

Minutes from Tri-State Riding Club Meeting 10/15/2020

Present – Judy Brescia, Pat Brescia, Liz Shockley, Ashley Russell, Peggy Niescuir, Jean Reimers, Hila Wever, Elaine Meilahn, Susan Payne, Diane Hutchinson, Biddie Lowry, Suzanne Desaix.

Speaker - Allison Reed did a wonderful presentation on Working Equitation and how trainers of all styles can utilize it in their instruction and training. Following are some excerpts from her “Spotlight” in the NOVAWE website - Allison Reed, owner of Bella Vita Stables, trainer and Working Equitation (WE) clinician is based in Catharpin, VA. She has worked closely with the Northern Virginia Working Equitation (NOVAWE) organization since its inception to establish and promote the sport throughout the region. With 18 years professional training experience, her expertise is composed of her insightful knowledge of horse and human physiology and biomechanics, as well as equine psychology, which has resulted in teaching methods and instruction that improve the mental, physical, and overall communication between horse and rider. Reed prescribes to Working Equitation as a sport that offers opportunities to challenge, motivate, and improve skills and performance for horses and riders at all levels. She says that regardless of breed or discipline (from dressage horses to eventers to jumpers to trail horses, etc.) she readily identifies gaps between training and performance and is successful using WE practices to improve performance. “Working Equitation obstacles can highlight any balance or imbalance between horse and rider,” stated Reed. “Course obstacles require collection, impulsion, suppleness, and rhythm, familiar to most riders across disciplines. Horse and rider can learn corrections while working through the course which can improve overall performance,” she explained. “Besides WE is so much fun for both horse and rider,” she added. For more information about NOVAWE, membership, and events, visit www.novawe.org.

Club highlights – Several members had success at the Area II Eventer Championships – Ashley Russell was Champion Adult Rider, Judith Lafleur had a personal best in dressage and was 5th Adult Rider. Biddie Lowry placed 3rd overall at BES CC JPR. MaryAnn Beverly, Sally Mann, Mimi Ernst and Diane Hutchinson all did well in their age groups at the BES CC JPR too. Laura Guilladeau placed at the top in recent Working Equitation show. Paula Horne has been doing extremely well with her home bred palomino.

Lessons – the club has purchased a CeeCoach radio system for the Western Program. Susan reports that Cattle Drive’s once a month have been a big hit with members. The working equitation and general western lessons are also well attended. Hampton Hills Farm has invited the club to utilize their indoor arena for the winter lessons. The program will continue through the winter as long as there is interest. Please let Susan Payne (spayne2310@gmail.com) know best times/days if the current ones preclude you from being involved.

English Program has been modified recently due to less interest in jumping lessons and cross country. The program will continue through the winter as long as there is interest. Please let Judy Brescia(judybrescia95@gmail.com) know best times/days if the current ones preclude you from being involved. Also what type of lessons most interest you. We will be looking for a riding director for the English program soon. If you have an interest or know someone, please contact Elaine Meilahn(elaine.meilahn@gmail.com)

Our next meeting will be on Thursday November 19th at Another Turn Tack. Come shop around 6pm. Meeting starts at 7pm. Bring your own snacks and chair. We will have no shared snacks/drinks this year. Elections – Nominations are being accepted for the positions of President and Treasurer. Our club officers hold positions for two years. If you are interested in running for office or want to nominate someone please contact Hila Wever(hila.wever@gmail.com). We will also be discussing our year end donations. If you have suggestions, let Ashley Russell(Ashley@truliberty.com) know.

Hila Wever won the free lesson drawing this month. Congratulations!