

Directions

1. Mix grated carrots and carrot chunks, grated apple, oatmeal, whole-wheat flour and honey in a bowl.
2. Stir until sticky and doughy.
3. Add a little milk to the mixture milk to make it moist, but still doughy.
4. Shape the dough into balls and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes.
5. Let cool.



From Katherine Dill:

The Game of Monopony, Part 4, Or, if Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy

Are you ready to apply for the job of Monopony Master? If you are, then it's time to show Whoa that you have met Mama.

Mama was Whoa's first trainer. She knew what would motivate Whoa to change his earliest primitive responses into responsible, safe, respectful behavior patterns. She understood what Whoa needed in order to willingly become a sane, secure horse, simply because she was a horse herself. Her training made sense to him because she based it on satisfying his instinctive Horse needs. He learned from her that her rules would keep him safe and that if he followed them, he could sort things out well enough that all he had left to do was to relax and eat, snort, roll and poop.

You see, Mama was the ultimate Monopony Master. There was not a chance in the world that Whoa would control the hotels on Boardwalk and Park Place while Mama was around. She knew exactly which moves to make to encourage her baby to hold himself precisely where, when and how she wanted him to. She knew how to make him focus on her and how to demand that he accede to her choices whether he agreed with them or not. Of course, Mama didn't start out this way. She learned how to be a good horse herself from (you guessed it) her mama. She had some help putting this all into perspective from her herd members, but the seed was planted in her Horse heart by her own mama.

Mama's secret weapon as a Monopony Master was her knowledge of what horses want from one another to get right in their hearts. Here is a peek at what Mama knew.

1. Horses seek clarity. They don't like questions with negotiable answers, though they will readily engage in negotiation to obtain clarity. They like yes or no answers. They don't much care what the requirement is, in general, as long as it can be responded to with a yes or a no, and they can express their opinion about it at least once.

2. Horses expect this level of clarity from any herd member, Horse or Human, because it is the Horse way of doing things. Because you interact regularly with your horse, you are considered a herd member, and your influence and behavior are measured by Horse standards. This is not unusual. Mama communicated her standards clearly to Whoa from the start regarding what she wanted, when, where and how she wanted it, and that was that. Every horse that has had any kind of a decent

mama and herd experience expects others to give to pressure, to hold themselves in respect, to follow the leader, to not get pushy unless they want nipped or thumped, to wait their turns, to not like being alone or outcasts, to enjoy wither nibbling, to hate surprises, and, most importantly, to focus on whoever is in charge in order to figure out what that leader wants, and then to do it without questioning. Anything less than that earns disrespect and discipline.

3. Horses expect that someone will assume a leadership position. This job can be filled either by one of them or by you. Who does it is not as important to them as whether it is done effectively. In fact, that is the real reason horses play Monopony, to force this clarity to occur, so they can relax and just eat, snort, roll and well, you know. Once this leadership is clearly established, they would rather just go along with the leader's program than fight it, as long as it respects their needs as they perceive them for safety, guidance and acknowledgement of their questions or opinions.

4. Horses have no such thing as random movement. Every movement, even those almost too tiny for us to perceive as humans, asks a question or offers an opinion or a directive, or is a response to one offered by another being. Horses are acutely aware of movements within their environment, and need resolution of the issues these movements raise in order to remain sane and secure. Without this, thinking about the bad guys can drive them crazy.

5. Horses are by nature path-followers. They hate surprises. They need a predictable environment. They like to follow a path that is well defined and clearly free of dangers, imagined or otherwise. Once they figure out what that path is, they don't want it to change. The Monopony board suits them just fine, because once around, they know where everything is and what to expect. This means they have looked for and identified all the possible hiding places for bad guys, and can just attend to those as they pass, leaving the rest of the time free to do you-know-what.

I have found that the best way to control the Monopony board is to think like Mama does. If I use Mama's perspective, I can usually predict what Whoa's next move will be, and I can prevent it before it happens. When I do this, Whoa thinks I have been reading his mind. I know differently; I have just been looking into it with Mama's eyes.

Kathleen Dill, June 2008