

OXBOW STABLES, INC.

PRESENTS

GIUSEPPE'S GAZETTE



Vol. 15 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2010

Greetings from Giuseppe. I can't believe we're into February all ready! Do you believe it? Get ready; spring is just 7 weeks away!

Can you believe that Oxbow is 50 years old? It was started as the Oxbow Riding Club, in Newfoundland, in 1959 by Veron and Whitney Bowles (Tara's parents). We've certainly come a long way. Here's to another fifty years! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

Our 2010 omnibus will be out shortly. It will list all the dates for our competitions and events. We've added our Beginning Riders' Show and Jumper Shows to our schooling competitions. We're looking forward to a fabulous season.

Speaking of a great season, we will be celebrating the 2009 year on February 27th with our annual awards dinner and silent auction. Save the date and plan on a fun evening with great food and camaraderie. Of course, we also have some neat awards to present!

Frank Kemble, Sparta, who has taken lessons over the years and attended our competitions, came in January to spend a month with his boy, Teddy. Well, Teddy likes it so much (he's been extra affectionate to Frank) that Frank has decided to stay. A big welcome to you both, Frank and Teddy! We're very happy to have you as a member of the Oxbow family.

Our junior equestrian of the month is Caroline Kelly. Caroline had a lesson on Kye where he was being a bit rambunctious. Lynne put her on the longe to help her and she ended the lesson by trotting, cantering and jumping on her own. Way to go, girl!

Our senior equestrian is Deb McNellis (Jill's mom). Deb rode as a kid and has gotten back to he riding this past fall. She has a great feel and is now really getting a connection on Whitney. Keep up the good work!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Our best wishes for a very happy birthday go out to Lovisa Brinson (16), Mallory Boswell (21), Doris Snyder (24), Jennifer Griger (25).

LATE WINTER CALENDAR

- 2/14 Michael Page Clinic
- 2/21 In-House Schooling Show
- 2/27 Oxbow Awards Dinner
- 3/13 Oxbow Movie Night
- 3/14 Diane Ward Clinic

EARLY SPRING CALENDAR

- 3/21 Pony Club Clinic
- 3/28 Pony Club Rating
- 4/4 Michael Page Clinic
- 4/11 "Fix-A-Test" Clinic
- 4/25 Oxbow Show & Combined Test

IN-HOUSE SCHOOLING SHOW

To kick off the 2010 show season we'll be having a schooling show on Feb. 21st. (We postponed it because of the cold weather.) We invite everyone to come out and take advantage of another opportunity to work on one's riding skills. Our focus will be on equitation (the correctness of the rider's position and seat and the effectiveness of the aids). We will be having four dressage equitation classes: Leadline (walk, walk/trot, walk, trot, jump cross rail), Intro.

Level (walk, trot), Training Level (walk, trot, canter) and First Level (walk, trot, canter, leg yield and lengthenings).

With the jumping, we'll be offering "clear rounds"; jump a course, discuss the round with the judge and then jump the course, again. We'll be having Cross Rails (12"), Elementary (18"), Pre-Starter (2'), Starter (2'3"), Beginner-Novice (2'7"), Novice (2'9"), Training (3'3") and Preliminary (3'7"). We'll post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the upper barn.

OXBOW AWARDS DINNER

Invitations will be going out this month. Please plan to attend our dinner on February 27th. We guarantee you're going to have a great time.

We need volunteers for set-up. If you can come on Friday, we'd love the help. Please speak to Lynne (973-534-6183).

SILENT AUCTION

Enclosed is a form for our silent auction to be held at our dinner on Feb. 27th. We'd love to have everyone contribute to our fund- raiser. You might have an area of expertise: cleaning tack, cutting hair, giving a massage, etc. that you could donate; or an item. Last year we had everything from a mane pulling to a golf outing.

OXBOW MOVIE NIGHT

We'd like to hold a "movie night" on March 13th. We have a great Charles de Kunffy tape on seat and position that should all get us in gear for the 2010 season. Come out and we'll get pizza and watch the tape. Should be fun.

"FIX - A - TEST"

Our first outside show is April 25th, so come out and practice. If there's enough interest to make it worthwhile to hire a judge, we'll do it on April 11th. Sign-up and get a practice in the indoor dressage arena before venturing outside.

DIANE WARD CLINIC

We will be holding a clinic with Diane Ward on March 14th. Michael Page is unable to give us a March date, so Diane will be teaching a clinic. Diane has been involved with horses her whole life and is truly one of the most talented, American jumper riders. (Diane and Tara have known each other most of their lives.)

MICHAEL PAGE CLINIC

We had our first clinic of the year with Michael Page on January 17th. Our first group consisted of Leela Koncelik riding Misty, Alex Peveler on Indy, Lynne Rockstroh aboard Journey, and our friends, Barbara Nabors with Evie, Pam Firsoli mounted on Pongo and Katherine Sherwell astride Scarlett. Dave Koncelik was kind enough to work as jump crew and Michael kept them busy. There were no "pathetic" or "depressing" comments and no one rode like a "turkey".

Our second group consisted of Kelly Bailey and Kye, Mallory Boswell astride Coco, Nicole Carolan on Diablo, Jenny Dix piloting Jinxie and Cat Futterman with Oreo. Michael told Nicole that Diablo has to be in front of her leg and Jenny has to be going Novice by the end of the summer. A bit of advice that Michael told the group that we could all listen to is: "Every single time you ride do ten minutes without stirrups." Another Michael Page maxim: "It's not how high you jump, it's how well you ride."

US PONY CLUB

Cathy Brogan, the director for the US Pony Club for the New Jersey area came out to give us an introduction to Pony Club on January 16th and 23rd. Brianna Branch, Katie Cantine, Nicole Carolan, Cat Futterman, Mahala Hobbs, Caroline Kelly, Sophie King, Danielle Mego, Nicole Vascimini and Brianna Zimmerman attended the meetings. They were very informative and gave everyone a real insight as to the many activities Pony Club has to offer. Marnie Stetson has volunteered to take on the position of Pony Club administrator and will be scheduling a ratings clinic and rally so the members can be evaluated for the D-1, D-2 and D-3 ratings.

GIUSEPPE'S JOTTINGS

Spring will be here before you know it and if you're going through your riding clothes, tack and equipment and find things that you no longer have use for, bring them to the barn and will set up a sale table.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the coming of the new show season, it's time to start gearing up for the positions needed to run a successful show. So, what jobs are needed, you may ask.

We have three different kinds of competitions. In April we will be holding a Dressage Show and Combined

Test. A Dressage Show is a competition that is held in the dressage arenas up by the house or in a dressage arena that is set up in the indoor. Riders come individually and perform a dressage test, which is a prescribed pattern of movements.

A dressage test judges the horse's performance. They are judged on gaits, impulsion and submission. The judge is looking to see harmony, balance and lightness. The rider's position and effectiveness of the aids are also scored.

A dressage judge is hired for a show and the volunteers needed are a steward who monitors the time schedule and lets riders know when they are needed in the arena; a dressage scribe sits with the judge and writes down the judge's comments and scores. This job is very helpful in learning what the judge is looking for in each movement.

A scorer is needed to tabulate the scores on the dressage test. A secretary is also needed to give riders their numbers and to give out the ribbons and tests.

With a Combined Test, jumping is also added to the test. Riders perform a dressage test and then jump a stadium round in the ring. The course consists of 8 to 12 jumps. The goal is to go "clean", that is, not to knock any rails down or to have any refusals. Time is also a factor in show jumping. There is a "time allowed" and a round that is slower is penalized at one penalty point per second or portion thereof.

A judge is needed, as well as a scribe, a timer who times the rider's round, a steward and a ring crew which puts up rails that may have fallen and changes the height of the jumps for the next division. We encourage everyone, parents, adult riders, junior riders, friends, etc. to come out and help. Working at a competition is very rewarding. It will bring insight into the inner workings of the event, an appreciation for the riding and an opportunity to socialize with fellow equine aficionados. If you're a parent of a "horse-crazy" kid, it will give you an opportunity to talk to your child about something that s/he really loves. "horse-crazy" kid, it will give you an opportunity to talk to your child about something that s/he really loves.

OXBOW RAIDERS 4-H CLUB

This month we worked on our project books, presentation ideas and preparation for the Awards Dinner. We're looking to attend Presentation Night on March 19th. It will be held at the Frankford School. We will get directions. Members practice their public speaking skills by addressing an audience about a subject related to their favorite animal – the horse.

We had our holiday gymkhana on Jan. 2nd. The squads were comprised of Green-1: Katie Cantine, Leela Koncelik, Nina Santy, Lana Kalapodakis and Lisa Santy. Green-2: Brianna Zimmerman, Kristen, Douma, Caroline Kelly, Alexis Youells and Kari O'Brien. White-1: Sophie King, Mahala Hobbs, Cat Futterman, Lexi Greenbaum and Peri Zimbalist. White-2: Brianna Branch, Jill McNellis, Anna Santy, Sophie LeRoy and Mallory Boswell. The results were:

Bridle Race:

1st – Green-1, 2nd – White-1, 3rd – White-2, 4th – Green-2

Ball & Racquet:

1st – White-1, 2nd – Green-2, 3rd – Green-1, 4th – White-2.

Parts of the Donkey:

White-1, 2nd – Green-2, 3rd – Green-1, 4th – White-2

Old Clothes Race:

1st - White-1, 2nd - Green-2, 3rd – White-1, 4th – White-2.

Our annual awards dinner will be on Feb. 27th. Officers will be installed and new members will be initiated into the club.

Annual dues are now due. The yearly dues are \$35. Please make checks out to the Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club.

Cat Futterman
Reporter

SCHEDULE

Feb. 13 Meeting – 3 to 4 pm

Feb. 20 Meeting – 3 to 4 pm

Feb. 27 Awards Dinner – 6:30 pm

Mar. 7 Presentation Practice – 3 to 4 pm

Mar. 12 Sussex County Presentation Night

Mar. 19 Sussex County Presentation Night

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The changes in our life must come from the impossibility to live otherwise than according to the demands of our conscience...not from our mental resolution to try a new form of life."

Leo Tolstoy