



June - 2010

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Treasurer - Ken Perrine - (360)805-1480
Secretary - Tracy Tiefisher - (360)629-3601
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News

We are very luck in this edition of the newsletter to have several new contributions. If you would like to submit a general interest or informational article, please contact Suzanne Damon at suzannedamon@hotmail.com.

What a great season SCWGA had this year! The March show was extremely exciting with 3 new records set (two by Kelsie Fitzpatrick and one by Brenda Vroman). We are so lucky to have such great members who support the club and this great sport of Western Gaming. We look forward to seeing everyone at Nationals in Kalispell, MT in July. We expect an excellent showing from Washington riders - good luck everyone.

Our very own Rick Bell is now a published author in AQHA's America's Horse magazine! We are very proud of him and appreciate the great pictures of SCWGA that were included in the June issue of the magazine.

We had an exciting and well attended meeting in April to elect the new SCWGA board. There were numerous candidates for the open positions and we are pleased to present this year's participants:

President - Julie Guthrie

President Elect - Beau Damon

Treasurer - Ken Perrine

Secretary - Tracy Tiefisher

Junior board member - Alex Thomas

Past President - Bret Robinson

Board members - Suzanne Damon, Chad Ruble, Laurie McKittrick, Nathalie Simeon, Gogo Smith, Lynlee Kane, Ashley Palm and Kristin Kelley

Although the awards ceremony seems like a long time ago, we still wanted to mention our apologies over the spiciness of the main course. There was a mix up in the kitchen and the dish we ordered was not the dish we were served!

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

Fair

There will be an important time change this year - we will be running from 7:30am to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday with NO split between age groups. The dates of fair are September 3rd (check-in), 4th and 5th. Team events will be run on Saturday - time permitting. Keep your eyes out for the fair packet that is coming out shortly.

Food Bank

SCWGA supports the Sky Valley Food Bank on a regular basis throughout the year. This year we were delighted to donate an additional \$500 *each* to Sky Valley Food Bank and the Snohomish Food bank. Thank you members for your continued support to these very important organizations!

An informational article about equine insurance

Where will the money come from?

By Brandon Simeon

Your horse causes damage to someone's property or causes bodily injury. Will you have enough cash on hand to pay those expenses and defend yourself in court?

Your horse colics and needs surgery to save its life. Only problem, it's thousands of dollars and euthanasia looks like the only affordable solution.

You're considering boarding, giving riding lessons, or hauling horses for profit. Will your current insurance cover you?

These are just some questions you should be asking yourself if you have horses. We all know people that have gotten hurt around horses. We all know people that have been involved in law suits. It can happen to you. You need to be sure that you are protected now. Once an accident happens, it's already too late.

Most homeowner's policies personal liability coverage offers coverage for acts of your animals. That means if your horse kicks someone or something or gets out of its pasture and is struck by a vehicle, your home insurer can defend you in court and pay up to the policy limit if you are proven to be negligent.

There are many companies that offer equine mortality (death) and surgery/major medical coverage. If you have this coverage in place, the decision for vet care can be based on what's best for the animal, not what's best for your budget.

While your personal home insurance can provide coverage for acts of your animals, it most likely does not cover you in any business pursuits. If you are doing anything for profit, you need a business insurance policy. If you can't afford the additional premium, you definitely can't afford the additional risk having an equine based business brings.

Remember, when an accident occurs, you're stuck with the coverage you have at that time.

If this brings any questions to your mind, now is the best time to take action.

If you would like further information on this subject, you can contact your insurance agent or Brandon at bsimeon@farmersagent.com.

A general interest article on showing your love

My Other Half

By Judy Bailey

You don't realize how much your horse contributes to your life until they're gone. I had Leota for ten years. She and I took about 2 or 3 years coming to an understanding until we became a team. I used to be able to just take her to the warm up arena and practice the moves for the next event, and she knew when we got into the ring which one we were doing and executed to the best of her ability despite the fact that I was riding her. When I would go out to feed, she would always look at me as if to say, are we going out today? She had a lot of white around her eyes making them very expressive. I closed those eyes myself as soon as she died.

Leota and I went to the ocean in Oregon, to 3 Nationals, twice to Wyoming and once to Vernal, and we spend a month in Arizona riding all over the desert in 2003. She was funny on the long hauls. When she realized it would be a long one, she would give me one of those looks and refuse to eat a carrot at stops. I could tell what she was saying. Once about 6 months ago, I was riding Sierra's new horse to calm her so Sierra could ride more safely and Leota started running all around our arena as if to say why aren't you riding ME. Just as she turned a corner, she slipped and skidded on her side and sheepishly got up and shook. You didn't need words to communicate with her.

She and I always placed in SCWGA, Bits and Spurs, and Hollywood Hills and she won a first place in Super Senior in 2008, her final present. She also presented me with lots of good times with friends, camping trips, and trail rides. She jumped beautifully, turned tight, and gave her all every time I asked anything of her. She was a beautiful horse inside and out.

I know lots of you love your horses, but whatever you do let them know it every day. It's the same with people. Once they're gone you realize that half of you is too.

Man in the Middle: Boy with a Rake

By Rick Bell

Years ago at a show in Stanwood I was getting ready for my barrel run. In one corner of the arena a freckle-faced teenager spun his rake like a windmill. I'm sure he'd witnessed more than a few barrel runs that day. I'm sure he was bored.

"Hey, kid," I yelled, "cut it out with that rake!"

The poor kid turned three shades of red. Did I give any thought to the way he might have felt or to what he was going through? Not for a second. I was pretty much wound up in my own business.

I've given careful thought to that little incident. As a result, I try hard to reach out to the people around me. Because I compete alongside folks who have a deep respect for horses, I treat them like I want to be treated. We're all in the same family here.

Because the work at a horse show never ends, I do my share without being reminded. I help out. I grab a rake or a clipboard. I address judges, rakers, and announcers respectfully because I know some day I'm likely to be wearing their shoes. I don't crowd into line at the snack bar, not even when I smell onions frying on the grill. As my grandmother used to say at family get-togethers, "Take your time, kids. No one's going to starve today."

Nowadays I try not to whine, cry or complain, especially not in front of my wife. I know what she'll say if I don't behave like a gentleman. "Rick, I think you owe that man an apology." I make a habit of rooting for my fellow competitors. I cheer them on or shake their hand when they've done well. I want to win as much as the next guy, but I like to think of myself as a professional.

I've thought quite a bit about the boy with the rake, and I think I know where I went wrong. I focused so hard on *me* that I forgot to think about anyone else. The boy spinning the rake wasn't the problem. The problem was the guy riding the horse. All he cared about was himself.

Board Meeting

Board meetings occur on the second Wednesday of each month. The next board meeting will be on July 14, 2010 at 7:00pm at the New Country Grill in Snohomish. All members are welcome to attend.