

## Giuseppe's Gazette February 2020

Greetings from Giuseppe! Did you know the other “holidays” on February 14<sup>th</sup>? It is also “National Cream-Filled Chocolate Day” (of course), “Ferris Wheel Day”, “Organ Donor Day”, and “No One Eats Alone Day.” So, when you bring us treats, bring something for yourself! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) On February 16<sup>th</sup> we have “Do A Grouch a Favor Day”, the 17<sup>th</sup> is “Random Acts of Kindness Day”, the 20<sup>th</sup> is “Love Your Pet Day” and for our puppy dogs, the 23<sup>rd</sup> is “Dog Bone Day”. Of course every day is “Dog Bone Day” because the pups get fed dog bones several times every day! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We welcome our new adult rider, **Connie Pearson**, Ringwood. Connie has been volunteering at the Winslow Therapeutic Center and wanted to get in on the fun of riding. Welcome! **Lydia Mol** is our new junior rider. She has joined the Saturday Program and is enjoying the other girls and us equines! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

Freedom, **Robin Shore's** baby has an interesting ritual. After Tara works him and he comes back into the upper barn he stops to drink out of the dog water bowl. Do you think that water tastes better? (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We have a date for our “Hairy Horse Show”. It's March 1<sup>st</sup>. So come out and get a head start on the 2020 season. We also have our show dates for 2020. They are April 26<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to come out and participate as a rider and/or as a volunteer! We want you to join the fun! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

### February Birthdays

Our very best wishes go out to Christine McCabe (3), Aleksandra Greenwich (4), Jo Iacono (17), Adele Aboutok (20), Megan Calkin (22), Meghan Abdinoor (24).

### LATE Winter Calendar

2/15	Oxbow Dinner	3/19	First Day of Spring
3/1	Hairy Horse Dressage Show	4/26	Oxbow Show
3/8	Daylight Savings Time Begins		

### Hairy Horse Dressage Shows

We have a date for our Hairy Horse Dressage Show: March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our judge is **Patricia Piccillo**. So for those of you who are new to this, what are we talking about?

A **Dressage Show** is a competition where riders ride a **Dressage Test** in a dressage arena. The rider and horse perform a set pattern. A dressage test is similar to the mandatory short program in figure skating. In a particular class, everyone performs the same pattern. The horse is being judged on gaits (quality), way of going, impulsion and submission. The judge is looking to see harmony between horse and rider and balance and lightness in the horse. The rider's aids should be quiet and unobtrusive. The horse should look as if he's performing the movements on his own.

The **Introductory Tests A** and **B** are walk and trot only. The **Introductory Test C** adds a bit of canter. The next level is “**Training**.” The horse performs the walk, trot and canter. Diagonals across the arena and 20 meter circles are also asked for at the Introductory and Training levels. The levels proceed to **First**, on through **Fourth Levels**, with new movements being introduced. There are 3 tests at each level from Training through Fourth.

In Eventing, we use the Introductory Tests as well as the Eventing Tests. At the Introductory level we use the Intro. A test, at the Elementary level, the Intro. B test and at the Pre-Starter level the Intro. C test. At the Starter level we use the Beginner Novice A test. The Eventing tests are similar to the Dressage tests at Training level.

In the Intro. Tests there is an additional box under the Collective Marks. The box grades the rider on “*Geometry and Accuracy* (correct size and shape of circles and turns.)”

All the marks are added together and then divided by the total possible score to get a percentage. Of course, the higher the percentage, the better the score.

In a **Combined Test** the horse and rider perform a dressage test and then compete in show jumping. Riders will jump a stadium round. (That’s a course of jumps inside an arena). The course consists of 8 to 12 jumps. The goal is to go “clean”, that is, not to knock any rails down or have any refusals. (A refusal is where the horse and rider don’t jump the fence in the first attempt.) Each rail down is 4 penalty points. The first refusal is 4 penalty points, the second is 8 and the third is elimination. Fall of horse or rider is elimination.

Since a perfect jumping round is one where the horse has zero penalty points, the dressage score must be converted to penalty points, where the lowest score is the best. Therefore, the percentage is subtracted from a hundred in order to convert the “good” marks to “penalty points”. So, if you earn a 65% in dressage, (a good score, by the way,) we would subtract that from a hundred to get 35%. Any jumping penalties would be added. So if you earn a 35% and go “clean” your score would remain at 35%. If another rider also achieved a 35%, but dropped a rail in stadium, she would have a final score of 35 + 4 = 39%. The rider with the 35% would have the better score.

In a **Horse Trials**, a third phase is added and that is **Cross Country**. Horse and rider jump and gallop outside the ring on a “cross country” course. Originally, Eventing was a training program for the military. When we had a cavalry we needed horses that could go out and negotiate whatever they met in war.

We’ll talk more about cross country and the volunteers needed to help run a competition, so check in next month with Giuseppe, (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

**More Amazing Facts About Horses**

- 11. Horses produce approximately 10 gallons of saliva a day.
- 12. On the underside of a horse’s hoof is a triangular shaped area call the “frog,” which acts as a shock absorber for a horse’s leg, and also helps to pump blood back up the leg.
- 13. Horses’ height is measured in units known as “hands”. One hand is equal to 4 inches. The tallest horse on record was a Shire named Sampson. He was 21.2 hands (7 feet, 2 inches) tall. He was born in 1846 in Toddington Mills, England.

**Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club**

This month we have begun practicing for our roles at our annual dinner. Officers will be installed and new members will be initiated into the club. We are excited to see everyone and to recognize their accomplishments this past year.

I was reading through the book, *Horse Bits and Pieces* and found some interesting information that I wanted to share. According to the book by Sarah Widdicome, racehorses are aged from January 1<sup>st</sup>, regardless of the month they were born. Breeders aim for their foals to be born shortly after January 1<sup>st</sup>. If foals are born later than desired, they are said to be at a competitive disadvantage because their competitors are more mature.

Please get your annual dues in; they are \$35.

Kimmie Coscia, Reporter

<i>4-H Schedule</i>			
2/1	Practice for Dinner	2/15	Awards Dinner
2/8	Practice for Dinner	2/22	4-H Meeting
2/15	Practice for Dinner		

Notes from The Dalai Lama

Never give up

No matter what is going on

Never give up

Develop the heart

Too much energy in your country is spent developing the mind instead of the heart

Develop the heart,

Be compassionate

Not just to your friends but to everyone,  
be compassionate

Work for peace in your heart and in the world

Work for peace, and I say again

Never give up

No matter what is happening

No matter what is going on around you

Never give up.

- His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day