

Ontario Reining Horse Association

SLIDER

Fall 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, this is it – one show left in the Ontario reining circuit: the Grand Finale and Sired Stakes show at the end of September.

Then we have Congress – good luck to everyone who travels down there to show, and please be sure to let me know if you place so I can publicise your accomplishments.

After that is the year-end Awards Banquet on November 5th, always a fun evening, and an opportunity to recognize our champions for the year and to say farewell for the Winter. Please do your best to come out to this event – tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for 12 and under, and are available from Dan or Berenice Fletcher (519-443-5700).

It has been another terrific year, with some stellar shows, great fun and some impressive rides and I'm already looking forward to what next year will bring.

For those who are not aware, please note that the Ontario Reining Horse Association is now on Facebook. Please search for our page and "LIKE" it to get on, and join the many others who have posted pictures, comments, events and so on. It is a wonderful forum for staying in touch between our shows and sharing our love of horses, and reining in particular.

This year was the first for our mandatory volunteer hours, and I have to tell you, I am blown away by how you all stepped up. The hours logged by most of our members far exceeds the requirement, and the feedback I have heard suggests that the additional involvement has been a positive experience. Members have told me they have learned so much more about the Association, about the shows, their fellow members and so on, through this.

I know those who attended the Scribes Clinic at Rustic Meadows in the Spring have stepped up time and again to put those new skills to work, and they have learned so much themselves from the experience. And for the show organizers, they have appreciated the extra pool of trained scribes to draw from. A win, win for all.

I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting the Ontario Reining Horse Association this year, and for making our organization and our shows the absolute best.

In case I don't see you at the banquet, I want to wish you the very best for a safe (and short) Winter season.

Carol Ivey

Publishing & Editing: Carol Ivey - president@orha.on.ca

Advertising: Darlene Patten - caledontrees@aol.com

Lavout/Desian: Jennv Graham - iennv.graham@rbc.com

ORHyA

The Youth Association has been very strong this year, with active participation in the meetings and fundraisers by about 20 youth members. Fundraisers have included paid warmups at Meaford and Kemptville, as well as a horse wash at Kemptville.

At the Fletchers' show, the youth bake sale was a big hit and raised almost \$200, with the 50/50 draw collecting another \$290. The winner of the 50/50, John Grochowina, very generously donated back his \$145 winnings, which was truly appreciated by the youth members.

At Quarterama, the youth held another very successful horse wash, to raise a further \$142, and they had a lot of fun doing it.

A further \$117 was raised in the 50/50 draw at the OBBO show, with Anne Lorimer taking home \$120. Thank you to everyone who supports our Youth Association, and also to Darby Mailhot, ORHyA President, and Sam Munroe, ORHyA Vice President, for all their hard work, and especially to all our youth members for being such a cool group to work with.

Carol Ivey, Youth Advisor

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CONGRESS ALERT

Beginning in 2011, the Ohio Quarter Horse Association will require certification of a negative blood test for equine piroplasmiasis for horses entering the Ohio Expo Center for the All American Quarter Horse Congress. The test must have been completed within one year prior to entry onto the show grounds.

Equine piroplasmiasis is a tick-borne disease caused by the parasites *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi* that affects horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras. The disease is transmitted via tick bites or through mechanical transmission by improperly disinfected needles or surgical instruments.

However, it should be noted that horses travelling from Canada will be exempt from this requirement.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Loris Epis had the run of a lifetime at Quarterama aboard Custom Maid To Order, a 4 yr old mare by Custom Crome x Metermaid To Order owned by John and Sharon Fletcher.

He scored a 77 in the Open. Reining Canada doesn't keep stats on scores, but this could be a Canadian record. Congratulations Loris on this achievement!



Lisa Stanton (centre) with husband Tim, accepting her NRHA 2010 Limited Open Champion award in Oklahoma.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

“My first husband once ordered me a new pair of shoes. I was surprised and thrilled until a blacksmith showed up and tried to lift my foot.”

MURPHY'S OTHER LAWS

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
5. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
6. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
7. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
8. The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.
9. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.



Bev Sheremeto and "Slidun In" doing a freestyle to Copperhead Road at Knowlton Ridge in Powassan, winning the class with a score of 71.5

Wipe Out Tack Room Mold

If you've been battling mold in your tack room, I've got bad news: mold spores are everywhere. It is almost impossible to keep them out, but even though you may not be able to eliminate them, you can control their growth.

Mold requires MOISTURE, WARMTH, and FOOD in order to grow and reproduce. If all three are present, mold grows rapidly. In a tack room, the best way to inhibit their growth is by controlling the environment.

- After each ride, wipe off dirt or sweat from your tack. Not only will this help keep your tack clean, it will reduce the moisture that mold loves.
- Wipe off mold as soon as you spot it - but do this outside the tack room to avoid spreading mold spores, as when you rub a patch of mold you send billions of spores into the air. Do this in your tack room and you risk infecting all your other tack.
- Increase light and air circulation if your tack room is dark and damp. Sometimes just leaving on a light in your tack room will decrease the moisture enough to inhibit mold growth. But if the increased light doesn't do the job, you may want to place bags of desiccant crystals in your tack room to absorb excess moisture. The most commonly used desiccant is silica dioxide, a naturally occurring mineral found in quartz. Good ventilation, such as a ceiling fan, will further improve the situation.
- More expensive options include installing a fire safe low-wattage heater, a dehumidifier, or an ultraviolet air treatment system. Ultraviolet light effectively reduces airborne contaminants, including mold. Installing a window that allows light (and air circulation) into the tack room will also help.
- If mold has infected your saddle pads and blankets, clean them with hot soapy water and allow them to dry completely in the sun before putting them away.
- Disinfect any problem areas with a 10% bleach solution.
- Install saddle racks and tack hangers to promote air circulation (and improve tack room efficiency!)

Since it is nearly impossible to keep mold spores out of your tack room, be proactive by keeping your tack clean, conditioned and stored properly. Decreasing the moisture in your tack room is a great strategy for keeping mold at bay. But if all your best efforts are failing, it may be best to relocate your tack to a drier and better-ventilated area, at least for the winter months.



STRANGLES

Strangles is a highly contagious and serious infection of horses. It can affect horses of any age, but most commonly infects those under five years of age. The disease is usually acquired after exposure to another horse that is shedding the streptococcus equi bacteria, either during or after its own bout of the illness. Although an infectious horse may no longer show signs of strangles, it can still spread the bacteria, even with no symptoms.

While direct contact between horses is the most common way that strangles is spread, it can also be spread by equipment and shared buckets, stalls, and tack, pasture, or even flies. It has now been proven that the disease can last as long as 60 days outside a host.

The abscesses can spread to other parts of the horse's body, such as the lungs, internal organs, or even the horse's brain. This condition is called "bastard strangles," and is unfortunately usually fatal.



To control the spread of the strangles bacteria, any new horse with an unknown health history should be isolated for four to six weeks before being added to the general horse population, and its temperature taken twice daily for 14 days from date of possible exposure.

Strangles can also be controlled by vaccinations. Modern vaccines are more effective than those of the past, but they are not a complete guarantee against the disease. But, vaccinated horses do tend to have a less severe illness if they do contract strangles.

The sooner a positive diagnosis is reached, the more likely there will be a positive outcome. If a horse begins antibiotic treatment in the early stages of the disease, lymph node abscesses can usually be prevented.

However, once lymph nodes have enlarged and become abscessed, antibiotic treatment will only prolong the horse's illness. It is recommended to allow the abscess to open, or have the veterinarian lance it, so that it may drain.

Even if the horse is on antibiotic therapy, it must still be isolated from the rest of the stable and herd to prevent the spread of the illness.

If your horse was stabled near one who had strangles, some vets believe it is reasonable to treat it with antibiotics for at least six days after exposure. However, if your horse is kept in a barn where other horses have strangles, antibiotics will do little to prevent it from getting the disease.

Once a horse is exposed to the bacteria, it will begin to show symptoms in 2 to 6 days. If left untreated, it will develop abscessed lymph nodes within one to two weeks after the onset of illness. These lymph nodes will rupture and drain, and the drainage is highly contagious. Most horses will recover, but around ten percent of untreated horses die.

The best approach is of course prevention, and enforcing good bio-security measures is always a good idea, to protect both you and your equine friends.



TO HAVE A HORSE IN YOUR LIFE

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people- which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses - or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

Author Unknown

YOUTH MEMBER

PHILIP LORIMER

This quarter, we are profiling one of our newest youth riders, Philip Lorimer, and Carol Ivey asked him a series of questions, and we know you will enjoy his responses.

Q: How long have you been riding? What other disciplines have you shown in?

I started taking lessons in May 2009. I started to show in western pleasure, showmanship, and horsemanship last year (2010). I also showed in one youth team games show (barrels, poles, down and back) in 2010 with my younger brother Matthew and KD Grainger.

Q: How, why, when did you get into reining?

This year is my first year reining and showing in reining classes. In late fall of 2010, my coach Joanne Milton suggested that I should try a few reining manoeuvres during our lessons. After a few months I was able to try my first pattern and Joanne asked if I would want to compete in the spring. It seemed like a big challenge to be ready, but Joanne was encouraging and I had enjoyed riding the patterns so I decided to go to the show at Fletchers' in May to see what it was like. It was scary, but also exciting and after I finished my first pattern, I knew that I really wanted to stick with it.

Q: What do you most enjoy about reining and the ORHA in particular?

I like that everyone in the ORHA is so friendly and helpful. That seems like just something nice to say, but it is really true. I have had to learn so much about what big horse shows are like and the little differences at the different locations. My coach, Joanne is often in the show office so I have relied on lots of people (especially Gail Gimpelj who rides Angie too) to answer lots of questions and there has never been a time when people won't offer to help. I like it too that people are willing to help out with the things you need to work on to improve your riding. It never seems to be a criticism because they understand how much it takes just to go in the ring and remember your pattern. They just want you to have the best ride you can.

Q: What are your proudest moments?

I can think of three things that have been special this year. First was the first time that I completed a sliding stop and looked back and saw the tracks. I had been working toward it since I started riding and it was a big accomplishment. The other two are two of the wins I had this year - my first ORHA win at Quarterama and my first win at our club show with the Rockwood Trail Riders when I won a reining class competing against adults.

Q: What are your favourite moments and memories?

One of my favourite memories is helping in the office with Joanne and getting to meet a lot of people because everybody passes through there. I also liked starting the year at the Reining Clinic where I got to ride with other reiners and I felt like I was really going to be part of the group.

Q: Least favourite - moments best forgotten, and we all have 'em?

My least favourite moments are still the half hour before my class because I still get nervous, but also the first time I zeroed a pattern and there have been some bouncing stops that were not very comfortable landings that I do not want to remember.

Q: What are your goals where reining is concerned - personally and for the sport and the ORHA?

I am still so new to reining that I have lots of goals to work on my patterns and be ready to start competing in the higher classes with the different patterns (beginner). I would also like to be able to put together a freestyle pattern. It would be nice to have more youth joining and competing. Maybe doing an information clinic run by the ORHA youth and inviting 4-H riders to learn about reining would be a way to get new people involved.

Q: Your favourite horse? Why? Special stories?

The horse I ride in the ORHA is Flash My Show Tips (Angie). She has taught me a lot and has been really good for me this year, but the horse I rode in the reining clinic Rustic Matador (Matt) is such a character that I can't help but love him. He is a big, grey quarter horse/standardbred cross, and has one of the funniest personalities I have ever seen in a horse. Every time I ride him I can always hear Joanne saying "beware of the horse with a sense of humour."

Q: Do you have any role models and why?

This is tough because honestly, everyone I see ride I can learn something from and there are lots of incredible riders (and horses) that make reining look easy. KD Grainger has been incredible because she knows my horse so well and knows what it is like to be riding Green as Grass and participating in the youth activities. Loris Epis is able to ride so many horses and I can't imagine being able to ride like he does, but at the last show he took the time to help me out before my rides which is just another example of how reiners are willing to help out even when they are busy with their own horses.

There is one other person who is my most important role model because she has amazing patience to take a kid who had never ridden more than a trail ride and spent my first summer bouncing and flapping around the ring and see that I could do more.

Joanne Milton will never tell you how badly you have done, but she will tell you what you need to work on. If she thinks you need a break from something, she will say to skip the lesson and just go for a ride in the fields and enjoy being on your horse. She will answer the same question and work with you on the same problem as much as you need to, never making you feel bad. Since my first lesson with Joanne she has made it clear that sportsmanship and horsemanship go hand in hand. I have learned that win or lose, a good day at the show is one where you did your best and you did what you could to encourage and support your fellow competitors.

Q: Advice for newcomers?

If I could give any advice to someone new, it would be to make sure that you go out and talk to people because this year I have met some very nice people who have been kind and helpful to me at all of the shows. Don't be shy because if you have a question, you can ask anybody and they will try to help you or if not they will know someone who can.

Q: What life lesson have you learned from a horse?

Working with horses has taught me that whatever attitude you get on with, will reflect in how your ride goes. I have been seeing this first hand, from the half an hour before my class until about halfway through my ride, that if you get on a horse and you are nervous, the horse will be just as nervous. If you work together with your horse and are calm and happy you are much more likely to have a smooth ride. The same is true with people, if you're in a bad mood, you're likely to put someone else in a bad mood.

Q: Do you still get preshow jitters? If so, how do you deal with them?

Oh yes, I definitely get preshow jitters, in fact that is my biggest challenge, overcoming those jitters to let my horse do its job. While I do still have this same problem before every class I have watched videos of all of my rides, and looking at my first ride at Fletcher's Horse World back in May and my most recent ride at the OBBO, I can see that my manoeuvres are becoming smoother and I am not having the same shotgun starts I was having earlier in the year, but they still happen every now and then. I usually overcome the nerves by just riding through them and then I am usually calm by the end of the second part of my pattern.

Q: Two adjectives that you feel people would use to describe you, or that you would like to have people use to describe you?

The two adjectives I think people would use to describe me would be sportsmanlike, because I am happy whether I win or lose and I will always be happy for my fellow riders. The second one would probably be helpful, because I have tried to help out with youth group whenever I could, and at most shows I can be found in the office helping out.

Q: Do you have any preshow rituals (e.g. lucky socks, special breakfast)?

Since the green as grass classes usually happen to be first or second, I usually need to focus on tacking up, warming up, and waking up, but hopefully not in that order. I try to treat my warm up like I am preparing for a pleasure class so that I can try to relax and let my horse do her job.

Q: What would you like people to know about you that you don't think they already know?

I am currently working on achieving my black belt in karate and when the ORHA show season is over I will be working on preparing for the testing at the end of November.

*What a very special young man we have in our membership with Philip Lorimer – we look forward to having him in our midst for many years to come. Thank you Philip for **sliding** with us.*



Bill Rinzema
1450 Heritage Line R.R.#3 Keene, ON, Canada K0L 2G0
Phone: 705-295-4601
email: rinzema.horses@nexicom.net
www.rinzemaquarterhorses.com

FORGET THE JONES...YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH THE BROWNS

By

Gina Coburn-Steele

Bruce and Vickie Brown have been reining together for nearly 12 years. In the early days, Bruce claims he was Vickie's stable boy at the shows. While Vickie prepared for her run, Bruce warmed up her horse. Inevitably, Bruce caught the reining bug and slid into the pen himself.

With 37 years of marriage behind them, the Browns credit their success in and out of the pen to always being each other's best friend. They are a good mix, like Bacardi and coke. They go well together. This year will mark the first time they are actually competing against each other and they both want to win, but find incredible satisfaction in seeing the other achieve their goals. When the chips are down, the Brown team will be hard to beat. Vickie's focus and drive propel them forward and Bruce's warm smile and endless support keep everyone on track through the highs and lows of competition. With the right ingredients for success and the next generation of reiners in the wings, Team Brown shows no signs of slowing down. First up is granddaughter, 11 year old Mariah, who will be competing in Youth and Green as Grass next year, and right on her heels is 9 year old Selina. And last but not least, 5 year old Landon already claims to be a cowboy and has informed the staff at the local Lonestar that they could use a cowboy like him working there. It seems Landon has inherited his grandma's drive!

With multiple championships in Halter classes for Bruce and Vickie, including a champion OBBO win on September 11, 2001, the bittersweet win took place as news of the events in New York spread throughout the show and Vickie was taking her turn. The trophy from that day is tucked away in a special place in their home, rather than displayed alongside the other awards and ribbons. "It didn't feel right to celebrate so we put them away as a little piece of history to pass along one day," says Vickie.

"The local area horsemen opened their homes and stables to the Americans and helped them through the uncertain days that followed," says Bruce. "We liked the family feeling that was displayed and it runs throughout the ORHA in spades."

The Brown family has learned firsthand that being with your horse in times of trouble is a good place to be. There are endless stories of horses being able to intuit when something is not right. Bruce notes that horses know when the little ones are in the saddle and seem to take extra care. "Vickie and I lost her sister and dear friend to cancer about 10 years ago. She was too young and it was a very difficult period for everyone while she struggled with the illness. Vickie was distraught that she was helpless to aid in her sister's battle and we were worried how she would get through it....she found her comfort in her horse," recalls Bruce. "My horse was my therapy," explains Vickie. "Somehow the horse knew something was wrong and the time I spent riding or just grooming had an incredible calming effect. For a little while each day, I could escape the harshness of my reality and just "be." It was like my personal time out. I don't know how I would have gotten through it had I not had that little bit of relief each day. I have cried rivers of tears into her mane and she stood quiet for every one of them."

Vickie's champion mare Maisy's next career would be reining. Her first reining show is also the event she would most like to forget. Maisy was a little hot in the warm up pen and kicked out at another rider who yelled to all, "watch out, that one kicks." With no coach on hand for advice and embarrassed, Vickie hightailed it back to Bruce and told him to take them home. With encouragement and practice, Vickie's next kick at the can proved much more successful and is the moment that Bruce feels is the proudest he's been.

After a disappointing first show, Vickie and Maisy went out there and won the class. “I was still a stable boy at this stage and I couldn’t have been more proud of my girls,” says Bruce.

Larry and Lynne Mc Dougall’s willingness to share all they know has been an inspiration to the Browns and Vickie says, “I aspire to give back to others the way they have with anyone who asks.” Under the guidance of coaches, first Dana and now Ken Van Alstine, Bruce and Vickie work towards their goals. They train together and compete against each other and when asked how they manage to always remain supportive, they laughed together and shared that their wise coaches advised them that during their lessons, they were not allowed to speak unless to offer encouragement and to leave the coaching to them!

Being grateful that they can share the same hobby that allows them to be together and involve their family, the Browns offer some advice to new reiners, “Be humble, remain patient and never give up.”


Together they offer this final advice, “Listen to your horse, he or she will tell you what’s going on, just listen.”

My conversation with the Browns was warm and heartfelt and reminded me how amazing horses can be. The ORHA is proud to have such beautiful people among their members and we look forward to the future and the new generation of Browns.



Calla Thomas in the
Leadline class at Fletchers Canadian Reining Classic.
Photo courtesy of Anne Pearse

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