



GIUSEPPE'S GAZETTE

Vol. 15 No. 1

JANUARY 2010

Greetings from Giuseppe. Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that it's 2010. This will be the fifteenth year of the "Giuseppe Gazette". Of course, it wasn't called that in the beginning; it was just the Oxbow newsletter. I took it over in July of 1997 and make it fantastic, of course. Here's to another fabulous year in 2010! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)"

Although it's been chilly, it's nice to have the longer days. We get another minute of daylight for every day after Dec. 21st. Spring will be here before you know it. We're closer to St. Patrick's Day than we are to Halloween! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

The date for our annual dinner is February 27th. Save that date; the dinner is always a very special event. Invitations will be going out in a couple of weeks.

Be sure to vote for the equestrians of the year. John Salerno, our artist in residence wants to start to work on the beautiful posters he makes for the award. Enclosed is the ballot, just drop it in the mailbox.

Speaking of equestrians, the adult equestrian of the month is Deborah Kalapodakis and our junior equestrian is Erica Parriott. Both riders have been riding for many years, but they have never really worked on getting a horse engaged and coming through. With the help of Angel (both riders ride her.), they are understanding what a connection is and developing the feel of riding "back to front". Way to go, ladies!

We're planning educational and fun activities during the winter months. Check the upper barn bulletin board for the info. Use the winter months to educate you and your horse and to get strong. Spring will be here before you know it!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Our best wishes for a very happy birthday go out to Vianna Evgenikos (3), Catie Eppler (8), Jenny Dix (16), Deborah Pearce (20), Jessica Wilkins (22), Deirdre Pennino (23), Jennifer Nebel (28), Kerri Vuolo (29) and Caitlin Cousino (31).

WINTER CALENDAR

1/17	Michael Page Clinic
1/18	"Fix-A-Test"
1/31	Clear Round Jumping & More
2/15	"Fix-A-Test"
2/21	Michael Page Clinic
2/27	Oxbow Dinner

SUNDAY GROUP LESSON

During the winter months we're going to offer a special on a second lesson. If you are all ready taking a weekly lesson, joining the Sunday group lesson will be \$25 for riders on their own horses and \$30 for those on Oxbow horses. We need a minimum of 4 riders. We'll work on cavaletti, cross rails and drill team movements. Times will be 1:30 and 2:30 pm.

CLEAR ROUND JUMPING

To beat the winter doldrums, we'll be having a jumping show on Jan. 31st. We'll be offering classes from leadline on up. Check the bulletin board to sign up.

“FIX-A-TEST”

We'll be scheduling three “Fix-A-Tests” for Monday, Jan. 18th (Martin Luther King Day) and Monday, Feb. 15th (President's Day). So, if you don't have to go to work or to school, come out and ride.

A “Fix-A-Test” is similar to a schooling show but riders get more time with the judge. So, you ride a dressage test of your choice, discuss the ride with the judge and get advice on how you can achieve a better ride and then re-ride the same test. This way, you can put the judge's comments into immediate practice. The event tests are new this year so this is a good way of learning the new patterns.

RULES OF THE ARENA

Now, that we're in the winter season and more people will be using the indoor, please review the following “rules of the road” as it applies to riding.

- When entering the arena, announce yourself (say “Door” loudly) so that riders, who may not see you, know that you are coming in. A horse may startle if your entering is a surprise.
- First and foremost, look up so you know where the other riders are in relation to yourself.
- Be aware of the needs of others, as well as your own position so that everyone can promote mutual safety. (This is particularly important when beginners are riding.) For instance, if you are going across the diagonal, make it short if there's a rider coming from the opposite direction or a rider on the rail who may be in your way. If you see the rider before s/he sees you get out of her/his way.
- Riding lessons take precedence. If a group lesson is being conducted, please ride in the same direction and reverse as the class does.

- When working as a class, the lead rider must allow the end of the class the rail. The lead rider completes the pattern by taking the inner track until the last of the class has completed the pattern. (i.e. changing rein, serpentine, etc.)
 - Pass oncoming horses as you would an oncoming car, left shoulder to left shoulder (stay to your right).
 - If you need to pass a horse, do so by making a circle or crossing to the other side of the arena.
 - Slower moving horses work towards the center (i.e. cantering on the rail, walking inside of the track).
 - Be aware of not crossing the logical path of another horse (i.e. do not cross in front of another horse, go behind him.)
 - Please keep the doorways clear.
 - When approaching poles and jumps keep a distance great enough to be able to turn away if the rider in front of you has trouble or knocks the obstacle down. Turn away by riding an arc so that you may return to your place and approach again.
 - If you need to stop and make an adjustment (stirrups, girth, etc.), go to the center or to the mounting block and halt.
 - If any rider is in trouble, i.e. horse bucking, shying, etc. all riders must halt and wait for the rider to regain control.
- Riding etiquette is really based on common sense (or is that really “horse sense”?) Be aware of your fellow riders and behave generously so that everyone has a safe and enjoyable ride.

GIUSEPPE'S JOTTINGS

Giuseppe, here. With the coming of the New Year it's helpful to think about what you'd like to accomplish this year. You don't have to think about resolutions as much as goals. So, with that in mind here's my wish list for all our riders.

In 2010 keep working on your equitation. What's that mean? You ask. It means to have a correct leg, seat, back and arm position. Without an independent seat, a rider can't be effective and have sensitive hands.

I'd like to see all our riders improve their fitness off the horse. Develop your strength and flexibility and it will greater improve your skills on the horse.

I'd like all our riders, but especially our adult riders to understand that learning to ride is a journey – it really does take a lifetime! So, be pleased with small steps and don't beat yourself for your seeming inadequacies.

I'd like to see all our riders have an exciting, enlightening 2010. May all your dressage scores be 7's or better. May all your jump rounds be clean and under the time. May all your rides fill you with joy.

I'd like to see all our riders come to a better understanding of themselves through their experience of coming to understand their horses. Happy New Year!

OXBOW RAIDERS 4-H CLUB

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a great holiday. We had a wonderful time at our party with our "Chinese auction". Everyone takes a number. The first person unwraps a gift. The second person has the choice of taking the unwrapped gift or to unwrap another. If the first person loses her present, she gets to choose another one and on it goes.

Now, that we're in the New Year, it's time to start thinking about our annual Awards Dinner where new members will be initiated and officers will be inaugurated. We also need to start thinking about topics for the County Presentation Night. The dates are March 5th, March 12th and March 19th.

Cat Futterman
Reporter

SCHEDULE

1/9 – Pony Club Meeting, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
1/16 – Pony Club Meeting, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
1/23 – Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
1/30 – Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
2/6 – Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
2/20 – Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
2/27 – Awards Dinner, 6:30 pm

TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

Rider's Head Carriage:

The rider's head should not be tipped forward or tilted sideways. The neck should be straight and part of an upright spinal column. The neck muscles should remain relaxed, so that the rider can look slightly sideways without affecting his functions elsewhere. A good exercise is to turn the head from side to side slowly until the chin is placed in a level position above the collarbone.

Charles de Kunffy

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Growth demands a temporary surrender of security."

Gail Sheehy