

Giuseppe's Gazette February 2020

Greetings from Giuseppe! Well, it certainly has turned colder. Of course, food helps us equines stay warm so come to the barn and bring treats! And we all know what special day is in February! St. Valentine's Day means even more treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We had a great first "Hairy Horse Dressage Show". Fabulous scores. Come out and ride or spectate at our second show on February 21st.

We've had some very busy Saturdays with our Oxbow Riding Club aka as the "Saturday Program". We have a Groupon offer and parents are excited to get their kids out and about.

We welcome *Kylie Cherilus*, Newark and *Austin Papis*, Westfield. They both tried the "Saturday Program" and decided to stay with us. Chelsea, Kylie's mom comes to pick her up and she can never find her. It's amazing the radar the kids have with cars coming down Orts Road. They all disappear! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

February Birthdays

Our very best wishes go out to Aleksandra Greenwich (4), Maya (14), Jo Iacono (17), Adele Aboutok (20) and Megan Calkin (22)

February anniversaries

Our very best wishes go out to Connie Pearson (2019).

LATE Winter Calendar

2/2	Groundhog Day	3/14	Daylight Savings Begins
2/15	Presidents' Day	3/20	Spring Begins
2/21	Hairy Horse Dressage Show	3/21	Hairy Horse Dressage Show

Interesting & Fun Dates

2/1	National Freedom Day	2/9	National Pizza Day
2/3	National Carrot Cake Day	2/12	Lincoln's Birthday
2/3	National Girls & Women in Sport Day	2/12	Chinese New Year
2/3	National Women Physicians Day	2/13	National Cheddar Day
2/4	National Homemade Soup Day	2/14	Valentine's Day
2/4	National Thank a Mail Carrier Day	2/14	National Library Lovers Day
2/5	National Wear Red Day	2/14	National Cream filled Chocolate Day
2/6	National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day	2/14-20	National Random Acts of Kindness Days
2/7	National Fettucine Alfredo Day	2/28	National Tooth Fairy Day
2/7	National Send a Card to a Friend Day		

Hairy Horse Dressage Show

We want to thank everyone who came out to our first Hairy Horse Show of the year. We had a great day on January 17th. A big thank you to our judge **Peggy Hipple**, our scribe **Philippa Bowles**, and our steward Ela **McAdams**. We also thank **Joe McAdams** for helping with ring crew. We used the small arena for the first half of the show and the standard arena for the second half.

We have some great scores to start the year off with. The Eventing score is the second score posted for the Event Tests.

USEA Event Tests

1st Sheryl Wilkins & Charlie [BN-B] (71.500) (28.500)
2nd Barbara Nabors & Loki [T-A] (70.000) (30.00)
3rd Barbara Nabors & Loki [N-A] (69.500) (30.50)
4th Sheryl Wilkins & Charlie [BN-A] (68.800) (31.12)
5th Megan Calkin & Annie [BN-A] (56.900) (43.10)

USEF Training Level

1st Melissa Sinopoli & Legacy [T-2] (73.900)
2nd Melissa Sinopoli & Legacy [T-1] (72.800)
3rd Nancy Just & Kye [T-1] (68.800)

Individual Tests

Capri Tanis & Posey [Intro C] (64.700)
Carlee Curcio & Raspotnik's Lucas [F-1] (63.100)

Competitions

We just had our first dressage show on January 17th. 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. There are letters around the arena which indicate where a specific movement is to be performed.

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.

A dressage test is divided into different movements. In the Intro A test for example, there are boxes for 9 different movements. Each box is worth 10 points. At the end of the test there are the **Collective Marks**. These are *Gaits* (Freedom and regularity); *Impulsion* (Desire to move forward with suppleness of the back and steady tempo); *Submission* (Acceptance of steady contact, attention, and confidence); *Rider's Position* (Keeping in balance with horse); *Rider's effectiveness of aids* (Correct bend and preparation of transitions).

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.) So, in the Intro A test there are a total of 15 boxes. The "Submission" box has a co-efficient of 2 so that box is worth 20 points. Each of the other boxes is 10 points each for a possible perfect score of 160 points.

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.

A score of 70% or better is considered very, very respectable.

The scores are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 10 – Excellent | 5 – Marginal |
| 9 – Very Good | 4 – Insufficient |
| 8 – Good | 3 – Fairly Bad |
| 7 – Fairly Good | 2 – Bad |
| 6 – Satisfactory | 1 – Very Bad |
| | 0 – Not performed |

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!)

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Notes from The Dalai Lama	
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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



