



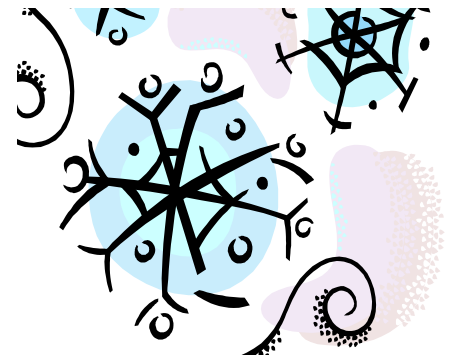
Volume 2, Issue 1

Buggy Bits

Stone Bridge Carriage Driving Club Newsletter



Lots of snow for a
Cutter Rally!



Winter2011

Buggy Bits

Stone Bridge Driving Club Board of Directors

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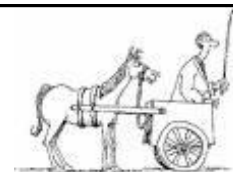
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Geri McNeil
Tammy Laybourne



Cover : A team from the 2010 Cutter rally. Photo courtesy Of Julie Laverdiere.

Editor's Corner by Kathy Helmig



Well, anyone that was looking for the white stuff to play in this year received a bumper crop of snow. Nice for a sleigh or cutter drive, not so good if your vehicle is hard to find in the sea of white that is in most yards! I know there is a happy medium somewhere in between being buried alive and skating across the farmyard but not this year, it seems. There have been those lovely days when a person could go out for a drive with above zero temperatures and then those that you didn't want to leave the house without serious arctic gear. And the teddy bears that have replaced all those slick coated steeds of last summer are really kind of cute.....till they start to shed, of course. But we know the butterflies that will again blossom from those shaggy coats so it's all good.

We have a great year ahead with all kinds of exciting things planned. Please be sure to check the events page to see all the wonderful shows and clinics and come and join us. There is also a Special Meeting on April to clarify some of the bylaws and it's important that we have enough members or proxies to pass the new amendments. Please try to attend or send in your proxy to make the meeting a success. And we'll see you at the events!

President's Message

Well February is almost done for another year which makes us one step closer to Spring and getting out driving. I, for one, am looking forward to another year with more time to drive.

We have some new events and drives planned with a Special General Meeting in April to do some planning and make a couple small changes to our bylaws. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

One of the nice things that has happened is that Stone Bridge is going to work with Chinoook more to have better events and drives. We are going to share equipment and expertise with them and them with us. This should make our driving family stronger.

Looking forward to seeing you and your new friends at our events this year.

GOOD DRIVING!

Richard Holyoak



Special General Meeting

April 9th, 2011

At the Innisfail Historical Society Hall

Meeting to cover important club business including the change of date for the fall Annual General Meeting.

Potluck lunch at 11am followed by the meeting and Driving videos

It's important that if you can't attend, that you forward your proxy with an attending member!

Contact Judy Bertelsen 403-728-3282

Are You Ready For Summer Driving? Harness Cleaning....sigh..

It's that time again.....so if you don't have good old biothane, here's what you do.....

Step 1:Dismantle all harness parts. Make up a solution of 3 parts lukewarm water to 1 part baking soda or Mr. Clean. Wipe down all the harness and buckles using a damp sponge. Dirt under the buckles acts like sandpaper, so be thorough. Do a complete safety check while removing soil. All stress points should be checked for excessive wear. The parts that wear the most are usually bridle billets and rein billets, both due to contact with the acid in the saliva. Also look for broken loops or keepers, cut straps, cracked leather, bent tongues, broken stitching, and worn buckles.



There's more than one way to clean harness.. if you have biothane harness like Zilco.

Step 2:Leather dries out and you may have to feed it to restore its suppleness. Use a product both you and your harness maker trust. Stay away from heavy oils and linseed products. They do not let the leather breathe and will rot the stitches. If the leather does not need treating, saddle soap will make the harness more pliable and give you a fresh base to put on a nice shine with soft cream shoe polish. Black saddle soap is really the best for black harness.

Step 3:Clean all the brass buckles meticulously. This will probably be the only time during the coming driving season that you won't be under pressure so try and do a really great job. Take a lot of time. The more elbow grease you put into it now, the easier it will be to maintain later on. Do every nook and cranny with the brass polish you like the best and then buff up with a soft cloth to a brighter lustre. Check out your polishing. If the job's not great, do it again! End off with a light coating of polish on all the buckles and LEAVE IT ON.

Step 4:Apply black or neutral creamy shoe polish sparingly on leather being careful not to pack it into the stitching. This is only a finishing coat. Penetration of the polish color is so minimal that the shine is strictly cosmetic and cannot harm or imbalance the PH level of the leather. Buff, buff, buff until you puff, puff, puff, and your harness will make you proud.

Step 5:Use a little soap and water on a damp sponge on the patent leather. Wipe off all excess water. Use a non-silicone spray product like D.C.W., Endust, or Pledge to shine the patent. Do NOT use Armor all, Vaseline, or brass polish on patent leather.

Step 6:Now you can wipe off the last layer of brass polish you put on the buckles and store your harness until ready for use. Hanging it up is really the best method of storage but you can wrap it up and keep it in a trunk as long as it is away from ammonia fumes.

Con't.....

Are You Ready For Summer Driving? Harness Cleaning....sigh.. Con't

I have listed the following items that will be of great help to you in preparation for this season's show or pleasure use. You may find your own little gadgets to work with other than the ones I have listed. Try to have these items around when you start:

1. Brass Polish (whatever you prefer)
2. Soft Cloths
3. Saddle Soap (black if possible)
4. Glycerine Saddle Soap (great for reins)
5. Shoe Polish (I like cake style)
6. Mr. Clean or Baking Soda
7. Leather Dressing (Lexol, etc.)
8. Patent Leather Polish
9. Castile Soap
10. Old White Bed Sheet (great to work on)
11. Harness hook
12. Steel Wool (cleans rusty tongs)
13. Cotton Swabs (for nooks and crannies)
14. Tooth Brush
15. Shoe Brushes
16. Bucket or Pail
17. Plastic Container (half a Javex jug)
18. Harness Blacking
19. Tack Sponges
20. Rubber Gloves
21. Work Apron



Who said winter was time off???? by Bobbie & Diablo

Here we were all ready to settle in for a long winter!

Tammy & Leanne have our barn fixed up just right .We each have our own stall. We can gaze across the barn and feast our eyes on the bales of hay stacked in the corner. Over in the feed room all the goodies are stacked up and waiting for one of the people to come along. We trot over to the door and look up with our big brown eyes and "SURE ENOUGH" they will come across with a few treats. Boy have we got them trained!!! Easier than we thought!!

After the Harvest Drive there were a few nice afternoon drives around the farm and down the roads. Just enough to get a little exercise. Then winter hit with a vengeance and "WOO HOO" there is snow everywhere. Looking good for a chance to sit back and relax!!

BUT nobody told us Tammy and Leanne have been talking behind our backs. What this thing about going in the arena and running around to get exercise??? This is our time off remember?

Walking to cool out is good BUT do we have to carry these kids around too?? It's OK for them to brush and feed us but we didn't expect payback.

What will they think of next? Oh, can you believe it there is some two wheeled cart sitting in the barn and it must be broke. It only has one shaft sticking out the front.

A day of spa treatment. Tails done up, bridle paths done, a very good brushing. Aren't we the luckiest ponies?

What's this, a different harness and why are we tied together??? Oh, can you believe this, they put that pole in between us and now we are pulling that cart. We aren't sure about this togetherness but it is a bit easier to pull when you have some help. Con't....



Who said winter was time off???? Con't.....

We sure wish Donnie and Ryan would quit plowing out the yard so there wouldn't be anywhere for us to go. Don't these people realize this is our time off??? Well, we are getting pretty good but thank goodness this cart only has a small seat. Two people max!! Usually the second is little Zoe. We are kind of liking this double thing, it is way easier. BUT "Diablo could you just slow down a bit, I can't trot as fast as you"

OH MY _____ we can't believe our eyes!! It is the cutest little hayrack. We can take a few extras now. It's going to be lots of fun for the rest of the winter. So much for time off!! As they say "No rest for the wicked"!

"Diablo it must be you. I think we will have to do a name change. From now on I will just call you "D".....

Have a nice winter everyone!!



In Memory of
Kay Harrison

There are many of you who know Harry Harrison, wheel wright, judge and fellow driver. Then you would also know his wife, Kay, who for many years was an oft seen scorer at Klondike CDEs. Sadly Kay recently passed on and we would like to send Harry our heartfelt sympathy on his loss of someone I know was not only his wife and the mother of his sons but also his best friend and staunchest supporter. Our thoughts are with you in this trying time.

The Stone Bridge Carriage Driving Club

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!



Cutter Rally Pictures from days gone by.....



Stone Bridge Driving Club List of Upcoming Events

Listed below are the upcoming events, shows and clinics. Please check on the website www.stonebridgedrivingclub.com or call the contacts below for more information.

March 12th & 13th—Bombproofing Clinic—Donalda Arena, Donalda, Ab.

A 2 day clinic to help your horse deal with new things in it's life. Cost \$80.00.

Contact Leanne McLean at 403-578-3111.

April 9th — Spring General Meeting — Innisfail Historical Society Hall

Meeting to cover important club business Potluck lunch at 11am followed by meeting and driving videos. Contact Judy Bertelsen at 403-728-3282.

April 29th—May 1st— The Mane Event— The Westerner in Red Deer, AB,

In co-operation with the Chinook Carriage Driving Club, we will have a double booth at the Mane Event. We will display carriages, harness and have videos playing and hope to revive an interest in the sport of carriage driving, whether for recreation or competition. Contact Richard Holyoak at 403 933 3706.

May 14th & 15th —Introduction to Driving and Beginners Clinic—McLean's Arena—

Coronation, AB Saturday will consist of lectures, films and demos . Driving lessons will be available on Sunday for those who want a hands on experience driving a broke horse with the help of an experienced driver. Lessons are \$20.00 each. .

Cost for Saturday — \$40.00 this includes lunch and handouts.

July 2nd & 3rd —NBH Driving Show—Bertelsen's Ranch—West of Innisfail

2 day Driving trial held under the new AEF Driving rules. These rules encourage drivers to come out to have fun and start competitive driving. The new rules are available from the AEF website. For copy's of the Levels system contact Richard Holyoak at 403-933-3706.

July 4th, 5th and 6th—François Bergeron Driving Clinic at Bertelsen's Ranch—West of

Innisfail. Clinic available for all levels. Mr. Bergeron is an ADS and a USEF licensed judge, a CDE and Pleasure show competitor and a breeder of fine Canadian Horses.

The clinic will follow immediately after the No Pitch Hitch Driving Trials. Contact Leanne McLean at 403-578-3111.

August—19th and 20th— Eagle Ridge Driving Show—Bertelsen Ranch—West of Innisfail

2 day Driving trial held under the new AEF Driving rules. These rules encourage drivers to come out to have fun and start competitive driving. The new rules are available from the AEF website. For copy's of the Levels system contact Richard Holyoak at 403-933-3706.

Stone Bridge Carriage Driving Club

Membership form 2011

Name: _____ Address: _____

Membership Type: _____ City: _____ P.C. _____

Family: _____ Single: _____ Tel: _____

New: _____ Renewal: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

What are you interested in?

Pleasure Driving: _____ Recreational Driving: _____ Competitive Driving: _____

Winter Instructional clinics: _____ Driving Clinics: _____

Membership fees:

Single Membership \$25.00

Family Membership \$35.00

Subscription to *Horses All* - Which also covers club events

Member rate: \$12.50 per year (53% saving!) _____

Are you a member of the Alberta Equestrian Federation? _____

A.E.F. number: _____ (For insurance purposes, members must belong to AEF)

What do you drive at present? _____

Tell us about your driving or equine experience: _____

*All memberships will run from now until November 2011.

*All members must be members of the Alberta Equestrian Federation

Please mail your application to: Leanne McLean,
Box 567, Coronation, AB T0C 1C0

