

2014 Annual General Meeting

Friday October 24, 2014

Location: Natures Run Equestrian (775 High Point Rd, Port Perry)

President's Report:

- NHA tradeshow: interest via emails
- Certification program: many requests via email to know where natural horsemanship instructions are, and some international requests to be certified
- Play days: at Partridge Horse Hill (PHH) this year to maintain some motivation.

Member's interest:

- Certification program: interest in building program, making a formal booklet (Jesse)
- NHA tradeshow: hosting again (Jesse)
- Natural Horse Care side of things added to the program
- Clinics ((Ride into it, \$250/weekend), other natural horsemanship)
- NHA show team/ circuit
 - o Extreme Cowboy Racing
 - o Horse agility on the ground (horse show on the ground)
- Incorporating different barns

Agenda for items:

- Certification program:
 - o Booklet: similar to a riding level booklet that OEF has. Jesse will draft a booklet before Christmas. To include:
 - What is natural horsemanship?
 - Information from the website on what to do or not do
 - Agreed definition – using communication and leadership not fear and intimidation
 - Safety: on the ground and in saddle, individual vs group lessons, multiple horses in a ring, liberty, environment
 - Horse Care/Soundness Assessment: basic first aid for incidents in a lesson, or assessing a horse for soundness to be used in a lesson, tack fitting including leg wraps or boots, is the horse on the hind end or forehand, basic body scoring (conditioning - Jesse), basic horse anatomy, common lameness issues (Laura write), warm up, cool down
 - Emergency Response: suggestions for how to respond to emergency situations (falls, severe weather, fire)
 - Ground Work – what it is, why we do it, benefits, when to use, ideas of what to do, basic handling skills (how to approach, lead, pick up feet), dispelling the myth always on the left
 - Horse personality types (lazy, playful, high spirited, unpredictable) or general traits (sensitive, confident, dominant) Some do's and don'ts for each type or trait, recognizing that horses can change in the moment. (write Lindsey)

- How to read your horse – ear signals, eye signals, etc
 - How to deal with these common scenarios – the spook, won't go, won't stop, fear of an object
 - Equipment – benefits and cons to different (rope halter vs nylon, stick vs whip, bit vs bitless, shoes vs boots), knots to use and knots not to use
 - Applying ground work to saddle work
 - Basic Riding Skills – foundation before finesse (independent seat and horse balance before riding with contact) Casual to Performance, Mounting and dismounting
 - Importance of developing good rider position for harmony with your horse (Lindsey write)
 - Professionalism and Supporting Learning
 - Leadership Skills
 - Standards of natural horsemanship
 - Jumping with natural horsemanship (how to deal with refusals, etc)
 - Patterns (on the ground and under saddle)
 - Riding Exercises
 - Etiquette in arena
 - Tips for success in the show ring
- Certification:
 - Agreed to postpone revising certification questions/exam until book is done.
 - Potential for video for skills, then phone or skype for interview
 - Lesson plans for coaching
 - International people can get certified
- NHA tradeshow:
 - It will rotate between farms with an indoor arena, Jesse to host in 2015
 - It will run every year first weekend in May, will run Sunday May 3, 2015
 - Demos for natural horsemanship (horse agility, vendors, demos from trainers, etc) Lindsey to send email to vendors from before
 - Port a potties (Jesse), food vendor (Jesse)
- Natural Horse Care side of things added to the program
 - Incorporated with booklet for now
- Clinics ((Ride into it, \$250/weekend), other natural horsemanship)
 - Look for January/February date
 - Jesse to organize and come up with NHA discount/promotion
- NHA show team/ circuit
 - Extreme Cowboy Racing
 - Horse agility on the ground (horse show on the ground)
 - Circuit:
 - High Spirits, Natures Run and PHH to host a extreme cowboy & horse agility show to be part of a circuit with year-end awards (NHA to purchase year end awards)
 - Laura to look into what makes a formal extreme cowboy event (Laura to draft classes and compulsories to be in line with the cowboy organizations)

- Horse Agility (Laura to investigate if there are existing guidelines or existing ideas)
 - Jesse will look into NHA patches for purchase to add to clothing, etc
- Incorporating different barns
- Facebook page: each member here to post on NHA facebook page within next month with a NH related post.
- Website: Lindsey update (minutes, new coaches)
- Next Meeting: Friday December 12 at 5:30pm at Natures Run Equestrian (775 High Point Rd)
- Confirmed positions:
 - President: Lindsey Partridge
 - Vice President: Jesse Skof-Cassidy
 - Treasurer: Annette Forkun
 - Secretary: Laura Boyle
 - Board of Directors: James Partridge, Joeseeph Cassidy-Skof, Annette Forku, Anastasia Cameron