



EVENTFULLY YOURS NEWSLETTER

April 2010

www.albertahorsetrials.com

SPRING HAS ARRIVED!!!

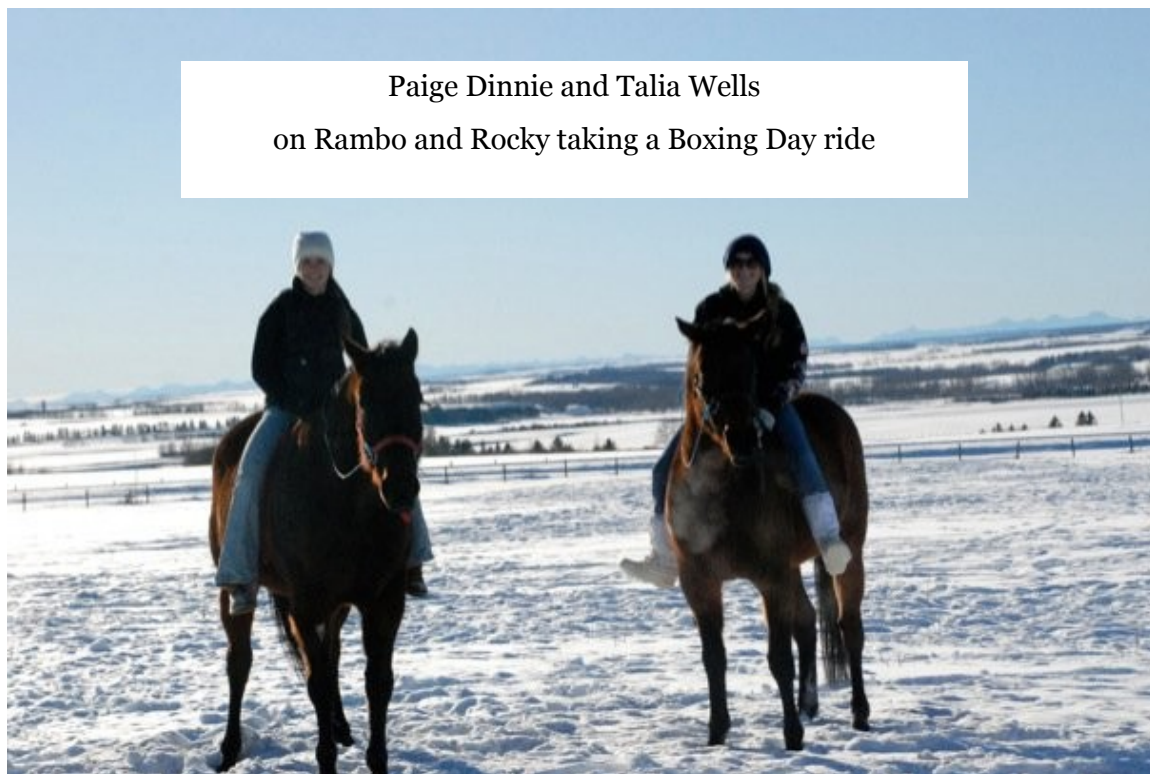
It seems like spring has been here for a while. At least at our place, it has been really warm since January and we haven't had any snow since then either. The outdoor arena is dry and my cross country fields are just about ready and I put up my stadium jumps the last week of March. I've also had my first lesson of the season.

The season looks to be a busy one with lots of clinics and events. Check out the last page of the newsletter and see what else is in store. We are looking for good quality photos for the newsletter and the website. If people could send them to myself, it would be greatly appreciated. We've got lots of great riders out there and we want to give you your fifteen minutes of fame. :)

It doesn't look like spring in this picture but at least they're getting out and riding their ponies. Kind of like the weather those lucky souls in Florida had to survive this year.

Looking forward to the season. Get your horses in shape and we'll see you out there!

Nancy Watson



Paige Dinnie and Talia Wells
on Rambo and Rocky taking a Boxing Day ride

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EVENTFULLY YOURS NEWSLETTER

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AHTA 2010 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

There have been some changes to the membership fee structure for Eventing in 2010. In previous years, your AHTA membership fee has included a Canadian Eventing membership.

In 2010, there are 2 changes to the membership structure:

The Canadian Eventing membership fee is now collected directly by Equine Canada when you buy your Sport License, required at all levels of competition.

The cost for producing and mailing the Omnibus to members will no longer be collected by the AHTA; both the fee and the responsibility for mailing the Omnibus will be covered by Equine Canada.

As a result, your AHTA membership fees will be reduced by the amount of the Canadian Eventing membership, and the cost of the Omnibus.

AHTA fees for 2010:

Seniors: \$50 (before March 31st, \$60 thereafter)

Juniors: \$40 (before March 31st, \$50 thereafter)

Family: \$100 (before March 31st, \$120 thereafter)

There are no changes to Associate or Temporary Day membership fees: \$30

Equine Canada collects your Canadian Eventing membership fee when you purchase your Sport License. Their fees are \$20 for Seniors, and \$18 for Juniors.

No "Family" memberships are offered when purchasing a Sport License.

Refer to the following table for complete membership requirements to compete in Alberta:

	For Alberta Competitions	To Participate in AHTA Sanctioned Clinics
AHTA Membership (either FULL or DAY)	YES	YES
Equine Canada Sport License (includes insurance)	YES	no
Canadian Eventing Membership (includes Omnibus)	YES	no
Alberta Equestrian Federation (includes insurance)	no	YES

AEF memberships are no longer required to compete in Alberta, as the insurance component is covered by the Equine Canada Sport License; however, an AEF membership is a requirement for AHTA sanctioned clinics (due to Capri insurance requirements).

Members of Pony Club or 4-H who take advantage of AHTA's no fee Pony Club / 4-H promotion must still meet the other requirements in the above table.

In order to cover all bases, AHTA recommends that all Eventing participants in Alberta still purchase an AEF membership, as there are numerous additional benefits from being an AEF member.

Those AHTA members who have already paid their 2010 memberships according to the 2009 fee structure will receive a rebate cheque.



BITS AND BITES

SPORTS LICENSE - CLARIFICATION

Please refer to..... Equine Canada - "Rules for Eventing" Article D301.2.8.....Bottom Line every competitor requires a sports license.....BRONZE for lower divisions inclusive of Trot-a-Trail and Pre-Entry

LATE FEE if purchased after April 1st. :(



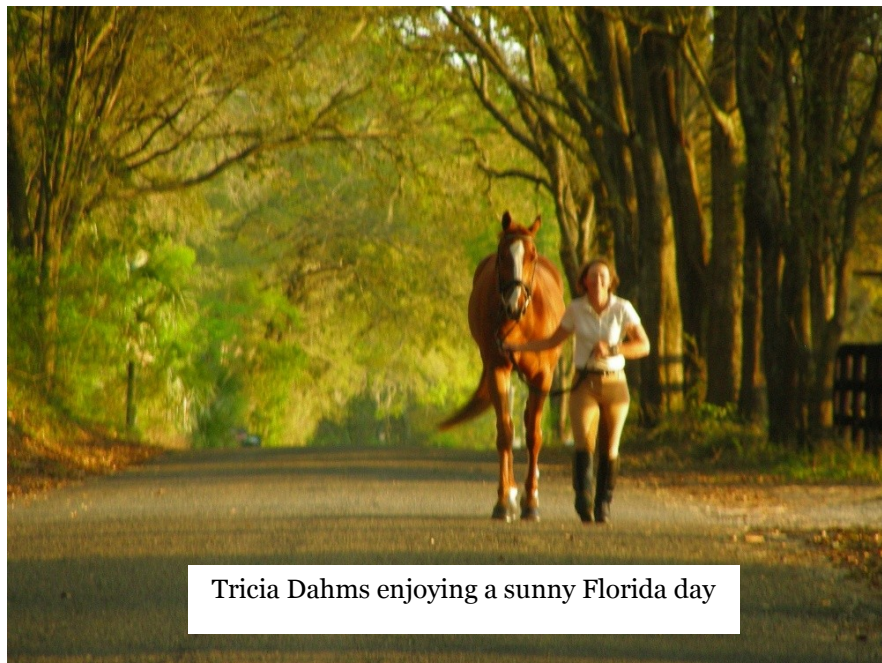
Karen Nyrop
At
Rebecca Farms
2009

PINNEYS

Pinneys are now available from each Event Organizer.

ARMBANDS

Armbands can be purchased from Equine Canada. www.equinecanada.ca



Tricia Dahms enjoying a sunny Florida day

Alberta High Performance Eventing Program 2010

The AHTA is very proud to announce that it is beginning the fourth year of the High Performance Eventing Program funded jointly through AB Sport and Rec and the AHTA. As far as we are aware, this is the only such program for eventers in Canada! The purpose of the program is to help to support and develop the top eventers in AB with regular coaching clinics with our high performance coach Lorraine Laframboise as well as a variety of other performance coaches and clinicians. This year, we have added Jody Sloper to the team, to help with goal setting and to track athlete progress.

To date, the program has offered HP members unmounted clinics dealing with their horses usually offered by Dr. Karen Nyrop (such as long hauling, fitness, conformation, common injuries), riding strategies (such as dressage exercises before competition), coaching clinics (with Jane Bartle-Wilson from the UK) and mental skills coaching. This year, we hope to focus more on the rider as an athlete.

To help to build a team, riders attend all day, watching each other ride and learning from the coach's comments throughout. We also provide lunches and usually one group supper as well. The majority of our clinics are open to anyone interested in auditing at a cost of \$25 per day which entitles the auditors to attend all riding sessions, any unmounted sessions, and the group lunch.

We started 2010 with a clinic and coaching throughout one of the first events in Florida for those lucky enough to train and compete there for the winter. Jody Sloper is available for those who are competing in California and would like her support. For those who have spent the winter in AB, our first AB winter clinic will be Apr 23-25 with Lorraine at Limited Edition Stables outside Edmonton. Lorraine will be back in AB at Cochrane the week of June 14 when we will be introducing a physiotherapist to the team.

Our major event is Rebecca Farm in Montana in July. Each year we provide a performance enhancement team for the HPs – coach, vet, human physio, equine therapist, and mental skills coach. Last year, we had 12 HPs competing at the FEI level, all of whom completed – with an incredible 10 finishing in the ribbons. We were extremely excited!

The highlight for this year is a two day clinic with Leslie Law, individual gold medalist from the Athens Games representing the UK. Leslie will be providing a two day clinic for HPs at Alhambra July 1 and 2 and then two more days for other AHTA members. Watch News Bites for the official notice and guidelines for registration after April 1!

Criteria for selection to the HP list are provided in the omnibus. Congratulations to this year's HP riders:

Sandra Donnelly	Tricia Dahms	Noel Clark	Rebecca Lee
Caroline Smith	Sarah Green	Sarah Cunningham	Talia Wells
Danielle Ziehlke	Laura Thompson	Katie Duke	Brittany Rose
Brittany desCotes	Barry Tyerman	Caroline Petty	Rebecca Farrell
Erin Hinchliffe	Joelle Baskerville	Liam Kronlund	Katelyn Ziegler
David Ziegler	Emma Irwin	Amy West	

For more information on the HP Program contact: Dawne Clark at declark@platinum.ca or Michelle Ziehlke at michellez@syban.net.

Spring Trailering Safety Tips

By Kenda Lubeck

Spring is almost here, and with it comes good weather. We're all anxious to get out of the arenas and onto the cross country courses. Now is the time to make sure your trailer will be ready when you need it.

For some of us, our trailers have been sitting idle over the winter. For others, we have hauled back and forth to arenas for clinics and such. Harsh weather and road salts take their toll on mechanical equipment, so it is wise to go over your trailer before hitting the roads for the new season. Writing down a plan and sticking to it is the safest way to make sure all problems are fixed and all areas of concern addressed.

Tires and Wheels

- Are tires in good condition? Look for bulges, slices, bare spots, worn tread.
- Rotate the tires (including balancing and properly inflating them.)
- Clean and repack wheel bearings and replace seals.
- Are the wheel lugs tight? Are they all there?

Floor and Body

- Check for floor for soft spots, rotting, splintering and corrosion. This includes the ramp if you have one.
- If you are using mats, do they fit snugly? Are they worn and need replacing?
- Check metal for rust, aluminum for corrosion.
- Check fiberglass for damage.
- Check and oil all hinges, dividers, doors, locks, and windows.
- Check all gaskets and molding to ensure good fit of windows.

Brakes and Hitch

- Clean and oil the jack stand.
- Grease the ball and the coupler.
- Inspect and service the brake drums and wheels.
- Check fluid levels and lines to hydraulic brakes.
- Do a loaded and unloaded drive test to check for even stopping.
- Inspect emergency trailer brake battery.
- Check levelness of hitched trailer.

Wiring and Suspension

- Do all the lights work?
- Is the wiring intact, clean and secured?
- Grease the springs, shackles if appropriate.
- Check shock absorbers and bushings.
- Tighten up the axle bolts.

Safety Equipment

- Is your first aid kit complete?
- Is your truck and trailer safety kit complete?
- Do you have extra halters and lead ropes?

Now before you go out on the road this spring with a horse in tow, be familiar and confident with all aspects of your truck and trailer.

If you are a first time trailer hauler, practice driving the combination before you ever put a horse in it. Backing a trailer can seem intimidating, but it really isn't too hard if you know the secret: Put your hand on the bottom of the steering wheel and turn it in the direction you want the back of the trailer to go. If you want the trailer to move sharply, turn the wheel before you move the vehicle. If you want to turn more gradually, turn the wheel as the vehicle is moving.

If you are only hauling one horse, put the horse on the driver's side. If you are hauling more than one horse, put the heavier one on the driver's side. Roads are usually crowned higher in the middle so putting the heavier load on this side will help balance the trailer.

Before you leave for each trip, take the time to check over the rig. Remember, it's much easier to prevent the problem than to fix it – particularly for safety's sake.

- Check the tow vehicle.
- Check and replenish engine fluid levels and wiper fluid. Towing puts extra stress on the radiator, brakes, and transmission so make sure everything is in top working order.
- Make sure the ball on the tow vehicle is the correct size for the trailer. (Pretty standard, really, but worth saying...)
- Check tire pressure in the tires of the tow vehicle and the trailer. Improper tire pressure is one of the most common reasons for trailer sway.
- Check lug nuts on the wheels. Wheel nuts and bolts should be torqued before first road use on a new trailer and after each wheel removal.
- Check over your hitch, coupler, breakaway brake battery, and safety chains. Make sure all lights and the brakes are working properly before you load the horses.
- When the horses are loaded make sure all doors are latched properly and horses are tied.
- Drive down the driveway and before you drive onto the road, get out and check your hitch assembly again. Take a look at the horses too, to make sure they're good to go.

Use a lower gear when traveling up or down steep grades. On long grades, downshift the transmission and slow to 70 km/h or less to reduce the possibility of overheating.

Always consider the horses in the trailer. Give them time to prepare for stops. Don't accelerate quickly, and make sure the trailer has cleared the turn, straightened out, and the horses have regained their balance before you return to normal speed. Travel over bumpy roads carefully.

If you hear or feel anything that isn't normal, stop and check it out.

Carry an automobile emergency kit with you and a first aid kit for both humans and horses.

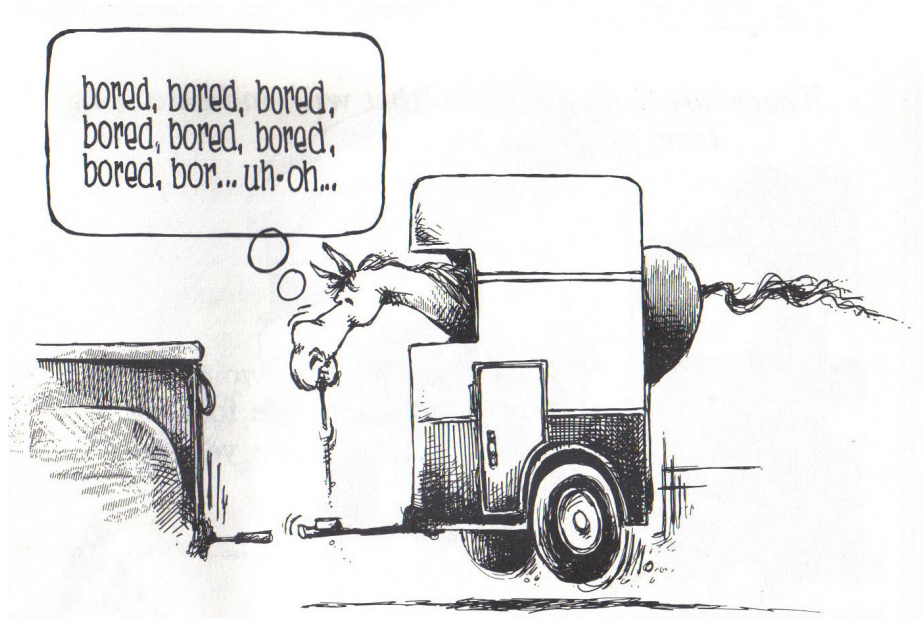
Carry a cell phone.

Remember that if you have an accident and you become incapacitated for one reason or another, the emergency personnel and police will most likely not have a clue how to handle your horses. In a visible place in your tow vehicle and/or trailer, put a list of emergency numbers for them to call - your veterinarian, friends, or family members who would be able to help make decisions about your horses.

References:

Horse Trailer Safety Tips, The Ultimate Horse Site, http://www.ultimatehorsesite.com/articles/staples_horsetrailersafety.html

Safety on the Road – Horse Trailer Hauling Tips, About.com: Horses, <http://horses.about.com/od/basiccare/a/trailersaftey.html>



Volunteer Job Descriptions

By Julian Parker

Stadium Timer

- is responsible to the Stadium Judge
- attends a briefing, given usually by Stadium Judge, to learn the specifics of the role
- operates a stopwatch
- observes and times horse/rider combination through the start and finish flags
- communicates with the Stadium Judge and operates the stopwatch according to instruction during each round, should there be an unusual occurrence

Stadium timers need the following:

- stopwatches
- clipboard/ paper/order of go/writing material
- radio
- seat/chair
- waterproofing

They should be prepared to:

- get wet/hot/ bitten
- attend very carefully
- filter out extraneous stimuli
- operate a stopwatch and radio
- follow instructions
- remain calm in moments of anxiety
- be able to round up partial seconds to whole seconds
- be able to turn minutes into seconds and seconds into minutes



Jump Judge X Country

- is responsible to the Technical Delegate
- attends a briefing that explains judging procedures
- completes various forms including: jump judge sheet, accident report
- judges horses/riders at designated jump(s)
- controls spectators (if asked)
- communicates by radio to control
- assists riders (only in manner prescribed by TD)
- stops horse/rider (if asked by control)

Jump judges need the following:

- a pack sack
- writing equipment
- waterproofing (for self and paper)
- seat/chair
- radio
- food/drink
- papers and clipboard
- a watch.

They should be prepared to:

- get wet/ hot/bitten
- walk
- be lonely
- act independently
- make judgments
- write or draw what took place when unsure of a decision
- use radio
- follow instructions
- help rider (when asked, under certain conditions).

Greetings from Florida

Hello to all of my fellow AHTA members. I hope your winter has gone well. From the sounds of weather reports we have been getting it certainly has been a mild winter (except for the occasional 40 below!).

I have spent the past three months having a Florida adventure. Joe and I travelled down right after Christmas—once again we felt obliged to contribute to the Kentucky economy on the trip, having to spend time in lovely Oak Grove getting an alternator replaced on the motor home. I had decided to press onward, as Joe was only supposed to be 4 or 5 hours behind me. However, upon firing up the diesel engine (the compartment of which is at the BACK of the bus, of course), a shoe escaped the closet, and fell into the engine space where it promptly took out the radiator fan. Oh happy day—Joe was stuck in Oak Grove for 3 more days, while a fan was procured and installed. So I arrived on Sunday, January 3rd, travelling from Kentucky solo and Joe arrived the following Wednesday. Barry and Lee-Anne Tyerman got here a couple of days later, and we commenced getting our little spot of heaven all set up, before the rest of the folks pulled in.

Tricia Dahms, her working student, April Jaworski and client, Jordan Laughlin arrived a few days after and the barn started to hum again with regular horse activity. The Ziehlke family pulled in shortly after, and the end of January saw Becky Lee and Erin Hinchliffe drive thru the gates, as well as Ted Harvey.

The winter has been cooler than most, with a fair share of rain. (I rode my first two dressage tests in pounding rain, which was not fun—but got great test scores, so perhaps I should hope for more precipitation in Alberta this summer!)

Everyone got busy preparing for various competitions around the Ocala area, and into Georgia. Cross country courses here are outstanding—we were able to school many places. Longwood, where the U.S. event team trains is particularly beautiful. Ozzy and I did three events in total, winning a couple, but had a very different result for the third. On a very blustery day, he decided to slam on the brakes and whirl at a particularly scary fence on course, and dumped my on my arse. Humbling sport...tho he certainly could be a candidate for reining....At any rate, we have learned a ton, and had a great experience. Competitors often number over 500 at any given competition, with upper level divisions often having 30 or 40 riders in them. Some competitions even just start at prelim and go up.

Today is pack up day, and we head out for the long trek home tomorrow morning. Assuming all goes well, we will be pulling into Rhiannon farm sometime Wednesday afternoon. We have certainly once again enjoyed the southern hospitality and had great fun with all of our Alberta friends stabling here at Meadowview. I am looking forward to seeing all the grandchildren, and getting prepared for a busy Alberta eventing season which starts the end of May. I hope everyone has been busy booking and attending AHTA clinics—I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Happy riding!

Margo Gaglione



Margo and Ozzy at their Florida haven

Treasurers Report for the Year ending December 31, 2009

I am writing this report to keep the membership informed of our financial standings for the year 2009. I was absent during the 2009 AGM so no treasurers report was given.

Some highlights for the year:

The Alberta Horse Trials Association realized a profit of approximately \$4,300 for the year. Our budget for the year was a profit of \$375 so we exceeded our expectations for the year.

Historically we have provided our members with funding to travel outside our province in order to attend upper level competitions. In 2009 we were able to pay this money out twice in the year to a total of \$9,250.

The association helped out the event sites with ambulance costs of \$1,000 per event plus continued the annual funding support of course development. Since the AHTA first started helping event sites financially in 1998 we have granted organizers a total of \$283,900 towards course improvements.

The board of AHTA made a decision 2 years ago to start collecting rider levies to be used towards year end awards. In the past year we were able to pay back to our riders, over \$8,000 in cash and prizes. The association also paid out another \$1,000 in cash to members who upgraded to prelim level for the first time or qualified for our show jump and dressage bonus awards.

I believe we had a very successful 2009 year and look forward to the same for 2010. Please if you would like more information please contact me at dsswan@gpnet.ca

Sheilah Swanberg
AHTA Treasurer



Barry Tyerman and Cory at
Red Hills Horse Trials in Tallahassee, Florida

2010 Calendar of Competitions

May 29-30 Alhambra Spring Event
 June 5-6 Beaumont Horse Trials
 June 26-27 Cochrane Horse Trials
 July 9-11 Thompson Country Horse Trials
 August 20-22 Alhambra Summer Event
 Sept. 4-5 South Peace Horse Trials
 Sept. 18-19 Alhambra Fall Event*
 (*Provincial Championships)
 July 22-25, 2010—Rebecca Farm, Montana



Sarah Green on Wondaree Penelope at Rebecca Farms

CLINICS

April 2-4 (Easter Weekend) Dale Irwin Clinic (Edmonton Area) Dressage and Jumping. Contact Linda Cowherd (Choney) at pchoney@telusplanet.net or 780-459-9771.

April 6-7 Show Jumping and Cross Country Skills Clinics with Sandra Donnelly at Alborak Stables (Calgary area). \$150.00 for 2 days. For more information call Alborak Stable at (403)932-4819.

May 14-16 Ice Breaker Clinic with Becky Lee, Christina Seidel, Amy West at Alhambra (Red Deer). Contact Amy West at aim_19@hotmail.com Home: 403-843-4709 Cell: 780-781-0371

May 15-16 Clinic and Derby with Kathy Playdon and Billi Solverson at Beaumont Ag Society (Beaumont). Stadium and cross country clinic on the 15th, Derby on the 16th. Contact Anita Ostapek at aostapek@rogers.com

May 22-24 Spring Fever Cross Country Camp with Tricia Dahms at Thompson Country Pony Club (Rocky Mountain House). Contact Tricia at tricia@sandridgestables.ca

June 19-20 AHTA Eventing Clinic (Alhambra Stables, Red Deer) Dressage, jumping and cross country. Noel Clark, Kathy Playdon and Kathy Wayne are the instructors. Contact Linda Cowherd (Choney) at pchoney@telusplanet.net or 780-459-9771

July 31-August 1 AHTA Eventing Clinic (Alhambra Stables, Red Deer) Dressage, jumping and cross country. Instructors to be announced. Contact Linda Cowherd (Choney) at pchoney@telusplanet.net or 780-459-9771.

August 31—Sept. 2 South Peace Developmental Clinic (before the event) (Grande Prairie) Cross country clinic. Contact Dorothy Russell at dorothy@evergreen-energy.com.

DERBIES

June 19th Mind's Eye Ranch (Riviere Qui Barre, AB) 10 am

August 7th Divisions: Pre-entry, Entry, Pre-training and Training
 Show jumping course, straight into a shortened but technical cross-country course, with pace and optimum time. Penalties will be incurred according to EC rules (with exception of the rider fall amendment)

For entry forms e-mail mer@cruzinternet.com or call Monica at 780-668-0845.

First round \$50...optional 2nd round \$25

Results will be tallied – best of both rounds or whatever applies.

Prize money to 3rd place.