



# Delta Riding Club

[www.deltaridingclub.com](http://www.deltaridingclub.com)

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BULLETIN | JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

## 1.4.09 Happy New Year!

### Greetings!

Now that Devon has put the finishing touches on the minutes of the December directors' meeting (and jogging my memory in the process), let me take this opportunity -- on behalf of our board of directors -- to wish all Delta Riding Club members and supporters a very happy new year! We'd like to invite you to attend our regular monthly meetings, which get underway WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14th, starting at 7 pm. The January meeting will be held in the relative comfort of Ricky's Restaurant in Ladner. (It's January -- egads -- and it won't stop snowing!) We've booked the meeting room for 6:45, so you can come early, order dinner and/or dessert from the menu, before the meeting starts -- promptly -- at 7! NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! And speaking of which ...

### Time to ante up

New director Alicia Harper has not been idle over the Christmas holidays as she prepares for what can only be described as an AMBITIOUS membership drive for DRC in 2009! We've updated the membership form, available for download on our website [[www.deltaridingclub.com/membership.html](http://www.deltaridingclub.com/membership.html)] and Alicia has posters extolling the benefits of membership that she'll be putting up at local barns and businesses very soon. (Perhaps you can help!) Last year, Jan Littler did a bang-up job of memberships, which increased an impressive 40% over 2007! Let's keep the momentum going -- sign up today!

### Clinical analysis

One of the areas of membership that Alicia chose to explore when looking at how she could increase memberships was to identify the BENEFITS to membership. Well, we are pleased to report that another new director -- April Reeves -- has her thinking cap firmly in place and will soon be announcing a clinic schedule for 2009. As I mentioned to her, even ONE clinic this year will be one more than we had all of last year. (Just an observation, not a criticism, folks!). I have a hunch April -- the host of Delta Cable's Horse Tales and the website [[www.horsemansu.com](http://www.horsemansu.com)] -- won't let us down. April is very resourceful, but if you have a great idea for a clinic you would like to take, why not email her; you can find her email address on our website [[www.deltaridingclub.com/directors.html](http://www.deltaridingclub.com/directors.html)] or by going to [[www.horsemansu.com](http://www.horsemansu.com)].

### Carved in stone

We're pleased to report the directors concurred with our list of show dates for 2009. They're already posted on the website (but here they are here for your convenience).

**April 19 Dressage**

**April 26 English/Western**

**May 17 Hunter/Jumper**

**May 31 English/Western**

**June 14 Hunter/Jumper**

**June 28 Dressage**

**August 8 Summer Show: Hunter/Jumper**

**August 9 Summer Show: English/Western**

**September 13 Dressage**

**September 27 Games**

We're also pleased to report that we've booked our first couple of judges: Sheila Forsyth has booked Courtney Fraser for the April Dressage show (I think it's April, anyways -- if I'm wrong, Sheila will let me know!) and Shelley Evans has been confirmed to judge the English/Western day of our Summer Show, August 9.

The Hunter/Jumper and English/Western shows are all BC Heritage qualifiers and we've applied for the American Paint Horse Association's PAC program, so anyone with a registered Paint Horse can compete for PAC credits! Other BIG news (pardon the pun!) is that the BC Heavy Horse Breeders Association is sponsoring a series of Draft Horse classes (Halter, Pleasure and Command) on our English/Western dates! (Get it? BIG news, DRAFT classes!?!? We funny!)

Remember, the BC Heritage championship show is at Heritage Park in Chilliwack this July, and you still have until June 30th to qualify in an expanded list of classes at DRC and other shows. If you haven't already ordered your log books (you'll need one each for English and Western competition), you can do so when you order your HCBC membership. Go to [[www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca)] and click on competitions, then BC Heritage for more information. In order to qualify for any of the classes offered, you need to place first thru fourth in any of the qualifying classes. You'll have LOTS of opportunities at Delta this year, because we appear to have the MOST classes of all! (Our show committee and its trusty volunteers are grunts of the highest order!! Ya!!)

### Buy the brand

We still have a decent inventory of Delta Riding Club jackets, vests and hats with our 60th anniversary logo for sale! I'll have them at the January meeting, so come by (with your cheque book!) and try some on for size!

### Facing a reality

Our younger members, especially, will be interested in knowing Delta Riding Club has its own FACEBOOK group and fan page. As much time as I spend on the computer, Facebook has been one domain I haven't been inclined to master. HOWEVER ... for those that have, check it out, meet other members online and upload your DRC photos!

### Perpetually yours

If you attended any of our shows or meetings in the clubhouse last year, you'll no doubt have noticed our display case that Francie's dad put up in early summer! It literally brimmed with the club's perpetual trophies, some dating back to the '60s -- an awesome testament to the DRC's longevity and the legacy of the people and horses that have graced our shows over the years.

But it's the fragile condition of many of those awards (and their significance to the club) that first caught the attention of Lisa Hanney this spring. Lisa took great care this fall to provide some necessary TLC to the awards that required it as she arranged to have plaques made for our 2008 overall winners. She also spearheaded a decision to ask that all perpetuals remain in the possession of the club -- for safe keeping and for everyone to enjoy.

For the most part, winners left their awards with us, but a few went home to be proudly displayed to family and friends (who could blame them?) with the understanding that they would be returned before the start of the show season. If you were one of the lucky year end award winners and have a perpetual in your possession, it would be great if you could arrange to return it to the club at your earliest convenience -- perhaps as early as the January meeting. And please be sure it comes to me because ...

Devon and I have embarked on a project to record the winners -- all-lll of them -- of each of our perpetuals in a document that will soon be posted to the club's website. (Small consolation, perhaps, for



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not having the award (collecting dust) in your living room but one which you -- and everyone else -- will be able to (with the click of a mouse) see what fine company you are in! It's a work in progress, but I've attached a sneak preview for the curious-minded!

### Marketing machine

Don't forget to send your barn, coaching and training services info to Devon (devonsmith@telus.net) to post on the website, and if you're buying or selling, we'll post those ads, too!

### And don't forget ...

to renew your membership. We look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting, January 14th.

### 2.5.09 Meeting Next Wednesday

#### Bring a friend

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Riding Club is next WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11. It will start promptly at 7 pm at Ricky's Restaurant in Ladner – come early and order dinner and/or dessert! New members always welcome! I know the show committee will have some revisions to our year end awards rules for the membership to consider – mostly housekeeping changes – and your input is important. Devon will have a draft copy of the minutes to email to members who attended our January meeting – all 20 something (it was AWESOME!) – so we may be able to forgo a long-winded reading of them if everyone has a chance to see them ahead of time. (Last month was an exceptional month, with three sets of minutes to consider!) Hope to see you there. I'll have the Delta Riding Club vests, hats and coats there, too, for anyone considering a VALENTINE'S gift for someone special!!

### Head, heart, hands and health

The South Delta Buckaroos 4-H Horse Club is accepting new members at their meeting next MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9. If you or a young member of your family is interested in joining 4-H, this is the time to do it! Registration for the 2009 project year is due at the end of this month and is open to youth between the ages of 9 and 21. We have a most excellent group of members who meet regularly with AND without their horses. There are lots of opportunities in 4-H: we offer a fun-filled activity-based learning environment where members can earn grade 11 and grade 12 high school credits on completion of their project and/or program work (whew! THAT was a mouthful!), there are 4-H horse shows, fairs (the BEST part, survey says!), scholarships and travel opportunities. For more information, call any one of our leaders: me (Cathy, 604.328-3814), Cindy (604.946.2493) or Kristin (604.946-8654). We currently have members aged 12 to 19; they have an awesome time and we really appreciate DELTA RIDING CLUB's continued support!

### Thank you

Alicia Harper has been doing a phenomenal job at securing sponsors for our 2009 shows. Our sincerest appreciation to:

- GREENHAWK VANCOUVER
- G & H HORSE HAULING
- RODDICK FEED & FARM SUPPLY
- HYLEE TRAINING
- SOUTH DELTA BUCKAROOS 4-H HORSE CLUB
- COUNTRY LIFE IN BC
- BC HEAVY HORSE ASSOCIATION
- SEAQUEST STABLES

If you or your business or employer would like to join this list of DRC sponsors, Alicia would love to hear from you! I've attached

some information you can pass along to potential sponsors on the club's behalf. We appreciate YOUR support!

### Be a good egg ...

DRC 2009 Membership Drive posters are going to be appearing in barns – everywhere! But if you don't see one, please print one out (attached PDF file) and post it at your barn so everyone knows how to contact us to become a Delta Riding Club member in 2009!

### Baling-twine-r-us!

Wow! Have Delta horse owners really jumped on the recycling band wagon! We picked up TWO HUGE TOTES of baling twine from our friends at RODDICK FEED & FARM SUPPLY last week. Thank you to everyone who participates in this 4-H effort to keep plastic twine from going into the landfill. You may have heard that the recycled plastics industry took a nose-dive last fall. While we're not aware of a turn-around in that industry yet, we know it will come, so PLEASE ... continue to collect your free-of-debris twine and drop it off in bags at Roddicks. We appreciate your support.

See you next Wednesday!