

Northwest Gaited Horse Club

Spring Newsletter

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1 - MAY 2004

First NGHC Day Ride Planned at Membership Meeting

The first meeting of 2004 of the Northwest Gaited Horse Club was held at Reber Ranch in Kent on Saturday, April 3rd. It was a beautiful day, which may have been the reason for the small turnout. Though our numbers were small, those in attendance had a lively meeting. (Those who missed the meeting missed out on a 10% discount coupon good on horse supplies at Reber Ranch. The coupon made for great shopping after the meeting!) The Show Committee had a brief meeting before the general meeting. Please see the 2004 Evergreen Show Update in this issue.

Hitting the Trail

Most NGHC members indicated an interest in trail/pleasure riding on their

membership application form. Many ideas and places for a trail ride were considered, among them Capital Forest, Fall City, Tahuya State Park, and areas east of the Cascades such as Cle Elum and the John Wayne Trail. The general consensus was that the Club's first trail rides should be within a 2-hour driving time of Auburn. Auburn is the "geographic center" for most of the Club's membership.

Another consideration was whether the first group outing should be a trail ride or a "fun day" with egg and spoon races and other good-natured competitive events. Some thought a trail ride was best, but others felt that the camaraderie of a group event is lost when people head off on the trail one or two at a time. Everyone felt it was important for

the club members get to know each other and that goal would best be accomplished with a fun day.

Many things can make or break a club outing. Concerns about location, facility costs such as permits or parking fees, the popularity of the area, ample parking for trucks & trailers, the condition of the trails, whether the area is shared with ATV's and motorcycles, amenities like restrooms and barbeque pits, and available dates for the ride were all taken into account.

NGHC Day Ride Being Planned

June 12th is the *tentative* date for the NGHC's very first Day Ride and Club Meeting, with the Fall City Arena as our potential location.

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Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic is Bigger & Better!

The Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic is one of the fastest growing horse shows in the Northwest. The show is now in its third year and will be held in larger quarters at the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup. The show dates are July 24th and 25th. The Evergreen Show is a wonderful way for those who are just getting acquainted with gaited horses to see the different breeds compete naturally.

The rise in popularity of gaited horses isn't the only reason the Evergreen Show has seen a doubling of entries. The show is quickly gaining a following because of its emphasis on fun, education, and natural gait. The show's rules only allow flat shod or barefoot horses to compete. We have a number of Schooling Classes that give novice riders (and horses!) the opportunity to

learn and improve without the pressure of Open or Championship Classes. There are several classes just for fun; a costume class, "Run for the Roses", Egg & Spoon, Water Glass, Leadline and more. In addition, an Equine Chiropractic Demonstration will be held on Saturday during the lunch hour.

This year's judge is Lonnie Kuehn from Lewisburg, Tennessee. Lonnie is a well-known trainer, judge, rider, and clinician and a strong advocate of the sound, naturally gaited horse. Lonnie has trained and ridden Tennessee Walkers, Peruvians, Icelandic, Foxtrotters and Mountain Horses. She has also developed a series of professionally produced training videos for the Tennessee Walking Horse.

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Canadian Icelandic Breeding Show & Clinic

Article written by Erhard Marenbach, Tolt Away Farm, Enderby, B.C.



Jelena Ohm showing a mare from Chris Rice.

A big thank you to Lisi Ohm and family who organized the Icelandic Horse breeding show in Vanderhoof on September 26 & 27, 2003. The participants came from all over the province, to show the horses and also to take the clinic on breeding. There were horses from Ellen Hansen, Terrace; Faber's from Vernon; Chris Rice from North Vancouver Island; Marenbach's from Enderby; Brian Balmforth and Hellmut Patzelt both from Dawson Creek; Arie DeLint from Mount Lehman and of course Lisi Ohm from Fort St. James.

In the breeding seminar participated all those above and Catherine Seal from Alberta.

Lisi was able to get Disa Herdis Reynisdottir from Iceland and Bernie Willis from Alaska as judges and since she is breeding judge herself, there were 3 judges in total. Of course Lisi did not judge her own horses.

Friday's Breeding Seminar:

The participants had the opportunity to find out, how the judges look at the horses and what to look for when breeding. The horses get literally taken apart in pieces and put then together again. So there are scores for the head, shoulders, back, legs, joints and hooves. Then there comes the all over proportion, the way they set their feet in walk and trot in hand. All this has specific percentages in the scores for the confirmation in the end.

A pretty mane and tail are not so relevant, when it comes to rideability of the horse and therefore it gets only 1.5% of the score. Back and shoulder each 10% and legs, hooves and joints each 6%, this also points out the importance of these body parts for the way a horse can perform. The first of all goals is to get a perfect riding horse. Color is not an issue to look for, except personal preference. It does also not matter if your horse has the mane on both sides or only on one side, as long as it is a full mane, its fine. There was so much to learn and Lisi handled the course and upcoming questions really well.

The scores go from 6.5 (not so good) to 10 (perfect). In between are steps from 0.5.

We also learned that 7.5 is an average horse already and as soon as your horse gets overall score higher than 8.0 you have a first prize horse.

A four gaited horse is losing points in the total score, due to the low score for pace.

The *breeding goal* is a 5 gaited horse. This does not mean, that 4 gaited is a less good horse. We all know that it has some advantage for some riders, who have difficulties to get the Piggy pace under control.

"The horses get literally taken apart in pieces and then put together again!"

The most interesting and important part is that people do only bring their best horses to the evaluation. The other ones are not shown there at all, this means a 7.5 horse is already *average under the best*, what the breeders pull out of the stable. So this average is already very nice to have. Of course to get a high score is everybody's dream, but all the judges look for is: how is this horse presenting itself on this specific day. Lisi also told everybody that even when the scores are not so good in specific parts, then it is this, what you should specific look for in a stallion to breed this mare to.

If your horse turns out to be not good after all in the breeding evaluation, it can be still the perfect riding horse for you, just because it maybe has the sweetest character and would never let you down ever.

At night we all had a great time together with pizza and wine. There were lots of laughter and a bit of excitement about what Saturday might bring.

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A special thank you to Bernie Willis, who donated his time to come down and judge in Vanderhoof. He really helped to keep it all affordable.



Lisi did a wonderful job, the organization was very well done.



And not to forget Disa, who helped everybody to see and understand the Icelandic Horse in a complete different way.

2004 Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic

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Lonnie will be doing an educational presentation during the Saturday evening Breed Demonstration. This will be a great opportunity for both spectators and exhibitors to gain from Lonnie's knowledge of gaited horses.

The Show Committee has finalized the premium, the class entry form, and sponsorship form, and they are available for you to download from the club web site (www.nwgaitedhorse.com).

"Judge Lonnie Kuehn will be doing an educational presentation during the Saturday evening Breed Demonstration."

Get Involved!

Putting on a horse show requires time, effort and enthusiasm. Those of you who are nervous about riding in the show may want to consider volunteering. It's a great way to help the show run smoothly, see things close-up and learn at the same time! We are in need of volunteers to fill the following positions:

In the Show office:

- ◆ Class Sheets - Update class entries & sponsors.
- ◆ Entries - Assist exhibitors at show office.
- ◆ Computer Entry - Input show entries
- ◆ Record Keeping
- ◆ Show Office Runners - Run class updates & results from office to show ring.

In the Show Arena:

- ◆ Judge's Platform/Center Ring Design - Get creative and "set the mood" for the show!
- ◆ Scribe - Record class results.
- ◆ Ribbon Presenters
- ◆ Ring Steward - Assists judge & exhibitors, communicates with Announcer & show office.

- ◆ Show Manager
- ◆ Gate Stewards
- ◆ Fun Class Representative - Will manage supplies and setup for 5 fun classes.
- ◆ DQP Clerical Person - Assist before and after classes where the DQP is required. Would prefer 1 person to assist both days.
- ◆ Trail Course Designer and Setup

The Evergreen Show may become a club project for members of the "Turn and Burn" 4-H Club. The Club has expressed an interest in assisting as Show Runners, Gate Stewards, and Ribbon Presenters. Our show benefits from their youth and energy, and their efforts count toward their 4-H Community Service goal.

Promotions & Sponsorships

The show is getting some wonderful promotion through 2 local magazines! The May issue of The Northwest Horse Source features "Going Gaited", an article written by Kim Brighton. A sidebar promotes the show, and there is also an ad in Horseman's News. These magazines reach over 60,000 people in CA, WA, OR, MT, ID and B.C. You can download a copy of the article from the website.

As we are a non-profit volunteer run organization, shows like this aren't possible without the help of sponsors. You can support this event and promote your farm or business to our many gaited horse enthusiasts and club members throughout the year by becoming a sponsor of the Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic. This year we have included a range of sponsorship levels to fit every pocketbook that include a variety of advertising options. Please see the website for details of the Sponsorship Packages and Sponsorship Forms.

Stall Decorations Contest

This year exhibitors have a chance to "jazz it up" in the barns and compete in our Stall Decorations Contest. This will be a fun way to promote your ranch and your horses. Spectators will be encour-



Lonnie Kuehn of Lewisburg, Tennessee will judge the 3rd Annual Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic show in Puyallup.

aged to tour the barns and then cast their votes for their favorite decorating scheme at the NGHC booth.

Rules for Stall Decorations Contest

- ◆ Do not block aisles. There must be enough room 2-way horse traffic in the barns.
- ◆ **All materials used for decorative purposes must be flame retardant.**
- ◆ Decorations must not block access to any fire fighting equipment.
- ◆ Decorations, signs, or other items may not be placed on or attached to overhead extension cords.
- ◆ No nails, screws or drilling of holes to fasten decorations is allowed.
- ◆ Stall decorations must be completely removed from the barns after the show.

The Stall Decorations contest adds excitement to the show, helps promote all gaited breeds, gives sale horses more exposure, and should bring in new members for the Club!

2004 Upcoming Shows & Events for Gaited Horses

Event	Location	Date	Contact
Pacific Gaited Showcase (FOSH Sanctioned)	Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR	May 21-23	Katie Ross, (541) 689-9700 or OHCKrose@aol.com
SHOUT Gaited Schooling Show	North County Equestrian Park, Highland, UT	May 22	Don Moses, (841) 763-7959 or donaldmoses@mstar2.net
Grand Valley Equifest All-Gaited Horse Show (FOSH Sanctioned)	Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO	May 28-30	Vernon & Kelly Heldman, (970) 585-9973 or kheld41@msn.com
Northwest Gaited Horse Club Day Ride	Fall City Arena, Fall City, WA	June 12	Watch the website for details!
Western States Horse Expo, Breed Exhibitions & Trade Show	Cal-Expo, Sacramento, CA	June 11-13	(800) 352-2411, (530) 295-1424 or www.horseexpo.com
Gaitway to Heaven Gaited Show	Tacoma Unit, Spanaway, WA	June 26-27	Karen Arango, (253) 631-6615 or karenatbeacon@aol.com
Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic Show	Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA	July 24-25	Premium & Entries available at www.nwgaitedhorse.com

Staying Safe on the Trail

Trail riding is one of life's most enjoyable activities. But accidents can and do happen and finding yourself unprepared on the trail is a situation no one wants to be in. Here's a basic list of items you should carry with you whenever you hit the trail.

List of Camping and Trail Essentials:

- ◆ Map of the area and a compass
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Waterproof matches or lighter
- ◆ Sunglasses and sunscreen
- ◆ Knife
- ◆ Extra food
- ◆ Water, water, water
- ◆ Extra clothing and rain gear
- ◆ First-Aid kit
- ◆ Riding Helmet (not as cool as a hat, but brain damage isn't cool either)

Your First-Aid kit should include:

- ◆ At least 1 ACE bandage
- ◆ Band-Aids and assorted bandages of different sizes

- ◆ Butterfly laceration Band-Aids
- ◆ At least 3 sterile 3" x 3" gauze squares
- ◆ Bandage scissors
- ◆ Safety pins
- ◆ Skin disinfectant or antibacterial soap
- ◆ Snake bite kit (where appropriate)
- ◆ Needle and thread or dental floss
- ◆ Tweezers
- ◆ Insect repellent for you & your horse
- ◆ Moleskin for blisters
- ◆ Epi-pen in case of allergies such as bee stings
- ◆ Medicated topical cream like hydrocortisone or Benadryl for sunburn or insect bites

If you take a cell phone secure it to your person, *not* to your saddle, a cell phone does you no good if it's on a runaway horse! And unless your horse is used to the ring of your cell phone you should set the ringer to vibrate so your horse doesn't spook.



Camping and Trail Essentials List taken from "Mountaineering Medicine: A Wilderness Medical Guide" by Fred T. Darvill, M.D. Our thanks to Emmy Capizzi for sending it to us!

MANY THANKS TO

Truck Performance NW, Inc. Trailer Sales

18421 Renton/Maple Valley Hwy SE
Maple Valley, WA 98038
(425) 413-5956 (Ask for Brandon)

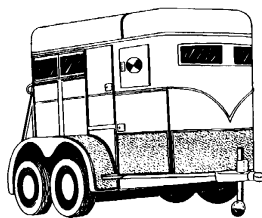
For their support of the 3rd Annual Evergreen Gaited Horse Classic Show!

See them for full-service repairs, hitches & wiring, horse trailers, car haulers & flatbeds!

Tips for the Long Haul Transport without Trauma

Many of us regularly trailer our horses short distances without any special equipment. But on long trips we may take extra precautions to ensure our horses get to their destinations safely. If you outfit your horses for long trips with protective gear like leg wraps, head bumpers, and blankets you may actually be putting them at risk. All our good intentions may not be a good idea for the long haul. Here's some advice from Mari Worley, a professional hauler based in Corbin, Kentucky:

"I just wanted to make a comment about any kind of apparatus that is put on a horse during transport including helmets, head bumpers, wraps, shipping boots, bell boots, blankets or sheets. Unless your horse is well used to wearing these items please do NOT



put them on to transport your horse with a professional hauler. Most horses that are not used to them will fret, paw, stomp, bite at them, etc. which is a far greater risk of injury or cause of stress than any benefit that the item can be.

In the case of wraps, if they come off during transport many haulers will not reapply them anyway because they do not want to be responsible for getting them too tight or too loose and causing additional problems. So, if you want to transport a horse and you cannot be with them to monitor the horse please make sure that anything you put on the horse is something they are well used to (this could include a new halter or

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Seabiscuit has competition!

Pookie (l) and Maya (r) drag race through the pasture at Viking Ridge Ranch. The two speedy youngsters are Peruvian Horses and belong to Jim Belsvig and Kathy Johnson, NGHC members in Longbranch, WA.



NORTHWEST GAITED HORSE CLUB

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We Want to Hear From YOU!

If you have good news or story ideas that you'd like to see in this newsletter, please let us know! This publication will be most effective when it meets the needs of the NGHC membership.

We also love to share fun photos like the one above! Please send stories or pictures to:

Kathy Johnson
6309 174th Avenue KPS
Longbranch, WA 98351

You can also e-mail them to Kathy at VikingRidg@msn.com.

Look for the next newsletter in July.

Until then - **ENJOY YOUR HORSES!**

The Northwest Gaited Horse Club is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization. Our vision: To promote all naturally gaited horse breeds in the Pacific Northwest for pleasure or show; to provide support and encouragement to gaited horse owners and enthusiasts; while prohibiting artificial action devices, additional weight, or evidence of soring.