



DELTA RIDING CLUB

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BULLETIN | MARCH 2011

6.15.10 | Free nutrition workshop this Saturday

Are you providing your horse with the right diet for his age or workload? Are you confused about what makes "good" hay and what makes hay "not-so-good" - or whether the difference between feeding local or alfalfa or timothy is really worth the price? And what about the sugar levels in hay? How do you know for sure? And what about grain and supplements? Oy! Too many choices? Do you need help?

This SATURDAY, APRIL 2, my good buddy and pal Shelagh Niblock from Viterra Feeds (ProForm) is coming to Delta Riding Club to talk to us about making the best feed choices for our ponies! Our friends at Westway Feeds are sponsoring so it's FREE (think DOOR prizes, ya) and we would be thrilled to have you join us!

Now, Alicia Harper has made all these arrangements, but I can tell you this: Shelagh is a personal friend (my "mentor" when I first became a 4-H leader). She is a dairy nutritionist for Viterra by trade, but her PASSION is horses. She walked our 4-H kids through a nutrition exam (one of the requirements for their high school credits) that would make your EYES glaze over - and every one of these kids passed with almost PERFECT marks! Shelagh LOVES this stuff. She KNOWS this stuff - and she presents it in a way that is easy to understand - and you can ask her ANYthing!! (Except, maybe, about how much OLDER I am than her!) Shelagh has the bunny inside her - this will be a fast-paced, shoot-from-the-hip kind of presentation you won't want to miss!

The workshop starts promptly at 10 am (til noon). Coffee and refreshments on us! Bring your 2011 membership [www.deltaridingclub.com] along with you and if you have specific questions about what you are feeding Trigger, bring your feed tags, and maybe a sample of your hay (in a baggie).

I'm afraid my good intentions about a bulletin (I've been promising since the new year!) have gone awry and so I am apologizing in advance and assuming ALL the blame for this late notice but:

Dressage clinic this Sunday

This SUNDAY, APRIL 3, Dr. Susan Thompson (EC Coach 2), owner and program director at Crescent Stables Ltd., will be at our place - Delta Riding Club - presenting one hour dressage lessons for riders at just \$40 each (semi-private). And there are just four spots left!

Here's another opportunity Delta Riding Club dressage members won't want to miss: In addition to her teaching and supervisory duties at Crescent, Susan is an NCCP Learning Facilitator, and a Coaching Examiner for Equine Canada. Specializing in Dressage, Susan has produced many Certified coaches and continues to mentor new coach candidates. Susan and her students have participated in clinics with Charles DeKuffny, Conrad Schumacher, and Cara Witham, and in the Young Rider program with Albrecht Hiedemann. Susan is also looking forward to spending some time in England with Mary Wanless next year. Impressed? You bet!

Drawing upon these diverse influences, and bringing her knowledge of human motor learning and behavioural psychology into her coaching, Susan's focus is on helping riders understand the interactive process between rider and horse.

This is another one of Alicia's projects (at least SOMEone has been busy!). Please contact her (soon) to book a session with Sue. You can reach her by emailing alicia@hyleetraining.com.

For those of you attending either or both events at Delta Riding Club this weekend, please

DON'T PARK ON THE GRASS!

Work party

We had a nice turnout of mostly directors and a few members (including last year's "special appreciation" recipient Diane Moon :) at our work party at the club on Sunday. Things are still a soggy mess, as you can imagine, but we got the jumps gathered into the middle of the hunter ring, and Sheila (my OTHER Sheila) and daughter Megan pressure-washed all the dressage surrounds in advance of this Sunday's clinic.

Francie announced that spring clean up is next week, so she and her dad commandeered an effort to get a lot of the "junk" from under and around the clubhouse gathered up to go out to the road this coming weekend. Don and Bruce got the tractor running (whew!) and Bruce expects to be harrowing this week. All the stuff we had "borrowed" from the clubhouse for the pot-luck back in November was finally put back where it belongs and Alicia and I got the new computer up and running. Cindy will be ecstatic that it now runs as fast as she does!! Lynne swept, Tamara and Devon did as they were told (once they had gloves!) - we accomplished a lot! BUT ...

DON'T PARK ON THE GRASS! If you're coming this weekend, please park on the gravel near the gate or on the east side of the stalls. For those hauling in with trailers for the dressage clinic, same thing - follow the roadway to the east side of the stalls and you will have lots of room and turnaround there!

Show schedule promised this week (*she says, fingers crossed*)

We are about two or three judges shy of being able to officially release our 2011 show program (that's my next project), but we've had the dates posted on the website for a couple of months now, so we KNOW you're in the loop! Here's what we can confirm so far:

- April 17 Percentage Day (Judge: Hanneke Saunders)
- May 1 English/Western (Judge: Yvonne Longauer) BC Heritage qualifier
- May 15 Hunter (Judge: Lisa Mander)
- May 22 Percentage Day (Judge: Virginia Allen)
- June 5 Hunter (Judge: Linda English)
- June 12 Percentage Day (Judge: Joan Simmons)
- June 19 English/Western (Judge: Lisa Mander) BC Heritage qualifier
- August 6 Summer Show: Hunter (Judge: TBA)
- August 7 Summer Show: English/Western (Judge: Virginia Allen)
- September 11 English/Western (Judge: TBA)
- September 18 Percentage Day (Judge: TBA)

Did you notice we added an extra DRESSAGE show to the schedule for 2011? (That makes FOUR!) And we kept the Father's Day English/Western show that we added last minute last season? (And it's a BC Heritage qualifier to boot!) More bang for your membership buck, alright! And we've made a few tucks and tweaks to your class line-ups that we think you're gonna like! Specifically ...

For the Hunter shows, we've dumped the "jumper" classes - which didn't seem to take off the last couple of years we've offered them, and it could be argued we really don't have the right equipment for them. BUT ... we've replaced that division with a new 3 FOOT hunter division which we hope will bring more exhibitors out for our 2'6"-es (plural of 2'6"). Of course, you never know how the season will go. TWO years ago, we had NO cross rail exhibitors; this past year, cross rail ROCKED!

Novice classes added

For our English/Western days, the big news is we've added NOVICE classes. Four of them - in English Pleasure, Road Hack, Hunter under Saddle and Western Pleasure. This is a class where RIDERS cannot have won more than three first place ribbons in that class at any show any where. I think it will be an excellent addition to our class schedule, and I suspect we will be adding more classes like this next year! Other than that, the schedule



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remains pretty much the same as last year - if it ain't broke, why fix it?!?

Bucks Back for early members

Have you sent in your 2011 membership yet? The good news is our fees remain the same as last year (and the year before that) and IF you join DRC by April 15, you will receive an early bird "gift" of \$10 in DRC bucks to use on anything Delta Riding offers - from entries to concession to signature clothing and banquet tickets! BUT ... your membership must be postmarked by April 15 (it should have been February 28th, sigh ...) or dropped off at our friends at DOG & PONY or RODDICKS. (You probably need to pick up some show supplies while you're there, too, eh?)

Carboot sale just three weeks away

So, while you're doing your spring cleaning this weekend (because it's spring cleanup next week in Delta according to Francie), you might want to consider your tack room, too, because our THIRD ANNUAL CARBOOT SALE is scheduled for SUNDAY, APRIL 17, just three weeks from now and in conjunction with our season opener Percentage (Dressage) Day! We started the carboot sale and other clubs have followed suit - the one in Abbotsford hosted by Mission Horse Club was an outrageous success in spite of the snow!

For just \$10, you can bring your truck, car or trailer, even, and find your spot in our hunter ring and sell to your heart's content! Last year, we had sellers with LOTS AND LOTS of great stuff!! (I will covet my bridle rack for the rest of my days!) I've attached our poster - if you are at a boarding barn or a tack or feed outlet where one hasn't been posted yet, would you help us out by printing and posting it? AND MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Season opener Percentage Day April 17

As is tradition, our first show event of the season will be our Percentage (Dressage) Day on SUNDAY, APRIL 17. Hanneke Saunders presides! Last year's season opener was huge - Sheila Forsyth and her pal Francie do an awesome job of putting this together for the club. To book your time, contact Sheila at 604.940.9698 or email her sheila.forsyth@hotmail.com. I'll get a 2011 entry form on the website poste haste!!

Ready to ride?

So. Over the years, we have hosted "open hack" days at the riding club with varying levels of success (or lack thereof). And yet, everyone SAYS they would love to come ride when there isn't anything else happening! THIS spring, Francie has offered to open the riding club on Saturday mornings for members to ride (you must be a current DRC member or you can come as an "invited" guest for free once; after the first ride, it's a \$10 guest fee for non-members). YOU MUST CALL FRANCIE IN ADVANCE (604.940.8960) though, as she doesn't have email. (And not the morning of ... 9)

Brushes for Richmond Therapeutic

Speaking of Francie, she noted at the last directors meeting that Richmond Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Society [rtes.com] was in need of horse brushes - new, used, dirty (they will clean). If you have an abundance of brushes and would like to share with this neat organization, you can drop them off at DOG & PONY. Just let them know who they're for! And thank you!!

Another dressage clinic on our schedule

Oh yes! DRC member Leslie Dowler has been on the ball. On behalf of DRC, she is planning a FRENCH CLASSICAL EQUITATION CLINIC at DRC

this coming June 8-10, immediately before our June Percentage Day! This is BIG stuff and if you are a dressage rider, listen up:

Susan Norman is appearing for the first time in the Fraser Valley this June. A dedicated pupil of Philippe Karl and the late Jean-Claude Racinet, with whom she rode with for 15 years, Susan has dedicated herself to learning French Classical Dressage with two of the most well respected Masters of our time. Susan spent time immersed in training at the prestigious school of the "Cadre Noir" in Saumur, France with Philippe Karl when he was an ecuyer with the "Cadre Noir."

Susan Norman was born in Yorkshire, England, and is certified with the British Horse Society. In 1976, while working as a Professor of Physical Education at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Susan coached the University Team to first place in the 3 day Eventing British Championships. Susan currently resides in Texas and has recently completed a three year certification to become an Equine Osteopath in the United States. Combined with her knowledge of human form and function, Susan teaches in a way that is harmonious to the well being of both horse and rider.

Join us as we learn about collection without force, separation of the aids, and riding in lightness on this two day journey in horsemanship. Susan will also be conducting a theory lecture on the evening prior to the clinic. The clinic is limited to eight riders per day and auditors are most welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact Leslie at 604-910-9916 or Iddowler@telus.net. Clinics are also held on Salt Spring Island in the Spring, Summer, and Fall each year. Please ask her for more details.

Many thank you's to Leslie for taking this on on behalf of DRC. If YOU are interested in bringing a clinician to DRC, please get in touch with one of our directors to discuss. You don't have to be part of the "inner-circle" to be actively involved with DRC - and your involvement doesn't have to be a life commitment (or sentence depending on your point of view :) either. We appreciate EVERYone's support!!

What's new on the website?

Well, at the risk of turning this bulletin into a book (War and Peace?), you should know that the website [deltaridingclub.com] has recently been updated with the 2010 award winners. (The text of our story in Saddle Up has been there since November, but the list of winners wasn't.) We've also updated the year end award requirements and the English and Western Class Descriptions (noting the novice class additions). Otherwise, they are pretty much the status quo.

There is a link to our FACEBOOK page there. I have to admit I am not a big user of Facebook but I am beginning to recognize the "networking" opportunities that are available on the page for clubs like ours. We will be updating it poste haste, and we invite you to take a boo and participate in the discussions there. (It will probably be your best source for INSTANT UPDATES on news as it happens as my track record with the bulletins this year has been not-so-good.)

Don't forget to send your "classified" ads to Devon (devonsmith@telus.net) - they're free! And if you have a boarding barn or coach or train, and you are a DRC member, you can list your business for FREE! (If you have a listing already, please give it a boo and let Devon know if it needs updating or it's fine as is. If she doesn't hear from you by April 15, she will delete the post. Just so everything is current. :)

Year end awards added

We've added three new perpetual awards to our year end roster, starting in 2011! Your board of directors agreed unanimously at our January meeting to



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add an OVERALL YOUTH 13 & UNDER, OVERALL YOUTH 14-18 and OVERALL SENIOR EXHIBITOR (19 & over) but ... I see Devon hasn't updated the information onto the website yet! Points will be tabulated for all classes including those from hunter shows (but not dressage) and are based on one horse/one rider combinations.

Oh, you will be grateful I am running out of steam. What else? OH!!!

Paul Dufresne is coming to DRC!

Natural Horsemanship trainer Paul Dufresne is booked for a weekend clinic at Delta Riding Club on May 7/8! Susan Randall is organizing the clinic and she says Paul's clinic will be "facilitated with the addition of the unique training technique of ENDOTAPPING (one of the very few experienced in teaching it in Canada). He teaches people to understand horses and how to tap into their relaxation reflexes in ways seldom seen in North America."

Paul helps to guide you in a creative experience where you learn to be an effective and safe leader and your horses learn to be an emotionally secure and respectful follower while developing athleticism in a mutually courageous manner by having a deeper understanding about how you affect each other.

Participants are assisted in finding a balance of leader/follower that works for them while respecting the horse and their well being. Thinking creatively inside and outside of the box is a way of life at Paul's Training for Courage Center [www.trainingforcourage.com]. Dancing with horses is only limited by our imagination as anyone would attest to after seeing him perform. This is something attainable for everyone who has the desire to pursue it.

For more information and to book your spot, contact Susan Randall at 604.319.5226 or sacsdelta@telus.net.

And so ...

This has been my "elephant in the room" for such a long time, and now that it's done (three hours and counting ...), you can be assured follow-up bulletins will take less of an investment of YOUR time to read! But ... we do appreciate your support and we ARE looking forward to a great season at DRC. If you are receiving this bulletin and would prefer your name be removed from our mailing list, please drop me a reply email and it will be done.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on Saturday (and Sunday)! LET THE SEASON BEGIN!!!

Coming up

Saturday, April 2 Feed seminar with the lovely SHELAGH NIBLOCK, VITERRA/PROFORM

Sunday, April 3 Dressage clinic with Sue Thompson - ONLY FOUR SPOTS LEFT (Alicia@hyleetraining.com)

Wednesday, April 13 General membership meeting at the clubhouse, 7 pm. EVERYone invited!

Sunday, April 17 Percentage (Dressage) Day, sheila.forsyth@hotmail.com, 604.940.9698

Sunday, April 17 Third annual CARBOOT SALE cathyglover@telus.net, 604.328.3814

Sunday, May 1 (pray for SUN!) DRC English/Western Show, BC Heritage qualifier, cathyglover@telus.net, 604.328.3814

Saturday/Sunday, May 7/8 Paul Dufresne Clinic, Susan Randall, sacsdelta@telus.net or 604.319.5226

Wednesday, May 11 General membership meeting at the clubhouse, 7 pm. EVERYone welcome!

3.31.11 | Free nutrition workshop this Saturday

And I need to know - give or take a few - who is coming! Are you?

Shelagh Niblock of Viterra (ProForm) will be our guest at the DRC clubhouse bright and shiny Saturday morning (well, at 10 - that's bright and shiny for me!) to talk to us about everything we need to know about feeding Sparky. Have you got laminitis/founder questions? Shelagh can set you straight on that - because it's something we need to know IF EVER the grass starts to grow! This is going to be great!

If you plan on attending (yes, non-members are welcome to attend!), would you please quickly reply to this email and let me know? (Viterra would appreciate the head count as they prepare to bring give-aways : and such ... and I need to know how many Danishes and croissants to buy fresh from the bakery Saturday morning!)

Doors open at 9:30.

Dressage clinic a go

If you wanted to sign up for Sue Thompson's dressage clinic, Alicia says you're too late! It's full! But feel free to drop by on Sunday (the forecast - weathernetwork.com - shows SUN!) and watch, if you like! (Uh ... don't park on the grass!)

Reserve your show numbers

When you're filling out your 2011 DRC membership application [deltaridingclub.com], don't forget to include a request for your favourite exhibitor number. I will hold last year's numbers until April 15, and if they're not renewed by then, they'll be up for grabs! Howz that sound?