



Mechanicsville Riding Club

The Hitching Post

Issue 62

JULY 2008

2008 Officers

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

July Birthdays:

Helen B, Brenda B, Terry G, Amanda R, Dale R, Phyllis S, Diane T, Nancy M

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**

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)

Aug 13	Nov 12
Sept 10	Dec 10
Oct 8	

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

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.

WE WANT TO WELCOME OUR NEW CLUB MEMBER **GORDON MARTIN**

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

"HORSE QUOTES"

He knows when you're happy
He knows when you're comfortable
He knows when you're confident
And he *always* knows when you have carrots.
~Author Unknown

The wind of heaven is that which blows between a horse's ears.
~Arabian Proverb

It's a lot like nuts and bolts - if the rider's nuts, the horse bolts!

~Nicholas Evans

A lovely horse is always an experience....
It is an emotional experience of the kind that is spoiled by words.

~Beryl Markham

BARN HUMOR:

CONTRIBUTED BY Kathleen Dill

author unknown

A Horse's View of the World

* Arena: Place where humans can take the fun out of forward motion.

* Bit: Means by which a rider's every motion is transmitted to the sensitive tissues of the mouth.

* Bucking: counterirritant

* Crossties: Gymnastic apparatus.

* Dressage: Process by which some riders can eventually be taught to respect the bit.

* Fence: Barrier that protects good grazing.

* Grain: Sole virtue of domestication.

* Hitching rail: Means by which to test one's strength.

* Horse trailer: Mobile cave bear den.

* Hotwalker: The lesser of two evils.

* Jump: An opportunity for self-expression.

* Latch: Type of puzzle.

* Longeing: Procedure for keeping a prospective rider at bay.

- * Owner: Human assigned responsibility for one's feeding.
- * Rider: Owner overstepping its bounds.
- * Farrier: Disposable surrogate owner; useful for acting out aggression without compromising food supply.
- * Trainer: Owner with mob connections.
- * Veterinarian: Flightless albino vulture

Member Contributions:

Contributed by Barbara H

1. People who don't take care of their own horses will be the first ones to tell you how to care for yours.
2. You should never buy a cheap girth.
3. A handsome horse who's badly behaved will become a lot less attractive in about 15 minutes.
4. People who think they have nothing more to learn about riding hit the ground the hardest.
5. Children and ponies are natural allies and often have identical dispositions.
6. The richest horse people most often look the poorest.
7. The closeness of a horse is one of the sweetest smells in the world.
8. A solitary ride through the woods is more beneficial than six months with the best psychiatrist.
9. The worse a person rides the more likely they are going to blame it on the horse.

10. The best thing about going to the barn first thing in the morning is that horses don't care how you look.

11. If a dealer insists a horse is worth twice what he's asking he's usually worth half that much.

12. The best way to appreciate how another person rides is to get on their horse but it can be a quick way to get hurt.

13. I can recognize another horse person no matter what town, city, state, county or country I visit.

14. You can never have too many hoof picks.

15. It is not wise to argue with something that outweighs you by 1,000 pounds.

16. I'd rather have a horse with a perfect mind than a perfect head.

17. If you think you have left the water on in the barn you have, if you think you have closed the pasture gate, you haven't.

18. When someone asks you if you like their horse always say 'yes'.

19. The happiest people I know own horses, dogs, cats and at least one deranged goat.

20. If you're looking for the perfect horse you will never own one.

21. Owning a horse can either make a marriage or break it.

22. I'd rather lose my lipstick than my curb chain.

23. You shouldn't talk about your first place ribbon to someone that came second.

24. If someone says that horse has a little buck, it has a BIG buck.

25. If we need rain, schedule a show.

26. I've never warmed up to someone that didn't want a walk down to the stables.

27. A clean stables and a sparkling horse are among life's great pleasures.

28. Even free horses can be too expensive. Especially, free horses.

29. No matter how badly behaved you are, your horse always gives you a second chance.

30. A more expensive horse doesn't make a better one.

31. I will never ever have an empty stable and I have accepted that fact.

32. Losing a horse can break your heart but it will have been worth it.

Also from Barbara,

Merri, I know we are all trail riders and pretty much have this stuff down pat, but I read an article recently about the 50 things you need on trail rides. Most of them were things that were pretty much common sense like what to wear, boots, tack, stuff like that, but here are some that most of us do not think about in case you might want to put it somewhere in the newsletter:

Dryer Sheets: Scented dryer sheets can be tied around bridles and helmet straps to discourage biting flies.

Bandanna: Soaked in cold water and tied around a riders neck helps to keep cool on hot humid days, also can be used as a tourniquet.

Antacid: They can be used for treating the sudden onset of muscle cramps.

Numbers: In case of Emergency names and phone numbers should be programmed into your cell phone under ICE. Also program in the name and number of your vet.

Whistle: Here is one my husband has told me numerous times to get. It can scare off threatening wildlife or dogs or send a signal for help.

Medical Information: Keep medical information about yourself, your conditions and medications in your saddle bag in case you are injured seriously

enough to need an EMT and are unconscious. And on that same thought, pack a full day of your medication even if you are only going out for a day ride in case you get stranded, you will have a dose with you.

Duct Tape: This one is really cool. Wrap several feet around an unsharpened pencil and put it in your saddlebag.

Shoelaces: Leather shoelaces can be used for repairing tack in a bind.

Old Nylon Stocking: Can be used for a sling, any type of tying, or if you are really desperate, to rob a 7-11.

Space Blanket: In case you get lost in cold or evening, or if you have an injured rider that needs to remain warm.

Waterproof Matches: We all know about them, but a film canister with dryer lint in it and a little petroleum jelly will quickly start a fire.

Anyway, some things I had not thought about before. Thanks.

Barbara H

I WANT TO SAY THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND HOPE MEMBERS WILL KEEP THEM COMING...GREAT INFO AND HUMOR WHICH IS WORTH SHARING.

From Katherine Dill:

**The Game of Monopoly, Part 3,
Or, hold your horses, now;
I didn't know Mama made those rules**

So you have taken stock and realized that the Monopoly Master is not you. It is Whoa. He has many more hotels than you. He makes many more choices about how the two of you will interact than you ever thought, and if you really look closely, you will see that he holds a lot of the Get-Out-Of-Jail-Free cards while you have to work your fingers to the bone trying for the right roll of the dice.

This probably doesn't sit well with you because, after all, you pay the bills. It's your barn, your trailer, your grain and your saddle. Seems like it should be you who owns more hotels. The problem is how to get it done. Whoa

has learned a lot about you during his games, some of which you probably wish he hadn't. And, since really focusing on the game of Monopoly that is being played, you have probably learned a lot about him as well, some of which you probably wish you hadn't. It might even have become apparent to you that all those years you thought you were training Whoa, he was really training you. Hmm. Lots of us have all been there, and lots of us have wished we hadn't.

To change this, we need to first look at how Whoa was raised and what expectations he was given by Mama, because these are the tools we will use to reclaim the Monopoly Mastership Trophy. I am pretty sure that Mama did not permit Monopoly to be played in her household, and if *she* didn't, then *you* don't have to, either.

I once watched a mare, Cookie, lead her newborn foal, Little Bit, around and around the field on their first outing, at two days old. Cookie was one of our brood mares, so I had a lot of opportunity to observe her mothering skills. She had decided that this day was the perfect time to teach Bit to watch and follow her no matter where she went, or what was going on. She started walking, nudging him alongside of her, and then she started working. She would stop, then turn, then go again, then go slowly, then turn, then stop, then speed up, then slow---over and over, and nudge and nuzzle and whicker and poke him to get him in just the right place and at just the right speed. The result was that after several outings of this, his manners were in place (at least for this watch-and-follow thing) and she could then be sure that if she left at a high rate of speed to avoid the bad guys, or conversely, froze to gain more information about them, he would be right there with her.

What did she really do? She gave Bit the tools he would need to be a good horse and a good learner. She taught him to focus, to give to pressure, to hold himself in place and to remain

respectful to her wishes just because she expressed them. She taught him that lack of focus, returning pressure for pressure, resistance to the path of her intentions, and disrespectful behavior had immediate, consistent and unpleasant or sometimes painful consequences. She did this because her Mama heart and her Horse sense knew that Bit's very survival was at stake unless he learned some rules quickly and well.

She also taught him that there was no negotiation allowed in her expectations. She said not just Go, but Go here, beside me, right now, head at my flank, at this speed, and stay there until I change something. She never said he couldn't object or try to alter one of those demands. She let him have the right to say yes or no, but if he said no, she made it unpleasant for him by bumping him, nudging him or leaving him. If he said okay, she nuzzled and whickered and loved on him.

What Little Bit learned was that obedience and focus and waiting patiently were good things because pleasantries happened as a result of them, and because unpleasantries happened without them.

We have the same tools available to us each time Whoa chooses to roll the dice to play Monopoly. We can use focus, give to pressure, hold yourself and do it because I said so as ways to ensure that Whoa's behavior stays within the parameters of Mama's very useful, very safe and very sane expectations. Right now, though, Whoa probably thinks we haven't met Mama and her rules. That is all about to change. Get ready to throw those dice away. Next time, we'll explore how Mama thinks and how to anticipate Whoa's moves before he makes them.

Kathleen Dill, June 2008