



Acres of News From the Farm

November/December 2007
MacNair's Country Acres

Greetings from MacNair's 100-Year Club!

We asked a special group of ladies to share with you their feelings on this life-time sport. Enjoy as you see into the lives of these dedicated women and their love for horses.

Enjoy,

We call ourselves that because between the four of us, we've been riding at MacNair's for over 100 years! Barbara and Heather started at MacNair's at age 30 and 31, respectively, after several years of not riding; Martha has been riding at MacNair's since she was 9 and Missy since she was 10. We ride in the 7:30 pm Monday night class and have been riding together for about 25 years.

Barbara: Seems like I've loved horses forever: I dreamed them, I drew them, I begged to own one. I stopped riding after I left for college, and then, after one lesson at MacNair's 28 years ago, I was hooked all over again. There is simply nothing that compares to how I feel when I'm on a horse, riding in unison with him or her, speaking silently with my hands and legs. Every week, I look forward to seeing my friends and all the horses. When I walk into the barn, the rest of the world goes away. I love the smell of horses and hay, and for me, there's nothing as soothing as the soft nickering of a horse on a cool fall evening, nothing as warm as a horse's breath on my face.

Missy: From the time I was a small child, I was drawn to horses. Riding brings a joy to my life that few other things do. Each animal is different and comes with its own history and challenges, but that has given me the chance to grow in my horsemanship as I have learned to listen to my horse and to communicate and change my riding accordingly. Once I am mounted, all worries and stresses are left behind because with a horse, I must be attentive and in the moment.

Throughout the years, my time at MacNair's has been cherished -- something I have put before anything else. I have treasured the relationships I have had with both equines and people - especially, the ladies with whom I share the title of The 100-Year Club.

Martha: When I was younger, I tried many different after-school activities - dance, piano, etc. - but nothing really interested me. Then my mom asked if I wanted to try horseback riding lessons. That was 36 years ago, and now I can't imagine my life without riding. My weekly lesson is the one time that I can leave the real world behind. The feeling of finding the right spot at a jump, or getting a horse to do something that he/she didn't think they could do, or just having a connection with a particular horse is indescribable. Even when things don't go well, it is still where I would rather be than anywhere else. I ride for fun. I ride to be with my friends. I ride because I admire the beauty of the horse. I ride because I love it.

Heather: I'm the newest member of the 100-year club, having ridden at MacNair's 'only' since 1981 when I decided to treat myself to one 8-week block of riding lessons. I had not been on a horse in almost 13 years ... and here I am, 26 years later, still treating myself. It's something I look forward to each week and regret when I have to miss a lesson. It's my relaxation and learning time--a time to unwind and learn for the fun of it. That has been one of the best treats: great instruction that goes beyond 'how' to include 'why.' There have been some sad times along the way - horses that have come and gone - some people, too. But I still look forward each week to time spent with the horses and the people who care for them.

The four of us have all ridden in school shows and, in fact, we've done drill team performances at several school shows. It's hard work, and we're always nervous before we perform, but it's challenging and fun--and then it's over in a heartbeat!

None of us owns our own horse, but after all these years, we are friends and look forward to seeing each other every Monday night. So if you are new to riding or if you've thought about taking lessons (even if you haven't ridden for a long time), give it a try! You may be surprised at how much self-confidence you gain, how much fun you have, and how many new friends you make - both human and equine.

From the Horse's mouth

Staff happenings:

Lilly deSousa has been a wonderful part of MacNair's Country Acres for the past two years. She has decided to return to her hometown in Vermont. We will certainly miss Lilly and all that she brought to the farm.

Educational and fun learning opportunities:

Remember for more information or to sign up for an activity just call the office and ask for Debra
851-1118

Teacher Workday Pony School Clinic

Teacher Workday Community Clinic

9:00-1:00

Come and spend the morning with us! Let your child love, groom and ride and then eat lunch with their favorite four legged friends. Pack your lunch, boots, helmet and let's have fun! Space is limited, so please sign up ASAP and reserve your spot for this new program. Classes are divided according to age, level and experience.

Monday, November 12

Track Out/Home School Camp

9:00-1:00

Enjoy a special time with your horses and friends. Own a horse for the morning. Come in and take care of them, learn about what is involved with ownership and ride. Bring a bagged lunch and have some fun!

Wednesday, November 28

Wednesday, December 12

Wednesday, January 16

Hoof Beat Clinics

Come out & enjoy an informative unmounted session.

Watch the bulletin board for topics of interest.

Saturdays, 3:30-5:00

November 3

Grooming & Tacking

November 10

Stirrup Adjusting

December 15

Horse Health

January 5

Tack Cleaning

January 12

TBA

Trail Rides

Fall is finally here, so that means cooler temperatures, beautiful scenes with the leaves tumbling down, and hopefully an end to the drought! So get your light coats on and horses saddled and get ready for some trail riding on our beautiful farm. Trail riding dates are listed below.

These fun times give students a chance to ride outside of the ring on uneven terrain. You may even see some really neat wildlife!!!!

Saturday, November 24

Pm ride time

Thursday, December 27

Pm ride times

Saturday, December 29

Am and pm ride times

(Watch the bulletin boards for specific times)

Hunter Riders Corner

These Riding clinics are open to students in 4-H who are thinking of trying out for the Show Team and any community students interested in additional learning opportunities. What a great way to continue to practice your skills and spend more time with a horse.

Saturdays 1:30-5:00

Ride times will be assigned 2 days before each clinic.

All groups will be divided according to level of riding. The clinic is a 1.5 hour riding opportunity to further develop your riding skills. 4H riders must attend 4 mounted clinics to try out for the 4H Show Team

Saturday, November 3

Saturday, November 10

Saturday, November 17

Saturday, December 1

Saturday, December 15

Saturday, January 5

Saturday, January 12

Saturday, January 19

Saturday, January 26 (mandatory for show team tryouts)

Sunday, January 27 (Show Team Tryouts)

Saddle Up:

This program is designed for the first time rider as an introduction to horsemanship and riding. Bring your parents and friends and join in this introductory program to this life time sport. Open to children and adults. Saturdays 3:00-5:00

November 17 (3:00-5:00)

December 29 (1:00-3:00pm)

Holiday Horse Lease

Sign up to ride your favorite horse over these holidays. This is a supervised opportunity to come and practice your riding skills. Morning and afternoon times are available.

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|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Wednesday, November 21 | 10:00-12:00 | 2:00-4:00 |
| Saturday, November 24 | 10:00-12:00 | |
| Wednesday, December 26 | 10:00-12:00 | 2:00-4:00 |
| Thursday, December 27 | 10:00-12:00 | |
| Friday, December 28 | 10:00-12:00 | 2:00-4:00 |

Sign-ups will be posted on the Community Bulletin Board across from the desk.

Halloween Gymkhana

With a slight chill in the air, lots of wonderful food and a huge turnout, this year's Halloween Gymkhana was the best yet!!!! We incorporated several new games this year that made the event even more fun. The staff is already looking forward to next year!!!! Thank you for a great turnout!!!

MacNair's Sweatshirts

If you missed out on your size or color sweatshirt at the Gymkhana, reorders should be in the office by the first week of November. Remember that they make great holiday gifts as well as our tee's make great stocking stuffers. Prices will be the same, "hoodies" at **\$30.00**, crew necks at **\$20.00** and a whole array of sizes and colors of tee shirts at **\$10.00**. Shop early!!!!

Holiday Shopping

We also have ***Riding Gift Certificates*** available in the office for your holiday giving. Grandparents love this option to help out with their grandkid's lessons or to treat them to a private lesson. Just contact Debra in the office (919-851-1118) for more details.



The staff and riders of MacNair's ask that you remember that the safety of our riders is our utmost concern. This is just a friendly reminder to **PLEASE** slow down to a crawl's pace when traveling *anywhere* on the farm. As the daylight decreases over the course of the next few weeks, it will be extremely difficult with the shadows to see riders and horses on the road between the two barns. So please allow yourself plenty of time to get your children to and from their lessons to avoid rushing in and out of the farm. Also, as a reminder, please do not drive up to the barn area to drop off or pick up a child and please remember to park in the parking lot at all times.

Lesson cancellation

Please remember that if you need to cancel a lesson you need to contact the office 24 hours in advance. Our policy on lesson cancellation is posted on the bulletin board for your review. Thank you!



THE CLOVER CORNER MACNAIR'S 4H NEWS

MacNair's 4H members traveled to the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) on October 13 to watch the International President's Cup Grand Prix and the WIHS Equitation Medal Finals. Melanie and Betsy, along with Anna Barkley, Copie Cain and three other wonderful and patient moms, supervised the trip. We took the Amtrak train up to DC from Raleigh and then home again on Sunday after spending the night in Washington. The competition at the show was unbelievable and super exciting---the girls were able to see the very best young equitation riders in the country along with the top Olympic-level jumper riders

from the US, Latin America and Canada. Everyone enjoyed watching it and the tone on the trip home was that everyone is very motivated to improve their own skills!!!!

On the home front, we had our annual new members meeting on October 16 and it was a huge success, with 25 newly interested MacNair's students showing an interest in 4H. We welcome you all and your parents and hope you find 4H at MacNair's a rewarding and fun experience.

A reminder to all members, new and old, ***Horsebowl and Hippology*** practice is held on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday or the 1st and last Thursday evening of each month at 6:15. If you have shown in 4H before and are planning on participating on show team this year, you must participate in one or both of these horsemanship programs. If you're not interested in show team you can do Horsebowl and Hippology anyway and learn all the things you need to know to be a great horseperson, not just a good rider. It's fun and exciting and you could go to the national level in either of these competitions. ***Congratulations to Lissy Newton*** and the North Carolina Hippology team for their success at the national Quarter Horse Congress, where they won the huge competition in all three divisions. Lissy is MacNair's Horsebowl and Hippology leader, so you have the opportunity to learn from the very best. Don't miss out.

Riding Clinics are scheduled at the school barn to offer all 4H members additional opportunities for instruction. If you are trying out for Show Team, you must attend at least four of the mounted clinics. Also, be sure to continue your horsemanship education through the "Hoof Beat" program. Information on mounted and Hoofbeats clinics is available on the website and from Debra at the School Barn.

Meet Our Lesson & Barn Assistants

Please take the time to meet our lesson and barn assistants that help us out every week and give them a big "Thank You". The staff and instructors could not function each week without the assistance from these great helpers.



Lauren Wiggins can be seen on Monday afternoons assisting Mary Pope with the 6:15 Community class and then being the barn closing monitor. She has been a student at MacNair's since grade school and a member of the MacNair's 4H show team while in middle and high school. Lauren is now a sophomore attending NC State University. Lauren completed the ANRC Instructor's course at MacNair's over the summer and has worked at Camp Cheval for several years.



Logan Emmons has been riding at MacNair's since age 10. She is currently a freshman at NC State majoring in textiles and design. Logan was very active with the MacNair's 4H Club for many years, being a member of the show team for three of those years, being a Camp Cheval volunteer for several summers and then a camp assistant for 2 summers. Logan completed the ANRC Instructor's course which was taught at MacNair's over the summer. She has also been successful showing her horse Furistan at the EHA, "C" and "A" show circuit level.



Alice Burnett is 16 and a junior at Broughton High School. She has been riding at MacNairs for about six years now. She has been an active 4-H member and 4-H show team member for the past four years. You've probably seen her around the farm riding Eleanor or Princess. Alice helps with Camp Cheval, pony school, and also opens the barn bright and early on Sunday mornings!



Colleen Sheridan is a senior at Green Hope High School in Cary, where she is active in the GHHS Orchestra. Colleen started riding at MacNair's at age six as a pony school student, then joined in the community riding program and the MacNair's 4H program at age ten. She became a member of the 4H Show Team at age twelve, and now owns a beautiful gray thoroughbred gelding named Levi that she shows under the name "Shaken Not Stirred". After graduation, she hopes to attend the College of Charleston and to continue riding while in college.



Marion Price has been riding at MacNair's for ten years. She is a senior at Broughton High School in Raleigh. She is currently a lesson assistant, Sunday barn manager, and the 4-H President. She is also currently training her four year old horse Dutch.

MacNair's Country Acres Calendar of Events



November

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| November 3 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm |
| November 10 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm Hoof Beat Clinic (3:00-4:30pm) |
| November 7-11 | | Duke Children's Classic Charity Horse Show@ Hunt Horse Complex |
| November 12 | Monday | School Holiday Pony School Clinic 9-1:00 School Holiday Community Clinic 9-1:00 |
| November 17 | Saturday | Saddle Up (3:00-5:00pm) Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm |
| November 18 | Sunday | NCDCTA Show at Country Acres |
| November 21-24 | Thanksgiving | NO CLASSES |
| November 24 | Saturday | Holiday Horse Lease (10-12:00) Pony School Trail Ride (1-3:00) Community Trail Ride (3:30-5:00) |
| November 28 | Wednesday | Track Out/Home School Camp (9:00am-1:00pm) |



December

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| December 1 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm |
| December 8 | Saturday | Schooling for show (times TBA) |
| December 9 | Sunday | Hunter Schooling Show |
| December 12 | Wednesday | Track Out/Home School Camp (9:00am-1:00pm) |
| December 15 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm Hoof Beat Clinic (3:00-4:30pm) <i>Block 3 fees due</i> |
| December 24-31 | Christmas | NO CLASSES |

December (continued)

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| December 26 | Wednesday | Holiday Horse Lease (10:00am-12:00pm) (2:00-4:00pm) |
| December 27 | Thursday | Holiday Horse Lease (10:00am-12:00pm) Trail Rides (pm ride/Time TBA) |
| December 28 | Friday | Holiday Horse Lease (10:00am-12:00pm 2:00-4:00pm) |
| December 29 | Saturday | Christmas Saddle Up (1:00am-3:00pm) Trail Rides (am & pm rides/Times TBA) |

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



January

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| January 2 | Wednesday | Block 3 begins |
| January 5 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm Hoof Beat Clinic (3:00-4:30pm) |
| January 12 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm Hoof Beat Clinic (3:00-4:30pm) |
| January 16 | Wednesday | Track Out/Home School Camp (9:00am-1:00pm) |
| January 19 | Saturday | Community/4H Prep Clinic 1:30 & 3:00pm Saddle Up (3:00-5:00pm) |
| January 26 | Saturday | 4H Show Team Tryout Prep Clinic (mandatory) |
| January 27 | Saturday | 4H Show Team Tryouts (times TBA) |

WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS. COME FIND US OR DROP THEM OFF IN WRITING IN THE BLACK BOX ON THE PORCH BESIDE THE OFFICE DOOR

From the staff and your four legged friends at MacNairs
Country Acres

