

## Giuseppe's Gazette ~ August 2019

Greetings from Giuseppe! We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer. We've been busy busy, busy. It was fun running cross country at our July show. **Matt, Tim** and **Gary** did a great job mowing and placing jumps. The riders had a great time, results inside.

We extend a warm welcome to **Apollo Entice**, Butler, our new adult rider, **Addisyn Fazio**, West Milford, **Arielle O'Connor**, Kinnelon and **Chad VanderGoot**, Sussex, our new junior riders. We also welcome back **Ethan Poplawski**, Franklin. Ethan joined us last year for the summer. We need to keep you in the saddle over the school year. You're making great progress!

It's wonderful to see our own **Valentina Stigler** shoeing with **Dave Vanderhoof**. One day while Val was still in high school she was watching Dave shoe. He asked her if she was interested in learning the skill. Val said yes and Dave told her to call him when she graduated. Val called and Dave took her on and says that he has never had anyone pick it up as quickly as Val has. They make a good team because both Dave and Val are perfectionists. Really good for us equines! (Hee-haw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

### August Birthdays

Our best wishes for a very happy birthday go out to Nancy Nelson (1), Ed Picard (12), Jake Delvalle (15)

### August Anniversaries

Our best wishes go out to Kathy Barrand (2000), Kimmie Coscia (2017), Tara McAdams (2017), Caprice Tanis (2017), Julie Glista (2018).

### Late Summer Calendar

8/3	#2 Summer Saturday Program	8/19	#6 Summer Program
8/5	#5 Summer Program	8/25	Cross Country Clinic
8/11	Michael Page Master Jumping Class	9/7	Oxbow Riding Club Begins
8/18	Oxbow Show (Closing Date: 8/ 8)	8/8	Michael Page Master Jumping Class
		9/15	Oxbow Show (Closing Date: 9/5)

### Congratulations!

**Megan Calkin** and Sugar travelled with **Barbara Nabors** and Loki to The Ridge Show in Asbury on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Megan gave Sugar exemplary rides, winning two blues and a red! She and Sugar competed in the Cross Rails Jumper division which included the 1) Speed class, 2) Time, first jump off class and the 3) Power and Speed class. Megan and Sugar won the championship. Way to go! That girl deserves a lot of sugar! (That's Sugar, of course! Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

### Oxbow riding Club

Can you believe that it's August and we're starting to think about the beginning of the Oxbow Riding Club, aka the Saturday Program? Time goes by when you're having so much fun with us equines! The new fall program starts on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) There's information enclosed.

### Oxbow Show

We had great weather for our show on July 14<sup>th</sup>. **Pat Piccillo** judged dressage. A big thank you to **Lisa Merrill**, our dressage scribe, **Darby Callahan**, our dressage steward and **Erin Rizzi**, our scorer. We also thank **Jo Iacono**, our show jumping judge, **Nancy Nelson**, **Melissa Sinopoli**, **Ty Tanis** and **Dave Chauvin**, our show jumping crew. We thank **Melissa Sinopoli**, our cross country start, **Gary Alibone**, **Matt Fletcher**, **Nancy Nelson**, **Marillia Tanis**, **Ty Tanis** and **Dave Chauvin**, our cross country judges. We couldn't have done it without you!

We ran a Leadline Class for our beginning riders. They had a great time and got a taste of showing in a few laid-back and relaxed way. Our Oxbow riders had a "sweep" in the Combined Test division, winning the first five places. Congratulations! The results:

#### Pre-Starter/Starter Horse Trials

1<sup>st</sup> Hallie Arias & An App for That (31.700)

2<sup>nd</sup> **Megan Calkin & Mystic Sugarwood (33.300)**

3<sup>rd</sup> **Capri Tanis & Luke (40.800)**

4<sup>th</sup> Sophia Kucinski & Ethel's a Heartbreaker (125.00)  
4<sup>th</sup> Eliminated  
5<sup>th</sup> Eliminated

Combined Tests

1<sup>st</sup> **Rachana Bhattacharya & Macaroni (32.200)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Megan Calkin & Annie (34.700)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Capri Tanis & Mariposa (38.500)**  
4<sup>th</sup> **Barbara Nabors & Loki [BN] (40.000)**  
5<sup>th</sup> **Barbara Nabors & Loki [N] (41.000)**  
6<sup>th</sup> Sandra Schwinzer & Kontraband [E] (44.000)  
7<sup>th</sup> Ceara Lambert & Fresh Prince [S] (45.700)

USEF Training Level

1<sup>st</sup> Laura Shanon & Timber [T-2] (72.000)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Shanon & Timber [T-1] (70.300)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Emily Layton & Patrick [T-2] (69.400)  
4<sup>th</sup> Emily Layton & Patrick [T-1] (69.200)

Leadline Test B

1<sup>st</sup> **Julie Glista & Chester (76.200)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Tara McAdams & Macaroni (70.600)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Aleksandra Greenwich & Kye (60.000)**

Presentation

1<sup>st</sup> **Capri Tanis & Mariposa (94)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Megan Calkin & Annie (93)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Rachana Bhattacharya & Macaroni (92)**  
4<sup>th</sup> **Julie Glista & Chester (89)**

<b>Training Tip</b>
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The following is excerpted from the US Pony Club Manual C-1 – C-2 Level.

**BETTER TRANSITIONS**

A *transition* is a change from one gait to another or from a gait to a halt. Going from a halt or a slower gait to a faster gait is an upward transition. A downward transition means going from a faster gait to a slower one or a halt

Transitions give a horse practice in adjusting his balance, or rebalancing himself and responding to your aids. They help him move better in all his gaits. However, only smooth, well-ridden transitions help a horse. Rough and sudden transitions are awkward and hard on both horse and rider.

Here are some ways to improve your horse's transitions and the way you ride them:

- Prepare for every transition. A horse needs several strides to get ready for a transition. If you are riding in a ring with dressage letters, start preparing for a transition at least one letter before the spot where you want to make a transition.
- Wake your horse up with a leg squeeze or half-halt before you ask him to change gaits. This gets him ready to respond to your aids – especially your leg and seat aids.
- When you sit up deep and tall with your feet under your seat and take a deep breath, you rebalance yourself. This helps your horse adjust his balance and get ready for a transition. Several quick half-halts, or rebalancings, in a row work better than one.
- Use several short aids, squeezing and releasing in rhythm with your horse's gait, instead of one long, hard one.
- Taking a deep breath makes your body more relaxed and supple and helps you ride transitions without stiffening up or bouncing.

## Making Square Halts

You and your horse should learn to make square, well-balanced halts, and to stand still at the halt for several seconds. This takes a good working attitude, with a calm, obedient horse that pays attention to your aids.

A good halt is always ridden *from back to front*. This means that you ask your horse to step under himself with both hind legs in order to rebalance himself as he halts. You do this by sitting deep and tall, rebalancing yourself, and stretching your spine briefly while softly closing your legs on your horse's sides. A split second later, your hands gently squeeze and resist, asking your horse to halt. You may need to repeat this sequence (seat, leg, hands, relax) several times in rhythm with your horse's gait before he learns to balance himself and halt.

A bad halt is "all in the hands." When a rider pulls or hangs on her horse's mouth, the horse first stiffens his mouth and neck, then hollows his back, braces his legs, and stops out of balance with his hind legs sprawled out behind him. He may throw his head up, open his mouth, lean on the bit, or halt crookedly. This kind of halt is even harder on a horse if his rider tries to halt quickly from a fast gait.

At this stage, you should make your halts gradually through the walk. This means that your horse takes a few steps to slow down and walks a step or two before he halts. Only quite advanced horses (and riders) are able to make smooth halts directly from the trot or the canter.

To get your horse to stand quietly at the halt, you must relax but stay in contact with him through your seat, legs and hands. Breathing out and allowing your seat to relax helps him relax and stand still. If your horse doesn't like to stand, ask him to halt for only a second; then move forward. You can work up to asking him to stand for 2 seconds, then 3 seconds and longer. Remember to stay straight and even, or he may move sideways.

A perfect halt is well balanced, straight, and square; the horse halts with front legs and hind legs lined up, and his head, neck, and back straight. Straightness is most important. Ride a straight line before and during your halt, with your eyes on a target ahead. You must be perfectly straight, with your weight balanced evenly on both seat bones, and your rein contact even, or the halt will be crooked.

Developing a straight, square halt takes time and training. You must be aware of what your horse's hind legs are doing. A horse stops with one hind leg, then the other. The last hind leg to stop is usually left behind and must take a half-step to square up. It helps to have a helper tell you which hind leg is left behind.

### Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club

We're still looking for club presentations! Remember, it's a state requirement! Please plan to give them before school starts.

*Megan Calkin*  
Reporter

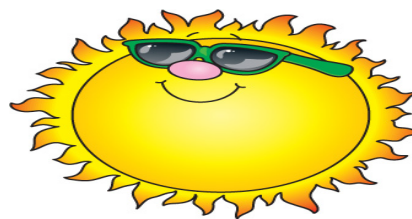
### 4-H Schedule

8/10	4-H Meeting (2:30-3:30)	8/24	4-H Meeting (2:30-3:30)
8/17	4-H Meeting (2:30-3:30)	9/21	4-H Meeting (2:30-3:30)

### Quote of The Month

The winner is always part of the answer;  
 The Loser is always part of the problem;  
 The Winner always has a program;  
 The Lower always has an excuse;  
 The Winner says, "Let me do it for you."  
 The Loser says, "That's not my job."  
 The Winner sees an answer for every problem;  
 The Loser see a problem for every answer;  
 The Winner sees a green near every sand trap;  
 The Loser sees 2 or 3 sand traps near every green;  
 The Winner says, "It may be difficult but it's possible."  
 The Loser says, "It may be possible, but it's too difficult."  
 Be a Winner! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

*HAPPY SUMMER!*





Greetings from Giuseppe! We're finally into April, so happy Spring! It's nice to have the warmer weather and you know what would make it even better? Treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We have our first show of the 2018 season on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, we can all get out to the dressage arenas before the show!

We had a wonderful evening at our annual awards dinner on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank **Lara Stigler, Melissa Sinopoli** and **Matt Fletcher** for setting everything up. A big thank you to **Erin Rizzi** for bringing back our horse! Of course, next year I want to see a statue of a donkey! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) The award recipients are listed inside.

We also had a great "Hairy Horse Dressage Show" on March 24<sup>th</sup>. **Rachana Bhattacharya** and **Nancy Just** are our riders of the month. They both won their respective classes with great scores! Congratulations!

We are looking to do a course clean-up and stadium jump painting. We're just waiting for the weather to cooperate. We'll keep you posted.

#### April Birthdays

Greetings go out to Poco (6), Philippa Bowles (10), Sugar (13), Kathy Barrand (18), Lisa Merrill (22), Lara Bowles (25), Crimson (27).

Spring Calendar			
4/14	Michael Page Clinic	5/26	Oxbow Show
4/28	Oxbow Show	6/16	Michael Page Clinic
5/12	Michael Page Clinic	6/23	Oxbow Show

#### Missing Hobbs

We're sad to find out that Hobbs has passed. He certainly was an "Oxbow fixture", walking down the "cat walk" and leaping onto Darby's tack trunk. We're comforted to know that he went very peacefully, in his sleep.

#### Sponsors

We want to thank **Nancy Just** and **Barbara Nabors** for being the first to give us a sponsorship for our program book. We appreciate your support and ask all our members to look at the different categories and if you can, please give us an ad.

#### Oxbow Annual Dinner

What a great time we all had at our annual dinner. Everyone enjoyed the great company and delicious food. The 2018-19 officers were installed: President/Reporter: Megan Calkin, Secretary/Treasurer: Capri Tanis.

Our new member, **Pola Gospodarzec** was initiated into the club. (**Julie Glista** and **Riley Simon** were unable to attend.)

Giuseppe's Gazette ❧ April 2019 ❧ 4

#### Easter Bunny needs help

We're having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Come out and help the Easter bunny hide the eggs.

## Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club

We had a great time at our annual awards dinner. It was fun discovering how well everyone did.

Since we didn't give talks at the County Presentation Nights, we need to prepare a talk for our club. We will be listening to Presentations at our April, May and June meetings.

Please get your annual dues in. Thank you!

Megan Calkin  
President / Reporter

### 4-H Schedule

4/6	Meeting	5/4	4-H Meeting
4/20	Easter Egg Hunt	5/18	4-H Meeting

### Quote of the Month

"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy."

- Rumi