



NORTHERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN HORSE CLUBS

Contact: Shelly Murphy 231-275-4122

NMAWHC Club Briefs

Don't forget to vote!

Your ballot is enclosed for the 2006 election. There are board positions as well as bylaw ammenments on the ballot. Ballot envelopes must be postmarked by November 10.

General Membership Meeting

The general membership meeting is November 18 beginning at 11:45 am at the awards banquet. Agenda items must be received by November 15, 2006.

Award Selections

Your award selections must be received by October 16, 2006. You may choose from a giftcard for eBay, Tractor Supply, Millbrook or Schneiders. View Trophy choices at regaltrophyawards.com. If you do not choose an award, you will recieve a gift card from Tractor Supply.

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Dear Membership,

Show season has come to an end for most of us and the leaves are turning color. The awards banquet is coming up and the board is busy getting things finished up for that. We are planning to hold our general membership meeting there and if you would like to be put on the agenda you must call or email me at 231-258-5424 or jleek@sbcglobal.net. We are hoping that this will help bring more members to the meeting than in the past.

I would like to wish all of the members heading to Quarter Horse Congress Good Luck!!!

Sincerely,

Jada Leek
NMAWHC President

Northwestern Michigan Fair Election November 2

The Northwestern Michigan Fair Board will be holding their Annual Meeting and Officer/Board Member Elections at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 2nd at the fire training center on Nimrod Road, located one road north of the Fairgrounds.

Currently, several persons who have an interest in promoting equine activities and who have shown their support of NMAWHC and other horse related activities are running for seats on the board. These persons include Danielle Ruiz, a member of the NMAWHC board and the organizer of the Twilight Shows held at the NW Fairgrounds; Mike Zerbe, a member of the NMAWHC Board, farrier, Equestrian team coach, 4-H leader and supporter of the horse community; Kelly Lemcool, NMAWHC member, 4-H leader, active member of the horse community and Equestrian team coach; Dan Hubble, Traverse City attorney, and Dan Wilcoxon, a Traverse City accountant, member of the horse community and parent of Equestrian team member.

This is our opportunity to show our support to these people and the horse community by voting them into office. It is our hope that they will help advance our goal to promote the equine industry at our local fair. How can you help? We encourage all of our members to become Northwestern MI Fair lifetime members, go to the November 2nd meeting and vote!! A lifetime membership is only \$25. Your lifetime membership will give you voting rights, entry each year --for the rest of your life-- into the Northwestern Michigan Fair and will allow you, through your elected board members, to promote and advance the equine industry! What could be better than that?!

How do you become a lifetime member? All you have to do is call 231-943-4150 or download the form at www.nmawhc.com. Please become a member today and we'll see you at the November 2nd Annual meeting!!

Ballot deadline November 10, 2006

Caring for your Show Clothes

A little planning will go a long way toward keeping your chaps, boots, hats, and clothing in "show shape" and will also protect the investment you've made in these items.
by Suzanne Drnec, Hobby Horse Clothing Co. Inc.

Let's tackle the care and feeding of your western wardrobe from head to toe.

Hats

First, is your western hat. Fine hats are a badge of the true horseman, cheap ones just don't hold their shape or stay good looking--but spending several hundred dollars for a topper can be intimidating. Relax, though, knowing that your hat's brim can be changed to keep up with fashion, and, with diligent care, should last for at least five years.

The biggest danger to hats is dirt--kind of a problem when you only wear the thing out in a dusty arena! Dirt invades the fibers of felt hats, not only soiling the finish but also weakening the structure of the hat itself. Invest in a good soft-bristle hat brush and use it before and after each wearing. Choose white bristles for light hats and black for dark--and don't mix them--as most felt hats have colored powders applied to smooth the finish which can be transferred by the brushes.

A baby's soft hairbrush, or natural bristle horse face brush--new of course!--can also clean your hat, but the long handle on a real hat brush makes the job easier. You can also use air from a compressor to gently lift dirt from your felt hat. Spots on felt hats can sometimes be removed or minimized by using fine sandpaper or an emery board to gently abrade away the stained top layer of felt. Commercial hat cleaning products rarely help a damaged hat: diligent dusting is the best way to keep your chapeau in tip-top shape.

For straw hats, a soft brush whisks away dirt, and small stains can be

removed with a dab of liquid soap on a soft cloth, but you'll never scrub away the natural yellowing that all straws experience over time. Consider one of the new sweat liners available for additional comfort and to prevent ring-around-your-forehead stains on straws and pale felt hats, and use tissue paper, or paper towels between sweat band and forehead if your hat's a little too big.

Handle your hat properly. Never touch the brim, but place your fingers on the decorative band to set the hat on your head and settle it into place. To remove, use your clean thumb to push up at the sweatband in the center of your forehead to pop the hat loose, then again, handle it from the band. Your hat should live on your head or in its box or carrier, but if you must set your hat down, don't place it on the brim. Put it on a clean surface upside down, on the top crease of the crown. And never set your hat on a bed--that's bad cowboy luck!

Invest in a strong hat carrier, or use shipping tape to reinforce your hat's original cardboard box. Don't wrap a plastic bag tightly around the hat, as heat and moisture can escape from the sweat band and mildew or warp the hat. Remember that heat is your hat's enemy, so never store it in a horse trailer, car, or other area that may heat up--your hat will heat warp and may be impossible to fix. For overall hat care, find a good hatter and follow their advice on cleaning and care, and don't forget that moths love to chew holes in tasty felt hats. Use mothballs if you store your felt hat for more than a month.

Clothing

Caring for show clothing: shirts, vests, blouses, jackets, blazers, and pants,

is usually a matter of using common sense and reading the manufacturer's care instructions. By the way, it's a United States law that fiber content and cleaning instructions must be attached to all garments sold in the US. Keep in mind that starch will help natural fibers, especially cotton, to repel dirt and will also keep fabrics from billowing as you ride, but starch only sticks to natural fibers--you can't starch polyester with any success.

Find and use a good dry cleaner, and don't leave show clothes dirty in your trailer show after show. Dirt abrades woven fibers and will definitely shorten the life of your clothing. If in doubt about cleaning, try the sniff test, and consider using dress shields in your clothes if you perspire heavily, you'll feel more confident and your clothes will last longer. Gentle hand-washing or spot cleaning with liquid detergent can save on cleaning bills, but again, always follow the manufacturer's instructions or ask your dry cleaner for advice for on-the-road touch ups. Invest in a good garment bag and use it to protect your show clothes between wearings.

Many of today's popular women's show clothing styles feature elaborate trims including rhinestones and leather. Buyer beware: some of these clothes cannot be safely cleaned, even by hand washing. Quality leather cleaners are few and far between, so be certain yours is reputable. Before you spend a bundle, make sure you understand the care requirements of your fabulous new outfit. Wearing clothing that can't be cleaned around horses is foolhardy, unless you can afford disposable show apparel!

Protect your show clothing by wearing a smock or lab coat over those

CONTINUED: Care and Feeding of your Show Wardrobe

beautiful-but-vulnerable pale outfits until you step into the ring, and always have a clean towel handy to dab at accidents. Try to finish all your grooming before you don your show togs, and remember that having a second outfit is good insurance just in case your horse blows his nose all over your terrific new cream-colored blouse. Keep a sewing kit in your trailer or tack box, and an assortment of safety pins, too.

Chaps

Chaps, like hats, do well if they are simply kept dust-free. Again, a soft bristle brush is great to flick off a day's worth of arena dust, and the gentle dusting attachment on a vacuum also works well, just be careful not to suck up your fringe! Always brush with the nap of the leather or Ultrasuede to avoid imbedding dirt instead of removing it.

Store your chaps folded from thigh to instep, then in half across the knee, on a thick, strong hanger. Chap and garment bags work great, as do retired pillowcases with a few stitches removed from the end seam. Store leather chaps inside out to minimize fading, and Ultrasuede right side out to keep wrinkles in the laminated top belts from becoming permanent. Remove silver conchos and buckles before cleaning, if possible, to keep tarnish from spreading onto the chaps.

Suede leather chaps can safely be machine-washed from time to time, and putting some appropriately-colored liquid dye in the wash water can help restore faded areas. Again, care for your chaps as recommended by the maker. Genuine Ultrasuede is more colorfast than leather, and machine washes beautifully.

Don't worry about cleaning your chaps until they are obviously soiled on the outside of the legs--some saddle oil will always transfer where the chaps contact the saddle, and dark leather chaps are likely to transfer their color back onto the saddle as

Moving up to age-group!

NMAWHC club rules allow members to compete in novice classes for two years before they must move up. Congratulations to the following Novice riders who are moving up into their age-groups in 2007.

Novice 18 and under
Katherine Kirby
Austin Mayer
Kelli Walagorski

Novice 19 and over
Angela Kirby
Coni Smith
Sandy Whipp

*If riding were all blue ribbons and bright lights, I would have quit long ago.
~George Morris*

well, but these areas will not show as you ride. Chaps with tooled leather tops cannot be cleaned well, even by leather care experts, so take extra care to remove arena dirt each time you put them away.

Footwear

Western boots require minimal care. Depending on the type of leather they are made from, a good polishing with cream polish and lots of elbow grease is probably all they'll require to stay lookin' good. In a hurry? You'll greatly increase the life of your boots if you store them on shoetrees, and use a pair of Christmas stockings as jaunty protective boot bags.

Take time to establish a pre- and post-show routine to inspect, repair, and clean your show wardrobe, and you'll know you're ready to show and look your best next time around. As always, invest in the best within your budget, and take care of your fine things for a winning look.

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Treasures Report

July 31 - August 29, 2006

Beginning Balance \$ 8,410.32

Expenses

Copies - Reports - Stamps \$ 10.00
Alfies- Hi Pt Bags \$ 304.22

EXPENSE TOTAL \$ 314.22

Income

Payment NSF check \$ 108.00
Check for AB Show \$ 56.00
Check - Scooter Tickets \$ 180.00
Cash Scooter tickests \$ 90.00

INCOME TOTAL \$ 434.00

Total: \$8,530.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Whipp
NMAWHC Treasurer

Northern Michigan Association of Western Horse Clubs

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2006 Board Officers

Jada Leek	231-258-5424	President
Sarah Stoops	231-218-8362	Vice President
Shelly Murphy	231-275-4122	Secretary
Sandy Whipp	231-263-5208	Treasurer
Tallie Terlaan	surly42@hotmail.com	Point Secretary

2006 Board of Directors

Deb Cochran	231-620-2067
Pam Gilbert	231-275-3849
Goldie Krassow	
Danielle Ruiz	231-409-6048
Annelise Shoemaker	231-392-6796
Mike Zerbe	231-275-6481

*When you're young and you fall off a horse,
you may break something. When you're
my age, you splatter. -Roy Rogers*



NMAWHC

C/O Shelly Murphy, Secretary
11966 Fredmar Drive
Interlochen, MI 49643

2006 General Membership Meeting

The general membership meeting will be held during the Awards Banquet November 18, 2006 at Boones Long Lake Inn in Traverse City. The meeting will begin at 11:45 during the awards banquet social time. If you have items you would like placed on the agenda, contact Jada Leek at 231-258-5424. During the meeting, the newly elected board members will be introduced.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Your election ballot is enclosed in this newsletter. The deadline for voting is November 10th. Your ballot must be postmarked by that date in order to be tallied.