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| Giuseppe’s Gazette 🙚🙘 February 2019 | | | |
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| Greetings from Giuseppe! It sure has been cold. You know what keeps us equines warm and happy? Treats! And, of course, to have a happy Valentine’s Day we also need treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)  We have a date for our dinner. Ironically, it’s the same week as last year. So, reserve March 9th and come out and enjoy some great food and company.  We have planned two Hairy Horse Dressage Shows. They will be in the indoor, of course, so if you’ve never done a test it’s a great time to try it. (You’ll like it! Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)  We have our dates and our judges for 2019! Our dates are April 28, May 26, June 23, July 14, August 18, September 15, October 20 and November 10. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to come out and participate | | | |
| as a rider and/or as a volunteer! We want you to join the fun! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) | | | |
| We have a new adult member in our Horsemasters Program: ***Susan Harriman***. She has ridden informally much of her life and she likes the idea of the education. Welcome Susan, we’re happy to have you aboard. We are always looking for both new junior and adult members for our Pony Club Center. If you’re interested, please give Tara a call. (973-903-3722). | | | |
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| February Birthdays | | | |
| Our very best wishes go out to Christine McCabe (3), Jo Iacono (17), Adele Aboutok (20), Megan Calkin (22). | | | |
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| Late Winter Calendar | | | | |
| 2/10 | Michael Page Jumping Clinic | 3/10 | Daylight Savings Time Begins | |
| 2/17 | Hairy Horse Dressage Show | 3/24 | Hairy Horse Dressage Show | |
| 3/9 | Oxbow Dinner |  |  | |
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| Silent auction | | | |
| We are looking for items for our silent auction that will be held at the dinner. We’ve had eve­rything from a “Bed & Breakfast Night”, to a “Clinic”, from a “Golf Outing” to a “Braiding for a Show”.  Please support this fund-raising effort by do­nating. See the enclosed form. We appreciate your generosity. | | | |
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| Hairy Horse Dressage Shows | | | |
| We have planned two dates for our Hairy Horse Dressage Shows: February 27th and March 24th. Jacquelyn Stapel will be judging on the 27th and Peggy Hipple will be judging on the 24th. So for those of you who are new to this, what are we talking about?  A **Dressage Show** is a competition where riders ride a **Dressage Test** in a dressage arena. The rider and horse perform a set pattern. A dressage test is similar to the mandatory short program in figure skating. In a particular class, everyone performs the same pattern. The horse is being judged on gaits (quality), way of going, impulsion and submission. The judge is looking to see harmony between horse and rider and balance and lightness in the horse. The rider’s aids should be quiet and unobtrusive. The horse should look as if he’s performing the movements on his own. | | | |
| The ***Introductory Tests A*** and ***B*** are walk andtrot only. The***Introductory Test C*** adds a bit of canter. The next level is *“****Training****.”* The horse performs the walk, trot and canter. Di­agonals across the arena and 20 meter circles are also asked for at the Introductory and Training levels. The levels proceed to ***First***, on through ***Fourth Levels***, with new move­ments being introduced. There are 3 tests at each level from Training through Fourth. | | | |
| In Eventing, we use the Introductory Tests as well as the Eventing Tests. At the Introductory level we use the Intro. A test, at the Elementary level, the Intro. B test and at the Pre-Starter level the Intro. C test. At the Starter level we use the Beginner Novice A test. The Eventing tests are similar to the Dressage tests at Training level. | | | |
| In the Intro. Tests there is an additional box under the Collective Marks. The box grades the rider on “*Geometry* and *Accuracy* (correct size and shape of circles and turns.)”  All the marks are added together and then divided by the total possible score to get a percentage. Of course, the higher the percentage, the better the score. | | | |
| In a **Combined Test** the horse and rider perform a dressage test and then compete in show jumping. Riders will jump a stadium round. (That’s a course of jumps inside an arena). The course consists of 8 to 12 jumps. The goal is to go “clean”, that is, not to knock any rails down or have any refusals. (A refusal is where the horse and rider don’t jump the fence in the first attempt.) Each rail down is 4 penalty points. The first refusal is 4 penalty points, the second is 8 and the third is elimination. Fall of horse or rider is elimination. | | | |
| Since a perfect jumping round is one where the horse has zero penalty points, the dressage score must be converted to penalty points, where the lowest score is the best. Therefore, the percentage is subtracted from a hundred in order to convert the “good” marks to “penalty points”. So, if you earn a 65% in dressage, (a good score, by the way,) we would subtract that from a hundred to get 35%. Any jumping penalties would be added. So if you earn a 35% and go “clean” your score would remain at 35%. If another rider also achieved a 35%, but dropped a rail in stadium, she would have a final score of 35 + 4 = 39%. The rider with the 35% would have the better score. | | | |
| In a **Horse Trials**, a third phase is added andthat is **Cross Country**. Horse and rider jump and gallop outside the ring on a “cross country” course. Originally, Eventing was a training program for the military. When we had a cavalry we needed horses that could go out and negotiate whatever they met in war.  We’ll talk more about cross country and the volunteers needed to help run a competition, so check in next month with Giuseppe, (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) | | | |
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| Youth rider recognition | | | |
| The following two programs are a great way to recognize young riders in equine sport. We encourage all our junior riders to take advantage of these incentives. See Tara for more information and the necessary paperwork.  The United States Equestrian Federation, which is the governing body for Equestrian sport in the United States, has an Equestrian Athlete Lettering Program. Here are the details.   * Open to members. Competing memberships is $80/year. Fan membership (non-competing) is $25/year. * The application fee is $15. * The program year runs from June 1 through May 31. * Log in at least 100 hours of equestrian activity – riding, lessons, hacking, time riding at competitions. OR * Provide verification of competing in three competitions (schooling shows count). count towards the requirement. * Provide current proof of enrollment in school. * You can apply for previous years, as long as it is for grades 5-12. | | | |
| * Must have a GPA of at least 2.5 | | | |

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| Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club | | | |
| We are looking forward to the annual dinner. Officers will be installed and new members will be initiated into the club. Awards will be presented to members and riders for their achievements in 2018. | | | |
| It’s also time to start planning for club presentations. A presentation is a talk that you give in front of the club membership. Since we missed the deadline for the country presentations, all our members will be doing them at the club level. We usually talk about our favorite subject: the horse. So, start thinking about what you’d like to speak on. We will be scheduling club presentations after our annual dinner.  Please get your annual dues in; they are $35.  Emma Gentles, Reporter | | | |
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| ***4-H Schedule*** | | | | |
| 2/10 | Officers Meeting/ Club Meeting | 3/3 | Meeting & Practice | |
| 2/17 | Practice for Dinner | 3/10 | Awards Dinner | |
| 2/24 | Meeting & Practice |  |  | |
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| Giuseppe’s Jottings | | | |
| I found the following in the Advertiser-News South (January 17-23, 2019) Didn’t think I could read, huh? (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) | | | |
| Did you know that January is National Oatmeal Month? Almost every calendar day is dedicated to honoring something, but according to the Whole Grain Council website, oat-  meal is so impressive a whole month is dedicated to this whole grain.  Back in an 18th century dictionary, oats were defined as a grain which in England was fed to horses, but in Scotland was enjoyed by people. Scotsman Samuel Johnson commented, “That’s why England has such good horses and Scotland has such fine men.” | | | |
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| Quotes of the Month | | | |
| “But whether you regard the horse with awe or love, it is impossible to escape the sheer power of his presence, the phenomenal influence he exerts on the lives of all of us who decided at some stage that we wanted to become riders.”  - Mary Wanless, *The Natural Rider* | | | |
| “In those border days every rider loved his horse as a part of himself. If there was a difference between any rider of the sage and Bostil, it was, as Bostil had more horses, so he had more love.”  - Zane Grey, *“The Horses of Bostil’s Ford”* | | | |

