



Mechanicsville Riding Club

The Hitching Post

Issue 65

OCTOBER 2008

2008 Officers

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

October Birthdays:

Bethany M, Annette S

Next Club Meeting will be Oct. 22nd at the Mechanicsville Little League Bldg. Social will begin at 7:00 and our meeting will start at 7:30. Nancy Morris and Carolyn Davis will be talking about "The Do's & Don'ts of Hiring an Outfitter". Hope to see everyone there.

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**
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**

2008 Board Meeting Dates

(2nd Wednesday each month at 7pm)

Nov 12

Dec 10

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

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.

CHUCK WAGON:

Determined by membership roster order

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.

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

HALLOWEEN FUN SHOW – OCT 25TH

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.MECHANICSVILLERIDINGCLUB.NET



Contributed by Theresa B

Calculate your Horse's Weight

Holding a flexible plastic tape measure perpendicular to the ground, measure around your horse's heart girth-starting about 4 inches behind his front leg at the girth area, up over the highest point of his withers and around his barrel.

Then, with the tape parallel to the ground, measure his body length from his point of shoulder to his point of buttock.

Here is the formula for a horse older than one year, (heart girth x heart girth x body length)/330 = estimated body weight in pounds.

For a weanling, divide by 280 and for a yearling, divide by 301

“HORSE QUOTES”

When I can't ride anymore, I shall keep horses as long as I can hobble along with a bucket and wheelbarrow. When I can't hobble, I shall roll my wheelchair out by the fence of the field where my horses graze, and watch them."

~Monica Dickens

Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyways. ~John Wayne

Don't give your son money. As far as you can afford it, give him horses. ~Winston Churchill

"A horse is the projection of peoples' dreams about themselves- strong, powerful, beautiful- and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence."

HORSE POEM

The Runaway

By Robert Frost

Once when the snow of the year was beginning to fall,

We stopped by a mountain pasture to say, "Whose colt?"

A little Morgan had one forefoot on the wall, The other curled at his breast. He dipped his head

and snorted to us. And then we saw him bolt. We heard the miniature thunder where he fled,

And we saw him, or thought we saw him, dim and gray,

Like a shadow across instead of behind the flakes.

The little fellow's afraid of the falling snow. He never saw it before. It isn't play with the little fellow at all. He's running away.

He wouldn't believe when his mother told him, 'Sakes,

It's only weather.' He thought she didn't know!

So this is something he has to bear alone And now he comes again with a clatter of stone,

He mounts the wall again with whited eyes Dilated nostrils, and tail held straight up straight.

He shudders his coat as if to throw off flies.

"Whoever it is that leaves him out so late, When all other creatures have gone to stall and bin, Ought to be told to come and take him in."

The Game of Monopony, Part 6,

Or, Okie dokie, but first I need just
one more bite of grass

Kathleen Dill, July 2008

What is it we really want from our horses? This seems like an easy question to answer. Most of the people I have worked with say they want companionship, pleasant contact and easy friendship, in varying measures and combinations. They want to be special to their horses, they want to have fun while spending time with them, and they generally want them to have fun, too.

Maybe, though, since taking a long look at the game of Monopony we have been playing, you have some questions about whether you are achieving what you really want. Those cute little “quirks” that Whoa has might not seem so cute when we view them in the context of Monopony. Having to repeat ourselves, avoiding getting stepped on or shoved, being taken for walks instead of the reverse—once we realize these things are not random occurrences or little accidents, we may also realize that we want a lot more from Whoa. No matter what particular activity or discipline we intend to pursue, we may realize that we want some combination of connection and control from him, so we can have a good time and stay safe while achieving whatever might be our personal goals. We want less competition and more commitment. Less strain and more satisfaction. Less dissension and more devotion.

I know that partnership with my horse is what I really desire when I spend time with him. I want him to want to work with me as much as I want to work with him. But hoping this happens is not enough to get it done, however; what we need is to learn not just how to make him do it when we tell him to, but how to make him want to do it when we ask. We need to learn how to make him want to give up the game.

Relationship is the antidote for Monopony.

Relationship requires interaction and communication. You are in relationship with your horse from the very first moment he feels your approach. Lots of us think that relationship starts when you actually touch your horse, and some people think it only starts when you climb up in the saddle. Both are incorrect, in my opinion. You are in relationship from the moment Whoa becomes aware that you intend to interact with him.

This is an important understanding, because it defines the very first opportunity for communication between you and Whoa. The information you give him at this time about your plans affects his view of who will control the Monopony board, before the game has even begun. Whoa will undoubtedly ask a question or

two about your determination, or at least express an opinion about whether your intent is a good idea, trying to get in that first roll of the dice. How you respond--what you say and do in those first moments--will be seen as an answer to these questions, a measure of what you expect to have happen during the rest of that period you two are interacting. In that sense, your choices during this first interaction might inform your horse that you intend for him to do exactly what your first “conversation” with him indicated, and nothing else. Or, they might invite negotiation, at which time the game begins.

By the parameters included in the information you give, you change Whoa’s behavior. And changing behavior is, in essence, training. All of us who have horses ultimately train horses. You may not think of yourself as a trainer, but each time you interact with your horse, you are not only trying to inform your horse of a choice you have made, you are also teaching him something about yourself. His respect for you hinges greatly on what he learns about you in his time with you. Sometimes what he learns is good stuff, and sometimes what he learns is stuff you would rather not have him know.

I never want my statements to my horse to help him learn that I don’t understand how he thinks, that I can’t make up my mind about what I want from him, that I don’t know what to do if he disagrees with me or that I am not sure about how to say what I want to say or how to do what I want to do. Finding out those things about me just promotes misunderstandings and power struggles between us. Whoa is a lot bigger than me, a whole lot stronger than me, and sometimes, about some things, a whole lot smarter than me, so unless we can work together, we are both safer apart.

From my point of view, training occurs with every interaction you have with the horse. If you are very attentive, you will notice that small questions occur nearly every time you are with him, not only about what you want him to do, but also where you want it, when you want it, and how you want it done. A good trainer will recognize these questions as they occur and answer them immediately, which adds to the clarity of the situation. A really good trainer will frame his expectations so clearly and concisely that the horse has no questions about what, where, when or how and therefore only has to say, “Okay, I’m with you,” or “Not today, I’m not in the mood.” A great trainer will always have a plan and will always communicate it so convincingly to his pal that he gets an “Okay, what are we waiting for? Bring it!” every time.

So what do I really want from my horse? It’s pretty simple, actually. I want him to recognize that I respect his Horse needs, and I want him to accept that I will do my best to meet those needs, even while communicating what I desire from him. I want him to expect that I have a plan, which I will share and clarify

no matter what the situation is, and which I will rely on to keep him safe in mind and body.

I want him to commit to a relationship with me in the same measure as I commit to one with him. I want him to recognize, accept and expect that I can do Mama's job, no dice needed. In short, I want him to want to do as well with me as he wanted to do with Mama.

Nothing more is needed, but nothing less will do.



OCTOBER 25, 2008

Mechanicsville Riding Club's Annual Halloween Horse & Pony Show @ Pole Green Park Equestrian Center. Tell your friends! Hunter, Western & Gaited & Costume classes. Informal attire. Show starts at 9 am. Schooling between 8-8:45 am. Free spectator admission. Money prize Costume Class! Witchey T-Shirts and concessions available.



RIDING IN HAWAII