



Delta Riding Club

www.deltaridingclub.com

S I N C E 1 9 4 8

BULLETIN | SEPTEMBER 2009

9.24.09 Games Day cancelled

Make other plans ...

Regretfully, we must cancel our Games Day, scheduled for this Sunday, September 27.

As many of you know, we had new hog fuel delivered, and in spite of the efforts of Bruce and Allan to get it ship-shape, it needs quite a bit more work to be safe for riding -- especially for the speed events associated with a good Games Day.

Problems with website

Over the past week, we've become aware of problems with the Delta Riding Club website. I have been in touch with the server who advises that the site had fallen victim to a clever hacker. We cleaned it on Monday night, only to be hacked into again this morning seven times by the same dude in some far away country. Once again, it has been cleaned up and we are working closely with the server to keep it that way now that we know what (and who) we're dealing with.

If you experience ANY problems getting on the site, please email or call me (cathyglover@telus.net or 604.328.3814) as quickly as possible so I can alert the server, but we are not anticipating any further problems.

If you were as unfortunate as I was to be infected (if the pop-ups urge you to buy "Total Security" -- it's anything BUT!), call or email me and I can tell you what I did to get my computer clean again.

More news to come soon.

9.11.09 WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED FOR FIRST TIME IN B.C. HORSES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release 2009HLS0018-000326
September 11, 2009

Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands } BC Centre for Disease Control
WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED FOR FIRST TIME IN B.C. HORSES

VANCOUVER - British Columbia has confirmed its first locally acquired cases of West Nile virus in horses. This closely follows the confirmation of the first human cases, further indicating the presence of West Nile virus in the province.

It has been confirmed that a horse in the Fraser Valley and a horse in the South Okanagan of the Interior Health region have been infected with West Nile virus. Test results are pending on another horse in the South Okanagan. None of these animals have travelled outside the province. In 2006, a horse that had travelled to Colorado was infected with West Nile virus before returning to BC.

"This is not a surprising development," said Dr. Paul Kitching, chief veterinarian and branch director at the Animal Health Centre. "British Columbia has long anticipated the arrival of West Nile virus, and now it's in multiple regions of the province. What is important is preventing infection as best as possible, for both humans and animals. Of all large land mammals, horses are particularly susceptible. There are West Nile virus vaccines for horses, and horse owners should talk to their vets about getting their animals immunized."

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne illness. Mosquitoes become infected with the virus after feeding on infected wild birds and then transmit the virus through bites to people, animals and other birds. Some animals infected with West Nile virus may show no signs. Others may exhibit a range of symptoms including fever, muscle spasms, weakness, lack of co-ordination,

seizures and changes in behaviour. For horses, signs of West Nile virus infection may include stumbling, weakness, head pressing, confusion, inability to stand, seizures and listlessness. Most horses recover fully. In severe cases, horses may die or need to be euthanized.

Most people who are infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms at all. However, about 20 per cent of people infected will develop an illness with fever, headache and rash symptoms. In about one in 150 human cases, more severe neurological complications can occur, such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain).

West Nile virus cannot be transmitted directly from an infected horse to humans. Horses that have been infected are not a direct risk to other horses in the area. However, cases in horses signal that infected mosquitoes are present in the area, which indicates a risk to other horses and people in the vicinity.

In addition to getting their animals vaccinated, horse owners should make an effort to drain standing water where mosquitoes may breed and practise mosquito control in general.

"While there are West Nile virus vaccines for horses, there is currently no vaccine for humans," cautioned Dr. Bonnie Henry, director of the Vector-Borne Disease Program at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. "Common-sense precautions against getting bitten by mosquitoes should be taken, especially when outdoors, and even as we head into the fall. This includes wearing light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and long pants - especially in the evenings and early mornings when mosquitoes are most active - and using mosquito repellents that are federally registered, such as those that contain DEET and lemon eucalyptus oil."

"This is the first confirmed West Nile activity in the Fraser Health region," confirms Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, medical health officer for Fraser Health. "We have a well-established surveillance program in the Fraser Valley, and so far we have had no positive mosquitoes or birds in the area. But the case of this infected horse indicates that the virus is here. We are reminding people in the Fraser Health region to continue to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites as the best way to protect themselves and their families from West Nile virus."

Residents of British Columbia, and especially in the Fraser Health and Interior Health regions, are also requested to keep an eye out for dead crows and other corvids, such as ravens, magpies and jays, and to report these to their local health authority.

Resources:

BC Animal Health Centre Website
BC Centre for Disease Control West Nile Virus Website
www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/_w/WestNileVirus/default.htm
BC Dead Bird Reporting Form and Hotlines:
www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/_w/WestNileVirus/Surveillance/WNVDeadBirdReporting.htm
Fraser Health Website and West Nile Virus Hotline:
www.fraserhealth.ca / 1-888-WNV-LINE (1-888-968-5463)
Interior Health Website and West Nile Virus Hotline:
www.interiorhealth.ca / 1-866-300-0520
Public Health Agency of Canada West Nile Virus website
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/wn-no/index-eng.php
US Centers for Disease Control West Nile Virus website
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/
Media Contact:
Dr. Paul Kitching
BC Animal Health Centre
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For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

9.10.09 **You're Invited...**

Calling all worker-bees with rakes

Sfrancie is organizing a work party at the club grounds this Friday evening (September 11) to help "condition" the main ring. The new hog fuel has proven a little challenging for the tractors, and we think we could more readily level out the hills and valleys with a little sweat equity! It's wayyyyyyyy too much work for just a few so ...

Please join us at 6 pm with your rake or fork to put in an hour, if you can. Many hands make light work.

Clinic schedule announced

We're very pleased – albeit on short notice – to announce two ground work clinics with Adiva Murphy this fall, and the first one gets underway this Saturday, September 12. (Surprise!) Space is limited to six handlers each, and there are a couple of spots left in the Level 1 for this weekend. Here's the skinny:

Level 1 (2 part series):
Cost: \$90pp for members and \$110 for non member
September 12 9am - noon
September 13 -1pm - 4pm
That is this Sat and Sun - 2 spots left!

Level 2 (2 part series):
Cost: \$90pp for members and \$110 for non member
September 20 - 9am - noon
October 3 - 9am - noon

Please contact Adiva at 778.881.6600 to book your spot. And for more information on what to expect, please visit Adiva's website at www.adiva-murphy.com. You won't be disappointed.

Open Hack this Saturday

Sunday is our final Dressage show of the year, and Sheila says 30 rides are booked! I believe the first one is scheduled for 9 am and they'll ride til 1. Marg will be there with a concession, so come on down for coffee and a donut, watch the performances and catch up with your DRC buds!

New shopping "opportunity"

We were contacted earlier this week by a new tack store in the Fraser Valley who has extended a special offer to DRC members and their supporters (see attached). Venkat Saddlery is just on the north side of the new Golden Ears Bridge in the industrial park there, and Navita tells me they have a huge selection of tack – English AND Western – you will want to check out! Save 10% if you visit them before October 4th. They're only open Fridays and Saturdays, so pencil a drive over the new bridge into one of these coming weekends! And don't forget your coupon! (Web browsers can email me – cathyglover@telus.net – for a copy of the attachment.)

Many thanks ...

All of your directors work hard throughout the year – and although you may not always recognize what is going on behind the scenes, this has been a particularly productive year for DRC. At the risk of leaving a whole lot of us out, I think we could give a nod to club president Bruce Walker, and to Francie Shuttleworth, for all the time they've spent over the past

couple of weeks getting this hog in place. It needs some more work – and if you can come out tomorrow night to show them YOUR support, that would be swell! See you then!

Coming Up:

Friday, September 11 | Work Party, DRC Grounds, 6 til 7 pm (bring your fork and/or rake!)

Saturday, September 12 | Level 1 Part 1 Ground Work clinic with Adiva Murphy, 9 til noon, pre-registration required. 778.881.6600

Saturday, September 12 | Open Hack – members and non-members welcome, 9 am til noon

Sunday, September 13 | Dressage Show

Sunday, September 13 | Level 1 Part 2 Ground Work clinic with Adiva Murphy, 1 til 4, pre-registration required. 778.881.6600

Sunday, September 20 | Level 2 Part 1 Ground Work clinic with Adiva Murphy, 9 til noon, pre-registration required. 778.881.6600

Saturday, September 26 | South Delta Buckaroos 4-H Achievement Day

Sunday, September 27 | DRC Games Day

Saturday, October 3 | Level 2 Part 2 Ground Work clinic with Adiva Murphy, 9 til noon, pre-registration required. 778.881.6600

Saturday, October 3 | Roddicks Feed & Farm Supply "Oktoberfest"

Wednesday, October 14 | DRC regular monthly meeting, 7 pm, clubhouse

Saturday, November 14 | DRC Annual Awards Banquet

9.4.09 **Percentage Day entry deadline this Sunday**

Time to pre-register for last Percentage Day of the season

Sheila Forsyth is tapping her fingers waiting for last minute entries for our last Percentage Day of the 2009 season. Entry deadline is this SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6. The show, of course, is the following Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13. (How can it be September already!? Egads!)

We've had two most EXCELLENT Percentage Days already this year – with more than 35 ride times booked per show! Everyone seems to enjoy riding at DRC – including Wendy Christoff and her team who performed two outstanding demonstrations at our Summer Show last month! What a crowd pleaser that was!

Kelly MacIntosh will be judging this Sunday. Contact Sheila at 604.940-9698 or Sheila.forsyth@hotmail.com for more information. Entry forms can be downloaded from our website

Open hack day postponed until NEXT Saturday

I am supposed to oversee an Open Hack Day tomorrow, however – if you don't mind – we're going to postpone it until next Saturday, September 12. We have new hog fuel in the main and hunter/jumper rings (yippee!), and I believe it is still in the process of being spread (AND the weather looks like it will be more promising NEXT weekend than this ...). So ... NEXT Saturday, between 9 and 12, load up your horse and come down and help us "condition" the new hog! Members ride for free. Non-members ride for a nominal \$5 haul-in fee! See you there! That's Saturday, September 12.

Meeting next Wednesday

Our regular monthly meeting is coming up fast and furious. Please join us at the clubhouse on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 7 pm. We'll have some excellent news to report on the outcome of our most EXCELLENT Summer Show, and more discussions on our gaming grant. (Yes, it's IN the bank!) I bet Sheila will have an update on our awards banquet, as well. (Don't make plans for Saturday, November 14 – we've got you booked!) Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings!

Stay tuned ...

I promise to let you know some of the highlights from our most successful Summer Show ever!