

# Southern Comfort



## Gaited Horse Club

July, 2012

## 2012 Officers

**President** – Sandy Young  
**Vice President** – Phil Carroll  
**Secretary** – Barb Recla  
**Treasurer** – Margaret Carroll

## Committees

**Trail Rides** – Audrey Hult, John Franden  
**Sunshine** – Sue Harwell  
**Membership** – Jan Gibson  
**Education and Clinics** – Nya Bates, Sandy Young  
**Ways and Means** – Shawnda Kasma  
**Newsletter** – Margaret Carroll  
**Website** – Margaret Carroll, Barb Recla  
**Liability Insurance** – Nya Bates  
**Calendar** – Deb Haake, Linda Hamilton

*Welcome new members: Liane Kerting-Vick, Katrina Pavlovich and Sandie Strickland.*



Inside –

- Trailer safety tips, courtesy of Linda Hamilton
- Horse Cartoons by Sandy Young
- Camping at Grand Jean – Andriette Gourdreau
- Noxious Weeds Courtesy of Sandy Young

**DON'T FORGET** – Lawrance Valdez clinic on **July 15.**

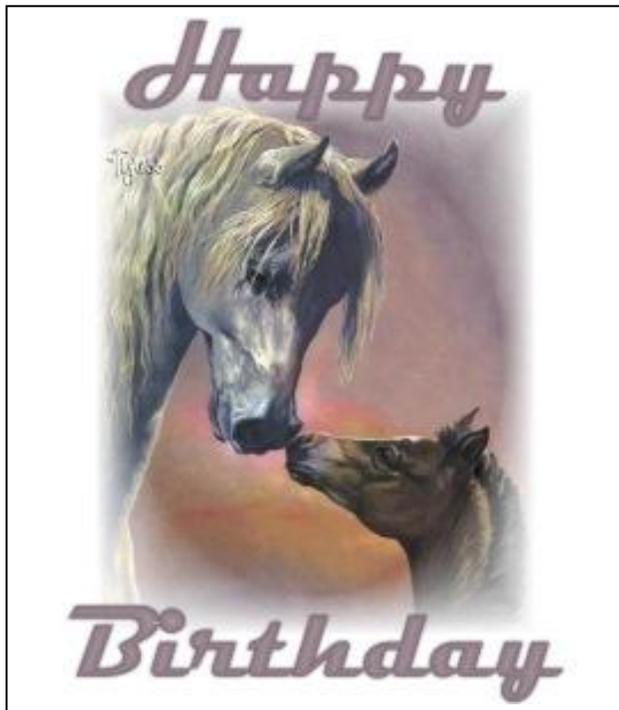
# Next Meeting

The July Meeting will be held Monday, July 9 at the home of Nya Bates, 12763 Trail Drive Road, Melba, Ph 495-1606. Come for pot luck, meeting will start at 7:00 pm sharp. Nya will be giving an **hour-long** presentation on **Gait Recognition**.

Directions:

1. Head south on ID-45 S
  2. Turn right onto ID-78 W/Marsing Murphy Rd 2.1 mi
  3. Turn left toward China Ditch Rd 0.4 mi
  4. Turn right onto China Ditch Rd 0.4 mi
  5. Turn left toward Rocky Top Ln 0.3 mi
  6. Continue straight onto Rocky Top Ln 387 ft
- 12763 Trail Drive

(These distances are approximate)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JULY

- 1 – Sharon Prindel
- 2 – Judie Daniels
- 3 – Deb Haake
- 8 – Kathy Johnson
- 8 – John Franden
- 10 – Ken Hamilton
- 11 – Jan Gibson
- 15 – Lawrance Valdez
- 17 – Sue Harwell
- 21 – Mel Hoadley
- 25 – Sandi Strickland
- 31 – Dale Haynes

# Calendar

- July**
- 7** Power of Pink Trail Challenge for Breast Cancer, Al Birt Arena
  - 9** Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, Nya Bates
  - 11-14** City of Rocks Endurance Ride, SWITDR
  - 15** Progressive Natural Horsemanship Clinic with L. Valdez, Al Birt Arena
  - 21** Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, Gold Fork Park & Ski Area past Idaho City
  - 28** Friends of Weiser River Trail Poker Ride
- August**
- 4-5 Pink Flamingo Camping Trip and Endurance Ride, Cascade
  - 11 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
  - 13 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
  - 18-19 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with L. Valdez, Al Birt Arena
  - 25 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
  - 25 Buckskin Challenge, Pocatello, ID, SWITDR
- September**
- 1-2 Old Selam, SWITDR, Centerville, ID
  - 8 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
  - 10 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
  - 16 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with L. Valdez, Al Birt Arena
  - 22 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
  - 25-29 Owyhee Canyonlands, Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID
- October**
- 7 Poker Ride at Eagle Island
  - 8 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
  - 21 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with L. Valdez, Al Birt Arena
- November**
- 3 Playday, Al Birt Arena
  - 10-11 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with L. Valdez, Al Birt Arena
  - 12 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
- December**
- Christmas Party, TBD

# Trailer-Safety Checklist

Is your rig ready for your next trip? Make sure it's safe.

The last thing you want is to have a mechanical problem with your trailer when you're on your way out or coming back from enjoying a beautiful day at the show or on the trail with your horse. At the least, such a problem can cause a delay; at the worst, it can put your horse in danger.



*Keep your truck and trailer road ready with these essential tips.*

## Check the Truck

- Check the oil, water, brake fluid, and steering fluid levels.
- Check the tread on all the tires.
- Check the air pressure in all the tires.

*Tip: carry at least one quart of oil in your truck, just in case.*

## Check the Trailer

- Make sure the hitch is welded on tight in back and bolted to the frame in front.



## Check the Trailer Continued

- Make sure the channel that slides into the hitch is heavy and free of wear.
- Make sure the nut that holds the ball in place on the channel is tight.
- Make sure the king pin is through the channel and hitch.

*Tip: Be sure to check the keeper.*

## Check the Coupler

- Make sure the bull dog coupler that fits over the ball on the channel is on tight.
- Put the keeper on, so the collar won't be released.

*Tip: Make sure the ball fits the coupler.*

## Check the Chains

- Hook the chains from the trailer to the truck
- Plug in brake lights, and close the keeper.

## Hitch Stand

- Make sure hitch stand is cranked all the way up and is all the way underneath the trailer.
- Make sure the breakaway brake cable is attached to the truck.

*Tip: Make sure the hitch stand handle is flipped down.*

## Trailer Lights

- Check the trailer-light battery.

*Tip: Check for leaks in battery casing.*



## Windows

Keep the windows directly in front of your horse closed to help protect his eyes from dust and debris.

*Tip: Open the other windows for ventilation.*

## Living Quarters

Make sure everything is secured so nothing falls inside the trailer and spooks your horse.

## Inside the trailer

Make sure vents are open, for ventilation.

Check for protruding objects that could injure your horse.

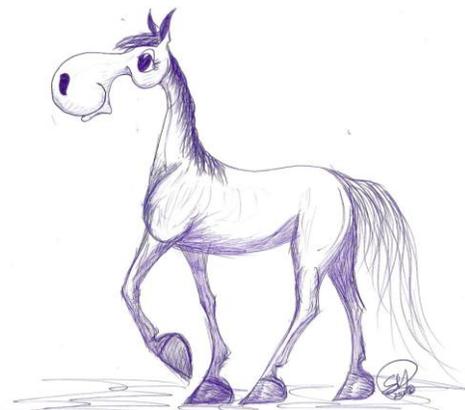
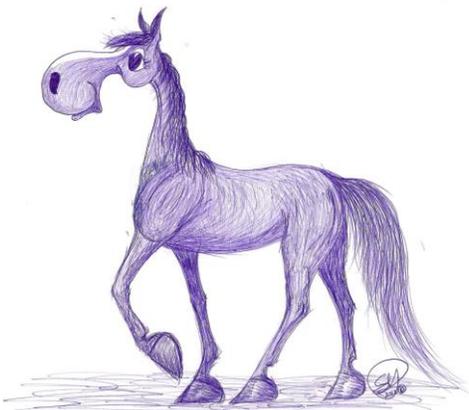
*Tip: Use a keeper on the trailer door to make it extra secure.*



**By Sandy Young**

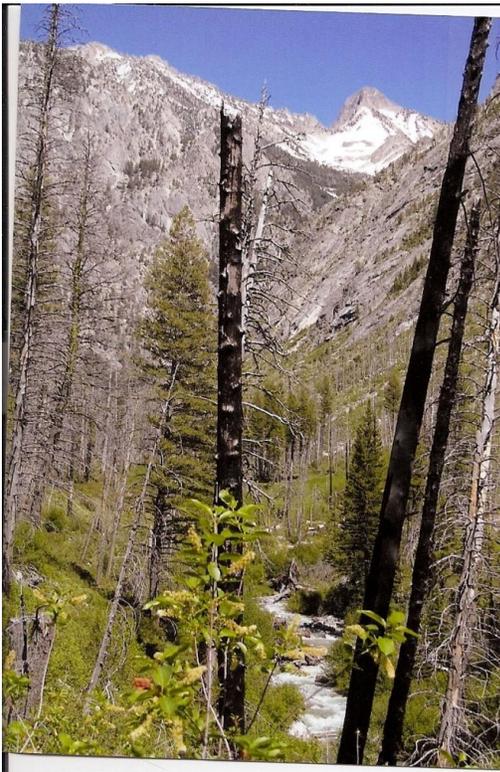
My horse's name is Comet, named after one of my very first horses. I developed my character as a 4-H project when I was in high school. My project took top awards at the County Fair. The horse I had at the time, was a real character and thus was my inspiration and the name sake of my cartoon horse who resides in "Comet Strips" instead of comic strips. I had Comet from the time he was a foal until he died at age 26 from a dog attack. Comet was a "mutt-stang". He was a cross between Appaloosa, qtr horse, standardbred, and so on. Thus being of the "Mutt-stang" breed. He looked all white until he got wet. Then you could see the spots all over his body. Someone once told me they called that a no-spot leopard appaloosa.

He was about 14.2 hands and had a very full and beautiful mane and tail. He traveled all over the country with me from coast to coast and was most definitely one of my very best friends. We did everything from games to endurance, trail to show, parades, pushed cattle, anything I wanted to do. He was up for any adventure I put in front of him. He could put on quite a show at the game events. He loved to run and could hardly contain himself. So with a "hi-oh-silver-away" we would head into the pattern and go for the gusto. Usually won too. Once he died, I never did much of that stuff anymore. He just always made it so much fun. So now everytime I draw one of my horse characters, I think of Comet.



Here are some photos that Andriette Goudreau wanted to share from a 2 night/3 day camping trip up at Grand Jean the week before last. She went with friend and paso fino owner June Johnson. June was the breeder of Andriette's horse, Luna. June lives in Melba and works for Fish and Game. She has several paso finos. They had a great time and some challenging trail rides due to so much dead fall and high water in the streams.

Andriette doesn't have a computer but you may contact her for more details if you need them. The stories of their rides were pretty amazing.



A note from Andriette,

At the last Lawrance Valdez clinic, someone picked up her carrot stick instead of their stick. Her initials AG are on it. If you were at the clinic and picked up the wrong one, please bring it to the next clinic if you are coming or contact her at 887-1650 or 761-5113. Thanks



**One of the distinguishing characteristics of Poison Hemlock is the purplish spots on the stems.**

Poison Hemlock is noted for its toxicity. It is a herbaceous biennial plant which grows between 1.5-2.5 m tall, with a smooth green stem, usually spotted or streaked with red or purple on the lower half of the stem. The leaves are finely divided and lacy, overall triangular in shape, up to 50 cm long and 40 cm broad. The flowers are small, white, clustered in umbels up to 10-15 cm across. The plant is often mistaken for fennel, parsley or wild carrot although the characteristic stem hairs of the wild carrots are missing. The Poison Hemlock root is fleshy, white and often unbranched and can be mistaken for parsnip. When crushed, the leaves and root emit a rank, unpleasant odor often compared to that of a mouse or parsnips.

Poison Hemlock contains the alkaloids Coniine, N-methylconiine, conhydrine, pseudoconhydrine, g-coniceine and Atropine. The most important and toxic of these is Coniine. Coniine is a neurotoxin, which disrupts the workings of the central nervous system and is toxic to people and all classes of livestock.

Poison Hemlock has been introduced and naturalized in many other areas, including much of Asia, North America and Australia. Poison hemlock is often found on poorly drained soils, particularly near streams, ditches, and other surface water. **(From Wikipedia)**



**Poison Hemlock rosette.**

As pretty as the Poison Hemlock plants and flowers are, this is a plant we all need to be cautious around. It is quite common here in Idaho and once you know what it is, you will see large patches of it along ditch banks and around perimeters of fields and so on. Do not allow your horse or other livestock to consume it. It can cause death. It's best not to handle it with bare hands. Wear disposable gloves each time you need to handle it so you can throw them out when you are done. You don't want to risk getting the oils on your skin or in your mouth or eyes. Wash your clothes immediately and ideally, take a shower yourself to remove any oils that may have gotten on your skin. Do not burn it, as the smoke will be toxic. To get rid of it, it's best to spray it when it's young or has new growth for the year or to dig it up or both. The central root will resemble a parsnip and can be quite large and long on a mature plant. Bag it up and haul it to the dump. You don't want any dried up plant left lying around where it can be accidentally ingested by an animal grazing. And by all means, try to keep it from going to seed. It'll spread quickly. If you are aggressive about getting rid of it, you can clean up a patch in a year or two. It'll be one of the first plants to start to green up in the spring, so it'll be easy to spot and dig up at that time. Do not buy or feed any hay that has this in it. If you can inspect the perimeter of the field before it's cut, you'll

know right away whether or not you want to get the hay. Most growers are good about keeping it out of their fields. But it'll cause your horse to get very sick and potentially die if you do not get supportive veterinary help immediately. Homeopaths can sometimes be quite helpful in turning things around. Some animals are more sensitive to it than others and it'll take less of it to cause a problem. Regardless, it's best not to take any chances. It's just not worth it. It is a beautiful but deadly plant. I'll take cheat grass any day over this plant.

You can look up more information on this and other toxic plants on-line on the Idaho Noxious Weeds website or in Wikipedia and other sites. [www.idahoweedawareness.org](http://www.idahoweedawareness.org).

I have attached a list from 2010 but there may be others that have been added since then.

- [Black Henbane](#)  
*Hyoscyamus niger*
- [Buffalobur](#)  
*Solanum rostratum*
- [Canada Thistle](#)  
*Cirsium arvense*
- [Common Crupina](#)  
*Crupina vulgaris*
- [Dalmatian Toadflax](#)  
*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica*
- [Diffuse Knapweed](#)  
*Centaurea diffusa*
- [Dyer's Woad](#)  
*Isatis tinctoria*
- [Eurasian Watermilfoil](#)  
*Myriophyllum spicatum*
- [Field Bindweed](#)  
*Convolvulus arvensis*
- [Giant knotweed](#)  
*Polygonum sachalinense*
- [Hoary Cress](#) (Whitetop)  
*Lepidium draba* ssp. *draba*
- [Houndstongue](#)  
*Cynoglossum officinale*
- [Japanese knotweed](#)  
*Polygonum cuspidatum*
- [Johnsongrass](#)  
*Sorghum halepense*
- [Jointed Goatgrass](#)  
*Aegilops cylindrica*
- [Leafy Spurge](#)  
*Euphorbia esula*
- [Matgrass](#)  
*Nardus stricta*
- [Meadow Hawkweed](#)  
*Hieracium caespitosum*
- [Meadow Knapweed](#)  
*Centaurea debeauxii* ssp. *thuillieri*
- [Mediterranean Sage](#) •NEW•  
*Salvia aethiopsis*
- [Miliun](#)  
*Milium vernale*
- [Musk Thistle](#)  
*Carduus nutans*
- [Orange Hawkweed](#)  
*Hieracium aurantiacum*
- [Oxeye Daisy](#) •COMING SOON•  
*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*
- [Parrotfeather Milfoil](#) •NEW•  
*Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- [Perennial Pepperweed](#)  
*Lepidium latifolium*
- [Perennial Sowthistle](#)  
*Sonchus arvensis*
- [Poison Hemlock](#)  
*Conium maculatum*
- [Puncturevine](#)  
*Tribulus terrestris*
- [Purple Loosestrife](#)  
*Lythrum salicaria*
- [Rush Skeletonweed](#)  
*Chondrilla juncea*
- [Russian Knapweed](#)  
*Acroptilon repens*
- [Saltcedar](#) •NEW•  
*Tamarix* ssp.
- [Scotch Broom](#)  
*Cytisus scoparius*
- [Scotch Thistle](#)  
*Onopordum acanthium*
- [Spotted Knapweed](#)  
*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*
- [Syrian Beancaper](#)  
*Zygophyllum fabago*
- [Tansy Ragwort](#)  
*Senecia jacobaea*
- [Vipers Bugloss](#) •NEW•  
*Echium vulgare*
- [Yellow Starthistle](#)  
*Centaurea solstitialis*
- [Yellow Toadflax](#)  
*Linaria vulgaris*