



NEWS



In the news...

Aerial Photo of Homer

Renee has an aerial photo of the Homer area that needs to be returned to the City of Homer Trails Committee. If you have any trails you ride on regularly, please contact Renee at 235-8567 so your trail can be drawn on the photo. The City of Homer would like to know the trails we are currently using to ride our horses on.

Newsletter Input

We want to make this YOUR newsletter, with information and ideas that **you** are interested in.

We are asking for your input and ideas on how to make it more informative and interesting.

Also, as a member you may advertise your business for free and place classified ads for free in each and every newsletter.

Send info by **email:**

Sabrina: westernak@yahoo.com

Sandy: arndtfarm@gmail.com

(or any Newsletter Committee member & they'll get it to us)

snail mail:

KBEA: PO Box 21, Homer

Sandy: PO Box 1477, Homer

telephone:

Sabrina: 235-5900

Renee: 235-8567

or drop it off:

Renee @ HEA

Memberships

Membership dues for 2007 were due by January 31, so if you haven't renewed, please do so as soon as possible. (Most memberships expired at the end of December 2006). In order to keep your membership - with all the benefits - and receive the newsletter, please complete the enclosed form and mail it today! The new Directory will be made soon and we would like everyone possible to be included in it. We now have 80 members!!

New Members to be added to address, phone and email books:

Todd, Edward & Janice 235-7049
61940 E. Skyline Drive
Homer, AK 99603
jeptodd@acsalaska.net

Fund Raising

Coming in April...

Contra-Dance/Auction

Fund-raiser

more news later...

Possible future fundraiser:

An invitation has been mailed to Garth Brooks requesting a possible fund-raising concert to be given in Anchorage.

hopefully, more news later...

"How Do I Donate?"

Total needed: \$200,000.00
Raised so far: 24,747.50
Total still needed: \$175,252.50



4-H Club in Homer!

Club name is "Jolly Ranchers" and we would love for you to join us. In addition to other projects, this year there will be a horse project. If there are any kids out there who would like to join the Jolly Ranchers 4-H you are invited to come the general meeting at the Kachemak Community Center on East End Rd. on February 20th at 6:00 pm. We also have a Horse Project group that meets regularly. If you can't make it to the meeting, but would like to join the horse project you can call Donna @ 226-2256.

If any of you adults out there have a special skill you would like to share with kids in 4-H or need more information, please call Jeanie @ 235-4888. You don't have to be a parent to be a leader and it's fun.

Information please...

Winter Horse Care

Dr. Jennifer Bando, DVM

There are a variety of aspects of health care and husbandry that should be considered during the cold winter months to ensure a healthy horse. Things to consider include hoof care, water, shelter and feeding management.

Maintenance of the hooves is an extremely important aspect of health care during the winter. It is just as important to maintain your horse's Farrier schedule during the winter as it is during the summer months in order to prevent foot problems. It may be advisable to remove shoes completely during the winter if your horse is not ridden at this time of year. This may provide greater traction on slippery, icy surfaces, as well as prevent snow from balling up on the bottom of the foot.

Providing adequate water from a reliable, non-frozen water source is an extremely important consideration during the freezing winter temperatures. Snow is not an adequate substitute for water and will not provide them with enough hydration. An average-sized horse would have to consume ten times its water requirement in snow to meet its needs. Horses will also avoid drinking water that is too cold, so try to maintain your water source at approximately 65 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. A horse that does not drink enough water risks dehydration, impaction and subsequent colic. Adequate water also helps to maintain your

horse's appetite and digestive function.

Horses are extremely hardy animals and are naturally outdoors all year round. They are able to tolerate very cold weather, as long as they have access to shelter to protect them from the elements. Horses kept in a shelter can conserve up to 20% more body heat than horses kept in an exposed area. A three-sided shed is suitable protection from the wind and snow. If you choose to stable your horses during the winter, ensure that there is adequate ventilation to decrease the risk of respiratory disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (commonly known as heaves).

A basic review of energy exchange in the horse will explain why certain management practices are necessary during cold weather. Heat or energy balance is the difference between heat loss and heat gain over time. If a horse gains more heat (energy) over time than what he loses, he will gain weight. If a horse loses more heat over time than what he gains, he will lose weight.

During the winter, the major source of heat loss is body heat to the environment. The major source of heat gain is in the form of energy through feed. Horses will lose weight if they do not eat enough energy to offset the heat lost to the cold surrounding air. Quality feed in sufficient amounts are needed to supply adequate energy intake for the horse. In cold weather, feeding good quality hay free choice is the simplest way to ensure that the

horse will meet its energy requirements.

Horses can be fed hay free choice without the fear of inciting laminitis. Most horses will eat approximately 2-2.5% of their body weight in hay per day. For example, for a 1200 lb horse, this is approximately 24-30 lbs of hay per day.

If you are limit-feeding your horses, they will require more hay in the winter than in the summer to maintain their average weights. If the hay is not highly digestible (of poor quality) grain can be added to the diet. This should be done cautiously and gradually over a 7-10 day period to avoid laminitis (founder). If the hay is of poor quality, supplemental vitamins may be necessary. A fortified calcium-phosphorus 2:1 ratio is recommended for feeding with grass hays and a 1:1 ratio for feeding with alfalfa hay. Salt and mineral licks should also be provided.

The cost of weight loss in a horse through the winter months may be detrimental in other ways, for example it may decrease fertility, conception rates and growth. It also costs more to rehabilitate a thin horse back to normal weight than it does to maintain a healthy body weight. Other possible causes of weight loss during the winter despite the provision of a good quality diet could be parasitism, poor dentition or concurrent health problems.

By paying attention to your horse's special needs during the winter months, you can ensure that he or she stays healthy for a productive and happy spring!

Board News...

President: **Renee Eidem**

Vice Pres: Roberta Highland

Treasurer: Donna Richards

Secretary: Donna Richards*

Members at large:

Shere Baechler

Marian Beck

Cass Crandall

Rhonda Bradshaw

**The Secretary position will rotate between each board member throughout the year.*

“Mission Statement”

changed again...

Our mission Statement has been changed as follows:

"To nurture and educate equine enthusiasts, promote conservation of green space and non-motorized trails to enhance the community"

“Ideas for the Future”

Please get your ideas in to a board member ASAP. They want to hear from you so that they can plan things that you will participate in and enjoy.

“Clinics”

If you know someone you would like to have us get for a clinic let us know their name and how to contact them.

“Next Board Meeting”

There will be a board meeting Thursday February 22, 2007 at the Homer Public Library at 5:30.



From The Horse's Mouth

by Cass Crandall

KBEA's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 18th at the library. In attendance were Renee Eidem, Donna Richards, Sabrina Lea, Shere Baechler, Carrie Reed, Rhonda Bradshaw, Cass Crandall and Jeanie Fabich.

A couple of main topics for the evening were:

1) Progress reports on the organization's quest for grants to buy the land for the Cottonwood Horse Park.

2) Applying for 501c(3) status for KBEA from the IRS.

As for grants, KBEA has received \$10,000 from the Janson Foundation and \$10,000 from an anonymous source to help with the purchase of the property; initial proposals to the Murdock Trust and Rasmuson Foundation were declined, but will be resubmitted soon and another proposal to the Charlotte Martin Foundation will be going out soon as well.

The 501c(3) application is nearing completion; still needed are the financial page and a conflict of interest statement adopted by KBEA's Board.

Another major topic discussed at the meeting was establishing criteria for qualification of users of the horse park.

It was established that all persons riding at the Park must have insurance by either becoming a member of KBEA, or carry insurance with a group (such as US Pony Club or 4H) that is paying a fee to use the Park facilities.

Questions came up about clinicians, instructors and organizations using the Park. Will all clinicians and organizations be able to use the Park? Under what circumstances will they be accepted or declined? It was generally agreed that KBEA will not "sponsor" programs at the Park, but will entertain proposals from individuals or groups wishing to use the Park, and will accept or decline these users based on specific criteria yet to be established.

Individuals have volunteered to research how this is done in other places such as the Chamberlin Equestrian Center in Anchorage.

The Board of Directors also passed a new mission statement for the organization: "To nurture and educate equine enthusiasts, promote conservation of green space and non-motorized trails to enhance the community."

Cass

Toxic Plant Review

by Sabrina Lea

Most everyone realizes horsetail is extremely toxic to horses. Horsetail is known by several names, but the correct botanical name for this deadly Alaskan native plant is *Equisetum Arvense*. It grows in pastures and just about anywhere you can ride a horse. In very small doses, toxicity is generally not a concern. However, in larger doses causes vitamin B1 deficiency, which can be deadly. Horses can be affected immediately and exhibit symptoms within a few weeks. Toxicity levels are found to be higher in younger green plants and are more likely to affect younger horses rather than older ones. Symptoms are: weakness, staggering and gait abnormalities, abnormal heart rate, muscle problems, diarrhea and then death. If you see any of these symptoms, contact your vet immediately.

Horses, if given a choice, do not eat horsetail unless pasture grasses are limited. They will then be forced to eat it if there is nothing else available. Horsetail can also be found in with hay that has been contaminated. It is advised to routinely check the quality of your hay, since one bale may have it, and the next won't. It can cause problems for hay farmers because the plant is difficult to eradicate and tolerates herbicides. If horsetail is an issue in your pasture, the plants can be easily pulled and discarded and cut down with a mower each year to discourage further seeding. If horsetail is an issue in your hay, it is recommended to discontinue feeding that hay.

On the brighter side of things, horsetail is not just toxic. It can also serve medicinal purposes when used externally. A decoction applied to a wound can serve to slow and stop bleeding and help in the healing process.

References:

Ohio State University
The Herbal Horse by Hillary Page
Patti Salmon, Meadowsweet Acres Herbs



Committees:

Finance / Fundraising:

Therese Pierce, Chair 235-1846
Ardenia, Andrea Ardenia, Michael
Arndt, Samantha Arndt, Sandy
Beck, Dave Beck, Marion
Eidem, Renee Fabich, Jeanie
Highland, Roberta Mahoney, Daniel
Mahoney, Adam Mahoney, Jenna
Mahoney, Lucas Mahoney, Melodie
Rourke, Shishana Schollenberg, Shirley
Simpson, Greg Simpson, Kathy

Culinary:

Kathy Simpson, Chair 235-5528
Beck, Marion Domela, Kristin
Lea, Sabrina

Building:

Tim Quinn, Chair 299-2780
Archibald, Robert Eidem, Renee
Ervice, Elizabeth Farrow, Tamara
Mahoney, Daniel Mahoney, Melodie
Rainwater, Chris Rainwater, Shelley
Simpson, Greg Simpson, Kathy
Stuiver, Yolande Willis, Skip

Historian / Marketing / News Letter / Web Site:

Sabrina Lea, Chair 235-5900
Arndt, Sandy Cabana, Amber
Fabich, Jeanie Kilcher, Mossy
Lehner, Devony Reed, Carrie
Rourke, Shishana

Transportation / Facility Rental / Travel:

Renee Eidem, Chair 235-8567
Arndt, Sandy Cabana, Amber
Rourke, Shishana Schollenberg, Shirley

Regulatory / Safety / Risk Reduction:

Carrie Reed, Chair 299-4047
Crandall, Cass 235-3433



It's not too late to volunteer, call 235-8567.
Be expecting a call, letter or email
soon to meet with your committee.

Happy Birthday Horsey Cake

Renee Eidem

Ingredients:

4 c. of sweet feed or oats
1 c. of molasses or honey
2 carrots, cut into carrot sticks
1 apple, cut into slices



Directions:

Mix the honey and sweet feed or oats together in a big bowl. When fully mixed, place the mixture on a plate and shape into the form of a birthday cake. Use the carrots as candles and the apples as decorations. Horses really enjoy this sticky but delicious treat.

Cowboy Quotes & Tips To Live By

Don't squat with yer spurs on.

Don't let your yearnings get ahead of your earnings.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

Don't dig for water under the outhouse.

Never take down another man's fence

Ya Know Yer A Team Roper When...

ya can't count to 10 on yer fingers....

yer "Rig" cost more than yer house...

ya got "rubber" marks on the right leg of all your Wranglers...

people know ya by yer #...and i don't mean phone ...

ya know what USRTC, WCTRA, WTRA, NFR, and NMTRA stands for...

ya know that an XR4... is not a new military aircraft...

yer families schedules revolve around what ropin's are going on that weekend...

when ya don't remember Birthdays but ya remember "Jackpot" Dates...

when ya name yer kids...Jake..Clay..Rope..Spin...Dally or Stick Em...

All I need to know in life I learned from my horse:

When in doubt, run far, far away.

You can never have too many treats.

Passing gas in public is nothing to be ashamed of.

New shoes are an absolute necessity every 6 weeks.

Ignore cues. They're just a prompt to do more work.

Everyone loves a good, wet, slobbery kiss.

Never run when you can jog. Never jog when you can walk. And never walk when you can stand still.

to be continued next time....



Best Bit Fitting

How do you know if your horses bit fits properly?

Snaffle Bit: the bit should rest against the corners of the mouth without creating a full wrinkle. This allows the horse to pick up the bit and hold it comfortably. It also prevents the bit from having constant pressure on his lips. The horse can feel a distinct release when the reins are loosened.

Curb Bit: is heavier and can move around in the horses mouth if it is too low. The curb bit should be set with one full wrinkle at the side of the mouth. The width of the bit is correct when the rings or shanks come in contact with the corners of the lips without pressing inward. A bit that is too narrow will uncomfortably press against your horses' teeth. If the bit is too wide it will slide around, irritating the horse. So having the bit fit properly not only helps you to have a happy and comfortable horse but it also betters the communication between the horse and rider. Giving you more enjoyable rides. No one likes an irritable horse. So make your horse happy by insuring that his bit is comfortable for him.

CLASSIFIED ADS

~ Feed for Sale ~

hay \$400/ton
straw \$14/bale
oats \$26/100# bag

Sterling Rose Saddlery

Please call 235-5900

~ Hay for Sale ~

Outside hay delivered to Homer Timothy or Alfalfa
Double-compressed 60 lb bales ~ \$478 per ton
Get it while there's some left!

Jeanie 235-4888

~ Horse Blankets ~

Will make saddle or winter blankets
Or repair clean ones.

235-5900 leave message for *Carrie Reed*

~ Horse for Sale ~

18 year-old registered Thoroughbred Mare
15 hands, excellent dressage partner!!!
Very nice mover!

Going to college ~ regretfully selling.
\$2,500 OBO

Alina 235-2401

r-ski@xyz.net for more info or pictures

~ Horse Trailer for Sale ~

2-horse slant, double walled, aluminum, diamond
plating,
with walk in carpeted dressing room.
Made in Canada ~ Jamco \$15,000

235-5900 leave message for *Carrie Reed*

~ Utahn Working Saddle ~

Hand-built 14 1/2 Inch western riding saddle.
Excellent quality, asking \$800.
Hard working and beautifully crafted.

235-5900 leave message for *Carrie Reed*

~ Rossi Y Carusso English saddle ~

16 1/2" all purpose

235-5900 leave message for *Carrie Reed*



Attention Members

~ Pictures wanted ~

I **still** need some pictures for the KBEA web site!

Please email me

(or drop off at HEA or snail mail to KBEA)
any pictures we could use to jazz up the site.

Pictures of:

you,

kids,

animals,

shots of local color,

view shots,

etc..

Thanks,

Jeanie jeaniefabich@yahoo.com

~~~~~

### ~ Place an Ad ~

Members can place a classified ad for free here!

Selling a horse or a saddle?

Are you boarding horses or  
maybe looking for something special?

We would love to include your ad in the next  
newsletter!!!

*Sabrina Lea* at 235-5900

*Sandy Arndt* arndtfarm@gmail.com

~~~~~

~ Free Business Ad ~

We're looking to expand our newsletter!

We need your business card size ad
(or the info that you would put on a business card)

I can design one for you if you don't have one!

Most of you out there have a business,
or have a hobby you could advertise
for FREE in our newsletter!

Let us know.

If you are interested, please contact

Sandy Arndt arndtfarm@gmail.com

Sabrina Lea at 235-5900



Book Review



"Reading the Horse's Mind"

by Jackie Budd

How to Utilize the Horse's Inherent Nature to Enhance Training

This is a book for horse owners and riders of all abilities and competitive interests who want to achieve the best from their horses through an understanding of how the equine mind works. Here is a short example of her writing:

How Intelligent are Horses?

"There is a school of thought that argues that horses cannot be very bright, because if they were, they would be unlikely to let man anywhere near them, let alone on their backs, forcing them to do all kinds of unnatural and extremely risky activities. The horse's remarkable willingness to please certainly has led him into all kinds of deep waters - but this cannot be held up as an example of lack of intelligence, because it is perfectly explicable in terms of his natural social behavior. The horse is a herd animal that lives to socialize and responds to firm directives and set rules of play. There is nothing particularly astonishing about the way a horse so easily confers his loyalty upon two-legged friend and leader, and accepts the regulations we impose. Every member of any community becomes conditioned to live by certain social rules and is not considered unintelligent for it.

In fact, the horse's adaptability and trainability point more to great intelligence. After all, he is undoubtedly far more accomplished at learning our language than we are his. We expect him to exist and perform in a largely alien environment. To get along as a stranger in a strange land, he not only has to work out what we want of him, but then learn how to do it too. Now that is problem solving! It is likely that intelligence involves far more than insight learning alone. More probably it encapsulates all the different types of learning, some of which horses are extremely good at."

This book has an ISBN of 087605744X and can be ordered at the Homer Bookstore

~~~~~  
*If you haven't already done so, please fill out & send in your payment to renew your membership.  
Or, you may give it to a friend who would be interested in joining us as a member!!!*  
~~~~~

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association Jan thru Dec 2007 Membership



Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

Adult membership _____ x \$25 = _____

Student membership _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Mail along with check to: PO Box 21, Homer, AK 99603 Questions? (907) 235-8567