

Winnies and Nickers

Pretty Pony Pastures

October 2010

Volume 5 Issue 7

Awards Celebration and Cook-Off!

It's time to acknowledge the progress our riders have made over the year and the support of our wonderful volunteers.

The festivities will begin at 2:00 pm in the arena. There should be plenty of parking, but if we run out of gravel parking space, the grass is always available.

Please bring a dish to pass. There will be hot coffee and hot water for tea, hot chocolate and apple cider. Otherwise, please bring you own non-alcoholic beverage.

This year we are having a

Salad Cook-off!

Yes, salad doesn't have to be a side dish. It can be fruity, fishy, meaty, veggie, or just plain fun! Bring your favorite salad. We'll be the judge as to who makes the best salad around.

Rules to enter the Cook-off:

Dish **MUST** be considered a salad—if you call it a salad, it's a salad. Just add your special mix that make it yours the best salad ever.

Entry Fee: \$10.00

Prize: 50% of the entry fee

Judging Fee: \$1.00—one ticket



If you have come to our awards/cook-off in the past, then you know that there is a "secret" judge among the guests. The judge will select the best salad...the payoff...everyone who voted for that salad wins a prize!

(Secret to winning—vote for every salad!)

Calendar of Events

October 16—Annual Awards Celebration—2:00 pm Potluck lunch—awards for all riders. Details to come.

November 12-14—Novi Equestrian Expo—See bulletin board for more information

November 25-28—Thanksgiving Weekend—*closed*—Enjoy the turkey!

December 24-January 1—Christmas holidays—*closed*. Classes resume Sunday, January 2nd weather permitting.

Welcome!

We have new riders and volunteers in our program.

Nate Willard and Charlie Girardot are riding on Sunday morning. Welcome to our riding family!

Our new volunteers are Arika Kujawa and Mikayla Zimmerman. Both young ladies are with us on Sunday. We look forward to working with you!

Congratulations!

Ritchie Ragnone has been nominated to be an ambassador in the People to People Program. He will be going to Australia this summer for two weeks. Ritchie rode with us until this summer. His brother, Robbie, rides and Sunday morning and his mom, Cortney, does our shirts. Congratulations, Ritchie. This will be a great adventure for you!

Check Writing—Please make checks out to **Pretty Pony Pastures**. Please use BLACK or BLUE ink especially if you have a *pretty* background on your check. My Credit Union is very picky about this...something about scanning or imaging the checks.

~Thank you!



Pretty Pony Pastures

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Helmet Information

The helmets that the rider's wear are designed and engineered for equestrian sports. But no helmet lasts forever! Please check the manufacture date on your rider's helmet. If the date is *earlier* than 2006, than you or your rider needs a new helmet.

Helmets are designed to last about **five years**. The material degrades over time, making the helmet unsuitable for the protection it is suppose to provide. Over the next month, I will be checking helmet manufacture dates. Helmets can make a good Christmas gift, too.

Also, if you do not know how to adjust the helmet or how it should fit on the head, see me. There was a helmet guideline in the yellow New Rider packet that every rider should have received. I can provide another one if you did not receive it. Helmets will not protect the head if they do not fit properly. This means that girls cannot wear pony tails under the helmet. If I cannot see your eyebrows, the helmet is too big; If I see more than one inch of forehead, the helmet is too small.

We need to be sure we are protecting the rider's head.



October Birthdays

The following volunteer has birthdays in October—

- Nancy Starr

Wishing you a happy birthday and a great year.



Wanted –Program Aids and Ambassadors!

We want to welcome Caitlin Maloney and Emily Kinser as our new Program Aids! Both young ladies have been riding with us for a number of years and are eager to share their knowledge of horses with others.

We are still in need of **more** Program Aids. Program Aids must be at least 12 years old—10 if they have riding experience here and demonstrate that they are capable during their ride times. We would like to offer this opportunity to our riders and volunteers before announcing it to the public.

Program Aids assist with scout troops, birthday parties, or other groups when the activity and your schedule match. Most of the time this would be a Saturday afternoon. You might be asked to lead a horse or work a station where the participants could groom a horse, learn about horse food, clean a stall, weigh and measure a horse, or some other horse-related activity. Adults as well as our young riders can participate as a Program Aid.

Program Aids will also earn **5 Butter Bucks** for every 1 1/2 hour program session. You can use these Bucks to purchase items from our “store” or as payment for the clinics or “camps” that we offer. Butter Bucks are transferable, so if you are an adult, you could earn the summer camp week for your young rider.

You would be contacted at least two weeks ahead of time, opportunities are also posted on the white board near the arena entrance.



Ambassadors represent the programs at Pretty Pony Pastures at different expos or conferences. We have been contacted by different groups to set up a table and tell their organization more about our programs.

Ambassadors must be adults, although a young rider could accompany a parent to one of these events. Ambassadors must have a good understanding of *all* the programs that are offered here. You will be provided with brochures, hand-outs, literature and a lap top with a continuous slide show. You need to bring a smile.

Please contact me if you are willing to help in either capacity.

Need Fertilizer?

Get next year's black gold now, while the weather is still nice!

Last year some of you were disappointed when the manure man cleared out the hill beside our arena. The solution...bring your buckets or bags **NOW** and put it in a corner of your garden. It will decompose over the winter, then, when the first days of spring come (and they will), you will have your fertilizer all ready to be tilled into the ground.

Don't be disappointed! Stock up now! One person reported tomato plants over 8 feet tall by using our “secret” formula!

Yes, this sunflower has a 13” diameter!

Get the jump now!

Get a bountiful garden in 2011!

