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ORHA

Ontario Reining Horse Association

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Ontario Reining Horse Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our second show is now behind us and it was just as wet, cold and windy as the first - let's hope this is not a sign of how the summer season is going to unfold! In spite of the weather, the show at the Royal Canadian Riding Academy was nevertheless another great success, thanks to the hard work of Brian Stewart and Wendy Dyer.

I was most impressed at this latest show to see the number of new reiners - folks coming out to show in reining for their first time. It is very encouraging for the future of our sport to see so much new interest, and on behalf of the Association I would like to welcome you all. We have a warm and very friendly membership and I know you will enjoy their support and camaraderie, as well as the challenges and rewards of showing a reining horse.

One of our newer Directors, Marcelo Cruz, recently took a position in Quebec, so has resigned from the Board. While we will miss his enthusiasm, we do wish him and his wife, Amie, all the best in their future endeavours.

The late Brian Heaton, a valued and highly respected member of the Ontario Reining Horse Association, initiated a few years ago a series of reining classes in the Essex County area through the Southern Ontario Trail Riders Club, and in the last few years the interest in them has grown to the point where they now have separate reining shows - four per year. For riders interested in getting into reining at the grass-roots level, or who find the other shows too far away, these shows could be worth checking out. For more information, please call Robin Cadarette at 519-726-6073.

Wherever you decide to show, remember, "If you ain't sliding, you ain't riding!"

See you in the warm-up pen.

Carol Ivey

PARDS SADDLE SERIES

The 2009 Pards Western Shop Saddles Series is underway. It is a great opportunity to win a 15 1/2 Pards trophy saddle, no matter what level of reining you compete at. Last year the saddle was won by Deana Colic who showed in the Beginner classes. All entrants must be an ORHA member at the time the draw ticket is purchased and must attend the 2009 ORHA banquet in person to receive any of the Pards Saddle Series awards.

A one-time nomination fee of

\$20.00 will be paid for each horse and rider combo per class category. Every time a horse and rider combo wins a class that they have been nominated to, they will receive a ticket at the 2009 banquet to put into the draw.

During the banquet everyone will put their tickets into a drum and the first person drawn will win the saddle. The remainder of the awards will be drawn until all the awards are gone. Nobody will be able to win more than one award.

The awards include the trophy saddle, Pards Winter blanket, Pards spring sheet, Pards Saddle Case, Team Pards Jacket, Fletchers Horse World Saddle cart and a \$150.00 gift certificate for McArthur Custom Chaps.

Some great prizes for a \$20 investment. Make sure you see Berenice Fletcher at one of the upcoming shows to get your entry in.

REINERS ARE THE BEST

Where else in the world can you find such wonderful people? At the recent Kemptville Slide, Loris Epis, a fierce competitor leading his class, was waiting his turn to go into the pen and as he neared his draw, his horse's shoe came off. Without hesitation, Larry McDougall, his direct competitor, asked Loris how many

horses he was away and said, "Let's go and fix the shoe."

With the approval of the Show Manager and the judge, Rod Miller, he was

moved to the bottom of the order while Larry fixed the shoe.

Loris' subsequent run then beat Larry's score, but Larry had nothing but congratulations for Loris, although Lynne McDougall was heard to say it was thanks to the great shoeing job!

And more recently, the Birthday Bash for John Purdie was a huge success, with an amazing number of items donated to the live auction, including a free breeding to the Fletchers' great stud, Wimpeys Tinseltown, and a ton of best wishes for

the Purdies as they continue the fight for John's health. It was a great evening and everyone is thinking of the family and wishing them the very best.

I am amazed and truly proud to be associated with an organisation that truly has such team spirit. When we referred to the McDougalls as "Reining Icons" in our recent issue of the Slider, it was meant in every possible way - they are role models for all.

Carol Ivey

2009 Futurity

**SPOOKS
gotta GUN**

\$3000.00 Added Open Futurity
\$2000.00 Added N.P. Futurity
(one hand any legal bit or 2 handed
any legal bit - NRHA approved)

\$350.00 Added (Not NRHA Approved)
ORHA Show Me The Money Class
Eligibility - Must be ORHA Members,
One or 2 handed depending on eligibility
Green As Grass, Green As Grass Yth.,
Beginners, Rookies or Ltd. NP with
\$500.00 and under in earnings
NRHA cat. 1 (held on Sat.)
No NRHA or RC Membership required...

\$400.00 Added ORHA Show Me The Money Class (Not NRHA Approved)
Eligible - Must be ORHA Member, One or 2 handed depending on eligibility,
Green As Grass, Beginners, Rookies, and Ltd. Non Pros with \$1,000.00 and
under in earnings (Cat. 1.) No NRHA or RC Membership required...

Held on Sunday

\$1000.00 Added Open Sponsor Dean Brown

\$1000.00 Added Non Pro Sponsor Dean Brown

Buckle Ladies Classic Class (Friday Night)

Sponsored by Darrel & Sandy Ebersole Excavating

Buckle Beginner class - Sponsored by Catarauqui Dental Centre

Prizes Include... Spooks Gotta Gun Hats, Pullovers, Pards Gift Certificates,
ORHA Youth Buckle, Rookie Buckle, Trophy Knife for the Men's class
and so much more...

Don't miss August 14th - 16th, Have Fun, Lots of Prizes to be won...
Italian night Dinner (Sat.) Thank you Duane Hicks for your continued
support to the members of the ORHA...

**Camper hook-ups and stall reservations
contact Ashley Black (905) 679-1224**

Lessons Learned

Written by: K.D. Grainger

A lesson I've recently learned is never take for granted the people you are blessed with in life because you never know who is going to catch you until you fall.

The last day of my grade nine exams, I rushed out of class feeling exhilarated. While all my classmates were celebrating the end of the school year I was packing for my first Reining competition. After seven years of horseback riding, six years of competing in small club competitions, and months of preparation for me and my horse Sparky I was finally going to compete in a provincial wide horseback riding competition.

I will admit I was nervous nevertheless my excitement greatly overwhelmed my anxiety; since last April I had been training my horse to rein. Reining is a discipline of horseback riding where precision is the main objective. I learned how to spin faster, ride better, and most of all perform a sliding stop; I could not wait! Little did I know that by competing I would face the greatest personal challenge I had ever encountered.

That first competition took place in Kemptville, Ottawa and the ride was long but I spent it among friends and I cannot remember feeling happier. It was not until that night, while I was warming up for my class the next morning that Sparky started to buck. At first it only happened occasionally, but soon every step was punctuated with a retort. It kept progressing and my calm demeanor faltered, by the time my trainer could come help me I was nearly in tears I was so frustrated.

It was then that I realized that those nerves that had been hidden beneath my excitement had returned to haunt me, and as sensitive as he was Sparky was receiving these signals from me. I cannot even begin to describe how embarrassed, devastated, or frustrated I was, not only had I been the one to cause the problem but I had myself nearly in tears trying to fix

it. However, as she has done numerous times before my trainer came to my rescue. She got on Sparky, and my fears were confirmed when he did not buck.

The rest of the shows that summer followed a similar pattern. My nerves ran rampant and if I wasn't crying going into the show ring, I was crying inside it because Sparky just kept bucking. Some shows were better than others, sometimes I fought with my fear until I was calm enough that I was not riding a bucking bronco but it seemed that my nerves just kept reappearing. My self confidence dropped every time I left the show ring with a zero, and I became steadily more disgusted with myself. Not for the scores I received, but because I went from someone who had enough patience to work through a problem to someone who cried every time things became difficult.

Nevertheless, every time I came out crying or was so frustrated I could barely contain myself there was someone there helping me through it. My trainer, Joanne, my parents, and all my friends were invaluable to me. Each one offered advice or a personal story, sometimes even pulled me off my horse to calm me down before I went into the show ring. Even people I had met only this year competing and acquaintances that had seemed distant became my best companions and advisors. It was because of them I made it through last summer, and I do not think I could ever thank them enough.

I will not claim that in one summer I discovered and conquered my vicious nerves. On the contrary I am still battling them, but I now know without a doubt that I will always have those people who care about me supporting me through all the difficulties. I know that everyone has faults and it's how you face them that make you an individual. That horses are extremely sensitive, and the best aspect about humanity is that there is always someone willing to pull you off your horse when you are in tears.