

# Giuseppe's Gazette March 2021

Greetings from Giuseppe! This is one of our favorite months. No, it's not because there's St. Patrick's Day and Daylight Savings Time; March 17<sup>th</sup> happens to be the birthday of our favorite staff: **Matt Fletcher**! So, bring treats for him and for us! Of course, the treats can be green: green apples, alfalfa cubes, etc. Green is a wonderful color! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) And, speaking of Daylight Savings Time, it's on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Turn your clocks forward on Saturday night so you'll be on time at the barn on Sunday!

Spring begins this month on the 20<sup>th</sup>. That's another great day to celebrate. So, remember the treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

There were some interesting equine reactions to all that snow we received. Our thanks to our wonderful staff for getting us out so quickly. We were only in for one day! **Matt, Gary, Capri, Megan** and **Philippa** all jumped in and shoveled the gates so we could go out and play. Tara let Loki out and he lunged himself – cantering around and around and around.

We have some more “Interesting & Fun Dates.” It's fascinating that you humans will talk about how we animals are so food conscious. Well, just look at all the days you have that are celebrating food! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We welcome **Lynne Larson**, Newton; our new adult rider and **Amaru Davila-Lomas**, Wantage and **Devon Dobbs**, Sparta; our new ORC members.

The weather was so lousy in February we postponed our Hairy Horse Dressage Show to **March 7<sup>th</sup>**. Come out and join us.

## March Birthdays

Birthday Wishes go out to Freedom (22), Evie (25), Matt Fletcher (17).

## March Anniversaries

Our very best wishes go out to Nancy Just (2011)

## Early Spring Calendar

3/6	ORC #4 Session	4/3	Easter Egg Hunt
3/7	Hairy Horse Dressage Show	4/4	Easter
3/14	Daylight Savings Time Begins	4/25	Oxbow Dressage Show & Combined Test
3/20	Spring Begins	5/1	ORC #5 Session
3/21	Hairy Horse Dressage Show	5/23	Oxbow Show & Horse Trials
3/27	Community Service Food Basket Items		

## Interesting & Fun Dates

March	Women's History Month	3/12	National Baked Scallops Day
3/1	Zero Discrimination Day	3/13	National Earmuff Day
3/1	World Compliment Day	3/13	National Open an Umbrella Indoors Day
3/1	National Horse Protection Day	3/14	National Potato Chip Day
3/1	National Pig Day	3/15	National Pears Helene Day
3/1	National Dadgum That's Good Day	3/17	National National Corned Beef & Cabbage Day
3/1	National Peanut Butter Lover's Day	3/18	National Sloppy Joe Day
3/2	National Banana Cream Pie Day	3/19	National Let's Laugh Day
3/3	World Wildlife Day	3/20	International Day of Happiness
3/5	National Dress in Blue Day	3/20	National Corn Dog Day

3/6	National	Oreo Cookie Day	3/21	National	Common Courtesy Day
3/9	National	Meatball Day	3/23	National	Puppy Day
3/9	National	Get Over It Day	3/23	National	Chip & Dip Day
3/11	National	Oatmeal Nut Waffles Day	3/31	National	Little Red Wagon Day
3/12	National	Plant & Flower Day			

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Kaitlin Baker**. Kaitlin works for the Navy and won the 2020 Inspirational Leader of the Year Award; the Navy & Marines Commendation Medal.

Congratulations to **Barbara Nabors** and Loki for winning the year-end Eastern States Dressage & Combined Training Association's Beginner-Novice Combined Test Award.



### Schneider's Saddlery

We have re-established our relationship with Schneider Saddlery which means we can purchase items at a discount. So, if you need something check with Tara and see if she can order it for you.

### Show Attire

With the beginning of the new show season, riders may need new attire. Here are the items that will make you "legal," and keep you from being eliminated. Our schooling shows are a bit more informal than regular "recognized" shows so it's a good introduction to showing.

**Helmet** – A black ASTM/SEI hunt cap must be worn at all times when mounted. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards. Competitors may wear a colorful hat cover cross country and a rain cover in inclement weather.

**Pants** – White or light-colored (buff, canary or tan) breeches or jodhpur pants for young children. Jodhpur pants should be worn with leather garter straps (they go around the leg at the top of the calf) and elastic foot straps (they attach to the bottom of the pants and go under the boot.) A belt is required if the pants have belt loops.

**Boots** – Field or dress boots or paddock boots. Field boots are tall boots with laces, dress boots don't. Paddock boots are short boots that are worn with half-chaps. They give the look of tall boots. The half-chaps are smooth, made of leather or leather-like material, without fringe. Black is the most acceptable color.

**Shirts** – Light colored riding shirt with neckband collar. The shirt should have sleeves so that it may be worn when jackets are waived in hot weather. Sleeveless shirts and T-shirts are not allowed. At schooling shows light-colored polo shirts are acceptable.

**Jackets** – At schooling shows jackets are not mandatory. Riders can wear sweaters or vests over their shirts. If you are purchasing a jacket, the most acceptable color is black.

Other equipment that is necessary as you move up the levels are a body protecting vest for jumping cross country and a medical armband for cross country and show jumping. (We have the medical armbands; they're \$10.)

## Oxbow riding club & 4-H

Rutgers still has not given 4-H clubs the okay to meet and conduct activities. We will keep you posted.

The Oxbow Riding Club (aka the Saturday Program) is meeting every Saturday.

## Competitions

As the weather warms up, we'll be able to focus more on more on the outside, and that means riding outside. We are planning to have our May competition a horse trials which means we will be using the cross country course.

As you drive in along Orts Road you'll see part of the cross country course on your left. There will be jumps set out, some are portable and some are permanent.

A Horse Trials includes three phases: Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country. A Horse Trials is part of the sport of Eventing. At the Olympics, Eventing is three days, with Dressage the first day, Cross Country the second day and Show Jumping the third day.

At the lower levels we run all three phases on one day. What makes Cross Country volunteer intensive is that we need a volunteer at every fence to note that the competitor negotiated the obstacle successfully. The "Fence Judge" is not judging the form of the horse or rider, just that they jumped or cleared the obstacle.

**Cross Country Scoring** is done as follows:

***Disobediencies:***

1<sup>st</sup> refusal, run-out or circle – 20 penalties

2<sup>nd</sup> refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle – 40 penalties

3<sup>rd</sup> refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle – Elimination

4<sup>th</sup> penalized disobedience on the entire course at Beginner-Novice & Novice – Elimination

***Falls:***

1<sup>st</sup> fall of competitor in which he/she lands on his/her feet and remains standing – 65 penalties (Beg.-Novice & Novice)

2<sup>nd</sup> fall of competitor – Elimination (Beg.-Novice & Novice)

1<sup>st</sup> fall of horse – Mandatory Retirement

We'll have a volunteer meeting to clarify the rules for this phase. It's not as intimidating as you might initially think.

## Quotes of the month

"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success."

- James Cameron

