



# IDAMHC NEWSLETTER

December 2012

Lois Cant, President   Lee Clark-Lilley, Vice President   Gwynne Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer

## Minutes of IDAMHC General Meeting 12-02-12

Meeting was called to order by Lois Cant at 2:05pm at the Trolley Station in Middleton.

Sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Susan Welch, The Phariss family: Chris, Mike, Melissa & Trevor, Gwynne Shaw and Gary Purse, Pam and Pete MacFarlane, Cheyenne Hackney and her mother Wendy, Susan Marler and Mike Benoit, Lois and Don Cant, Lee Clark-Lilley, Kelsi Tackitt and her grandmother Irene, Cheryl and Madison Holly, and (guest/former member) Lou Pickel.

Motion was made by Don Cant and seconded by Susan Marler to approve Minutes from the October 20, 2012 meeting as published in the Newsletter and posted on our website. Motion passed.

A committee of Gwynne Shaw, Pam MacFarlane and Cheryl Holly opened and tallied election ballots on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Results were unanimous and the Executive Board for 2013 will be as follows:

Lois Cant, President

Lee Clark-Lilley, Vice President

Gwynne Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer

Pam MacFarlane, Director

Susan Marler and Chris Phariss will serve the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their terms as Directors

Gwynne Shaw read the Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance as of 10-20-12: \$3377.18

Credits:

\$321.00 Proceeds from Halloween

40.00 Memberships

50.00 Return of petty cash to account after Halloween

.10 Interest

\$411.10

New Balance: \$3788.28

Gwynne submitted receipts for reimbursement related to the elections, year-end awards and the banquet (plus a few misc. items) totaling \$608.80. Pam made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay that reimbursement – it was seconded by Susan Marler and passed. It was noted that, after getting the \$150 damage deposit back for the Trolley Station, the treasury balance is almost exactly where it was at this point last year.

Gwynne Shaw and Susan Welch have been working with John and Mary Munson of the Treasure Valley Whips to plan a Driving Trek event at Eagle Island State Park on May 12, 2013. It will involve a timed driving course to be executed at a

walk or trot as designated along the course, followed by a skills (obstacle) course. All equine will be sent out on the course at 5 minute intervals and then judged later on the skills. The “big horse people” will judge the small equine, and then will switch off and have the small equine people judge them, so that everyone has a chance to participate. Entry fees will be minimal and refreshments and snacks provided. More details will follow.

The club currently has April 14 and June 2 reserved for events at Birt Arena in Nampa. It was decided to again have a CLINIC DAY on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and a FUN SHOW on June 2. Members are asked to consider specifically what they would like to do on these days and present ideas at the next general meeting. It was suggested that we try to find local people outside of our club members to help us in these events and provide fresh perspective.

IDAMHC will also be doing the ISHSA Open Show Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at Birt Arena. This is our major source of funding for the year, so we ask that members lend their help in putting on a good show.

Chris Phariss suggested that we have at least a few more meetings, particularly before scheduled events so that details can be worked out.

Lois Cant has scheduled our next meeting to be Tuesday Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sunrise Café in Middleton as long as the Café can accommodate us on that date. In addition to working out details for the April and June events, the possibility of amending the year-end awards rules will be discussed. Members are encouraged to attend and bring their suggestions.

Don Cant made the motion to adjourn so we could proceed with making awards presentations, Gary Purse seconded, and the meeting ended at 2:35.



## **Year End Awards Banquet on December 2**

On Sunday, Dec. 2, club members, their family members and guests gathered at the historic Trolley Station in Middleton for our year end awards banquet and a short general meeting (see Minutes.) We had a total of 21 people in attendance.

The main course and a variety of beverages were provided by the club, while members brought pot luck salads, desserts, muffins, and veggies. Great minds must think alike: all the pies were apple - but all were different and yummy!



After the food and the meeting, winners of our year end awards were revealed and presented with gifts. They placed as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Place</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</u>
All Around Youth	Madi Holly & Nickers	Madi Holly & Zipper	Madi Holly & Jasmine
All Around Adult	Karen Drake & Dunner	Karen Drake & Mugatu	Lois Cant & Blu
Minis Just for Fun	Lois Cant & Blu	Lee Clark & Jackpot	Cheyenne Hackney & Bandolero
Best Show Horse	Karen Drake & Dunner	Karen Drake & Mugatu	Madi Holly & Nickers

As winner in the Minis Just for Fun, Lois Cant took home the traveling trophy for that category. First place winners received winter turn-out blankets, second place received nylon halters (Cheyenne Hackney had added tooled leather nosebands with gems and conchos) and matching leads, and third place got canvas hay nets. Small monetary gifts went to Lois Cant & Blu, and to Madi Holly & Melody: they had racked up beaucoup points but still ended up in 4<sup>th</sup> place in Best Show Horse and Youth. A gift card and a certificate of achievement was presented to Kelsi Tackitt who nominated in the Youth category and showed Blu and Moe belonging to the Cants.



We held a raffle for a gift basket filled with all sorts of equine products and Susan Marler was the lucky winner.



For the gift exchange, wrapped items were tagged with numbers, and then numbered tickets were drawn from a bag. A couple people drew the numbers for the gifts they brought but found someone else to swap with.

It's nice to get together once in a while without having to tend to our horses. Hopefully, everyone had a good time, received a nice gift, and had plenty to eat. Many thanks for the people who helped set up, clean up, take photos and distribute gifts.

## Trail Drives



On October 26<sup>th</sup>, our little group went for another Trail Drive at Eagle Island. Brrr! The wind made it really chilly. Susan We had 5 drivers and 6 horses including the one in tow behind Susan's cart. Under a lot of clothing were Lois Cant, Lee Clark-Lilley, Rene Gunderson and me (Gwynne). Fall colors were pretty, but after our usual hour and a half on the trails, we were ready to go get warmed up somewhere. No more worries like earlier this year when we went out early so as to finish before it got too hot.

We did a repeat the following Friday and it was SO much nicer. In fact, we were driving with no jackets on, and the horses – with their winter coats – got pretty sweaty. This time, it was Susan & Dick Welch, Lee, Rene and me, so 5 drivers and 3 more minis being ponied behind carts. Going in a different direction than the time before, we had to negotiate several gates, bridges, metal culverts, and a tree stump that a couple of horses didn't like. There were even cattle actually lying in the middle of the trail at one point. Susan took the lead and, with verbal encouragement, managed to get them moving. They probably didn't think much of the strange little horses pulling carts, anyway. Nor did a couple of horses we met out on the trail. Fence posts set up out in an open field made for a good serpentine obstacle practice. Back at the trailers, two more groups of riders came in while we were packing up - which was unusual: many times we don't see any other horses out there.

The next outing was Nov. 16 and there were only 4 of us: Lee, Rene and Samantha Gunderson(no school that day) and me. We had a great time, though. It was another warm day – almost too warm with jackets when the sun was out – and we saw lots of wildlife. There were clouds of blackbirds, geese in the pond, hawks and a big old crane that we apparently irritated, judging by the sounds he made flying away – and even a beaver! We had cattle just across the fence from the trail, and some more big riding horses that thought we were some sort of alien beings.

The more the merrier, so if anyone else would like to join us on these excursions, please let us know. We'll try to keep this up, subject to weather, of course. (More photos on our website Slideshow)



## Christmas Party in Emmett

Lee Clark-Lilley shared pictures of the annual Christmas party at Circle G Ranch in Emmett, where kids were given cart rides as well as hot drinks, cookies, and pictures with Santa. Lee drove Jackpot. Other drivers were daughter Shere, and friends Dena and Bonnie (with a POA mare.) They estimate almost 700 people were there during the day, lined up through a 5 stall barn and on outside. There were 450 toys distributed to the kids. In addition to the cart rides, there was a big horse to sit on, plus Lee's tiny mini Juliette, 4 little goats and a bunny for petting.

Kudos to Lee and Lettie Guinn (arena owner) for keeping up this holiday tradition!

## CUSHING'S DISEASE

Those of us with horses have likely heard of this equine affliction at some point, but it became personal for Gary and me this year.

Our very first mini has lived with us since he was a yearling, and will be 25 years old in March. His name (Spitfire) was obviously given to him based on personality and he was our best show horse (5 times AMHA Nationals Top Ten in Roadster, and AMHA CHAMPION designation for points in a variety of halter and performance classes.) Maturity and gelding at age 15 have done nothing to change his basic character and he continues to challenge us at every opportunity.

After this spring's initial body clipping, he looked to be somewhat worse than last year as far as muscle tone, paunchiness, sagging top line, etc. but the vet and I chalked it up to age. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> clip, he had way more hair than our other 2 horses. The next time, I did a trim on the other two but had to do another total clip on this old guy. That's when the alarm bells went off in my head.

Researching online brought no real insight. The hair issue always went back to Cushing's Disease and our horse didn't have the thick and/or wavy coat or other classic symptoms mentioned in most articles. Dr. Hardy at H Bar H in Star suggested we go ahead and test for Cushing's.

First, x-rays were done of his feet to confirm he'd never suffered laminitis, which can be brought on by the "high dose dex suppression" test (there are other testing methods, but this is currently the most conclusive.) A blood sample was

taken, followed by an injection of dexamethasone – a corticosteroid – in a dose appropriate for his body weight. 18 hours later, a 2<sup>nd</sup> blood draw was done. In a normal dose, the drug tells the pituitary glands to shut down. A Cushing's horse will continue to have high levels of cortisol. Bingo...we had a diagnosis of Spitfire being in early stages of Cushing's Disease.

Basically, this disease is an over-active pituitary gland in the brain. The gland produces hormones and other chemicals that are dispatched into the body to control various body functions. The over-active gland can swell in size and even develop tumor-like cells, pressing against the brain and causing severe neurological problems in advanced cases. This is an ugly disease that sneaks up over time. Clinical signs can include weight loss, long hair, lethargy, sweating, fevers, muscle wasting, front limb stiffness, excessive drinking/urinating, infertility, laminitis, tooth abscesses and other infections because of a compromised immune system. It is associated with older horses, but can be seen in some by age 7-8.

The most common drug used in treatment is pergolide, also used for humans with Parkinson's. It stimulates the release of dopamine, which in turn tells the pituitary to shut down. Pergolide has shown good results with few side effects. Other drugs are still in testing stages and probably cost-prohibitive for the average horse owner. The recommended diet for Cushing's horses is the same low-sugar, low-starch diet that most mini owners are used to: no grain or alfalfa, mainly grass hays, and possibly soy or beet pulp to keep weight on if the Cushing's symptoms are not too severe.

Pergolide comes in capsules, liquid or powder. We are using .5mg/day of powder mixed into a mash made with our pelleted horse feed rehydrated with water. We are using the same LMF Low Carb feed as we've used for several years. It has no molasses, no grain, low fat, high antioxidants, and is recommended for horses with Cushing's or prone to laminitis. I can't detect any odor or taste, but Spitfire can, so it needs to be thoroughly mixed into the mash.

Because we caught this disease and started treatment so early, we are hopeful our guy will have a pretty normal life and longevity. We took him to the club's play day in October and he seemed to have a great time doing obstacles, games, and even Hunter. I even tried taking him on a trail drive and he wanted to do Roadster gaits the whole time. He's obviously feeling like his usual self.

by Gwynne Shaw



## 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.

## Events

Jan. 8, 2013	IDAMHC General Meeting, 6:00pm Sunrise Café, Middleton
April 14, 2013	IDAMHC Clinic Day, Birt Arena, Nampa
April 13-14, 2013	ISHSA Double Point Show, Idaho Center, Nampa
May 12, 2013	IDAMHC Driving Trek, Eagle Islane State Park, Eagle ID
June 2, 2013	IDAMHC Sumer Celebration Show, Birt Arena, Nampa
Sept. 21, 2013	IDAMHC ISHSA Show, Birt Arena, Nampa
Oct. 19, 2013	IDAMHC Hallowed Hauntings Playday, Birt Arena, Nampa

See our website for more details.

These folks not only helped us out in a pinch when we had problems with our year end awards ordering, they also contributed lead lines at no charge with the halters we ordered to support our awards program. Check out their website and, if there are tack items you need, they will take good care of you!



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## 2013 Memberships are Due in January

Many of our members have already submitted their membership forms and dues for 2013. If you have not yet done so...NOW IS THE TIME.

Membership application forms can be printed from the FORMS page on our website [www.idahominiaturehorseclub.com](http://www.idahominiaturehorseclub.com) or requested in hard copy from Gwynne.

Your support of the club is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

## From our Newest Member

Hi, my name is Betsy Koncerak and I live in Winchester, Idaho. I was introduced to miniature horses several years ago while living in the Black Hills of South Dakota. My friend Sue had a Mini named Dillon, a red and white paint gelding with a huge forelock. Sue called him Phyllis Dillon! I borrowed Dillon so I could participate in several Parelli clinics. I drove Dillon one year in the Custer Christmas parade and dressed him as a reindeer for the parade another year. He was a sweet boy, always coming to meet me at the gate.

When we moved to Idaho a couple of years ago, I bought a young Morgan mare. I had borrowed pasture mates for her from friends, but unfortunately both of those horses went to the pastures in heaven : ( Last November my husband and I decided to buy a pal for Zeta, and that's how we came to own our first Mini. It was November 20, 2011 when we brought Lucy, a silver dapple, home from Payette. She was around seven years old, had been kept in very small pens by herself, and had not had much handling. You could tell that her halter had not been removed for quite a long time, probably because they could not catch her very easily. She was, however, a perfect little lady in the trailer on the trip north to her new home. Her feet needed care, she had worms, and a case of lice. After spending quite a bit of friendly time and winning her trust, we attended to her needs. Zeta was very happy to have a new pal, and it was fun to watch Lucy run and frolic in the pasture. It's now been a year and her trust of people has grown greatly. She likes to go for long walks, and of course doesn't want to be left behind. In June, my friend's daughter walked her in the Winchester Days parade and she did very well.

That's the story in a nutshell. I would like to introduce her to driving because I think she would enjoy it.

Whenever I take her for a walk down the road, she's always looking around with great interest. When we turn back and head toward home, she actually gets slower. I think she'd rather keep going! If she were a driving pony, we could go out for much longer. The exercise would be great for her too. Doesn't take much for a mini to gain weight! I had a Shetland driving pony when I was young, and was a member of a driving club when I lived in the Black Hills of South Dakota. I love to drive!

Here is a photo of me with Zeta, Chiara with Concho, and Emma with Lucy in the Winchester Days parade 2012.





## Member List

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### New for 2013:

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