

Dressage Desperados Meeting April 17, 2011

Deb called the meeting to order. In attendance were: Debbie Lindley, Kim Kolstad, Kathy Nushart, Susan Bynum, Sharon Zovod, David Zovod and Dianne Lehmann. We began with each member getting their five minutes.

DEB: She is glad that the first show is coming up and would like us all to keep in mind the mission statement of the club. She reminded us that we are here to have fun, support one another and learn new things. It was suggested that we might post our mission statement at the shows. Sharon said she would look into making it into a poster so that it is easy to read.

Deb also warned us to be very careful with our horses at the shows if they show any sign of colic. She and Kim saw a horse next to them at Westworld get bad very fast and end up having to be put down.

She also mentioned that we are being recognized by other riders now wherever we go and that we are getting favorable comments. They say we are "cool" and it's because we *do* have fun.

KATHY: She said she had nothing, but then she reminded us all that Dancer is available.

SHARON: Her mare is lame right now. She is, however, looking forward to the show and showing her off. She thinks her mare has ulcers and she's lost weight. Sharon is cutting back on the grain and is including oil. Deb said that she should ride Makana. Kathy reminded her that Dancer is available.

Sharon gave us the sad news that Kate Zovod's horse colicked and had to be put down.

KIM: She was going to talk about the tent, but we did that before the meeting was called to order. But she did say that we need to figure out some way to secure the sides so that they do not flap around in the wind. She thought it might have scared some of the horses at the last show she and Deb went to.

DIANNE: She brought her bullhorn (actually her husband's bullhorn) and said she would bring it to the shows so that the ring stewards can announce the class sponsors.

She was wondering if we should forward class sponsorship money to other shows if the class sponsored isn't ridden at the show it was paid for (does that make any sense?). It was suggested that the sponsor be contacted and given the choice of another test that *will* be ridden.

SUSAN: Said that she had nothing to add.

DAVID: He didn't get his five minutes because he arrived late. Bad boy. ☺

Then we went on to OLD BUSINESS.

We still need to sell the donated tack for the benefit of New Hope Ranch. Kathy reminded us that at the last meeting, we decided to just send the promised \$100 to New Hope. Kim mentioned that we still had not been paid for all the clothes that were purchased at the last meeting. Kim also said that J&D Tack in Chino Valley will do consignment. But if you want a cash payout, they take 50% of the selling price. If you want store credit, you get full value. It was suggested that we take store credit and assign it to New Hope Ranch. Then they can get whatever they might need directly.

Susan said she would check in Phoenix about consigning the tack and what percentages the shops might want. She also mentioned a tack trader friend on Facebook.

Kim was sorry to report that we no longer have a professional photographer for the first show. Susan said she would bring a camera. Dianne was going to bring one also to take pictures for the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

A couple of ideas for other contests that *might* interest younger riders more were put forward: boot/helmet toss and around the world.

V.C. Smith has 8 young riders that Deb thinks it would be nice to encourage to show at our shows.

Deb reminded us about Hallelujah Ranch for troubled kids run by Debbie Lindsey. We discussed offering them free classes. Then we went on to discuss a rail class named for them for free with a half price discount on the other classes, should they want to ride an actual test. It was mentioned that we don't know if the kids share horses (which would make a rail class a little trickier to organize). Deb did say that these kids take care of grooming and feeding and cleaning their horses as well as ride them.

We discussed again contacting past participants who are not members of DD and making sure they are aware of upcoming shows. David mentioned it would probably be too short of notice for #15. Deb said that Gina has the complete list. Susan and Gina are getting together for a pre-show meeting of their own on Monday, April 25th. Susan will find out about the full list then. (Reminder: Susan will be taking over all of Gina's duties after show #16.)

VOLUNTEERS FOR SHOW #15

DEB: Will set up as usual. She would like to ride in the afternoon. She said she could fill in where needed during the morning.

SHARON: She said that she can do anything all day. She is willing to do check-in and scoring. Right now she might not be riding in the show, but Kathy reminded her that Dancer is available.

GINA: She will scribe all day.

DIANNE: She would like to show in the late morning and be a ring steward in the afternoon. She will help take down.

KIM: She'll be showing Prince but is flexible about the time. She'll fill in wherever necessary.

KATHY: She is willing to do anything all day. She can also check-in and score.

SUSAN: At first she said she probably won't be showing, but we were relentless and talked her into it. She will fill in as necessary. She will also be taking photos.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

We talked about the NAC and if they could distribute our show schedule to their members and we could post theirs on our website.

Kathy reminded us (again) that Dancer is available.

Kim said she got an awesome bell for the judge. She did not bring it to show-and-tell however. ☹

The check-in person will time the contestants in the bridle assembly contest.

Someone has to get with Gina about lunch for the judge. There is one judge that is a vegetarian and it would be good if we knew who that was.

We need a judge for each of the last two shows. We all agreed that we did not want the Swedish judge. Sharon said we should get judges we respect but who will also realize it is just a schooling show. Kim reminded us that the ADA website lists all available judges. It was suggested that we try to get Beverly Rogers (please pardon any misspelling). Michele Renner was suggested as was Diane Boyce. It was decided that Susan should contact Beverly first.

Gina and Susan should see if it is possible for American Ranch to drag the arena the night before the show instead of the morning of the show. Sometimes they are still dragging it when we need to be setting up.

Deb will bring the tent.

Kathy said she'd like to have a "fun" day and do a derby. So we had to find out what a derby is. A group of riders gets together and switches horses and then you do your test (or maybe just a rail class) as usual. Main concern was suitability of the horse and competence of the rider. We'd have to lay out some ground rules first and minimum requirements.

Deb thinks a "Fun Day" would be great. Kim suggested maybe doing the awards ceremony and BBQ in conjunction. We could rent a place in Chino (sorry, I didn't get the name), there would be no judge, no regulation arena and all the tests would just be for fun. It was also mentioned that we could do group judging. It might make a really fun and casual introduction to the club for new members.

At this point, discussion trailed off and Deb closed the meeting.