



DELTA RIDING CLUB

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BULLETIN | AUGUST 2011

8.1.2011 **Work party this Wednesday**

With already almost 25 man (and WHOA-man) hours of volunteer time into the riding club this past Saturday, there is STILL a pile of work to be done – and we desperately need some FRESH bodies to help! Can you join us between 6:30 and 7 this coming Wednesday, August 3rd and do the many-hands-make-light-work thing with us?

It's not that the grounds are neglected or bad ... it just takes TIME to weed-eat and harrow and mow. There is a lot of ground to cover with three big rings, the parking area and the area around the clubhouse. We've moved ALLLL the dressage surrounds to get at that blessed horsetail THAT IS TAKING OVER – so, they all need to be put back. The stalls need weed-eating to get the really ugly tall weeds in check, there is painting to be done (I am still looking for someone more bendy than me to get the parts of the skirting I can't get to); we need to unload jumps off the hay wagon and we may be moving the show jumps into the main ring. The chairs should be washed, and the windows could be cleaned (in my perfect world). And someone VERY brave could hit the BBQ, if they dare. (Ew.) It's not hard work – it just takes time and some elbow grease, and we need some of yours!! Bring your metal rakes if you have them – we'd also like to hit some of the "swells" in the main ring. It's getting better – it's just not there yet!

FYI -- in case you think grounds maintenance comes easily -- we had TWO tractors, THREE weed-eaters and SIX of us going all out on Saturday. We've got the heavy stuff done; now we need some finishing touches to make it PERFECT for this weekend's SUMMER CLASSIC.

Westway will take your entries

I don't know why we didn't organize this earlier in the season, but I checked with Jess at Westway and they would be DEE-lighted to accept your show entries on our behalf. Entry deadline is Wednesday, closing time. I'll be making the rounds to Westway, RODDICKS and DOG & PONY Thursday morning. (Failing that, you could bring them directly to us at the CLUB on Wednesday night when you come to help!! Refreshments on us!)

PS: We are REALLY getting excited. Have you seeeeen the forecast?!?!? YIPPEEEEE!! I was harrowing for an hour and a half this morning, and with that ocean breeze, it would have been PERFECT for riding!! The mountains still have some snow on them – we have THE MOST BEAUTIFUL riding club of all!!!

Parking protocols

We will have people at the gate and inside helping you park on both show days. Please follow their directions as we want to make the most of our space. (We have lots of space but when parking goes amuck – especially on an English/Western day – it can really choke the place up!). Please remember it's not all about you!!

Passenger vehicles (without gear or trailers) will be directed onto the hayfield, outside of the gate. We're going to try to keep the gravel area near the dressage ring clear enough so those with trailers can make the turnaround. (Yolanda, you're on the gravel!) We may be parking trailers on the south end of the Hunter ring, so that won't be for passenger cars early on.

If you have a passenger vehicle with gear, we ask that you park in the same line as your rig, unload and then park on the hayfield as directed. Especially on Sunday.

If you're parking your truck and trailer on the grass, be sure to pull your truck up to the roadway so other vehicles and rigs can park behind you once you're unloaded and we're full. It's not rocket science; just use some common sense and please humour the parking peeps and do what they suggest ...

NO SMOKING!!

Oh yes! While the grass is still lush, the rings and track are already tinder dry. If you must smoke, please do it IN YOUR VEHICLE.

BC Heritage qualifier

In case you missed it, this is a BC Heritage qualifying show for 2012. Rumour has it the show is staying in the Fraser Valley next year, so if you haven't already ordered your log book (there's only one now) for this new season (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) from Horse Council, bring your moola and get us to download and complete your application for you. Go to [hcbc.ca] and click on competitions for the particulars. They're \$11.20 including HST. We would prefer you pay by a separate cheque made out to HCBC (we'll forward it for you). If you're pre-entering, download the application and submit it with your entry (with a separate cheque made out directly to HCBC if you please).

Oh ... and congratulations to Devon Smith and Tamara Jameson on their success at this year's championship show. Devon and SW Roxy Barlink won their Showmanship (well, duh) and Horsemanship and Handy Horse. And Tamara rode Super Miss Luuuuucy to a big win in the ... English Pleasure. Of course, Lucy is the showmanship QUEEN, so they won that, too!

HCBC awarded PRIZE MONEY to fourth place this year -- \$60 bucks for first!! With their placings, both girls won almost all their (and in Devon's case – ahem – MY) entry money back. It was just like the old days when we used to show at the PNE. (Remember that?!?!?) Anyways, with that in mind, get your log books and start qualifying now! THE HUNTER DAY IS A BC HERITAGE QUALIFER TOO!!!!

That's it for now. Hope you got some riding in this BC Day long weekend? As for me, I've spent a lot of time riding a tractor. Horses, not so much. But we're all getting pretty pumped about the show! Hope you can make it!! (And yes, we are still looking for extra hands – especially on the Sunday!)

8.5.2011 **Are you ready?**

We are!! Oh my goodness!! The grounds have NEVER looked so nice! We have spent hours and hours and HOURS this week getting ready for this weekend's Summer Classic!

We had an awesome group of ladies (and Bruce) show up Wednesday night for the work party. I'm afraid I might leave someone out but I'll take the risk because we need to give credit when credit is due!!! Here goes: THANK YOU THANK THANK YOU to Teri, Moya, PAM (oops!), Louise, Sheila, Devon (token youth/ONLY youth!), Allan (oh ya, the other man – MY man!), KIM, the incredible DIANE and Cindy, and FIONA!



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We set the dressage surrounds up in about seven minutes FLAT!! (It was awesome!!) Fiona and Cindy disappeared with weed wackers to hit the stalls again while some went into the clubhouse and washed chairs and WINDOWS (yippee!!) and the rest of us mulled over the hunter ring, then moved all the jumps to the main ring! (But we ARE making progress on that Hunter ring, you'll be pleased to know!)

It was just SO refreshing (and revitalizing) to have some new faces and energy join us!! Thank you SO much for coming!

You can still enter the show (but it will cost you)

Well, it won't cost THAT much more:

Even though this weekend is a pre-entry show (to get your pre-entry discount), you can STILL ENTER THE DAY OF THE SHOW, just like all our other shows. You just pay a little more – which is good for our bank account, actually!! Especially since we've actually lowered our fees for the EW day – well not lowered, actually – but you can ride more classes for the same moola!

That said, if you want to save a few pennies, you COULD email or fax (604.946.5919) your entries TODAY before 6 pm, or drop them off at my house (6055 Brodie) before 6 OR tonight at the riding club. Call 604.328.3814 to make sure I am there, which I expect to be between 7 and 9. As long as we can process the paperwork TONIGHT, you can get the discounted rates. (We're NOT desperate for entries – we just want to minimize the chaos in the entry booth!)

Stalls available

I still have a few day stalls available on the EW day (Sunday). Call or text to reserve: 604.328.3814.

Coffeeeeeeeeee

Gates open by 7:30 am both mornings and the coffee will be on! We've heard thru the grapevine that "Auntie" Marg – the breakie burger QUEEN – is making an appearance in the concession on BOTH mornings!! Yay!

Remember to follow the parking instructions for our gate peeps (Bruce and Rick). Passenger vehicles should park on the hayfield to the east of the driveway, before the gate!

It's the loneliest job ...

And that's why I prefer to have volunteers only do one hour shifts on the OUTGATE – but it's really REALLY important to keep the EW show running smoothly. We still need volunteers, so if you're able, come on down – or if your mom, sister, brother, grampa, aunt or grunt has an hour to give us while they're at the show cheering you on, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE encourage them to lend a hand. Training is free! Coffee (or some other refreshment of choice) on us!!

Riding on the grounds

Remember, no cantering outside of the rings. If you need to longe your horse, do it in the dressage ring (which will be closed after the

Handy Horse is set up early Sunday afternoon) and NOT the main or hunter rings. (And if someone is longeing in the dressage ring, riders are probably better off riding in the other rings to give those horses their space. (Duh ...) Safety for everyone is paramount and common sense needs to prevail! Ya!

For those coming to DRC for the first time, horses are NOT permitted on the grass surrounding the clubhouse (except for those tied to trailers that may be parked there). That area is for spectators. Please listen to announcements carefully.

If you are bringing a horse just to orient him or her to the grounds and the activity at a show but are not entering classes, please come to the office BEFORE you unload to sign a waiver. The reasons are pretty obvious!

BC Heritage

We haven't had any riders submit log book applications with their entries and I had a couple of folks ask me what BC Heritage is all about.

Basically it's a championship show held annually (this year's show was in July at T'bird) where riders need to qualify in order to attend. Shows like our Summer Classic are BC Heritage "qualifying" shows – you need to ride and place up to fourth place in at least two BC Heritage qualifying shows during the qualifying period (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 – and we'll have several) to show at the show NEXT July. Pretty good sources tell me it's July 6-8 at Maple Ridge. Or thereabouts.

Last year (or this past year), they extended the list of championship classes offered at the BC Heritage Finals. They include:

Western: Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Equitation, Command Class, Western Horsemanship, Reining, Trail, Pole Bending, Barrel Racing, Stake Race and Keyhole Race.

English: English Showmanship, English Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Road Hack, Show Hack, Handy Horse, Hunter Over Fences 2' - 3' / 3' - 3'6", Jumper 2' - 3' / 3' - 3'6", Dressage: Training / First Levels

And ...

Driving; Reinsmanship, Pleasure, Command, Games-Barrels, Poles

You need to apply for your Log Book (in which the show secretaries verify and record your placings) from HCBC, and it's just \$11.20.

You can fill out an application for your log book at our shows and we will submit it and your show results on your behalf. Your log book will be mailed to you from HCBC.

This is a provincial program, and exhibitors from all over the province attend. Frankly, it has been around for several years but only now seems to be gathering some momentum. I think that addition of quite respectable prize money this year (see the last bulletin) has raised a few eyebrows, so I am actually feeling quite hopeful that this event might finally attain the stature it was meant to have. (Oops! That's me editorializing again ...)

All the poop is on Horse Council's website [<http://www.hcbc.ca/BC-Heritage.html>?]. If you have any questions, please hunt me down and I will try to explain more-the-better. Whether you think you will go to the show next year or not, for \$11.20 it's nice to have a log book that journals your success at shows like ours and Mission and Langley and Chilliwack, and even some of the breed shows. (More work for us, but that's why we get paid the big bucks, right?)



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What else?

Hmmm ... I don't think there IS anything else! We're ready, set, GO!! Make sure you give our "English at a Glance" chart a boo before you show. We don't want to DQ anyone but you will be penalized if you sneak past the whipper in with training or inappropriate equipment. (It happens; not intentionally, we don't think.) It's just better to have that learning curve under your belt BEFORE you go in the ring! Check the website [deltaridingclub.com] for the show schedule.

Oh ya!

We do have one vendor coming with ... stuff like sleezies and tail bags, Christmas cards and gift items. Silly me – I didn't get the NAME of her business! But she'll be setting up Sunday morning so don't forget some pocket change!

Even if you're NOT showing, drop by this weekend for some eatz and a look-see! We appreciate your support!

Oh oh ya! Bring your sunscreen!! (The breeze can be deceiving!)

8.9.2011 Potluck!

I have SOOOO much news to share with you about the ultra-fantabulous show this past weekend HOWEVER ... I also have a job so this is a shorty!!

We wanted to invite you to our regular monthly meeting which is tomorrow night, Wednesday, August 13. Becuuuuuuuuuz we feel like a celebration is in order, we're going to have burgers and corn on the barbie. I'm bringing the meat (locally raised Angus, of course!), the club has the buns, Sheila is good for tomatoes and onions and you need to bring your beverage-of-choice ;) and (if you're feeling really inspired) maybe a salad to share.

Meet us at the club about 6:30 for some networking the old-fashioned way; we'll follow with a mini-meeting!

RSVP please by return email. Spouses, family welcome for dinner. (I hope I haven't bitten off TOO much!)

And check our Delta Riding Club page on Facebook – I've started to post the best of the ... 400 or so pics I took. You can post yours, too!

8.10.11 Equine Infectious Anemia

DRC Director and BCQHA media liaison Lynne Carter sent this alert for BC horse owners this morning, which we think needs passing along:

We were informed today by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that there are horses in northern Alberta that have tested positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). It is further reported that some of these horses may be sold or for sale throughout the Alberta herd or in British Columbia. Although the sale or comingling of these horses is not confirmed officially and information is

difficult to obtain for a number of reasons it may be reasonable to assume that there is EIA exposure to horses. Could it be your horses???

If you or anyone you know is buying or selling horses, moving them in or out of stables, sales barns, show facilities or any area where horses come together it may be recommended that stringent biosecurity be practiced including Coggins testing. Consult your Veterinary Doctor for more information!!

There will be further statements by Provincial and Federal Government personnel and the veterinary community which we will forward to you immediately. Please share this news with all your horse friends particularly in Alberta and BC and above all encourage biosecurity protocols to protect your animals and those of your friends.

There will be updates on the HWAC (www.horsewelfare.ca), AFAC (www.afac.ab.ca) and AEF (www.albertaequestrian.com) websites as they are received.