



Buggy Bits

uggy Bits

Spring has sprung!!



Spring 2010

Buggy Bits

Stone Bridge Driving Club Board of Directors

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	Page
Editor's Corner	2
President's message	3
Bombproofing clinic news	4
Bomb proofing continued.....	5
4th Annual Cutter Rally news	6
SBCDC Secretary retiring.....	7
Memorial—Bruce McGhan	7
We're buggy about our hobby!	8
	9



President: Richard Holyoak
Vice-President: Morris Helmig
Secretary: Carol Thomas
Treasurer: Cheryl Fotheringham
Past President: Grant Boddy
Buggy Bits: Kathy Helmig -
twobit@telusplanet.net
Directors:
Orville Sutton
Judy Orr—Bertelsen

Cover : A picture from the archives....this is a picture of the miniature donkey, Two Bit Pete, during the Masters at Spruce Meadows circa 1988. Pete, who many will remember from way back when, was also Maven Boddy's driving partner a few years back. He's 26 this year.

Editor's Corner.....by Kathy Helmig



First robin spotted, geese honking, gophers digging....ugh, not so good.

But the chill is leaving and between scattered bouts of snow and evil wind chill, there is hope of spring. Not as fast as I would like to see it arrive, but there is the steadfast of knowing that all things change. And with all good things come the more tedious, the mud, snow mold (an all time favorite of mine....sigh) and molting horses, ponies and dogs. It's also amazing what a few inches of snow will hide in the dog poop department, especially when you own a St. Barnyard, I mean Bernard, as we do. For a guy who only gets 4 cups of dogfood a day to keep his svelte 208 pound physique in line , Buba has managed to make the front lawn look like we kept 5 Clydesdale horses in quarantine out there. So along with painting the Glaciers, fence fixing, finishing up the new obstacle to replace the old star one, getting ready for the shows, clinics and our first fun pleasure drive, we will be taking time to be the ultimate pooper scoopers, both on the lawn and in the paddocks....maybe a little snow cover wasn't such a bad thing.....

The horses and ponies look like dust bunnies and grooming them is simply transferring hair from them to you. But there is a glint of polish under that up your nose, in your eyes, spitting for an hour after grooming mess that will soon herald the real beginning of the driving season....I can hardly wait!! So many things are planned for this year and it's going to be a great one. Make sure you write the events down on your calendar and come have the best year with the club to date! Now, to go and find my Claritin and Kleenex and head for the barn.....

President's message

Presidents Message

Well Spring is here and I hope everyone is out driving and spending time with their horses.

Things are proceeding well with everything in the club. The bylaws should be back soon and then we have some new options open with the government to start looking into grants for upcoming projects and equipment.

I want to thank those of you who replied to the questions and the logo contest. The winning logo is on the front cover of the newsletter and will be incorporated into the website. This will now allow us to look into jackets and sweatshirts as fundraisers for the club. The consensus of the members that replied was to pay for Judy's shavings, that we should buy 10 cones this year and 10 cones next year but with a renewed effort on our adoption campaign to try and offset these costs. We will also be using club funds to support the Bill Lower clinic.

Our events competitions and clinics are about finalized with planning started on fun drives and picnics. See the events listing for more information.

Our next event is the Indoor Dash at the Donalda Arena on Apr 17, which may be outdoors if the weather holds. There will be a Club meeting to go over plans and to hear any new ideas from the membership. Please come out if you can as I need to know that what we have planned is what you, the members, want.

I do need some one to be our Secretary as Carol has had to step down. Please contact me if you can help.

Also, is there anyone with experience working on the web? I find I am very short of time to keep our web site as up to date as it should be. Please email or call if you can help out.

Enjoy the great drives this spring.

Richard Holyoak

We need a Club Secretary!

We are looking for someone to fill the spot of club secretary. This job involves taking minutes during conference calls & meetings and sending out club information to the membership. If you feel you could help us with this, please contact Richard at cholyoak@telus.net or 403 933-3706

Bombproofing Clinic Update.....or.....

By Judy Orr- Bertelsen



The clinic was held at the Donalda arena, Mar 13 & 14. Cheryl Fotheringham was the instructor, and brought a full 4 horse trailer full of "bombs", or so thought all of the mules/donkeys/mini horses/horses. Thirteen equines participated, of all sizes, shapes and descriptions, with owners eager to help their animals learn confidence and trust. All animals and handlers were in the arena at one time, which to some folks, seemed like pure chaos - horses dragging their owners, donkeys leaving the area, ponies wanting to just let everyone know THEY were the boss of this situation, big horses saying "what the heck is that little wee horse type thing over there? Lets get outa here NOW!" But with Cheryl's calm demeanor, quietly and quickly, things soon calmed down, and everyone was more in control. The animals responded very fast to being led from the off side, learned to stand with the handlers circling them, or owners bounding up and down like bunnies, making strange noises, etc. Cheryl strongly emphasized safety throughout the clinic, and repeatedly taught us that even one step, after being asked to "stand", was a potential run-away in later training - whether ridden or driven - a step in any direction was not allowed. Oh, how true that is. Handling my miniature horses, I felt almost as if I were back in dog obedience classes!! Heel, about turn, fast, slow, left turn, halt, walk on. Same concept, (but without the sit and lay down!) - pay attention to me, trust me. Now came the "bombs" -a 10X10 area of empty plastic water bottles to walk through, plastic and tarpaulins to walk over, a bag of cans to drag, huge balls to throw and kick around, fans blowing plastic, poles to walk over - just a few of the many obstacles Cheryl had us navigate over and through. Her clam manner and simple instructions - the main one being "don't look at your horse - no eye contact", had almost all the equines responding beautifully by the end of the first day. My minis were quite receptive to almost everything - both trusting that where Mom goes, they should follow, its safe there. If Mom says "go there", its safe.

After a nice pot luck supper, my friend and I loaded our minis into the trailer, fed and watered them for the night, and drove to the hotel. Now, I have been in the very small village of Donalda before, and so had called ahead to make a reservation at the little hotel, for a room with 2 beds., I had heard that it was clean, but not that it was under renovation. At any rate, we parked the truck and trailer, gathered up our overnight bags and in we went to find the receiving desk. No desk, just the bar, all newly renovated, plum full of folks dressed in green and celebratin' with green beer! Yup, with St Patties day was just around the corner, ALL of Donalda turned up dressed in sparkling green clothing, to help with the celebratin', complete with a karaoke . After fifteen minutes or so of standing by the bar, one of the barmaids, who till now had been on the run with more and more green beer, asked if she could help us. "Yes", says I, "I have a room with 2 beds reserved for tonight" "Lets see" says she "No, what was your name again?" "Hmm, don't see any names here, well, we only got 4 rooms and the one with 2 beds got used last night and we have not had time to clean it" She hands me 3 other keys, says to pick one we wanted, and \$30.00 please. Okee Doe Kee, says Us, and out we went and up the winding, not yet renovated stairway, past the saws, hammers, drills and pails of nails. (con't next page..)

(Bombproofing con't..)

Nearly peeing our pants with laughter, we check out the 3 rooms, pick one and drag our overnight bags in. We crash in the large living area and decide to turn on the TV. OK, its on, but no channels. Oh well, the joyous voices from down below are loud and clear, who needs the TV on anyway? Hmm, kinda cool up here. No heat?? So off we totter downstairs, in the unlit stairway, past the saws and buckets again, to the bar, to ask about the heat. After several minutes we catch the barmaid again - "Oh" says she "The furnace to the upstairs quit last night so there is no heat up there" "Oh", says I, "would there be a heater we could borrow??" Well, to make a very long story short, 2 heaters were eventually taken upstairs for us. Shirley and I decide (although I had thought it would be really fun to join in the karaoke fun) to go next door to the little cafe for a coffee while the room warmed up. Turns out it is just a kitchen away from the bar - same building, same barmaid. Well the coffee was indeed good, and we were soon joined by a total stranger, who came strolling into the cafe, poured himself a coffee and pulled up a chair to our table, and began a grand conversation!! Turns out he knew my husband, Shirley and Eric's good friends, and was the father of the owner of the whole building. What fun a small village is. Later, we found our way up the very dark stairway, carefully over the buckets and saws, to our room. One could not help but sing in the shower as strains of "Danny Boy" flowed up through the not working heat register. We both drifted off to sleep as the singing downstairs got ever increasingly worse, with the many pints of green beer. But you know what? I will stay there again. Clean it was.



The second morning dawned bright and beautiful, with all the handlers anxious to test their skills in teaching their animals even more. Today both human and equine, were calmer and more trusting of all the things going around them, more focused and ready for more. We climbed on big boxes built strong, especially for horses to climb up onto, stand on, and walk off of safely - balloons - cheerleader pom poms, umbrellas, plastic coats draped over their bodies - and some of the minis heads and bodies!, through a gate with tarp streamers hanging down - handlers kicking soccer balls between them - oh so much to see and still trust.

The day ended with all more relaxed and ready to go on into further training back home. It was a very worthwhile clinic, reinforcing to all the importance of the basics of training any animal. And its never too late, at any age of human of animal. And its always a good thing to go back to the basics before each training session.

Three things to remember - Safety first - Stand until asked to move on - No eye contact.

4th Annual Cutter Rally a Resounding Success!!



Feb. 20th saw another very successful cutter rally at Helmig farm. We had 27 drivers come out and brave the -2 weather, a bit over cast but a wonderful day. A large number of the entries were pairs, with a few single drivers and one four up of ponies! There was everything from Fjords to Halflingers, Welsh ponies to Warmbloods, Standardbreds to Draft crosses. We had volunteers and spectators galore and fed over one hundred people beef on a bun, chili and dessert to no end! To make it interesting for everyone, we set a 4 km course and started out by driving in between our glacier obstacle and then onto the fort. Off through the trees and around the meadows and then, just to get everyone ready for the bombproofing clinic, out trotted a moose at the head of the line! My mare, Legs, who was the pilot cutter, so to speak, stopped dead in her tracks to admire the lovely hock and knee action of the bull moose as he hopped over the fence and away. Thankfully, he didn't pop out in the middle of the rally and a great time was had by all. Photos courtesy of Julie Laverdiere and Scott Thomson.



SBCDA Secretary retiring.....

After 3 years as our secretary, Carol Thomas, is stepping down. We want to thank her for all her hard work and the dedication she has shown in an often thankless job. With all the help she has provided with the club business, shows, clinics, indoor dashes, meals, well, you name it, Carol was there for us. She has always been the one to remind us of the many bits and pieces that we sometimes forget on our own. We wish her all the best and will be looking for her at the events with Al and Gary in tow.



In Memoriam....Bruce McGhan—Horseman Extraordinaire

Bruce was dad to member Jane Rickard and grandpa to Taylor and Dayton and attended a number of Stone Bridge events a few years past.

Bruce lived and loved life with integrity, talent, and passion. His many accomplishments in his short lifetime are a testament to his strong work ethic and willingness to learn and teach others. He grew up on a dairy farm and spoke fondly of milking, putting up hay, driving cattle to pasture, riding at gymkhanas, being surrounded by friends and just loving life as it went forward. Bruce has been successful at training horses, dogs and even some people. He was a volunteer for the Canadian Pony Club, Boy scouts, 4H, Lions Club, Roy Saito Therapeutic Riding Association and Northlands, for as many as 40 years. His kindness and compassion for people and animals have gathered him so many wonderful friends. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.



We're buggy about our hobby! Some pictures of members at fun and competition! Please send in your photos and I'll be glad to put them up here!



Left: a picture of Two Bit Pete, with an admirer at Spruce Meadows...anyone in there?

Right: One of the many entries at the Helmig cutter rally.....



Right: Member Colleen Campbell and volunteer Al Robb enjoying a warm up at the cutter rally.....

Below left: more pics from the cutter rallies past and present....



Right: The three Musketeers: Orville & Elaine Sutton & Harry Harrison working at the finish of the marathon at the NBH....



Below right: a lovely pair of Fjords in the snow.....



Stone Bridge Driving Club list of Upcoming Events

Listed below are the upcoming events, shows and clinics. Please note the deadlines for entries and applications! If you want to get in on the clinics, please send in your registration form and money as these lessons will be first come, first serve and are only for 3 days each. Applications for registration will be available on the website www.stonebridgedrivingclub.com or call the contacts below for more information.

April 17th—Indoor Dash, 50/50 Scurry and General Club meeting at Donalda Arena. Please contact Morris at kathmorr@telus.net or 780 375-2386.

April 23- 25th— the Mane Event- Red Deer, AB

May 8th—9th—Learning to Drive Better Clinic. Innisfail. Harness types, vehicle types, types of driving -pleasure thru competitions-, conditioning, what is Combined driving, gatoring, practice "driving" with cones, videos included in clinic, maybe a driving board. Contact Judy at 403 728-3282 or at thetoybox@xplornet.com or Cindy at 403 933-3706.

June 4th, 5th and 6th - Bill Lower Clinic. Donalda Arena. Lesson are \$75.00 for members and \$100.00 non members. Registration starts April 1st.

Member deadline for registration is May 1st after which it will be open to the public. Please contact Richard at cholyoak@telus.net or 403 933-3706 for more information.

July 3rd—4th—The No Pitch Hitch Driving Event. Rosalind. Contact Morris at kathmorr@telus.net or 780 375-2386. This year will see the new level program implemented. Please contact Richard for information on the new AEF rulebook that includes this information.

July 5th, 6th and 7th—Sterling Graburn Clinic— Rosalind. Marathon clinic on July 5th, lessons on the 6th & 7th. Registration will start on the 15th of April. **Member deadline for registration will be the 15th of May** after which it will be open to the public. Please contact Richard for more information.

August—Fun Pleasure Picnic Drive—TBA

August 21st and 22nd—Eagle Ridge Driving Event. Spruce View. Again, the new levels program will be in effect. For more information contact Judy Bertelsen at thetoybox@xplornet.com or 403 728-3282.