

# Southern Comfort



## Gaited Horse Club

March, 2011

## Officers

**President** – Phil Carroll

**Vice President** – Sandy Young

**Secretary** – Kellie Case

**Treasurer** – Dottie Green

## Committees

**Trail Rides** – Audrey Hult

**Sunshine** – Kathy Haynes

**Membership** – Sharon Prindel

**Education and Clinics** – Nya Bates, Sandy Young

**Ways and Means** – Dottie Green

**Historian/Newsletter** – Margaret Carroll

**Website** – Kathy Johnson, Margaret Carroll

**Liability Insurance** – Nya Bates

**Calendar** – Linda Hamilton

*Congratulations!*

- To Nya Bates, named Trainer and Breeder of the year 2010 by FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses).
- Sue Harwell, presented a trophy from the Idaho State Horse Association for Versatility for the Gaited Horses.

# Next Meeting

The March meeting will be Monday, March 14 at the Idaho Pizza Company, 405 E. Fairview, Meridian. Come early to eat if you wish, meeting to start at 7:00pm. (West of Eagle Rd., on the south side of Fairview just before the stop light at Main Street.)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

March 12 – Dottie Green  
March 15 – Kathy Haynes

**JOM (Joke of the month)**  
Sign behind an Amish carriage:

"Energy efficient vehicle. Runs on grass and oats.

CAUTION: Avoid exhaust!"



# Calendar

## March

- 14** Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, Idaho Pizza Company, Meridian  
**19** Hunting/Packing Clinic, Kellie Case  
**26** Desensitization Clinic, Treasure Valley Whips, Birt Arena

## April

- 11** Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD  
**16** Tough Sucker Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID  
**15-17** Horse Expo--Gaited Breeds Performance, Idaho Horse Park, Nampa ID  
**30** Orienteering Training Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD

## May

- Poker Ride & Raffle, Western Riding Club, TBD  
Weiser River Wagon Train Ride, Friends of Weiser River Trail  
**7** Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD  
**7** Eagle Spring Fling, Eagle Foothills, SWITDR  
**9** Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD  
**15** Diabetes Trail Ride, Eagle Foothills  
**21** 2011 Parade America, Nampa  
**21** Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD  
**27-29** Owyhee Fandango, Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID

## June

- Overnight Ride, Western Riding Club, TBD  
**4** Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD  
**11** Eagle Fun Days, Eagle  
**11-12** Silver Spurs Show. Idaho Center Horse Park  
**13** Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD  
**18** Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD

## July

- Twilight Ride, Western Riding Club, TBD  
**9** Weiser River Trail Poker Ride, SWITDR, Weiser

# Calendar

Continued. . . . .

- 16 Snake River Stampede, Nampa
- 13 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
- 23 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD

## August

- Playdays, Western Riding Club, TBD
- 6-7 Pink Flamingo Camping Trip and Endurance Ride, Cascade
- 8 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
- 20 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
- 20 Buckskin Challenge, Pocatello, ID, SWITDR

## September

- Day Ride, Western Riding Club, TBD
- 3-4 Old Selam, SWITDR, Centerville, ID
- 10 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
- 12 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
- 24 Orienteering Ride, Idaho Mounted Orienteering, TBD
- 9/27-10/1 Owyhee Canyonlands, Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID

## October

- Trail Challenge, Western Riding Club, TBD
- Poker Ride & Raffle, Southern Comfort, TBD
- Poker Ride & Raffle, Rough Riders, TBD
- Playday, Southern Comfort, TBD
- 10 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD

## November

- Turkey Hunt, Western Riding Club, TBD
- 14 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD

## December

- Christmas Party, TBD

*Please Note: The calendar is a work in progress, please email me with any changes or additions you would like to see on the calendar.*

# Gait Clinic

With Nya Bates

The Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club Gait Clinic held February 11 through February 13, 2011 was well attended and seemingly well received. Nya feels that each horse and rider were improved in the areas which were addressed.

Friday evening gait recognition was presented by Nya Bates (American gaited breeds) and Sandy Young (Spanish breeds) at the Bates' home in Melba. Videos of various breeds gaiting using breed standards of judging, specific breed tapes and sales videos were viewed and discussion followed. Topics discussed were identifying and recognizing the gaits in all breeds regardless of the breed, what can affect gait and how the rider is able to obtain gait.

Saturday and Sunday were spent with individual teams (horse and rider) with Nya observing and then making suggestions regarding achieving gait. Tack, headset, rider manipulation and gait recognition were all components in each case study.

Participants included SCGHC members Phil Carroll on Timer (TWH), Linda Hamilton on Rudy (TWH), Greg Schneider on Jack & Maggie (MFT), Judie Daniels on Wyatt (MFT), Kathy Johnson on Hector and Kathy Haynes on their Peruvians, John & Jan McEnroe on their American Saddlebreds, Sue Baughman on her TWH mare, Nancy Smith brought her two TWH geldings, Gabe Recla on Arizona (TWH) and non-member Jonathan Seel

brought Fancy (MFT) & Hank (TWH).

The gait clinics were held in Diane Bromenschenkel & Doug Shinn's beautiful indoor arena which made it easy to avoid the winds and cool weather as well as keeping the horses focused upon their tasks. A special thanks to Doug & Diane for their hospitality.

Nya would personally like to thank the participants for allowing her to work with them and their fine horses in the hope of improving communication, gait and knowledge.

From the participants:

**Linda Hamilton:** "Nya told me she could teach me how to get Rudy's gait to go from a foxtrot to a running walk. I didn't think that was possible because Rudy always foxtrots and he's 12 years old now. But as lesson time progressed and a few bit changes and instruction, we actually achieved the run walk. I had so much fun."

**Phil Carroll:** I found Nya's gait clinic excellent meeting my needs exactly. I'm applying lessons taught to daily riding. Besides the practical techniques, she covered just enough theory so that the approaches can still be applied in situations outside of the area, like the stable yard, and soon I hope, on the trails. Clients will appreciate her tact and private critiques concerning habits that if changed improve riding skills.



Nya, Phil and Timer



Linda and Rudy

# FOSH Trainer/Breeder of 2010

Nya Bates has been awarded FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses) Trainer of the Year Award for 2010 and Breeder of the Year for 2010.

Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) is a national organization which promotes the sound gaited horse in many venues across the United States. The criteria for Trainer of the Year was that the trainer employed humane methods for training gaited horses which means that the trainer utilizes natural and sound techniques rather than gimmicks and creative shoeing to achieve gait. Another criteria was that the trainer trains horses for tasks other than simply rail or showing such as hunting, field trial, trail, pleasure and ranch work.

Nya Bates submitted a video of a 16 year old Tennessee Walking Horse stallion (owned by Diane Bromenschenkel) that was purchased last summer. This horse, who had never been ridden, was started by ground-driving to teach him the basics of yielding to the bit and then started under saddle. She also submitted her training regime, philosophies and techniques as well as information describing the many venues and disciplines of horses trained at Bates Gaited Horses. Horses trained have been used for hunting, show, pleasure, trail and field trial. Many clients gave

wonderful letters of recommendation stating that she always strives for the compassionate education of the horse and rider. After submitting documentation to a FOSH panel, Nya was awarded the very prestigious Trainer of the Year Award for 2010.

FOSH also has an award for Breeder of the Year which requires that a breeder uses sound breeding management in producing naturally gaited horses. The criteria for this award is that the nominee owns the sire, dam and produce. Rocky & Nya Bates submitted photos, pedigrees and video of the filly Ultimate Wind (Gale) by Go Boy's Windwalker and out of Ultimate Miss Lady for consideration. Ultimate WInd was chosen and Rocky & Nya Bates were awarded The Breeder of the Year award for 2010.

Nya writes: "We are proud to be recognized by such a wonderful organization and thank the sponsors and panel judges for these prestigious honors. We are also so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with talented horses and their wonderful owners."



## Sue Harwell – Award

On January 29, 2011 at the Idaho State Horse Association Awards Banquet in Nampa, Sue Harwell and Sun's Merry Cimarron won the Versatility Championship for Gaited Horses. They also won the Champion High Point Pleasure Horse Gold and Silver Buckle plus an award from the Idaho State Horse Show Association for first place in

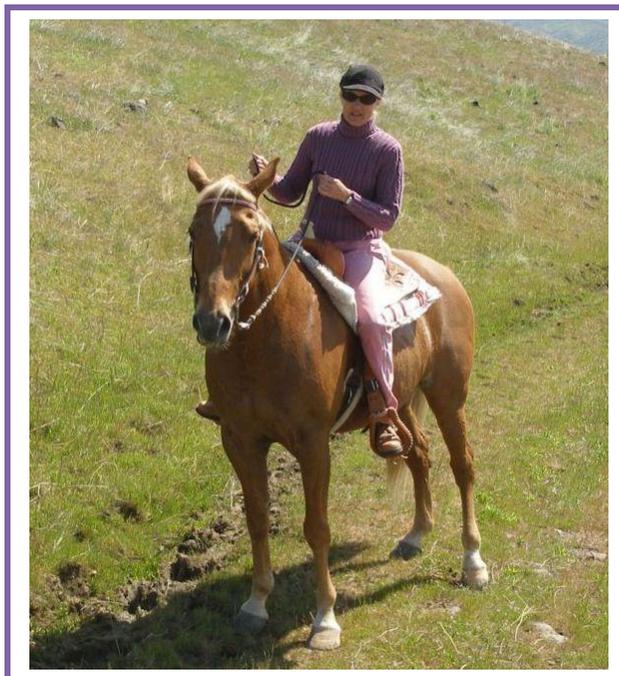
- English Equitation Two Gait
- English Pleasure Two Gait
- English Pleasure Three Gait
- Western Horsemanship Two Gait
- Western Pleasure Two Gait
- Western Pleasure Three Gait

. . . And a second place for Trail Gaited Horse. The award came with a gift certificate from Flynn's Saddle Shop.

In order to win the Idaho State Horse Show Association Gaited Horse Versatility trophy (sponsored every year by Lori Moore), Sue had to show in five declared classes, chosen from at least three out of five categories. She had to do this a minimum of five times (five different ISHSA shows); her choices had to be from the proper breed

division (she couldn't, for example, show in an Open English Pleasure class); she had to declare in writing at the beginning of the show season. She had to go to at least five ISHSA shows, show in each of her declared classes, & place 7th or higher in each class. The more shows she participated in and the more of her declared classes she placed in, the better, and of course the higher her placing the better (1st place = a minimum of 6 points, 2nd place = a minimum of 5 points and so on; the more participants in each class, the more points she would get for each placing). The ISHSA Buckle Challenge awards buckles to 19 High-Point Champions and is based on the exhibitor who has accumulated the most points during the show season for each declared category; declaration is made at the beginning of each show season and must be in writing. The category that Sue won the buckle for was one of the most demanding of all of the eight categories.

**Congratulations Sue and thank you Lori for promoting our wonderful gaited horses in the land of the ¼ and paint**



## If you're interested -

Nya is putting together another Diane Sept Clinic on **April 30 and May 1**. If you are interested please contact her **ASAP**. The clinic on Saturday, April would cost \$175 for you and your horse. Lessons on Sunday will be \$60 an hour. **Below is a Bio for Diane Sept.**

### **INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Diane Sept Sutton**

One of Peggy Cummings' original certified Connected Riding instructors, Diane has been teaching Connected Riding to gaited horse riders for more than 13 years. A warm, witty, and insightful instructor, Diane is highly acclaimed for helping riders of every experience level get the most pleasure and performance from their gaited horses - the natural way, without devices or gimmicks!

An accomplished horsewoman, Diane has been training and riding Tennessee Walking Horses since 1970. She has coached and ridden Walking Horses to several National Versatility Championships. Over the years, she has worked with many smooth-gaited breeds, including Rocky Mountain Horses, Paso Finos, Peruvian Pasos, Missouri Foxtrotters, and Icelandics.

While she is sought after for her expertise with gaited horses, Diane's experience extends to the non-gaited breeds, as well. She is currently a licensed judge through the Independent Judge's Association, and she judges many open, 4-H, and Tennessee Walker shows.

Diane's breadth of experience in the horse world allows her to incorporate a range of teaching and training modes and translate them effectively between "walk-trot" and gaited horses. While living and training in

Canada for eight years, Diane helped write the competitive dressage tests for Walking Horses in Canada - the first competitive standards for gaited dressage anywhere. She also studied with Linda-Tellington Jones' sister, Robyn Hood, to learn .E.A.M. training methods. Currently, Diane performs nationwide at National Centered Riding Symposiums, as well as in Connected Riding demonstrations with Peggy Cummings. Diane has even been known to give bridleless riding demonstrations at various venues.

**Diane's thoughts on riding and training gaited horses:**

Gaited horse owners have been told for years that shank bits, long toes, weighted shoes, cutback saddles, and action devices can "correct" a horse's gait. Diane disagrees. She takes a more natural approach, based on balance and an elastic connection between horse and rider. "Anything else is a 'quick fix,' throwing the horse into just enough imbalance that it has to do some form of a four-beat gait. It may feel smooth, but the timing, purity, and quality of movement suffer," she explains. "Both horse and rider end up stiff, sore and frustrated."

"Freeing up and allowing the natural abilities of any breed to express themselves is what Connected Riding is all about. Once we understand the mechanics of the gait we are striving for, then it's a matter of allowing our bodies, coaching our bodies, to athleticize the animal to achieve that goal. Gaited horses are bred to give us a smooth gait.

**We just have to help them into self-carriage to allow that natural gait to come through."**

# More . . .

*Sharon Prindel received this email from Jeannie Simpson who is sponsoring two events at Birt's Arena:*

On March 20 she is running a playday and lessons from 2pm-6pm. They will have all kinds of obstacles set up and fun games and challenges for you & your horse. If you'd like to come please call ahead. The charge will be \$25 just to cover the arena fee & setup. If you'd like a lesson during this time she will be available so please let her know to schedule.

On April 9<sup>th</sup> she is running an all day clinic for "Developing a Trail Horse". This is a great clinic to attend before getting out on the trail in the Spring. Please call ahead to book for morning, afternoon or both sessions. The charge is \$50 per session. Each session is 3 hours.

PostTrail horse clinics they will be planning supervised trail rides in the Eagle foothills and out at Celebration Park. These have been a blast and they'll plan them when folks sign up for the Trail classes. Feel free to send this information on to your friends.

Jeannie has been training and riding professionally as well as giving lessons in many disciplines for 37 years. She has been officially certified through Parelli's Level 3. Contact Jeannie at (208) 401-8809 or email [jeannies@swarabians.com](mailto:jeannies@swarabians.com). Check out her website: [www.swarabians.com](http://www.swarabians.com).

## Silver Spurs Horse Show

Application and Show List are on the Website if you are interested.

For those of you that have an interest in a Hunting/Packing Clinic, Kellie Case has offered to have a clinic on March 19, 2011. Please contact her directly – [gkcase@yahoo.com](mailto:gkcase@yahoo.com).