

CRK Training Times

Bits of news for Horse People

February 2008

Equine Affaire!

Equine Affaire~

Pomona is where you want to be between January 31 and Feb 3 for Equine Affaire. This is the ultimate event for horse crazy kids and adults. You can find anything equine from apples to zebras. Many presentations and clinics are also being offered on every subject from how to trailer your horse to how to ride a hunter course. A complete list of clinics and classes is available at www.equineaffaire.com, along with prices and ticket buying information.

Cheryl, Steve & Meg will be going on Thursday 1/31 so there will be no lessons that day. If you want to tag along all are welcome, but we will be going from open to close so bring your staying power (and walking boots!) Cheryl may also go again on Sunday. If you go, feel free to call Cheryl to ask for advice on any purchases you may want to make.

Important January Dates~

- Jan. 20-Testing day- Levels 1 & 2
- Jan. 26- Barn Duty Day 1:00-3:00
- Jan 31- Equine Affaire Pomona

Important February Dates~

- Feb 1-3- Equine Affaire Pomona
- Feb 9- Barn Duty Day
- Feb 14.- Valentines Day & Maddie's Birthday
- Feb 18- Presidents Day
- Feb 22- Show Meeting
- Feb 23- Barn Duty Day

Important March Dates~

- Mar. 8- Barn Duty Day
- Mar. 8 OPA Show (Yes, on Saturday)
- Mar. 9- Daylight Savings begins

Mar. 17- St. Patrick's Day- Wear CRK Green!

Mar. 22- Barn Duty Day

Mar. 23- Easter

Mar. 30- Highland Riders Show

No Lesson Days~

Lessons will be cancelled on the following days. Your account has been adjusted to reflect the change. Please make a note of it.

Thank You!

January 31- Equine Affaire

Congrats To Annie Flocken~

In January our own CRK student, Annie Flocken traveled to Colorado to compete in the 4H National Championships. Last year, Annie competed in Horse Bowl, but this year she was on the Hippology Team. Hippology is a general horse knowledge competition including a written test, judging live horses, solving a problem and presenting the solution to the judges and identifying objects at 10 different stations. Annie's team of 4 placed 6th overall in Hippology and the California team placed 2nd overall in all events.

For more information on how you can join a 4H group check out the county website at OC4H.org.

Horse Show News~

As many of you already know our options for shows has expanded this year. Orange Park Acres; Yorba Linda Country Riders, Highland Riders, Mira Loma and Fullerton Recreational Riders will be offering shows for both English and Western riders in 2008. All five of these clubs have different classes to offer. CRK Stable will also be having shows for those students who

want to learn to show without having to own a horse or trailer off the grounds.

Cheryl is working closely with the Fullerton club to help get their program off the ground after several years with only Gymkhana shows. Dates are being looked at and a class list is in the works. If you are willing to help out in any way, please let Cheryl know. High school kids can get community service hours for helping before or at the shows. Parents are welcome to get involved as well. It's lots of fun and it will help keep horses in our County.

If you have an interest in showing either this year or in the future you are invited to attend the annual CRK Show Meeting. Remember, you must own or lease a horse to show off the ranch, but everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. This year's meeting will be held on Feb. 22 at 7:30 PM. All clients are welcome to attend. Important decisions will be made regarding which shows we will attend this year, along with informative handouts. Refreshments will also be served.

How to be a good Horse Owner~

Hi there horse owner. It's me, your horse. Cheryl has been kind enough to interper for me to let you know what I need from you. So here goes....

A soft, clean place to sleep. Now, the people at CRK keep my stall clean and put in plenty of bedding. Please don't take it out or let it get too deep because it can get dusty. If the winds are blowing, I really like a fly mask to keep the bedding and dust out of my eyes.

Plenty of consistent grooming & exercise. Now here is where you, my "owner" come in. Grooming helps keep my coat looking nice, but it also help you find any cuts, bumps or bruises I may have acquired while "playing" with the horse in the next stall. You can treat the cuts and keep my hooves clean at the same time. Clean, dry hooves will not get that smelly, black stuff growing in them (Thrush). That can prevent my hooves from hurting so much you have to call the needle guys out.

CRK staff will exercise me, but it is up to you to O.K. it. I need exercise at least 5 days a week. A few minutes of turn-out isn't enough. Just like you, I need to work my body to keep it healthy. You will save in expensive vet bills in the long run. So, please work me. That is why you got me in the first place, isn't it.

And if I need training, remember you are the first and last person in my life. Anytime you are around me, I'm learning right and wrong. Be sure you always tell me the same thing because I get confused easily. I need to know that a cue always means the same thing, like whoa always means stop. Not stop sometimes and slow down other times. Or maybe you really said "Oh!" and didn't really want me to stop at all, but it sounds the same to me. Imagine if your boss made you try to remember all that! You would be confused too. Or you can pay the CRK people to train me. They always make sure my friends and I understand what they want. But, I still want you to ride me too. I want to be your friend.

The proper amount of good feed. Again, the CRK people feed me and all my friends here as individuals and they use really good hay, so that area is well covered. I do like those crunchy, sweet orange things and I hear they are good for me, so some extra of those is nice. If you are going to ride me lots, I might need some grain or vitamins, but most of the time I'm fine without it. Grain sometimes makes me want to run a lot and feel kinda jittery. But if you give it to me, it's so yummy, I just can't help myself. It's kinda like caffeine, you can't have too much, right?

Water, water everywhere...

Please, check my water bucket every day. I sometimes like to rinse my mouth out and get old hay and other goo in the water. The wind also will blow dirt and leaves into it. And the buckets also grow green, slimy stuff on the inside. So please empty, scrub, rinse and refill it with clean water at least once a week. Some of my friends think that wet hay tastes better than dry. Their water gets really icky fast and needs to be cleaned out more often. Remember, without

fresh water, I can get really sick really fast and the needle guys (Vets) charge extra at night....

Speaking of vets..... Make sure I am up to date on my vaccinations, de-worming, teeth floating and sheath cleaning. I need to see the vet at least two times every year. (I can't believe I'm saying this.) Again, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. So bring the needle guys out, even if I don't like them.

Bring the hammer down. I mean the guy with the hammers, you know, the manicurist. (Farrier). I need my hooves trimmed or shod every 6-8 weeks. Some of my friends get their nails done every 4 weeks! (I think they are just vain) Really, please don't try to save money by stretching out the time between my shoeing. It will increase the chance that my legs will start to hurt and I will need to see the needle guys. (I hear they cost more than the hammer guy, but I'm not sure what money is. Maybe it's those yummy, crunchy, sweet orange things?)

And finally...

Remember that I belong to you because you chose me. I didn't get a choice in the matter. I love you and want to please you, so make it easy for me to do what you want. Don't leave me alone for days or weeks at a time. I miss you. I love the things we do together, even if it is a walk after a rainy day or a good rub with those scrubby things. Those are really nice this time of year when I'm shedding. Signed, Your Horse.

Group Lessons for Spring~

The following group lessons are being offered for Spring 2008. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact Cheryl.

Mondays- Level #2 & up, English & Western
4:30-5:30PM

Tuesdays- Level #2 & up, English & Western
9:30-10:30AM

Thursdays- Level #2 & up, English & Western
Show Group 4:30-6:00PM

Saturdays- Level #2 & up, English & Western,
Ground Poles, 9:00-10:00AM

Saturdays- Level #3 & #4, English Only,
Jumping 2'3"- 2'9", 10:00-11:00AM

Saturdays- Level #2 & up, English & Western
Trail Obstacles, 11:00-12:00 Noon.

Rate Increases~

As you already know, the price of gas has caused prices of all commodities to increase. This includes things like hay, feed, bedding and the cost of services by outside vendors, like tree trimmers, vets & farriers. Fueled by a drought and increasing gas prices, our hay prices alone have increased by \$8.00 or more a bale over one year ago. Considering the average horse at CRK Stable eats about 6 bales a month, you can easily see how our costs have changed. Therefore; we will be implementing a rate increase effective February 1, 2008. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we really don't have a choice. Please see the enclosed copy of a LA Times article that explains the situation better than I can.

Lesson rates have also increased slightly, but if you use your own horse in the lessons you will receive a \$10.00 per month discount. See the enclosed rate schedule for the new rates.

Level Testing~

Many CRK students continue to make their way through the levels. Congratulations to the following students have taken and passed the tests.

Level #1- Jean Sarno and Nicole Parker

Level #2- Emily Sung, Paula Partch, & Kristina Hermanson.

The next free testing day will be held in April. The exact date will be determined by the show schedule. You may also take the test during a private lesson, but will be charged for it.

Barn Duty Days~

The Barn Duty program is off to a great start. The first meeting was held on Jan. 12 and was well attended. The students who took advantage of the program learned how to clean stalls, water & feed buckets and either cleaned bridles or treated hooves for thrush and administered de-worming medication. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot! The students who attended were: Megan Lehman, Debra

Knowlton, Kylie Morford, Rachel Robison ,
Kristina Hermanson, Klarisse & Manon Andre'
de St. Amant and Megan Beeuwsaert.

CRK Stable offers Saturday Barn duty twice a month. Students will be assigned to work with an intern performing various tasks around the barn. Tasks could include: cleaning water & feed buckets, grooming & clipping horses, treating hooves for thrush, bathing horses, cleaning tack & tack rooms, giving medications or de-wormers to horses, raking leaves or sweeping tack rooms.

The skills needed to pass your practical tests may be learned during barn duty. If you intend to continue through the levels at CRK stable, plan to attend Barn Duty as often as possible. Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board! Upcoming Barn Duty days are: Jan 26, Feb 9 & Feb. 23.

Trivia Test~

Can you answer these true or false questions about Equine terminology. Answers will appear in next month's newsletter.

1. A colt is a baby horse of either gender.
2. A Roan is a color of horse.
3. Green is a color of horse.
4. A stallion is a male horse
5. A gelding is a male horse.
6. A mare is a male horse..
7. A filly is a female horse
8. Pinto is a color of horse
9. Paint is a color of horse.
10. Bay is a body of water.

Answers to last month's quiz.

1. Both english and western saddles have a cantle. *True*
2. All bridles have a bit. *False*
3. Saddle pads are necessary under all saddles. *False*
4. Snaffle & curb bits work differently. *True*
5. All bits with a jointed mouthpiece are snaffles. *False*
6. Turn-out halters should be made of leather. *True*
7. The best saddles are made of leather. *True*
8. All saddles have a tree. *False*

9. Nylon lunge lines are best. *False*

10. Western reins come in both split & romel styles. *True*

Quotable Quotes~

"[The horse] must end every session feeling good about himself, even if you are a little disappointed. You'll find that slow progress has the most reliable results."

Sue Madden Mandas

That's All For Now~

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or have any questions, please contact Cheryl directly. She may be contacted by E-mail at:

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That's all folks!