

Ancaster Saddle Club



Fall 2011



Message from the President

Terri Wetton

Another show season has come and gone. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation. We now look forward to 2012.

We experienced a slight drop in competitors this year, particularly, in the Western Division. In order to remain successful the Board feels we must revise some of our classes, remove classes with low attendance and focus on classes that provide Beginner and Novice competitors opportunities to gain experience and confidence. We envision selecting classes that provide stepping stones to the next level of competition. In the English ring the Board concurs with members' suggestions that there needs to be an additional warm up before the Open Hunter division.

You will find a list of suggested changes for 2012 further in this Newsletter. We hope it evokes some discussion and interest. The Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 12th, at 2:30 p.m. at the Ancaster Fairgrounds in Maritt Hall. (The confirmed date will be posted on the web page.) Please plan to attend. This Club is only as strong as its members and volunteers. Bring your suggestions, concerns, comments.

Also, in this newsletter you will have an opportunity to suggest topics for our Winter Speaker Series. We would like to hold educational sessions over the winter. One suggested topic might be Nutrition – Herbs for Horses. We are interested in knowing what you think. Would you attend educational sessions during the off-season? What topics would you like discussed. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

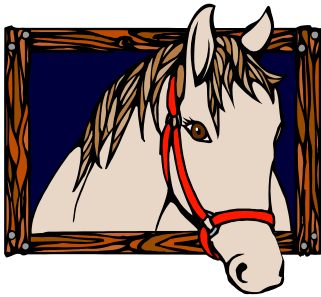
Terri

2011 Board of Directors

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2012 Show Dates

May 27
June 24
July 15
August 26
September 16
Raindate: September 30



Training Tips

A tidbit of information that we hope will help improve your performance in the show ring

Fall back to Get Ahead

By Julie Goodnight

Horse and Rider July 2011

"Some days, a change of plan is your best plan. If you're feeling daunted by a particular goal on a particular day (say, perfecting your lope depart, or trying out the new section of local trail), pushing ahead in spite of nervousness may be counter-productive. Your horse will sense your uncertainty and may become less willing as a result, which can further shake your confidence.

It's better to fall back on something you and your horse already do well. Practice that until you feel up to moving ahead, maybe later that same day, maybe another day. Then, when you're feeling bold from the success of your 'fallback' practice, that's the time to take the next step.

Sometimes the weather isn't conducive to new learning; cold or windy days can make your horse distracted or spooky. Or he may just be having a bad day, or you may be. Whatever it is, don't get stuck in a war of wills. There's always tomorrow.

Your number one goal, after all, is to have fun. And only you can define what fun means to you – not your riding buddy, not even your trainer. Know what you want to accomplish, then be flexible and patient. Building confidence with horse takes time (although losing it can happen in an instant, when you push yourself too far or make a careless decision).

So, be smart. Fall back until you feel safe, and you'll find yourself getting ahead faster in the long run." ||

Horse Care

Winter Horse and Pony Care Tips

- ✓ **Adjust Feeding Programs:** As pasture quality or accessibility declines consider increasing hay and concentrates.
- ✓ **Help Horses Keep Warm:** Horses kept outside need to eat more fodder. Horses produce a lot of heat during digestion. A generous supply of hay helps keep the horse's internal furnace stoked.
- ✓ **Prevent Snowballs:** If snow packs into your horse's hooves try smearing the bottom with petroleum jelly.
- ✓ **Provide Shelter:** Even if your horses are stabled over night, provide them with a windbreak or shelter especially if you are away most of the day.
- ✓ **Banish Bots:** Plan to deworm after the first heavy frost. Use a wormer that includes medication to kill bot larvae.
- ✓ **Continue Deworming:** Continue a regular deworming program throughout the winter months.
- ✓ **Check Under Blankets:** If your horse or pony wears a winter blanket (or rug) during the winter remove it daily and check for chaffing and irritation. Daily

Grooming keeps coats cleaner and your horse more comfortable if he wears a blanket.

energy it needs--especially if energy needs increase during colder weather. ||

- ✓ **Have Teeth Checked:** Make sure your horse's or pony's teeth are looked after by an equine dentist. The inability to grind food properly will prevent a horse from getting all of the nutrients and

Check the website for all the latest Club information, meeting notices, etc.

www.ancastersaddleclub.com

Suggested Changes for 2012

English Division:

- Add a warm up before the Open Hunter Division (i.e. judged warm-up) - *Open to Open Riders ONLY*
- Keep horses back from the in-gate area – safety concern
- Have a 3rd copy of the courses posted behind the grandstand

Western Division:

- Eliminate Games division due to lack of entries
- Reintroduce a Novice division
- Add a class or two to the Beginner division
- Promote the Versatility and Novelty classes
- Eliminate the Jack Benny Pleasure due to lack of entries
- Pleasure classes:
 - o Add Ladies Western Pleasure (open to riders over 18)
 - o Add Gentleman's Western Pleasure (open to riders over 18)
 - o Add Novice Pleasure
 - o Keep Open, Youth (18 and under) and Beginner W/J Pleasure

Suggestions: Please E-mail to: ancastersaddleclub.com

Winter Speaker Series:

I would be interested in attending educational seminars over the winter? Yes No

Suggested topics: _____

2012 Show Season: We appreciate that some of you may not be able to attend the Annual General Meeting or perhaps you would like to keep your suggestions anonymous. Please feel free to use the space below to offer suggested improvements.
