

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



2008 Officers

President: Dan Morgan
Vice-President: Michelle Seaman
Treasurer: Kay Hailey
Secretary: Charlotte Martin
Publicity: Kim Morgan
Parliamentarian: Tara Best

Youth Officers

President: Sarah Seaman
Vice-President: Madison Jenkins
Secretary: Danae Best
Treasurer: Kim Hailey
Reporter: Michala Seaman

2009 Memberships:

\$15 individual membership
\$30 joint membership
\$35 family membership

BALLOT FOR JAN 10th

Listed below you will find the Ballot for the 2009 SSRC Officers.

~~~ADULT Officer Election~~~

President-
Michelle Seaman
Terry Wade

Vice President- none**

Secretary-
Charlotte Martin

Treasurer-
Kay Hailey

Publicity-
Liz Jenkins

Parlamintarian-
Tara Best

As you can see no one is running for VP**. If you would like to serve as VP for 2009, you MUST email Charlotte at carousel1093@aol.com by 5:00pm on Friday, January 9, 2009 to have your name placed into contention for this position. If no one accepts a nomination for the VP position before voting takes place at the General Membership meeting on January 10th, it will be the responsibility of the new 2009 Officers to appoint a person to this position at a later date.



ATTENTION :



SCHNEIDER'S ORDERS DUE JAN 10 !

JANUARY 10- Annual Membership Meeting- Piccadilly Cafeteria on Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA,

5:30pm to eat...meeting starts at 6 PM.

I-10 to Loop 210....over the bridge....then there's these exits....

**prion lake (at the foot of the bridge)
nelson , lake , ryan**

Ryan is the one you need....take the exit and it'll T into the feeder road and you turn left on the 2-way road. Go to Ryan St and turn right. The Piccadilly is a block or two on the left...

****Bring cash or check to pay for 2009 membership. Only CURRENT PAID MEMBERS MAY VOTE...No post-dated checks or "the check's in the mail" accepted. ****

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



From the SSRC Constitution

Article 8:

2. Vice-President- The Vice-President will assume the duties of the president in his/her absence and/or resignation, will contact appropriate help when needed and shall prepare, copy and mail the monthly newsletter.

7. In the event of a vacancy of an office other than president, the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will appoint OR ASK THE MEMBERSHIP FOR a person to fill the vacancy. NOTIFICATION OF THIS VACANCY WILL BE SENT TO MEMBERS IN THE NEWSLETTER OR POSTED AT THE SHOWS PRIOR TO THIS POSITION BEING FILLED.

YOUTH Officer Election

Youth President-
Madison Jenkins
Sarah Seaman

Youth VP-
Danae Best
Houston Jordan
Hannah Landry

Youth Secretary-
Jenna Best
Rayni Wiggins

Youth Treasurer-
Erin Donalson
Kim Hailey

Youth Reporter-
Michala Seaman

FEBRUARY 7th-

2008 SSRC Awards Banquet-
Barbe High School Cafeteria,
Lake Charles, LA,

12:00 noon

...YOUTH – FREE MODEL HORSE SHOW

ATTN: MEMBERS ! EATIN' MEETIN' !!!

We will be blessed once again with Jim Kennedy's gumbo at our awards banquet. We would like everyone to bring their favorite casserole in addition to the item that is listed by the first letter of your last name.

A – C...Bread and Casserole

D – H...Dessert and Casserole

I – M...Vegetable and Casserole

N – T...Salad and Casserole

U – Z...Drinks and Casserole

ADULT OFFICERS

Above plus napkins and cups

YOUTH OFFICERS

YOUTH OFFICERS A – M...plates

YOUTH OFFICERS N – Z...bowls

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



This is the Time

**This is the time of endings,
but of new beginnings, too.
God sends us another year and
maketh all things new.
Another hope, another chance,
another road to take.
Another star to follow,
and another start to make.
New beginnings, new adventures,
new heights to attain.
Golden opportunities to work
and to build again.
New and higher aspirations,
for the future days.
Seeking, dreaming, moving on
to bright and better ways.**

(Patience Strong)

PRESIDENT'S CORRAL

STATE OF THE CLUB

Howdy to all of you and I hope you had a WONDERFUL CHRISTmas and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I understand that you may have concerns over this year and the low amounts of award monies as compared to previous years. Please remember that each year is different and different things effect us. Here are some interesting facts that a member sent to me:

In 2006 we had 59 classes with 4,143 horses.

In 2007 we had 67 classes with a total of 3,348 horses. Down 795 horses from 2006.

In 2008 we had 62 classes and 2,593 horses. This is down 755 horses from 2007.

There are a lot of things that factor into the decrease in show attendance. The economy was low and price of gas reached its all time high this year. I know of many members that we lost because of these. At the same time as the bad economy and high gas, the prices of arenas , buckles, awards and judges went up. You may not know this, but Burton was only \$150 back when we used it! Now, West Cal and DeRidder are \$400+. Another thing to consider is the move to DeRidder for all of the shows. We lost a lot of our SouthWest LA, Southeast LA and Southeast TX members because of this. If you look at the facts above, 2006, our largest year mentioned, was all held at West Cal Arena, in Sulphur, on SUNDAYS. Judges cost more. A \$250 judge could cost the club over \$400 because of gas reimbursement! Of course, the hurricanes this year did not help us any. A lot of members turned in a \$50 contribution instead of getting a \$100 sponsorship. We had two extra shows, the warm up Feb show and the Youth show. Both of these are GREAT ideas, but could not hold their own and pay for themselves.

2009 Show Dates!

**March 28- DeRidder Arena - DeRidder
April 11- West Cal Arena - Sulphur
May 23- DeRidder Arena - DeRidder
June 27- DeRidder Arena - DeRidder
July 18- West Cal Arena - Sulphur
August 15- West Cal Arena - Sulphur
September 26- West Cal Arena - Sulphur
October 24- DeRidder Arena - DeRidder
November 14- West Cal Arena - Sulphur**

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



We also lost several members due to illness, deaths and deaths of horses. The entries in the fundraiser classes were low this year. If you want to help out, enter those WT classes! They are good for warm up and it helps the club if YOU enter!

The officers heard a lot of members not wanting to be ³nickel and dimmed² all of the time. So this year, we didn't do that. We tried to keep YOUR costs down by lowering the Grounds fee to a \$10 CAP instead of \$5 per person. We did not jack up the prices of T-shirts and we kept the prices of the cookbooks down so that we would only make a little profit and not make them too much for you to afford. We kept things low cost to YOU, the entrant.

As you can see above there are many things that did not work in our favor. When making decisions on club finances for 2009, please take all of this into consideration. We may need to look into raising fees, or making adjustments with some of our paid helpers.

I have heard ³what happened to all of the money²? The fact is, that we did not make enough money to make up for all of the increases in the costs of holding shows.

With a year with more expenses and less money taken in, we had MORE OF YOU QUALIFY for awards than any other year! So, we had to divide our winnings up more than we did in the past. This is actually a GOOD thing since so many of you did well this year!

At the beginning of the show year, we were not allocated very much start up money. Please see our financial Report for more info on that. We started the year almost in the red with a bill for cookbooks and a Pig, both due, with no money set aside for that. We were not left any start up money for our insurance policy.

With all of this said, looking back at 2008, we had a wonderful show year! There were no major problems, the shows ran smoothly and we got out early. We had no injuries and we had FUN.

I want to attach this letter that was sent to

the Officers from our former President, and founding officer, Renee Jordan:

³I just wanted to thank each of you for making SSRC so successful this year. Despite the economy, fuel costs and just general stuff you did an awesome job.

I know this time of year is "hectic" for you officers, you are a SWELL group and have done the best you could with what you had to work with.

You are welcome to share this with the Gen.Membership if you want to:

As an alumni member and past Officer of SSRC, I'd like to share some of the past with you. I know our 2008 Officers this year have had several tuff issues to overcome with the declining economy, cost of the shows, arena rents, help and on and on and on.... Each year is a NEW year and expecting the same awards each year is a touch and go situation. Several of us were here from the beginning of SSRC, Bonny, Charlotte, Mr. Jerry, Dan, Annie and several other alumni members that show up every now and then. We can tell you that this year was "blessing" in comparison to the SSRC shows 25 Years ago.

We think the arena footing is bad, hard, rocky, uneven, well in 1983 we were in an outdoor arena at Burton Coliseum just north of where the old Covered Arena stood. We held our shows rain or shine, the only time we would cancel is if lightening was present. I remember several shows that Bonny, Dan, Annie and myself showed in mud that was ankle deep and even worse in some spots in the arena. Our announcer stand was a tin hut and there were no concession stands available. As a "founding" officer I would purchase Wal Mart cups and with a Sharpie marker write 1st, 2nd, 3rd places on them for prizes and that was a "Good" show, we normally got paper certificates that were hand written with your name and placing on it. Back in those years, we only placed YEA through 3rd place, all the awards were the same, so if you got 3-2nd places, you'd get

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



three feed buckets, awards included, folding saddle stands, striped Navajo blankets, brushes, hoof picks and rain slickers. The buckles were not personalized and were the size of a "Turkey Platter".

We were happy to get these awards, and yes we were required to get a \$100 sponsorship back then too.

So when you get your prize allotment this year, remember "Back Then" and that you could have NO choice of your prizes and remember we are here to support our "horse habits" and give our youth and riders a safe, fun, family oriented horse show to participate in.³

Sincerely,
And with SSRC in my heart,
Renee Jordan
Alumni Member

I hope that you will come to our membership meeting keeping an open mind and considering all of the above. Please read over the provided financial statements prepared by Treasurer Kay Hailey, Secretary Charlotte Martin and myself.

In closing, please remember that each show year is different than the past. Each time you enter a show and pay an entry fee, you gamble on getting any of the dollar back.

You cannot compare one year to another.

Money will go up and down and it all depends on many things such as economy, show attendance and increases in costs of holding the shows. In spite of all of this low money, lets strive to keep the JOY of showing our HORSES and good SPORTSMANSHIP high. SSRC is for FAMILY FUN with HORSES.

Thanks to all of you that have sent words of support and encouragement my way this year. You will never know how much I appreciate you!

Happy Trails and GOD BLESS
Dan Morgan
2008 SSRC President

2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

It is not clear what the 2008 starting balance was. We were still paying out awards and things from 2007 in January. Starting balance left to us per email from 2007 President, Terry Wade to 2008 President, Dan Morgan:

³Funds allocated for 2008 start up -
\$400 for judge
\$400 for arena
\$175 for set up of web site²

Also, there was NO CREDIT/DEBIT card in 2008. This eliminated charges being made without the Treasurer's knowledge. The treasurer was the only one with the check book. When a purchase had to be made, or a Hotel had to be reserved, the officer would make the purchase with his or her own credit card or monies (after getting approval), then submit receipts for reimbursement. The officers were happy to wait for funds to be available before they were paid back.

2008 SSRC Treasurer Report Prepared by Kay Hailey

January 2008

There was no show. We mainly were paying people back for their 07 awards.

+\$397.32 Deposit 1/18/08 Renewed Memberships, etc

-\$300.00 LC Optomist Club Insurance Policy

- \$50.00 Shane Hailey- reimburse for transportation/gas of SSRC Trail Equipment from Terry Wade's House to the DeRidder Arena

February 2008

+\$2917.38- Warm Up Show Deposit

+\$352.00 Cookbooks sold at Banquet

+\$220.00 Cookbooks sold at Banquet

- \$400 Feb Judge Buddy Gill (\$350 FEE + Mileage + Food)

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Help Gary Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Becky Collins
- \$362.70 Award Buckles High Point Gist- Reimburse Dan Morgan
- \$52.92 Monogrammed show halters Reserve High Point- Reimburse Dan Morgan
- \$113.05 Printing Rulebooks- Reimburse Dan Morgan
- \$16.34 Printing Membership Forms, Sponsor Forms - Reimburse Dan Morgan
- \$304.00 paid for PIG for January Banquet
- \$350.00 payment installment for Cookbooks Morris Press (\$1108.05 total owed)
- \$560.00- Equine Video Creations Web Site

March 2008

- +\$2754.00 Show Deposit
- \$689.80 Judge Michael Ochetto- (\$500 Fee + .40c/mile Mileage + Food)
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Tony Collins
- \$67.21- Replace Trail Rope, Trail Mailbox, Fundraiser Gifts, Renew Subscription to Horseshowpatterns.com- Reimburse Dan Morgan

April 2008

- +\$2940.00 Show Deposit
- \$453.00 Judge Doug Saunders (\$400 Fee + .49c/mile Mileage + Food)
- \$400.00 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Sara Bercier
- \$456.05- Monthly High Point Awards Reimburse Charlotte Martin

May 2008

- +\$2915.00 Show Deposit
- \$453.00 Judge Michale Blake (\$300 Fee + .50/mile Mileage + Food)

- \$62.01 Judge Motel Room Reimburse Kay Hailey
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Sara Bercier
- \$408.05 Cookbook payment to Morris Press

May YOUTH SHOW

- +973.00 Show Deposit
- \$400.00 Arena (only charged us for one day)
- \$600.00 Judges
- \$146.58 Judge's Motel Rooms Reimburse Kay Hailey
- \$60 Table Helper
- \$359.70 T Shirts
- \$282.14 High Point Buckle Awards Gist- Reimburse Dan Morgan
- \$65.00 Other Awards Reimburse Renee Jordan

June 2008

- +\$2321.00 Show Deposit
- \$354.54 Judge Terry Antilley (\$250 Fee + .40c/mile Mileage+food)
- \$62.01 Judge Motel Room Reimburse Kay Hailey
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Amanda Seaman

July 2008

- +\$2916.00 Show Deposit
- \$405.54 Judge Tiffany Jenkins (\$200 Fee + .50/mile Mileage + food)
- \$62.01 Judge Motel Room Reimburse Kay Hailey
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Amanda Seaman
- \$96.48 Rulebooks Printing (ran out needed more)

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



-\$710.68 BeeLine Monograms - Shirts

August 2008

- +\$2967.00 Show Deposit
- +\$150 Deposit Other
- \$657.60 Judge Jeannie Young (\$400 Fee + .40c/mile Mileage+food)
- \$124.02 Judge Motel Room 2 nights Reimburse Kay Hailey
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey
- \$100 Ring Steward Kim Ebanks
- \$64.45- Fundraiser gifts, Postage, Horseshowpatterns.com renew subscription- Reimburse Dan Morgan
- \$106.28 BeeLine Monograms- additional Shirts sold
- \$688.67 Ribbon purchase Barbara Martin

September 2008

No Show Hurricane IKE

October 2008

- +\$2806.00 Show Deposit
- \$434.00 Judge Matthew T Martin (\$250.00 Fee + .40c/mile Mileage +food)
- \$62.01 Judge Motel Room Reimburse Kay Hailey
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$75 Table Heather Hailey
- \$88.56 BeeLine Monograms

November 2008

- +\$2582.00 Show Deposit
- +\$150 Deposit
- +\$250 Deposit
- +\$604.00 Deposit
- +\$112.00 Deposit Shane Hailey's Buckle
- \$770.00 Judge Sherry Haynes (\$450 Fee + .40c/mile Mileage +food + expenses)
- \$400 Arena
- \$100 Announcer Michelle Seaman
- \$100 Helper Gary Hailey
- \$100 Table Kay Hailey

- \$100 Ring Steward Kim Ebanks
- \$85.32 Table Supplies- Staple gun, staples, scissors, pens, cards,tape etc...

**Ending Balance in account as of
December 12, 2008
\$11,641.89**

I would like to state that most of Gary and my pay went back into the club for shirts, buckles, sponsors, etc... Thanks, Kay Hailey

2008 Year End Break Downs provided by Charlotte Martin

\$11,597 Beginning Balance
\$112 added back in for Shane's buckle

\$11709

- \$343 Youth Fun Fundraiser Money goes back to YOUTH (not towards award money)
- \$3769 Buckles (\$4585 total buckle order - \$816 is extra buckles and those using award money)

\$7597

- \$750 March 2009 Arena rent (\$400) / March 2009 Judge's fee (\$350) - Left for 1st 2009 show
- \$200 Banquet (\$50 janitor / \$150 food & supplies)

\$6647

- \$0.00- Special awards (All will be Donated)
- \$360 Highpoint All-Arounds (Monogrammed jackets 6 @ \$60)
- \$60 Halter Highpoints (buckle is already included in above buckles - Reserve took jacket at lower cost to save club \$)

\$6227

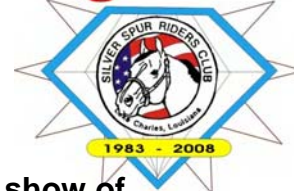
-\$6053 Money awarded to individuals

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



(includes Classes / Specialty classes /
Highpoints & Reserve highpoints)

\$175 Excess balance ³cushion² (this
includes \$87.50 that was not awarded for Sr.
Speed H/P & Res.)

NOVEMBER SHOW HIGH POINTS

PW All-around

Madison Jenkins - Sheza Star Exception

Reserve

Dani Ward - My Painted Lena

JR All-around

Hannah Landry - Miss A Pricilla

Reserve

Ariel Pauley - Zippos Jet

SR All-around

Jennifer Hughes - How Many Licks

Reserve

Karen Ross - Miss Mardi Gras Star

ENGLISH W/T Fundraiser

Ariel Pauley - Zippos Jet

WESTERN W/T Fundraiser

Jennifer Hughes - How Many Licks

FUN Fundraiser - Water Glass

Kim Morgan - Zipper Dee Max

my final registered Appaloosa show of the year (the first one I've missed in 15 years when I was in the hospital having a baby), but my family also had a Disney vacation planned starting the day after Thanksgiving. By the time we returned from Florida, Christmas preparations were upon us! I seemed to have stumbled my way through the holidays this year (Lord, I'll never plan a vacation this time off year again!).

I was able to get the points from the last show posted before I left only to find (when I got home) that the webmaster was having trouble with the file I'd sent her and had not actually gotten the sheets up onto the website for the members to view. This caused a delay in finalizing points. At least all this allowed the finances to be completed. With holiday family plans, it did take a few days for Dan & I to get together to set the amounts for awards. Due to the time frame, I decided to email Award Letters this year instead of sending them by Snail mail.

Many members have asked for a Breakdown in their placings/amounts and have also voiced a concern on the lower-than-past-year totals.

There are A Lot of factors that may have caused this - We started out in the red (due to some expenses incurred in 2007 that were not paid for until 2008), we now must Pay a webmaster to maintain our website, the extremely high cost of judges' expenses (due to the cost of gas), we lost a show (didn't have the expense, but didn't have the income), the drop in numbers (due to the economy & price of traveling) - (a large percentage of our riders pay an all day ride fee which is reflected in the entry numbers but doesn't generate income) and A Lot of members chose to pay the contribution fee instead of bring in a sponsor.

~ ~ ~ SECRETARY'S LETTER ~ ~ ~

Hi Everyone,

First off, I forgot to set a deadline date for turning in Schnieder orders - JANUARY 10.

Secondly, I'd like to apologize for the delay in getting out the SSRC Award letters. This had a lot to do with poor timing on my part. Not only did I miss the last SSRC show so that I could make

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



Dan & I set the amounts the best we could, but they are No Where Near what they were last year! The last line of IV-G on page 7 of our rulebook states that "awards will vary depending on finances available".

Here's the breakdown for individual amounts for each placing:

1st - \$71.00
2nd - \$35.50
3rd - \$25.00
4th - \$15.00
5th - \$10.00
6th - \$6.00

Class #53 did not have Full sponsorship - the breakdown for that class is based on this factor: 1st-\$15.00, 2nd-\$9.00, 3rd-\$6.00, 4th-\$4.00.

We also had to make the hard decision to follow the rulebook's statement that the class must be sponsored to received year end awards.

A set amount of \$225.00 was allotted for Highpoint and \$125.00 for Reserve Highpoint. The English, Western & Speed Highpoint amounts were based on the number of classes of each Discipline in each Age Division. Therefore, the PW amounts differ from the JR & SR amounts.

PW English (HUS, Equitation) - \$49.50 / \$27.50

JR & SR English (HUS, Dis. Rail, Equitation) - \$56.25 / \$31.25

PW Western (Showmanship, WP, Horsemanship/ Trail) - \$99.00 / \$55.00
JR & SR Western (Showmanship, WP, Dis. Rail, Horsemanship, Trail, WR) - \$112.50 / \$62.50

PW Speed (Barrels, Poles, Stakes) - \$56.25 / \$31.25

JR & SR Speed (Barrels, Poles, Stakes) - \$56.25 / \$31.25

The officers have abstained from accepting an "officer's award" this year (officers have always received a gift in small compensation for all the time they contribute toward running the club), some of our "special awards" are being donated and we've found a place that we don't have to pay for to hold the banquet - All of this is so that we could put More money toward individual awards!

I hope this helps explain some of the questions that I'm sure everyone is asking. And I certainly hope that this has not caused members from continuing to support SSRC in the future. PLEASE, consider attending the General Membership meeting set for January 10th to elect 2009 officers, change rules that aren't working, & help bring in new members.

I've been a member of Silver Spur Riders Club for (almost) it's entire existence and served as it's Secretary, off and on, probably 10 years. I've seen some tough times and some bountiful times. I've seen Lots of Changes - members have come and members have gone. Kids have Grown Up on me and moved on to Bigger show arenas (we've got quite a few World Championships that started right in OUR show pen) . I'm EXTREMELY proud of this club and hope to see it continue to grow.

Thanks for all the memories and for your support,
Charlotte D. Martin
2008 SSRC Secretary



Silver Spur Riders Club

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



TO HAVE A HORSE IN YOUR LIFE

Author Unknown

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs (and even cats), but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people - which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language.

Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses--or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



*****SUGGESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING*****

****Some suggestions have been omitted due to use of names****

Show Bill/ Arena Stuff:

For 2010, move ALL shows back to Burton if it is finished. This is a LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA CLUB. If not, take West Cal date as first Choice, then DeRidder.

Change Yearling Mares to ALL Yearlings (like weanling class) OR add a Yearling colt class. (Not fair to have Yearling colts in Stallion Class)

Have Yearling Stallions in their own class.

Put in PEE WEE English Disc Rail so they will have three English classes.

Those PeeWee WTL classes... combine with JR and make JR 18 and under so that kids who want to lope can lope. No cross entering back into WT. Reduces class list.

Make Novice HUS a WTL like the Novice WP class so it can count for points.

Remove All Speed Event Classes: 54-62.

No Speed.

Drop Speed Classes.

Get Rid of those speed events. All these classes are used for is extra points. There is no actual barrel racers or speed horses and it takes up a lot of time. That would leave room for classes that do bring in money.

Cut Speed Events.

Do away with ALL 9 Speed Events.

Remove speed events. These were the last sponsored classes

Speed events should be eliminated!!!!!!!

Do away with speed. Speed has not paid for itself in years. There is never a full class in speed. This only creates additional time, expense and sponsor issues for the club.

Do away with Speed.

Remove the Two JR Horse WT Classes (ENG 2, West 34).

Remove all Letter Classes (A, C, D & G).

Add PONY/MINI Stallion/Gelding & mare classes.

Pony/Mini halter class.

We need a PONY class for halter.

REINING!

Add Reining back in.

Put in Reining.

Add Reining back in.

Please put reining back in.

Do away with Western Riding.

Do away with Western Riding. Make part of specialty classes.

Western Riding needs to be eliminated!

Longe line rules: Change to NSBA rules. Basically, you approach the judge, stop and stand for confirmation, trot around the cone and line up. Then you longe in the order that you came in the arena...90 seconds. No chains.

Combine JR Horse WTL and SR Horse WTL and call it OPEN Western Pleasure. (like before)

Do away with JR Horse WT in Eng and Western. If a JR Horse needs WT only members can do fundraiser.

Have One Grand Champion Halter Class where all 1st place only in each halter class comes back for Grand and Reserve. Give neck ribbon for awards to be different.

Put CHAMP Halter classes back in, but add

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



those totals WITH the individual class totals (so Champ is actually BONUS point for YEA)

Give monthly High Point and Reserve to both 13 and Under Groups. WT and WTL to be fair to all kids.

Remove all Monthly High point awards. Extra Expense.

Do away with all Year End High Point awards. This takes money away from sponsored classes and 2nd-6th placers.

Keep English and Western High Point and Reserve High Point in each age division. NO SPEED.

Keep All Around and Reserve All Around in each age division.

If someone wants to compete for High Point, they need to get a \$150 sponsor to sponsor the division and prize they are riding for.

HIGH POINT AWARDS... somehow we have too much high point going on! We don't need it every show, just year end. And it would benefit the club if they charged a one time fee of \$25 to ride for high point, then at least for the all around high point year end award. Until that fee is paid no points count for high point. This fee will help make up for money lost for all day rides.

Have High point and Reserve High point Halter Horse Buckle only. (Overall of Stallions, Mares and Geldings).

Continue monthly High Point and Reserve high Point awards in each age division.

Put in rulebook judge has discretion to combine classes.

Make age groups PW 13 & U WT, JR 18 & U WTL & SR 19 & Over.

Have 4 double judged shows and three single judged shows.

Double judged shows should NOT be an option. SSRC has never been a double judged show and there should be no reason why we start

now. If a show needs to be canceled due to an emergency that should be decided upon by the officers for the betterment of the club fellowship.

Have double judged shows in Sulphur and do away with DeRidder. Charge \$100 all day ride fee + \$5 ground fee saving members \$15. Members will save on fuel, shavings, stall, RV. Club will save on arena rent, judging and workers. Example: Now shows; 1 arena \$450, Judge \$450, workers \$400, monthly cost \$1300 x 2 is \$2600. Double judged: Arena \$450, \$900 judges, \$400 workers, that show cost is \$1750. \$2600-\$1750 saves the club \$950. Would do away with May show drop in numbers because of graduation, would do away with June show drop in numbers because of APHA and PtHA world, same in November. More money in club for awards members save money can plan ahead.

Consider adding AQHA classes added to one show for a trial basis FUND raiser, this will draw in a lot of outsiders. They would need to join to be able to show and would maybe ride in SSRC classes as practice. Consider the October show, it is prior to the AQHA world show and may draw in some point chasers.

Halter first, then English, then Western.

Raise Ground FEE back to at least \$5 per person with NO CAP fee. This helps pay for the arenas.

Have an OPEN WP class and it count for high point but leave the other classes, like Novice and SR rider where we can ride both of them also. When you limit the classes we can ride you cut money from the club.

We need to add another WT class that will count for YEAR END. This is a very popular class and brings in a lot of money. The object is to make money!!!!!! You are having a horse show not a charity event.

Another suggestion for fundraiser classes. Have a WT class and pay 50% back. Example:
1-4 riders pays 1 first place 100%
5-8 riders pays 2 places 1st 60% 2nd 40%
9-12 riders pays 3 places 1st 50% 2nd 30% 3rd 20%
13-16 riders pays 4 places 1st 40%

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



2nd 30% 3rd 20% 4th 10% 17-20 riders pays 5 places 1st 30% 2nd 25% 3rd 20% 4th 15% 5th 10% 21+ riders pays 6 places 1st 28% 2nd 22% 3rd 18% 4th 14% 5th 10% 6th 8%
If you had 21 riders at \$10 each thats \$ 210 total. That's \$105 payback and \$105 to the club. 1st \$29.40, 2nd \$23.10, 3rd \$18.90, 4th \$14.70, 5th \$10.50, 6th \$8.40.

Change SR Horse WP to OPEN WP. Use only that class for High Point. Then we can ride Open, SR Rider and NOvice WP. The club makes more money and we have more classes to ride.

Due to major drop in number of entries go back to saddle series to draw people into our club.

Have practice/warm up show to start the show season.

SSRC is an open show run by SSRC/APHA rules. Not run by rules to get PAC points for select few members.

Keep Hobby Horse.

Specialty classes. A. PW WT Hunter Hack B. Open Hunter Hack, C. IDEal English, D. Ideal Western E. Western Riding, F. Reining (May, June, July, August).

Youth 4 H show. Could be done bigger better for youth. More publicity.

Re-work novice rules

SPONSOR STUFF:

Do something about sponsors. There is no reason for not getting your sponsor. This is very important. We need a more severe policy on sponsors. I don't know what it is, but it is something. Suggestion: Call names of each member who does not have a sponsor over the PA starting in June. Give Kay a list and have her remind them at every show as they sign up.

REQUIRE sponsorships be turned in before Sept show or forfeit all points.

No \$50 contribution. All members required to get a \$100 sponsor.

Contribution and sponsorship both \$100.

Sponsorships should remain \$100 per person. Donations should be removed as an option. Sponsorships should be received by the October show and no later than the November show, if the sponsor is not given all points and placing should be removed for the year. Using prize money as a means to pay the sponsor is not an option.

As far as sponsors, require all members to get a sponsor or pay \$100 which can be paid in 5 payments for the first 5 shows. If each member (not family) does not pay or find one sponsor that member will not qualify for YEAs. No exceptions. ITS NOT FAIR FOR SOME PEOPLE TO HANG BACK AND ONLY HAVE TO PAY \$50 TO GET THEIR AWARDS WHILE THE REST OF US COME UP WITH \$100 or MORE. Everyone should pay the same.

Raise sponsor FEE to \$150. Buckles cost more now!

Consider getting major sponsors like Cal Marine, Cameron State Bank, Cameron Communications, Jack Hebert, to sponsor removable signs that could be hung in the entry areas. Charge them \$250 per banner. Arenas have rules about hanging banners.

Do away with option of contribution for year end awards. Everyone should be required to get or make a sponsorship or donation. If above is voted on change sponsorship to \$75.

Budget Stuff:

Raise the all day ride fee to \$60. This may help since we have members who don't get sponsors. Then we won't be stressed out about not having enough money. Most other clubs charge more than \$55.

Establish a 3set2 yearly budget to put aside for advertising. There are only so many FREE places to advertise and we are a largely spread out club. A good place to start would be \$250 a year (around \$20 per month). Advertising is not what it was 25 years ago.

In the past two years over \$200 was spent each year on advertising for the club. This

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



should be voted on ahead of time by the members to allot a set amount to be spent per year. In the past we have done numerous ads for Free in the Market Bulletin, Quick Quarter, SET.com, these ads are viewed by the majority of the horse industry in the area.

ADD NEW NSF check policy to the 2009 Rulebook!

SSRC should NEVER HAVE A CREDIT/DEBIT CARD EVER AGAIN!!!!!!

Up class FEES to \$10 per class. All other shows have been to this price.

All Day Ride Fee is TOO LOW. It is \$55. It needs to go up. If someone rides 10 classes at the current rate of \$8 rate they are getting a \$25 discount. Maybe a \$15 discount but no less. That would make it more fair to the people who do not ride that many classes and have to pay a full price.

ALL Club decisions that affect club finances in any way should be voted on by the club membership, NOT just an officer vote.

Provide detailed expense reports monthly in each newsletter. Club members should have the right to know income and expenses on a monthly bases.

IF club finances are insufficient to pay workers, either reduce worker pay for announcer, table help and ring steward or go back to volunteers like before.

Reconsider paying extra helpers. This costs SSRC \$400 per show. With 9 shows, this is \$3600. Ask for volunteers to help with this

OTHER:

NO Pattern Books for 2009. Patterns should be brought to the show by the judge, or pulled from a pattern book the morning of the show, by the judge.

Get a closed in trailer for transporting trail and desk stuff, cones, ribbons, etc...

For 2009 banquet, have general membership meeting at the same time as banquet. Eliminates having to rent 2 places, travel twice,

etc...

Enforce all rules fairly according to rulebook, whether SSRC or AQHA. Enforce for everyone fairly.

All General Membership meetings during the year should follow the same format. Members should be allowed to bring up anything even it is tabled for a later date.

The Officers need to participate in all of the decisions made, they need to be present for voting or notified when such items are brought up. Parliamentarian should initiate the votes and secretary should receive the results. All of this should be documented by the secretary for the archives.

Any purchases by SSRC Officers (excluding ribbons, copies, office supplies) should be voted on by the officers if the amount exceeds \$100. EX: ads, prizes, decorations, food, backdrop, etc...

Publicity should be required to include in monthly newsletter what was done to bring members to the club.

Provide detailed expense reports monthly in each newsletter. Club members should have the right to know income and expenses on a monthly bases.

Judges: SSRC judges should not need to be carded judges. Texas A & M, SHSU Horse judging students need to be sought out to help save on funds. These students are all horse show participants and are very aware of what is expected to judge.

If carded judges are used the entry fees need to be increased and individual class fees should also be increased.

The members need a winter break. The youth will always vote to have a practice show, but the workers and officers need some time off. With the economy the only shows or benefit that we have should be one that is totally self-supporting.

An allotted amount needs to be set for the High Point and Res. High Points given at the shows. The quality of these should represent what

25th Year



Silver Spur Riders Club

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

25th Year



they are given for. Also the prizes should represent SSRC with Monogramming or lettering. If the quality is substandard then this should be voted out.

Give receipts for all memberships, these should be from a receipt book in triplicate, give a copy to the member and keep the others for documentation.

Get more news releases like: Times, Morning show Breakfast Bar, Tourist Bureau

Require members to donate 2 hours of work time during the show. A tablet at the table will be used to calculate the time, if they are unable to work, a proxy can work for them. This will be done in an honor system.

If a member participates in trail they should have help in the arena for set up at least twice a year. A list of available months should be posted to sign up.

If show is posted to start at 8:00... then start at 8:00!

All rules need to be enforced... not just selectively. ie 1. Dogs running loose on the grounds. 2. Horses running loose on the grounds, 3. Horses tied to the pens around or near the arena. Yet, some people have been DQ'd for wardrobe issues... dogs running loose and horses tied to the pens represent a safety issue, whereas wardrobe issues are not safety issues. See the problem?

Do something about the poor footing at both arenas.