

MacNair's Country Acres, Inc



February 2007

Country Acres Happenings

Show season is here:

The horses have been clipped and shined, wardrobes picked, Coggins tests drawn and we are ready to horse show. Check the website for the show calendar and watch the bulletin board for sign-up sheets. Our advice is to select the shows you want to go to in advance so you can make a plan and set your goals for the year. Do you have your goals outlined? Speak with your instructor, set up an appointment time and develop a plan.

Educational opportunities:

Country Acres has the honor of being selected for several NCDCTA learner judge programs, lunge clinics and outside educational opportunities. Take advantage of learning more and visit as an auditor. Keep a lookout!

NCDCTA horse shows:

These shows offer a great opportunity for you to sit and audit with recognized judges or to learn how a show is organized. Come and get an idea of what goes on in the judge's booth and behind the scenes. As a volunteer you get your NCDCTA volunteer card and can compete for **HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS. Nancy needs a variety of volunteers. This is how you learn!**

Country Acres Welcomes New 2- and 4-legged friends!!

"Design"- Congratulations Drake Driscoll.
"Sputnik" aka "Nick" -Congratulations Kendall Foster.

"The Apprentice" aka "Kirby" -Congratulations
Haley Gintis.

"Charakter" and Bryan Rosenberg.

"Chip" and Erin Hensley..

Congratulations to Tory and Carly Hoft on the
purchase of "TK".

Welcome to Jessica Mulliken, now leasing
"Southern Breeze"

And Mia Hawley, now leasing "Darlington"
Welcome Back Furistan.

Fashion Show and Goal- setting Theory Session

"What Not to Wear"-- M&M Tack Shop will be enlightening us on the latest and up-to-date fashions for dressage riders. Join us in the Country Acres lounge on February 1st from 12 noon until 2 p.m. for a Potluck luncheon. Come laugh, learn and set some 2007 goals.

Follow the bulletin board for the date for the fashion show for our hunter riders!!!

“Cavaletti strengthen the seat and educate the feeling of horsemanship. Because of this, it is a necessary complement in the training of all riders.”

Reiner Klimke

TRY THIS

Look in the mirrors and ask....

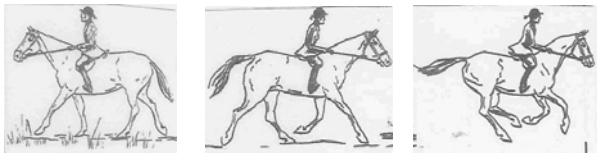
For Hunt seat:

1. Correct Design of position (In profile)

- The rider is placed close to the pommel.
- Legs are bent in the knees; heels are pulled down.
- The rider is inclined forward from the hips, more or less, depending on the gait and speed.
- The back is straight, shoulders open, head up.
- The arms are bent in the elbows so that each forearm forms with its rein a straight line of action from elbow to the horse's mouth.

(From the front)

- The weight of the rider is evenly distributed on both stirrups.
- Toes are out just enough to bring the upper-calves in contact with the saddle.
- The grip of the ends with the upper-calves and the rest of the lower leg is away from the horse.
- Look straight between the horse's ears.
- Hands are about one foot apart.



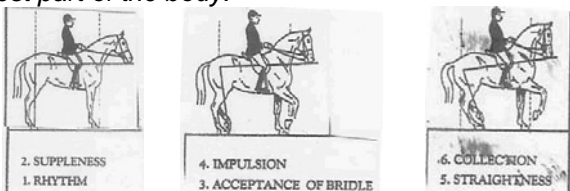
Central balance or dressage seat:

- The rider should sit on a triangle formed by the 2 sitting bones and the crotch area,
 - The thighs and knees are kept downward and flat on the saddle with the kneecaps pointing forward.
 - The back is straight, shoulders open, head up.
- From the side, one should see a little of the sole of the boot. You must bear down on the heel or the buttocks are pushed backwards.

The arms are bent in the elbows so that each forearm forms with its rein a straight line of action from elbow to the horse's mouth.

(From the front)

- The weight of the rider is evenly distributed on both stirrups.
- Look straight between the horse's ears.
- Hands must remain quiet.
- The feet should be parallel to the horse, the toes not pointing outward. The inside part of the heel must be lowest part of the body.



Daily lesson Plan

It is important when you ride to have a clear plan for what you would like to accomplish that day.

Listen to the exercises your weekly instructor recommends and ask your instructor to help you organize a daily plan. It is important when you ride!

We all want the same – to help you ride the best you can and grow in your horsemanship!!!!

Our Sincerest Condolences

To Nancy Demus and her family

on the loss of her sister-in-law,

Carol.

Hints from Lilly: How to get your horse show-ready

We talked a lot about turnout of the rider in our last newsletter. Now we would like to turn our attention to the horse. It's just as important to have your horse look the part, as we like to have you look the part.

The very first and biggest step to achieving that beautiful and shiny coat on your horse is plain old basic grooming. If you are not getting the results then you have to allow more time. You should spend time both before and after riding for TLC, grooming and caring for your horse. I feel you should spend at least 20 minutes per day grooming.

The number one tool in your grooming box that should come out every time you visit your horse is the rubber curry comb. This is the best way to put the shine on your horse's coat. The curry comb is used in a circular motion with pressure to lift dirt. It also brings those natural oils from the skin to the surface of the coat and this is where you get the shine. Along with the curry comb the other brushes add the polish and finishing touches.

You can also feed coat supplements to help achieve the finished results, but this is not a replacement for grooming. Corn oil is a great supplement to add to your horse's feed once a day. It's available at grocery stores. Supplements such as Omega Horse Shine or Black as Night go in the feed and can sometimes help keep your horse's coat beautiful. Be careful when you feed any supplement as many of them contain ingredients that are considered illegal at competitions. Speak to your trainer before you add anything to your horse's diet!! Dena and Karen can arrange the feeding of these supplements. In the summer when your horse is out in the sun even for a little while the sun will ruin his coat--the ONLY way to prevent that is to never turn him out without a sheet.

Clipping your horse is not meant for everyone (I'm talking basic, ears, legs, and muzzle) it takes practice and time, both for you and your horse. We do feel strongly that you need to practice and develop this skill.

There is an art to clipping. Keep a steady hand and follow the natural line of the horse. When clipping the ears, you need to really clean the hairs out. The edge should have that nice clean cut look. Clip the long hairs that grow under the jaw and on the muzzle, then move down to the legs. If it's summer or if your horse is body clipped go ahead and clip all of the white socks or stockings, this will keep them very clean. On all four legs trim the hairs that grow down past the coronet band, keeping the hair even all the way around. Then move the clippers to the back of the leg and start from the bottom (coronet band) and follow along the back side of the pastern up the ankle. If the horse has long hairs growing down the back of the leg, then take your clippers down the leg with the direction the hair grows. Remember that blending is the idea to clipping. To give a real good finished look you can trim the muzzle. Long hairs make your horse look shaggy.

Not only are you spending time on grooming but you are spending time on the ground with your horse. You should be putting your hands all over your horse's body so that you know what that leg looks and feels like day to day. If you practice this daily grooming plan and keep an eye on your horse's legs then you'll pick right up on a swelling and treat it from the start, rather than missing it and risk causing more damage.

Hunter Riders Corner

“A” show, “C” show, EHA show... This year, MacNair's is loaded with show options for every client in the barn. Now that we have three trainers at Country Acres we are able to offer every level of horse showing to all our clients. If you want to go to Williamston, no problem. If you're all about A shows, count on it. And if those NCHJA “C” shows are what you're interested in, well we're all about that too.

This show season's calendar is available on the website. We need to know from you which shows you want to go to so Melanie, Lilly and Nancy can plan their schedules to accommodate your wishes. If two different level shows are offered on the same date, that doesn't necessarily mean we will only offer the chance to go to one or the other; it's now possible for us to go to both, but we need to know as soon as possible what you want to do.

With that thought in mind, remember that once in a while you may find yourself at a horse show with a trainer other than your regular trainer. For this reason, it's a good idea to schedule a lesson or two with the trainer going to the show before you leave for the competition. Remember that all three of us meet once a week to fill each other in on what's going on with our students and horses. We do this so we can step in for each other whenever necessary.

So, what's the difference between all these shows anyway...

EHA (Eastern Hunter Association) is an organization that sanctions and offers local level shows in eastern North Carolina. Most of these shows are held in Williamston, but we also host one at MacNair's and one or two other locations offer these shows each year as well. Riders usually compete in a particular division for the entire year, and points are awarded for ribbons won. These points count

towards year-end awards, which are given out at the annual EHA banquet. Riders must be members of EHA in order for points to count.

NCHJA (North Carolina Hunter/Jumper Association) shows are offered statewide, and competition at these shows is usually a little stiffer than at EHA shows. Riders from all over the state (and some from Virginia and South Carolina) compete throughout the year for year-end awards. Like EHA, NCHJA holds a year-end banquet; membership for rider, owner, and horse is required for points to count. These shows are often referred to as “C” shows. This year, MacNair's will do some “C” shows in Greensboro as well as those that are held at the Fairgrounds.

USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) shows are nationally-rated shows. These are usually “A” or “AA” - rated shows. The USEF is the national governing body for equestrian sport in the US and is divided into zones (NC is in Zone 3). Within each zone, points are awarded in “recognized” divisions throughout the year. Zone finals are held and zone year-end awards given out. Points in certain divisions are also tallied at the national level; riders and horses accumulating the most points in the country in those divisions are awarded Horse of the Year prizes, similar to a national championship. Horses, riders, owners and trainers must be members of USEF for points to accumulate.

These USEF “A” and “AA” shows are the largest and most competitive shows. But they also offer “non-rated” divisions for newer riders and younger horses, providing those competitors a chance to step up a little in challenge and still ride within their capabilities.

Hopefully, this little summary will help some of our newer riders and their parents sort out the differences in the shows; but, if you still have questions, be sure and contact Melanie—she'll be happy to help you get it down pat.

THE SHOW OF FIRSTS

January 26-28, 2007, Nancy and Melanie took MacNair riders to compete at the first show of the season hosted by Triangle Farms at the Hunt Horse Complex. Among those competing were Kendall Foster and Sputnik in their first show together. Breezy and Gameboy Wallace rode in their own trailer for the first time. Rollins competed in Short Stirrup for the first time. Katie Newton and Reba at their first show off the farm. Leigh Sizemore on Dante rode her first course at a show ever. Hayley Bolton and Archie who for the first time didn't kick the stall all weekend or make a big fuss in the trailer. Jenna Cameron and Snowball, who for the first time, actually had a little energy left by the third day.

All riders had a great show. Sputnik and Kendall went into the ring like professionals and got great ribbons, winning one of the Schooling Pony classes. Rollins jumped around the Short Stirrup course and got ribbons in several classes. Elizabeth was 2nd in the age group equitation on the flat and got good ribbons in the Pre Children's division. Katie won ribbons on Reba in the age group equitation on the flat and jumped her first boxes and flowers during schooling. Leigh won ribbons in almost all of her classes and even pulled out her first blue ribbon in one of the Pre Child/Adult classes on Sunday. Hayley and Archie were Champion in the Children's Hunter on Saturday. And, Snowball had his "brave pants" on as he marched right around the courses in the Children's Hunter and NCHJA Equitation Medal classes like a veteran show horse. Jenna and Snowball rode some of their most consistently good courses and received great ribbons in their classes.

We've had a great first show and we're looking forward to the rest of the show season. If you're looking for the next opportunity, we're going back to the Horse Complex for another Triangle C Show on February 16-18. What a way to start! CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

The Eyes up from the Safety Corner:

We must ask that you not lunge or work your horse in hand in the covered arena at Country Acres after 9:30 am. We have had lots of concerns expressed. This is a problem at horse farms all around the country due to the high incidence of accidents that have resulted from a horse breaking loose with a lunge line attached or an unruly horse being hand-walked. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but safety is first!!!!!!

Bridging The Gap

Draw a line to the matching word

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. Frio | Thank you |
| 2. Caliente | Hay |
| 3. Caballo | Shavings |
| 4. Agua | Grain |
| 5. Heno | Good night |
| 6. Cama | Tractor |
| 7. Perro | Cold |
| 8. Gato | Hot |
| 9. Comidia | Horse |
| 10. Grano | Dog |
| 11. Tractor | Water |
| 12. Buen | Food |
| 13. Gracias | Good morning |
| 14. Buenos noches | Cat |
| 15. Buenos dias | Good night |

Coming Soon – The Wall of Fame

Our show riders deserve recognition for their accomplishments and how their successes contribute to MacNairs' reputation. Please send Melanie an unframed, 8 x 10 photo (color copies on heavy paper are okay) of yourself in competition. We'll do a dressage photo wall and a hunter/jumper photo wall. We're proud of you, let us show you off a little bit!!!

Congratulations to Gene and Kris!! Gene and Kris have been selected to participate in the American Hanoverian Symposium with USEF Coach Scott Hassle in Florida. This is an opportunity to represent and show off our breeding program at MacNairs and the excellent training of our young performance horses. We will let you know how it goes!!!!

Remember, we are here for you. We welcome your suggestions and comments. Come find us or drop suggestions in the black box in the office.