



### News

Is winter already over? It sure feels like it! While the rest of the country has been inundated with cold weather and snow, we have escaped with very mild weather. What a pleasure it has been to haul and ride snow free this year. It seems too soon, but the final two shows are quickly approaching - March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the final show and the awards banquet immediately following. Nominations for board positions occur at the banquet. Please consider taking a board position to help run this club. We thrive and survive on the volunteer commitment of our member riders.

SCWGA strongly encourages riders to use proper riding boots and wear helmets.

Final Show Dates - March 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am start time

### Revised Date for SCWGA Scholarship Applications due February 24, 2010

Due to a change in the application distribution this year, we have extended the scholarship application deadline. Please see the website ([www.scwga.com](http://www.scwga.com)) for applications and more details.

### Food Drive for Sky Valley Food Bank

Did you know that our club supports the Sky Valley Food Bank by collecting money and food donations throughout our show season? This is an important charity that directly affects the quality of life of people living in the area. We encourage all members to make any size donation on their show registration form. Please help us support this worthwhile charity!

### Man in the Middle: Wouldn't It Be Cool

By Rick Bell

Before the next play day, wouldn't it be cool if every saddle and bridle were polished, oiled and spit-shined before we ever pulled out of the driveway? Wouldn't it be great if every bucket and flake of hay were lined up in perfect order? Impossible, you say, but wouldn't it be cool?

On the way to the event, wouldn't be nice if no one argued, if Mom and Dad and the little ones all got along fine, and no one argued or complained? If all of us had a nice day and the horses stood perfectly still in the trailer, wouldn't it be nice?

And wouldn't it be swell if my rig started on the first crank and I didn't have to dig my windshield wipers out of two inches of ice? Once we got to our destination, wouldn't it be great to find a parking place less than a mile from the main arena, maybe within walking distance of the snack bar? Man, I can just smell those maple bars.

And wouldn't it be wonderful if my horse didn't roll in a pile of you-know-what the night before the show and I didn't have to give her a good scrub? Wouldn't it be great if she didn't fidget and side step whenever it was time to climb in my saddle? And wouldn't it be nice if this blooming wind stopped for at least three seconds? I came here to have fun, not freeze to death.

"Excuse me, does anyone have an extra ski jacket I can borrow?"

I love these shows as much as anyone, but wouldn't it be nice if I didn't shake in my boots every time I rode in an event? And why does my long underwear always ride up to my crotch? Can it rightfully be called *underwear* if it rides up to *there*?

As I approach the starting line, I pray for a miracle. Would it be so much to ask, Lord, if, just this once, I looked good? Can't I simply do what I came here to do without fouling something up? Why can't the crowd applaud once in awhile? It happens to movie stars all the time. Why not me?

Wouldn't it be great to be *great*? Wouldn't it be awesome to ride with style and grace and maybe win once in awhile? I'd like that. My little horse would explode out of the last turn and she and I would make a name for ourselves. Oh, I realize this is the real world, not Disney World. I'll be lucky to get through this event without crashing or falling or scaring the ring crew half to death. When I ride, no one cheers. No one even *notices*. But if they did, wouldn't it be *cool*?

### Board Meeting

Board meetings occur on the second Wednesday of each month. The next board meeting will be on March 10, 2009 at 7:00pm at a to-be determined location. The Red lotus is closing and we will determine a new meeting location post it on the web site. All members are welcome to attend.