



IDAMHC NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

Paul Hyde, President Lee Clark-Lilley, Vice President Gwynne Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer

General Meeting Minutes

Sorry...we have not held a General Meeting since the last Newsletter came out, so there are none of those typically exciting reports in this Newsletter.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the lunch break at our club's Sept. 15 ISHSA Show at Birt Arena in Nampa. Whether or not you are there to show, please do try and attend the meeting. The concession trailer will be open, so this will not be pot luck.

Along with other upcoming events, this ISHSA show is on the Events page of our club website www.idahominiaturehorses.com and it includes the show bill, listing classes and costs. We've added non-ISHSA classes for miniature Hunter and Obstacle Driving, so please come out and participate. There is a price break to pre-enter and contact information for our show secretary is on the show bill.

This September event will include a SILENT AUCTION to benefit our year end awards program. If you have any items to donate, you can bring them to the show that morning or contact Gwynne Show, Chris Phariss or Lois Cant for earlier pickup.

***4TH
Of July



Lee Clark Lilley – Middleton Parade



Gwynne Shaw and Susan Welch – Notus Parade

Lois and Bailey Cant – Notus Parade

Mini Trail Drives

On July 25, Lee Clarke Lilley, Susan Welch and I went for a trail drive at Eagle Island State Park. Boy, did we luck out on weather: it was supposed to be 98 degrees that day, but the morning started with lots of clouds and even a few showers, so between that and starting by 10:00am, we were really comfortable.

While there were cars and people in other parts of the park, we were the only ones parked at the trailhead lot, and we never saw another person until we were lounging around afterward and an Ada Co. Sheriff's Dept. officer came cruising in. He regularly checks for kids smoking pot or making out in the bushes, but had to settle for three senior ladies and some darn cute mini horses.



People and horses got sprayed, so the bugs weren't a big issue. There were lots of birds: first thing I saw was an osprey flying over the parking area and we passed a nest just a short distance down the trail. The trails were quite rocky, but it was rounded stuff rather than sharp and I was pleased to discover later that there were no chips in my guy's rather soft pinto hooves. In fact, all 3 driving horses were pintos, although that wasn't planned. Susan also ponied another young horse behind her cart for exercise (multi-tasking.)

Susan and her husband go there quite frequently and we apparently barely scratched the available trails, but did about 2 hours of driving. My horse, who pretty much lives totally a life of leisure, went from frisky to pooped by the time we went back to the trailers. All the horses did a fine job of negotiating trails, vegetation, puddles, and even an old feed barn that we drove through just for giggles.



On Thurs. Aug. 2, the same 3 of us headed to an area of private farm roads, just NW of Middleton. Being in the midst of irrigation season, we ran into some whopping trenches where water had run across the roads – plus some areas of mud. All the horses did a great job of coping with those, plus various crops (you know that song about the corn being “as high as an elephant’s eye?”), all sorts of irrigating devices spitting water on those crops, ruts in the road, farm trucks and tractors, hills, and a horse sending out greetings from a neighboring farm.

Susan brought along a neighbor girl by the name of McKenna, and she was a great helper (and picture-taker). An extra set of hands sure helps.

We stayed with the pinto driving horse theme, although Susan's was a different pinto. She also brought a (different) younger horse again to pony behind the cart.

We drove for an hour and a half, and with an early start and a nice breeze, it was really pleasant. Afterward, we made use of shade canopies to lounge and chat before heading back to do chores.

We've done these drives mid-week because those of us who wanted to do it, could. We'll keep you advised of other planned drives but if some of you working folks might like to join in, we can always flip to a weekend. We're looking at different locations to drive, plus doing some cones/obstacle work. Just contact me or Susan if you want to play.

Gwynne Shaw

Events

- Aug. 9 Payette Co. Fair Driving Show 9am-3pm, New Plymouth (see our website for entry form)
- Aug. 9 Payette Co. Fair Parade, 5pm line up/6pm start, New Plymouth (contact Susan Marler for details)
- Aug. 11 County Fair Parade, Homedale ID (contact Susan Marler for details)
- Aug. 21 Pleasure Driving at Western Idaho Fair, Boise
- Aug. 22 Obstacle Driving at Western Idaho Fair
- Aug. 25 Halter Classes at Western Idaho Fair
- Aug. 25-26 Oregon State Fair, Salem OR
- Aug. 31 TVPHC ISHSA Show, Birt Arena
- Sept. 8 Buckskin ISHSA Show, Birt Arena
- Sept.12-14 TVW Clay Maier Long Reins/Driving Clinic & Friesian Spectacular, Birt Arena, Nampa
- Sept.15 * **IDAMHC ISHSA Open Show**, Birt Arena (show bill is posted on our club website)
- Sept. 22 IQHYA ISHSA Show, Birt Arena
- Sept. 29 Mini Classes at ISHSA Double Point Show, Canyon Co. Fairgrounds, Nampa
- Oct.20 **IDAMHC HALLOWEEN HAUNTINGS Play Day**, Birt Arena
- Oct. 13-14 Renaissance Faire, Emmett ID (Contact Lee Clark Lilley)
- Oct. 27-28 TVW Pleasure Driving Show, Birt Arena
- Dec. 2 IDAMHC Year End Awards Banquet, 1-3pm, Trolley Station, Middleton
- See our website for other events . More details will be added as they become available.

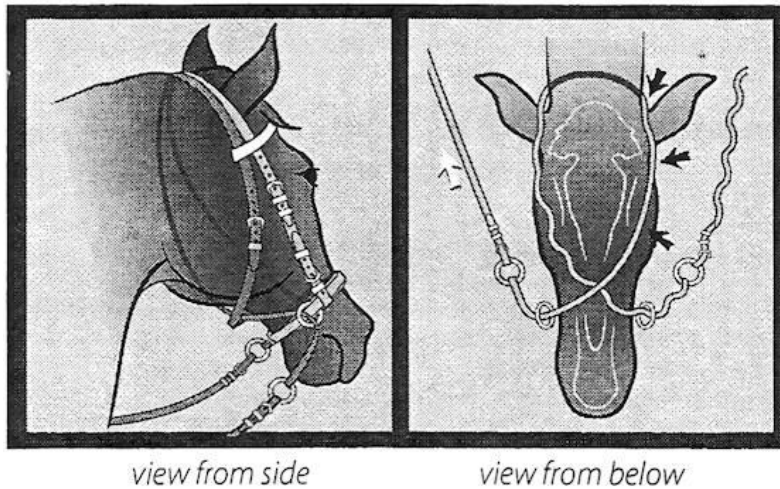
Bitless Bridles

On June 26, Gwynne Shaw and Susan Welch visited with Dale Coltrin at his farm near Melba ID. Susan had met Dale during Murphy Days when she and her husband participated in the parade there. He has a showroom set up in an outbuilding at his home with the samples of bitless bridles and printed information. Dale was also kind enough to demonstrate one for us on one of his own riding horses.

While these bridles are being used primarily by riders, there is a driving headstall also available, which looks like the illustrations shown except that it also has a chin strap and blinders. A conversion kit can be purchased to remove the blinders, if desired.

PLEASE NOTE: these devices are not a currently acceptable at breed-sanctioned shows. However, rules are amended with some frequency when membership promotes those changes, so...they could be allowed in future.

While a bit causes a horse to turn in order to relieve pressure (tweak the left rein and the horse will turn his head that direction to relieve the pressure of the bit) these devices work as the horse moves away from the pressure on the side of the bridle. Pulling the left rein creates pressure on the right side of the horse's face because the lines cross under the chin (see illustration.)



A bit (we miniature drivers most typically use a snaffle bit) creates pressure on the roof of the mouth when both reins are pulled back to signal a halt. When reins are pulled back using the bitless bridle, pressure is applied across the nose and across the poll. As with a bit, slight pressure on the reins should result in the driver being able to achieve a “head set” as the pressure across the nose causes the horse to bend at the poll.

These bridles were designed to be pain-free for the horse, resulting in a more pleasant experience for both horse and rider/driver. They are particularly good for use on horses with mouth or dental issues that make a regular bit a painful ordeal.

A bitless bridle could be a great idea for miniatures typically driven cross country or on trail drives. Susan is planning to try this out, so may have a report for us later with her personal experiences. Dale put her in touch with a lady at company headquarters in PA, and she in turn provided a contact for a person who is currently using these bridles on her driving horses.

While other bridles are available in nylon or leather also, the driving headstall for miniatures is currently available only in black beta (vinyl covered nylon with matte finish and a slight texture) which is soft and supple, and hard to distinguish from leather. Matching reins are also available, although anyone with a harness set already would likely not need those.

The driving bridle for miniatures is \$124.95.

Conversion kit to remove blinders is \$19.95

A set of reins is \$60 for 5 ft. and \$3 per additional ft.

(\$12 shipping fee applies)

Dale Coltrin 208-495-2849 Melba, ID dalecolt@q.com www.coltrunranch.com or
The Bitless Bridle www.bitlessbridle.com

Congratulations and Best Wishes

For many years, Kristi Holly was a member of our club and very active in successfully showing miniature horses to the national level. This month, she is taking the plunge into married bliss with the ceremony taking place near Pepperdine University, where she met her husband. The lady who made her horse show clothes made the dresses for attendants (probably with a bit less “bling”) and Kristi checked with little sister Madison and parents to be sure the wedding date wouldn’t conflict with any planned horse shows. How cute is that?

Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to share your miniature horse adventures with your fellow club members - whether it is in the show ring, a parade, or community event - please write up a short article with any available photos and get them to Gwynne and Gary. They will be accepted either in hard copy or via e-mail.

Advertising on Website

Items for sale (horses or other) can be added to the club website, including a photo. Items valued at \$200 or more cost \$5 (payable to IDAMHC) and those under \$200 are free. Contact Gwynne or Gary.

Member List

_Alvarez, Arlea, 7761 Murphy Rd., Melba, ID 83641 blazingminis@gmail.com
Cant, Don & Lois, 106 Barbara,,Middleton, ID 83644, 585-2211 dlcant85@msn.com
Clark- Lilley, Lee, P.O. Box 62,Emmett, ID 83617, 365-9439 Cell 447-9251 hollowtreehorses@Q.com
Drake, Karen, 290 E. 450 N. Firth, ID 83236, 785-4841 tinyacres@ida.net
Emery, Debbie, 2167 E 3800 N Filer, ID 83328, 326-3951 or 316-2223, cedarcreekminis@hotmail.com
Hackney, Cheyenne, 29255 Peckham Rd., Wilder, ID 83676, 740-4160 ckhackney@live.com
Holly, Marty, Cheryl & Madison, 4700 Heath Way Nampa, ID 83687, 466-2370 / 891-4636, mholly6795@aol.com
Hyde, Paul & Polly, P.O. Box 9 Parma, ID 83660, 674-2415 prh@hydeawayranch.com
Lilley, Earl A., 2421 Schiller Rd. Emmett, ID 83617, 365-2276
MacFarlane, Pam & Pete, 2416 S. Black Cat Rd., Kuna ID 83634, 922-1685, pete_macfarlane@hotmail.com
Marler, Susan, 31845 Hwy 95 Parma, ID 83660, 794-8280 Buggys_2000@yahoo.com
McKee-Barton, Tori, 2895 Bain Rd., Cambridge ID 83610, 989-0498 mckeearena_95@yahoo.com
Olsen, Jessie & Bradie, 564 Ridgeway Drive, Twin Falls, ID 83301, jessieo@premierinsur.com
Phariss, Chris and Mike, 2941 Fairview Drive Nyssa, OR 97913, 541-709-1785 cpmhorse@hotmail.com
Purse, Gary and Gwynne Shaw, 13226 Mike's Blvd. Caldwell, ID 83607, 585-3748 GandG@minifarmer.com
Semeling, Teresa, Shane, Colin & Bryanna, 2262 Terrace Dr., Payette ID 83661, 739-0669, teresasemeling@centurylink.net
Skura, Donna, 2352 Brandon, Star ID 83669, 898-4847/984-0072 donnaskura@yahoo.com
Stephens, Vicki, P.O. Box 5128, 4110N 2600E, Twin Falls, ID 83303, 969-0008 sharingdogs@yahoo.com
Stewart-Blakley, Linda, 850N 1250E, Richfield ID 83349, 549-1727, LNLStables@yahoo.com
Wachal, Jennifer & Jordan Seeley, 21357 Hwy 30, Filer ID 83328, 404-3942 jenngerrs@yahoo.com
Welch, Susan, 2106 E. Bentley Ave.. Meridian ID 83642, 887-6838, rawelch@cableone.net
Wing, Lynne, 1530 W. South Slope Rd., Emmett ID 83617, 365-7127/477-7133 lwing@hotmail.com