



March, 2013

2013 Officers

President – Shawnda Kasma

Vice President – Phil Carroll

Secretary – Deb Haake

Treasurer – Margaret Carroll

Committees

Trail Rides –John Franden

Sunshine – Sue Harwell

Membership – Jan Gibson

Education and Clinics – Nya Bates, Sandy Young

Ways and Means – Shawnda Kasma

Newsletter– Margaret Carroll

Website, Calendar–Margaret Carroll, Barb Recla

Liability Insurance – Nya Bates

This and That

- ✚ Next meeting, March 11, at Sunrise Café, Middleton
- ✚ Sending good thoughts to Dale Haynes, recovering from a fall, Andriette Goudreau from knee surgery and everybody who has said, *finally, some warmer weather and sunshine.*
- ✚ Expo, April 19-20
- ✚ Inside, trail riding checklist, west Nile virus still around, Whips Bombproofing Day, March 23rd.
- ✚ Updated calendar, Please send me any dates for the calendar in the newsletter and on the website.

THINK SPRING

Next Meeting



March 11, Sunrise
Café Middleton,
Idaho, 200 E. Main
St. 585-9700.

Meeting at 7:00 PM,
come earlier if you
want to eat.



Happy Birthday
March 12 – Dottie Green
March 15 – Kathy Haynes

Whips Bombproof Playday

If you missed the Treasure Valley Whips Bombproofing Playday in February, they are planning another day on Saturday, March 23 at Al Birt Arena, Nampa.

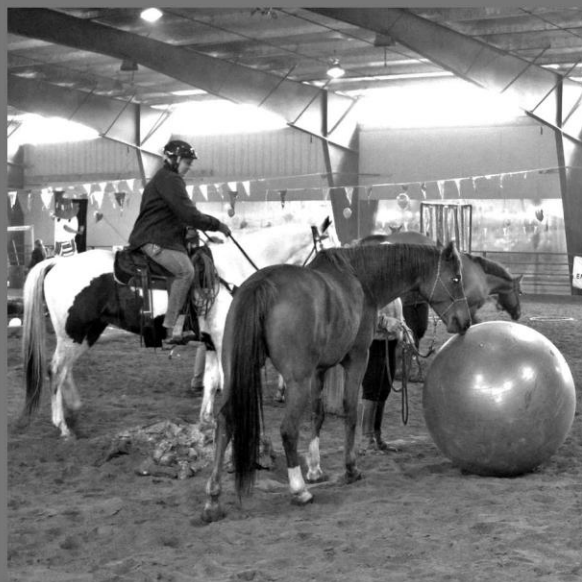
TREASURE VALLEY WHIPS CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB

BOMBPROOFING & DESENSITIZATION PLAYDAY

FEBRUARY 23 & MARCH 23, 2013 10 AM-4 PM
AT THE AL BIRT ARENA

COME OUT AND ENJOY A DAY WITH YOUR HORSE! ALL EQUINES ARE WELCOME,
MINI TO DRAFT. YOU CAN LEAD, RIDE, OR GROUND DRIVE.
ASSISTANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT NEED HELP.

DIFFERENT FOOTINGS...SUDDEN LOUD NOISES...TEETER-TOTTER...BRIDGES...
DEAD FALL...ROCKS...LLAMAS...SHEEP...MINI HORSES...BALLOONS...FLARES...
BICYCLE WITH RIDER...BACKPACKER...SKY DANCER...WATERFALL...BANNERS



POTLUCK LUNCH; BRING A DISH TO SHARE & ENJOY THE CHANCE TO VISIT!

THIS FUN EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE TREASURE VALLEY WHIPS CARRIAGE
DRIVING CLUB, SO THERE WILL BE HORSES WITH CARTS AND WAGONS, TOO.

COST IS \$20.00 PER HORSE

CALL JAN AT 466-0133 FOR MORE INFORMATION,

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.TREASUREVALLEYWHIPS.ORG](http://www.treasurevalleywhips.org)

THE TVW IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PROMOTING THE SPORT OF CARRIAGE DRIVING.
WE SPONSOR PLAYDAYS, PLEASURE DRIVING SHOWS, ARENA DRIVING TRIALS, AND PLEASURE DRIVES,
AS WELL AS CLINICS WITH NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED TRAINERS.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN CARRIAGE DRIVING IS INVITED TO ATTEND;
WE WELCOME DRIVERS OF ALL ABILITIES, AS WELL AS EQUINES OF ANY TYPE OR SIZE.

Calendar

(A work in Progress)

March

- 11 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
23 Bombproofing Playday, Treasure Valley Whips, Al Birt Arena

April

- 6 Tough Sucker Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID
6-7 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with Lawrance Valdez, Al Birt Arena
8 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
19-20 Horse Expo, Nampa ID
27 IMO Training Ride TBD
27 Tough Sucker II Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID

May

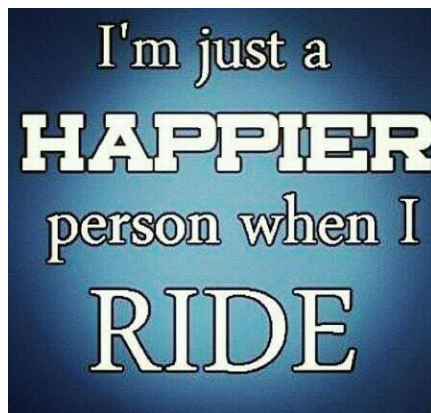
- 4 IMO Zipper Lips TBD
11 Eagle Extreme, SWIT & DR
12 Clinic, Al Birt Arena, TBD, Southern Comfort
13 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
18 IMO Too Much Fun TBD
19 Diabetes Trail Ride, Eagle Foothills
24-26 Owyhee Fandango, Endurance Ride, Oreana, ID

June

- 1 IMO Wildcat Springs Marsing Area, TBD
8 Buckskin Challenge, SWIT & DR
8-9 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with Lawrance Valdez, Al Birt Arena
10 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
22 IMO Jump Creek Marsing Area TBD

July

- 8 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
12-13 Eagle Fun Days
20 IMO Banner Creek, TBD



August

6-10 City of Rocks, SWIT&DR
12 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
17 IMO Dry Buck Sweet Area TBD

September

Aug 31-1 Old Selam, SWIT&DR, Centerville, ID
9 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD
21 IMO TBD
28-29 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with Lawrance Valdez, Al Birt Arena

October

5 Southern Comfort Poker Ride TBD
14 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD

November

2 Playday, Al Birt Arena
11 Club Meeting 6:30 Social & 7:00 Meeting, TBD

December

Christmas Party, TBD

Please send me any dates for the calendar of events going on with clubs in the area. I will add them to this calendar and the website. Thank You.

There's still time to renew your membership in Southern Comfort. The application and Hold Harmless agreement are in this newsletter.

Welcome to or newest member, Joan Zachary from Horseshoe Bend.

***GROOMING: THE PROCESS
BY WHICH DIRT IS
TRANSFERRED FROM YOUR
HORSE TO YOU.***

Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club

Check One:

_____New Membership

_____Membership Renewal

Name (print)_____Home Phone_____Cell Phone_____

Address_____City/ST/Zip_____

Email Address_____Birthday (month/day, Optional)_____

Emergency Contacts_____

Life Flight Member Yes_____No_____If yes, which Provider_____

Veterinarian Name and Phone Number_____

Your Horse's Name_____Breed_____

What kinds of equestrian events are you interested in:_____

I agree to comply with Club By Laws and will help promote the Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club. I understand that the officers of the Club shall make all final decisions on Club policies. I understand as a member I may request to review club records and policies.

Please note the club calendar of events is published on the web site www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Signature of Applicant_____Date_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian if under 18 years of age_____Date_____

Please fill out Hold Harmless Agreement.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS

Effective Calendar Year _____

NOTICE: This Document is a Legally Binding Contract Limiting Your Rights to Recover for Injury or Loss!

Nothing in this agreement is intended to limit the effect or replace the limitation of liability provided by Idaho's Equine Activities Immunity Act, Idaho Code 6-1801 et. Seq. This agreement is intended to extend greater protection to Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club. By signing this document you waive your rights to bring any legal claim to recover compensation or obtain any other remedy for injury or death to yourself, your spouse, your children, or others for the loss or damage to property, however caused, arising out of the negligent or other tortuous acts of the officers or agents listed below, now or at any time in the future, caused by their actions or failure to act, or otherwise. You also agree to protect, defend, and indemnify the officers or agents listed below against all claims for injuries you caused to others in connections with any of their activities.

1. Definitions. Herein "SCGHC" means Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club, its officers, agents, activity coordinators, activity leaders;

"I" means the undersigned individual, all heirs, and the members of their family, including any minors whether or not accompanying the individual, and the personal representative, executors, and administrator of the individual.

2. Release and Waiver of all Claims and Covenant not to Sue. In consideration of participation in the activities of SCGHC by me, by my spouse, children and other dependents, I irrevocably waive and release SCGHC and the owners of all facilities, equipment, and land used in SCGHC activities from, and WAIVE MY SUBSTANTIAL RIGHT TO ASSERT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION, CLAIM OR DEMANDS OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER, including but not limited to, any claim of negligence, which I may have or acquire in the future against SCGHC on account of personal injury, property damage, death, or accident of any kind, arising from my involvement in SCGHC activities, however the injury or damage is caused, including, but not limited to, the negligence of SCGHC. I contractually release SCGHC and agree to hold SCGHC harmless from any and all liability for any claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of actions or suits of any kind or nature whatsoever, which result or may result in the future from activities sponsored by SCGHC or coordinated by SCGHC members. This release applies to all SCGHC activities in the future in which I may participate. This release shall be effective and apply to all my heirs and the members of my family, including any minors, whether or not they accompany me and my personal representative, executors and administrators.

3. Legal Actions Limitation. If SCGHC has to take legal action in relation to this Agreement, and SCGHC is successful in the action, the unsuccessful party shall pay SCGHC, in addition to all sums that the unsuccessful party may be called on to pay, a reasonable sum for SCGHC's attorney's fees and court costs. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Idaho. Venue for any dispute or litigation arising out of this Agreement shall be in ADA County, Idaho District Court. Any modification of this Agreement or additional obligation assumed by either party in Connection with this agreement shall be binding only if in writing signed by each party or authorized representative of each party. There shall be no oral amendment or modification of this Agreement.

4. Acknowledgment of Risk. I hereby acknowledge and agree that activities of SCGHC are frequently inherently dangerous and have a high degree of risk. I acknowledge that by execution hereof, I am waiving and releasing all claims against SCGHC for any injury whatsoever. I agree to participate as a common adventurer, being personally responsible for my own safety and not looking to any others to protect me from harm.

5. Statement of Capacity and Understanding. I will not undertake any activity of SCGHC without becoming fully aware of the nature and extent of the risks inherent therein. By participation, I am voluntarily assuming the risks. I will not engage in the activities unless I am in good health and have no physical limitations, which could preclude my safe participation. I understand I am responsible for my own instruction in safety and providing for my own safety. I am of lawful age (18 years or older) and other wise legally competent to sign this agreement. I understand that the terms of this agreement are contractual and legally binding. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have carefully read this agreement, and sign of my own free will.

XSignature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

If above named individual is under 18 years of age: Parent or Guardian Consent: I as parent or guardian of the above named minor under 18 years of age, hereby consent to the terms and conditions set forth in this Release and Waiver of Claim form. I authorize his or her signing it, and covenant not to sue. If any provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable or in conflict with law of any jurisdiction, the validity, legally and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

XSignature _____ Date _____

Print Your Name _____

Remember to Vaccinate Your Horse Against West Nile

A simple injection with the right vaccine can save your horse's life.

West Nile is still out there. In 2012 through mid-December, 42 states reported 654 cases of West Nile in horses, with Louisiana and Texas having the most confirmed veterinary cases — 62 and 117, respectively. Only eight states reported no veterinary cases of West Nile in 2012.

The threat of competition is not the only risk for the upcoming 2013 show season. West Nile virus remains a threat to horses, and protecting them is crucial.

West Nile virus causes infection and inflammation of the central nervous system. It is transmitted by mosquitoes, which feed on infected birds or other animals and can infect horses, humans and other mammals.

Vaccination remains the most effective way to help protect horses against this mosquito-borne disease. Without vaccination, the risk of West Nile infection can be 50 times higher than if you vaccinate your horse annually with a vaccine like West Nile-Innovator®.

According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners guidelines, West Nile virus is considered a core vaccination requirement, along with vaccinations for Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, Western equine

encephalomyelitis, tetanus and rabies. All horses should receive a West Nile virus vaccine annually.

West Nile does not always lead to clinical signs of illness. For horses that show clinical illness, the virus can cause loss of appetite and depression. Other clinical signs may include fever, weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, impaired vision, ataxia, aimless wandering, walking in circles, hyperexcitability or coma.

Horse owners should contact their veterinarian immediately if they notice any of these behaviors. The case fatality rate for horses exhibiting clinical signs of West Nile virus infection is approximately 33 percent.

Preventive measures can help avoid West Nile infections of your horses. These measures should include destroying any mosquito-breeding habitats by removing all potential sources of stagnant water, cleaning and emptying any water-holding containers and vaccination.

No matter the location, horses are at risk for West Nile virus. By eliminating mosquito breeding habitats and providing proper vaccination, horse owners can do their part to help prevent West Nile virus infections.

Trail
Riding in
Eagle
Foothills



John Franden and his committee are planning for trail rides this year. Here is a checklist for safe trail rides.



Trail riding provides a relaxing break. However, problems can and do arise. With proper planning, you can decrease their likelihood and better handle those that do occur. Here are some simple steps you should take before, during and after every ride.

- Dress the part. Long pants, a sleeved shirt, riding boots and outerwear appropriate for the weather are a must. Everyone should also wear an approved equestrian helmet.
- Groom your horse. Take special care to check legs and hooves. Fly spray is also a good idea during pest seasons.
- Check your tack. Before you tack up, check the stitching and wear points—buckles, billets, latigo, girth-everywhere metal meets leather. Make sure the leather is not cracked or worn. These weaknesses could break if stressed. Check the saddle pad for cleanliness. Built-up dirt or hair can cause sores. Be sure the bit fits and is properly adjusted in your horse's mouth.
- What to bring. You should always carry a halter, lead rope, identification on both you and your horse, and a hoof pick. The designated lead rider should also carry a cell phone (on her person, not attached to the saddle), a first-aid kit for horses and riders, and items for simple tack repair, such as baling twine, leather laces and a sharp knife.
- Leave a ride plan. This can be a simple note on the barn bulletin board or a detailed route map. Always include where you are going, how long you'll be gone, who is going and a contact number.
- Mount up. If there's an arena or safe area near the trailhead, take your horse there, re-check your girth and then mount up. Some arena warm-up will prepare both you and your horse for the trails. If an issue comes up, it's better to deal with it here than on the side of a mountain.
- During the ride. Keep to your intended route and be aware of any issues on the trail, such as mud, and how you will deal with them. Alert the riders behind you to hazards such as low tree limbs. Keep safe spacing between horses, but stay together, as horses don't like to be left behind. If any segment of the ride will be faster than a walk, ensure that all riders can handle and are prepared for the change of pace. Always ride the final leg back to the barn at a walk to cool out your horse and prevent him from getting out of control with excitement.
- After the ride. Dismount, loosen the girth and cool your horse out. Once he's cool, tie, untack and groom him, making sure to check his hooves for rocks or debris. While your horse is relaxing in his stall or pasture with plenty of fresh, clean water, wipe down your tack and put it away. Then you can go have a cool drink and reminisce about your great day!

For those of you who asked I have put a link to Al Birt Arena on the website under LINKS. You can check out their calendar for the many events they have there.

GRASS FOUNDER - PASTURE ASSOCIATED LAMINITIS

PREVENTING GRASS FOUNDER - With the weather as wet and cool as it has been this spring, throughout a good portion of the mid-west and east coast, grass founder is about to become an issue. As the weather is about to change from cool to hot (and skip warm), the damp pastures are about to go into production mode. This is when we start to see a high percentage of pasture associated laminitis. The following article may be useful.

Laminitis, or founder, is a painful and potentially devastating foot condition that can affect any member of the horse family (horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules). There are many different conditions or situations that can cause laminitis or increase the potential for it to occur. Probably the single most important in grazing horses is unrestricted access to lush pasture. In a recent nation-wide survey, access to lush pasture was felt to be responsible for almost 50% of all cases of laminitis. In most parts of the country, the risk for pasture-associated laminitis, or "grass founder," is highest in the spring and early summer, when plant growth is greatest.

The reason lush pasture is such a laminitis risk is because it is high in soluble carbohydrates—simple sugars and starches that are readily broken down by the bacteria in the horse's large intestine. One of the consequences of rapid breakdown of these carbohydrates is production of a substance that, when absorbed into the bloodstream, can damage an important structure in the hoof: the basement membrane. This structure essentially forms the "glue" that attaches the hoof wall to the pedal bone, or coffin bone (the bone at the base of the limb that is encased by the hoof). Breakdown of the bond between the hoof wall and the pedal bone is the basic process that triggers the destructive chain of events associated with laminitis.

Of the soluble carbohydrates found in grass, one of the most important is fructan. Studies have shown that fructan levels in the pasture are highest in the spring and summer months. On sunny days, fructan levels gradually rise during the morning, peaking around noon. They then gradually decline and are lowest just before dawn. So, the riskiest time for a laminitis-prone horse to be on pasture is

between late morning and late afternoon, in the spring or early summer.

It is worth mentioning that spring/early summer is not the only time when grass founder occurs. Although far less common, it can happen during a mild, wet autumn or after a drought; in other words, any time rainfall, sunlight, and daytime temperatures are sufficient to stimulate rapid plant growth.

The good news is that preventing grass founder is simple: limit the horse's access to lush pasture. In overweight or cresty-necked horses and ponies, and in those that have had grass founder before, it may be best to keep the horse off lush pasture entirely until the grass is more mature. The horse can then be gradually re-introduced onto pasture. In the meantime, keep the horse in a dry lot and feed good quality grass hay.

Other options for limiting pasture intake include restricting the horse's pasture time to only a few hours per day (if possible, avoiding those high-risk hours between late morning and late afternoon), using a grazing muzzle, and fencing off part of the pasture to make a small paddock. (A grazing muzzle is a strap-on webbing or leather muzzle that allows the horse to eat some grass, but not a lot. The horse can drink with the muzzle on without any difficulty.)

In summary, preventing grass founder is a simple matter of keeping an eye on your pasture throughout the year and limiting your horse's access or intake when the grass is lush.

This article was adapted from Preventing Laminitis in Horses—a practical guide to decreasing the risk of laminitis (founder) in your horse by Drs. Richard Mansmann and Christine King.

This article was contributed by Linda Hamilton.