



Fence Talk

May 2004



Calendar of Events

June 9.....Club Meeting

June 13Lingo Ride

UPCOMING JCHA RIDES

Saturday, May 22nd

Karen Matheny will lead a ride from the Willow Prairie Horse Camp Day Use area down to Jack Creek drainage. Meet at the Shenandoah Restaurant on Hwy 62 at 8:30am for breakfast or be there by 9:15am to travel up Hwy 140 to the trailhead. This ride is mostly roads but there are a couple creek crossings and a log berm to cross also. It is up and down but not too steep. Call Karen at 245-8511 to let her know you are coming and where you are meeting her.

Saturday, May 29th

Don Ferris may lead a ride somewhere. We will email the details when he has them, or call him at 826-7656 during the week before to find out where he is going.

Sunday, June 6th

Debbie Davenport will lead a ride on the Brown Mtn. Trail. Fairly easy trail ride, about 4-5 hours long with some climbing. L2-L3. Meet at Apple Peddler at 8:30am for breakfast or be there by 9:15am to caravan to the trailhead up Hwy 140. Call Debbie at 282-0729 to let her know you are coming and where you are meeting her.



JCHA LINGO RIDE

On **Sunday, June 13th**, the event will begin at the Willow Prairie Horse Camp Day Use area. Sign up begins at 10:00am, and the ride at 11:00am with the last rider out by 12:00pm. LINGO Cards are \$5 each or 3 for \$12. Money pot goes to the winner. (Lingo is just like playing bingo along a marked trail ride.) Be sure and tell all your friends and come join the fun!! This is one of our few fundraisers this year so your support is valuable.



June Meeting

Date: June 9

Time: 7:00pm meeting

Place: IOOF Hall

1139 Hazel St., Central Point

Refreshments: John-Paul & Michele Register, Kay Smith and Jim & Julie Slaughter

Door Prize:

Grant & Judy Bailey

President's Podium

Hello JCHAers,

We presented the new JCHA trail riding guidelines at our May meeting. If you missed the meeting, you can find the new guidelines elsewhere in this newsletter, and Debbie Davenport has also posted them on our website. I'd like to thank the board members, our trail bosses, the members who attended the work session, and all of the members who made comments and suggestions. These new guidelines are well thought out and, I believe, reflect what we, as a group, want to see on our trail rides. I think most of us already abide by these guidelines when we are out riding, and most of them are pretty much common sense. The biggest change you will notice is that we have added a trail rating definition to the guidelines. We realize that what one member may think is a L5 may be a L3 to others. However, it's a good start and will help our members choose rides that they feel comfortable with. Please take some time to read the guidelines become familiar with them. The suggestion made the most was to have drag riders on our rides, at least on rides with 8 or more people. However, to do that, members have to volunteer to be one. Please consider volunteering to serve as a drag rider the next time you participate in a JCHA ride!

For those of you looking for an opportunity to give something back to the horse community, OET has several work parties planned. Don Ferris will be leading a trail clearing ride at Pilot Rock on June 19th, and OET and the Oregon Hunter's Association will be conducting a joint trail clearing ride on July 10th on the Mudjekewis and Tom and Jerry trails. Watch for more details, as these dates get closer.

See ya on the trail!

Gina Ryan

\$\$ CLASSIFIED ADS \$\$

FOR SALE: Last year's 2nd cutting grass Hay - \$80.00 Ton (60#bales) Phoenix Area. Need to clean barn & get ready for 2004 Harvest. (541) 601-2696

FOR SALE: 14 year old Morgan mare. Ridden by a 65 year old who has switched to a gaited horse. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Desire quick sale. Call 826-9747 or 890-8358

FREE: Canning jars, quart size with lids. Approx. 5 dozen. Harry Howard (541)535-6637

HORSES FOR SALE: Bomb-proof trail horse, Quarter mare with quarter Belgian, bay with black mane and tail, 20 yrs., unflappable, \$900. Mustang, rides well, could make an excellent pack horse, gelding, 10 yrs., \$750. Call Earl & Jeani King, 541-826-5016

WANTED: Metal fence panels for a corral. Call Karen at 541-245-8511

Trail Levels and Definitions

(NOTE: Bear with the Trail Boss' as they learn to use these definitions for the trails. It will be really helpful if you give YOUR opinion of the level of a trail after a ride also. Eventually, we will have a good idea how to class most of them.)

L1 = Easy. Mostly flat, a couple of easy bridges and/or water crossings. Primarily old roads that are wide, good footing, no side hills. Recommended for beginner riders and controllable horses in fair condition having some trail experience (2 to 3 trail rides).

L2 = Moderate. Varied terrain, but no steep hills or side hilling. Trails and roads. Few bridges and/or water crossing but easy to negotiate. Some rocky areas. Recommended for beginner/intermediate riders and controllable horses in good condition with experience on several trail rides.

L3 = Somewhat Difficult. Varied terrain, including steep sections. Some side hilling, but on wider trail. Rocky trails, more water crossings, some more difficult. Recommended for intermediate riders and horses in good condition and experience in all types of trail obstacles.

L4 = Difficult. Mostly steep, up and down and side hilling. Water crossings may be more difficult (steeper approaches, deeper and faster water). More difficult bridges (narrow, step-ups, no rails, etc.). Trails are narrower and rocky. Recommended for advanced riders and horses with substantial experience on all types of trails and conditions.

L5 = Very Difficult. Steep, narrow, side hills, rocky, footing issues, tight switchbacks, difficult water crossings. Recommended for advanced riders and horses in very good condition with lots of trail time.

REMEMBER: Trails may be a combination of ratings, starting easy and then having a difficult area. Trails may have a different rating depending on the time of year as well. Wet conditions, erosion, or high water run-off in the creeks can make an easy trail more difficult.

JCHA'S RULES AND TRAIL RIDING GUIDELINES

General Rules

- Stallions and dogs are a potential hazard and are not allowed on any Club ride.
- Riders under 18 are welcome when accompanied by a responsible adult rider.
- All children 12 years of age and younger will be required to wear a safety helmet while riding in any event or activity sponsored by the Club.
- A current member must accompany guests on Club rides.

Trail Etiquette Guidelines

- All riders assume responsibility for themselves and their horses, especially under Oregon Equine Inherent Risk laws.
- The trail boss is in charge of the ride. He/she will lead the ride, determine breaks, and give assistance when requested. The drag rider will assist the trail boss by being the last rider at all times. Both have the authority to make decisions on the ride. Both will also carry basic horse/human first aid kits, but if you have a known allergic reaction to bees, are diabetic, etc., you must carry your own medical supplies.
- Riders and guests MUST be familiar with the Club rules and trail etiquette guidelines. Riders not following the rules and guidelines and causing problems for other riders may be asked to not ride with the Club. REMEMBER: The safety of all riders and their horses is the most important thing on a trail ride.
- Be sure you and your horse are in adequate physical condition for the trail ride. Use the trail levels and definitions below to help you decide which ride(s) is the best for you and your horse. Be honest with yourself regarding your physical condition and the physical condition of your horse. Diseased or ill horses should not be brought to trail rides.
- If you are new to trail riding, let the trail boss or drag rider know BEFORE the ride begins.
- Riders MUST check in with the trail boss at breakfast or before starting the ride. Members with guests must also sign the guest liability waiver.
- If not already planned, the trail boss will be asking for a volunteer drag rider before the ride begins. Please consider volunteering on occasion.
- Check your equipment to be sure it is safe and good repair BEFORE the ride.
- Shod horses are strongly recommended for all trail rides.
- Riders should take a halter and tie rope along on the ride.
- Arrive early and BE READY TO LEAVE at the designated departure time. It is strongly recommended that you call the trail boss AT LEAST THE NIGHT BEFORE the trail ride so the trail boss will have an idea of how many riders will be attending the ride, and if there is a last-minute change, you can be notified.
- Animals may kick when crowded. If your animal kicks, tie a colored ribbon to its tail to warn others. (The trail boss has colored flagging).
- Know your riding limitations and the limitations of your horse. Don't put yourself and others in danger.

- Identify the problem and ASK FOR HELP. It is very important to communicate with the trail boss, drag rider, or closest rider if you are having a problem.
- If no one volunteered to be drag rider, riders need to keep up with the main group. If you become separated from the main group, you will be responsible for yourself and getting back to the staging area.
- If riders want to move out at a faster pace, please ask the trail boss, and on approval, go out ahead of the group after notifying the trail boss. You will be responsible for yourself and getting back to the staging area.
- BE AWARE OF THE RIDERS AROUND YOU. You should always keep another rider in view. Riders also need to be aware of their surroundings and/or landmarks in case you need to turn back. Keep your distance when riding. Rule of thumb is you should always be able to see the back feet of the horse in front of you.
- When approaching or leaving other riders, do so in a slow and controlled manner. NEVER trot/canter up behind or away from other riders.
- Always be alert and observant of hazards such as a wire, bad holes, bees, etc. Signal riders behind you of hazards. If bees are encountered, move down the trail quickly while maintaining control of your mount.
- Walk down into gullies or inclines at a safe distance; NEVER lunge or gallop into or out of them. This could cause a serious accident by unnerving other horses. Pass only on sections of trail that are safe. Give riders behind you time to cross creeks or other obstacles before riding on.
- Do not leave the group without notifying the trail boss, drag rider, or ask the closest rider to pass on to the trail boss/drag rider that you are leaving the ride.
- During short stops, tie your animal safely and securely to a solid object that will not break or pull off if the animal pulls back. Be certain to tie rope so it cannot slip down where your animal can get a foot over it. Keep distance between animals when tying. Be aware of pawing and cribbing. Repair ground damage and spread manure after stops on the trail.
- Do not leave trash on the trail or at the staging area. All riders should clean up the manure around their trailer at the staging area.
- The trail boss, drag rider, or person designated by the trail boss/drag rider will remain until all riders are accounted for at the trail head. This person will also wait for horses to be loaded up and riders are ready to head home. BE COURTEOUS TO THIS PERSON – DON'T MAKE HIM/HER WAIT FOR YOU UNNECESSARILY! If you are having a problem, let this person know.

J.C.H.A. Board of Directors

Gina Ryan.....	President.....	826-8171
Don Ferris.....	V.President.....	826-7656
Debbie Davenport.....	Secretary.....	282-0729
Nancy Konantz.....	Treasurer.....	899-4451
Betty Moore.....	Sunshine.....	826-2190
Carol Lutz.....	Refreshments.....	826-8196
Bill Konantz.....	Board.....	899-445

TRAIL TALK *By Karen Matheny*

Hi Again,

It's been a busy month, with more on the way. At our last meeting we made a few changes to our trail riding etiquette guidelines. We want everyone on our rides to enjoy themselves whether you are in the front or back of the group. We will try to get drag riders on each ride, but this may not always be possible. If you feel like you may have trouble during the ride, **be sure to communicate this to the trail boss**. Remember we are there to help, but also need to lead the ride, so communication is the key. Hopefully, the drag rider will also know the trail and help in the rear as well. Respect for your fellow rider is very important as we have all levels and ages of riders and all experience levels of horses. If you want to move out ahead at a faster pace or lope a while, notify the trail boss and ask the riders around you if this will upset their pony's and let them know you will move out slowly as not to upset the herd. I enjoy a little gallop or a long trot every once in a while, but it can make some horses very jumpy, so pick your time and place not to get anyone hurt. As my good friend Judy Bailey always said, we are not on a forced march, so if you are tired or just want to make a short ride out of it, let someone know and you can return to your trailer anytime. We just want to make sure everyone has a good ride and gets back safe and sound.

Speaking of rides, Don's ride to Stein Butte was well attended and all had a great time. Don had opened the trail earlier with a little help and a good chainsaw. It was not a Level 1 or 2 ride, but more of a 3 or 3 ½ considering the steep trail and the need for a horse to be in fairly good shape to make this one. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful view thanks to his hard work. He didn't have a ride this month, but there was a Poker Ride held at the Brushrider's arena in Williams on Saturday. Quite a few of our club members showed up to ride and we had a great time with beautiful weather. It was quite a workout for our horses, so we gave them lots of breathers, not to wear them out. After the ride we had hot dogs, chili, pop and coffee served by the brush riders before going home. Carrie West had 4 Jacks and a joker when we left, so she may have won high hand. I had my best lowball hand ever, an ace, two, three, four and a seven, but haven't heard from them so maybe someone was worse than me!

My ride this month should be a nice ride if the weather cooperates. It's not a long ride and has beautiful views, forests and creeks, so come on out if you can and we will all try our new trail etiquette suggestions together.

I'm looking forward to our Lingo Ride at Willow Prairie on June 13th. Maybe I will get the ole' camper in shape and try to find someone to squeeze in with at the campground. The campground is full for the weekend, but no one says you can't camp off a small road close by.

Hope to see you there.....

KAREN



JULY 4TH CAMPOUT

By Michele Register

We did not get enough response to warrant spending club funds to reserve the group site at Lily Glen for Fourth of July. The Register's, Slaughter's and Brostad's will still be up there on July 1st – 6th on the first-come first-serve side and would love to see as many of our members come up (even for day rides) as possible. Call me at 830-4999 if you would like to join us or for more information.

We hope you all have a safe and fun Fourth of July and look forward to a club-sponsored event in 2005!

Minutes from May 12, 2004

By Debbie Davenport

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Gina Ryan. Roll call showed all board members present. She thanked the refreshment and door prize donors. New members and guests were introduced. A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Nancy Konantz gave the treasurer report stating we have a total of \$6,025.70. There were no other bills presented so the report was approved as stated.

Sunshine Report - Mandy Moore announced they didn't send any cards this past month. No one knew of any others to send.

Bill Konantz gave a Lily Glen Report. He said the survey is over and they are being counted. The results will be on the website. He also talked about the Coalition of Trail Users meeting. Discussed the upcoming work party on June 5th starting at Great Meadows. Horse riders are welcome to join and clear Brown Mtn. Trail.

Gina Ryan presented the revised trail riding guidelines that the committee had worked on. We briefly went over them and discussed concerns – walkie-talkies were suggested between trail boss and drag rider. The trail boss' have talked about this and have tried it, but it doesn't work in many areas. One important issue was about using drag rides. Volunteers will be asked for on each ride. If no one volunteers then the group needs to keep up and stay together. Carol D. asked that an addition be made to include people with known allergies should carry their own medical supplies. There were lots of comments from the membership supporting the guidelines. Question was asked if trail boss' carry a weapon. Some do, and we can't require them to do so.

Don Ferris told about his April ride up Stein Butte. 9 riders attended and it was a beautiful day. He is not sure if he will do a May ride but might over Memorial Day. His ride scheduled for May 15th had been canceled. Instead we encouraged everyone to go to the Brushriders Poker Ride in Williams.

Karen Matheny's ride to MP 26 off Hwy 140 had 6 riders. It was an eventful ride lasting much longer than she expected, but everyone had a good time. Her next ride will be May 22nd from Willow Prairie Horse Camp Day Use to Jack Springs. Meet at the Shenandoah at 8:30 for breakfast. Chamaine Triplett volunteered to drag ride for her.

Debbie Davenport is planning a ride for June 6th but doesn't have all the details yet.

Announcements were made about the Clicker Training this Sunday and the Lingo Ride at Willow Prairie.

Judy Bailey won the door prize and Joyce Gay won the 50/50 drawing.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Jackson County Horseman's Association

Fence Talk

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