

February 2005

## President's Message - February 2005

Hi Folks,

February has arrived and so far is treating us kindly. I have been enjoying the milder weather the good news is, my horses are complacent and I can catch them, but unfortunately, my trailer is still plowed in! Hopefully, all will be well, safe and fairly dry for our first annual St Patrick's Day ride. We will be sharing Hinckley with the Lorain County OHC Chapter for this fun day. Come and play with us at our first club ride of the year

Our Social Calendar is now published on our website [www.medinacountyohc.com](http://www.medinacountyohc.com) So take a look and save some dates to come out any ride. I also noticed a lot of activity in the Classified section, Horses/saddles/farms/hay...my my!

Our March 2nd Meeting will feature Andrea Scheid, from Truc N RV in Hambden Township (Chardon Area) She will show a video and discuss RV and Horse Trailer Tire Safety. Meeting will start at 7:30pm and be held at Hines Hill Conference Center (directions on web page).

This year we are exploring the possibility of holding a Competitive Judge Trail Ride Competition. At Wednesday evening's general membership meeting, Sandy Bauer and Janet Fox showed a video of a Competitive Judge Trail Ride Competition, which was held at Hocking Hills a few years back. This is a Competition for Trail Horses, which includes obstacles that might be encountered on a trail. Riders and their mounts are judged on how they work together to tackle the obstacle. We are thinking that the competition could be one day, and then a Clinic could be held the next day which would help riders learn how to prepare their horses to handle these kinds of things. Tentative target date for this event to be held would be in June. We will be discussing this further at our March Meeting. Sandy Bauer's email address is: [gaited@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gaited@worldnet.att.net) if you are interested in helping to plan this event.

Also coming up on the horizon is our Annual Club Fund Raiser, The Celebration Competitive Ride, Held in conjunction with OAATS. The dates this year are July 8th through the 10th. This is a THE fund raiser for Medina Co OHC this year, So please mark your calendars and plan to offer your physical self to help where ever help is needed. Please Contact Patricia Vance and let her know you are available [pavancelaw@aol.com](mailto:pavancelaw@aol.com).

If any of you have ideas for the programs at the monthly meetings please contact me! [chickodeelanding@msn.com](mailto:chickodeelanding@msn.com)

Confucius say, the art of riding is to keep your horse between you and the ground!

Happy Trails,  
Sherry

### Subject: Equine Affaire 2005

***This is a review of the Equine Affaire just held in California. My Friend Barb Hawkins and her husband Ted attended. I thought the review was awesome! Sherry***

Barb wrote:

Whew, there's no place like home - especially after 3 days filled with go-go-go and 4 nights of not sleeping well (strange bed, strange house). The nice thing was that my MIL has two of the sweetest, loveliest cats - so when we WERE home and sitting still (not eating) I usually had a lap full of kitty. <g> My behind hurts from sitting on metal bleachers, my back hurts from carrying a backpack full of bottled water and free samples, and my face hurts from smiling and laughing so much.

The Equine Affaire was fun and informative. Choices as to who/what to go see were difficult because there were 4-5 different presentations going on at the same time throughout the day. This meant that I decided to forego all of Clint Anderson's presentations in order to see someone new talk about a topic that interested me. :< :>

What did I see and learn? Well, I learned how to use a pendulum and dowsing rods to check a horse's chakra and aura. :) If you are interested, go to [www.horsecommunications.com](http://www.horsecommunications.com) and you will "meet" Sheila Ryan, the lady that gave the clinics, and can print off what she taught us during one of her talks. It was pretty cool, especially since it was a live demo with a horse; Sheila handed a dowsing rod to the owner during the aura check and had the owner run the rod over the horse so she (the

owner) and the audience could see that the rod was moving by itself and not because Sheila was twisting it in her hand! She also used the dowsing rods to communicate with the horse - yes and no answers, like using a Ouija board.

Some of the clinics were a bit disappointing in that they did not turn out to be what we thought they would be - less of a clinic and more of an informational presentation or a private riding lesson - although there was always SOMETHING to be learned, just not what we thought we would learn. :)

Jan Ebling's first couple of clinics (dressage) were more about what dressage is and the different levels of the correct training pyramid (rhythm, relaxation, gee-I-can't-remember-the-rest :-). So some of us (mostly meaning Ted) did not get much out of the clinic because we were expecting to learn some training techniques to help work towards those pyramid levels! However, what we DID learn was that even an FEI top level horse can be a ditz and continually spook at a couple of smooth spots in the arena that were left from the previous barrel racing clinic (spots where the barrels sat) LOL!! And the same top level horse can and will lose his frame and become tense and strung out (well, strung out for a dressage horse, ok?), and cause the rider to have to work on that bottom level of the pyramid - relaxation - for a while before going on to bigger and better stuff. (Yes, I did sit through one whole Jan Ebling clinic, for those of you who know how much I don't care about dressage. <g>)

I saw two and a bit (had to leave for another clinic elsewhere) of David O'Connor's (the Olympic gold medal winner, 3-day eventing) clinics on working with green event horses. Now, after hearing what Ted told me about the rest of the first clinic, the one that I left early, I wish that I had stayed for the whole thing. Again, O'Connor's clinics were not quite what I envisioned - they were almost private riding lessons for the clinic participants - but I still learned a few things and he reinforced what my instructors Fay and Bobbi have been telling me during my lessons with Copper.

One of the horses in O'Connor's clinics was a very high strung 7-year old Warmblood that had a lot of TB in him. His rider, who bred him to have and keep as an event horse, was very, very nervous on him - and I could certainly feel for her! Nothing like some bucks, rears and big sideways spooks to unnerve you - the horse spooked at the jumps, the audience, the fence around the arena, the steers penned up at one end of the arena, you name it - it was going to eat that horse. The other young horse was a bit less spooky - right up until the audience would clap. Then "yeehaw," buck, buck!

The highlights of O'Connor's clinics were:

#1 - dressage, H/J, eventing, reining, cutting - no matter what the discipline, good training and a good basic foundation are all vital and all the same. Get the horse relaxed, responding to the rider and most of all - wanting to work FOR the rider because the horse sees the rider as The Leader.

#2 - Make working with the horse easy for the horse. Stop telling him "Don't do that" and start telling him "Do this, do that." If he wants to spook at the audience and not go nicely along the rail, then do shoulder ins and leg yields as you go down that side of the arena, first quite away from the rail, then gradually closer and closer to the rail. You keep the horse's mind and body busy until all of a sudden he realizes "Well gee, going nicely along the rail is much easier than all this work, and really, there's nothing there to hurt me." O'Connor demonstrated this technique on the nervous 7 yo, WITHOUT stirrups because one of the leathers on the girl's saddle broke a few minutes after O'Connor got on the horse.

#3 - Ride the horse forward if he's trying to buck or rear. This is something that Fay has stressed to me over and over - and something that is SO DARN HARD TO DO. But the more you hold back on the reins, trying to stop the horse from bucking or rearing, the more his fear and excitement builds up and balls up, until there's nothing he can do but explode.

#4 - Pick where you want to go and ride there - pick a point and ride to it, ride straight to it, leg yield to it, shoulder or haunches in to it. But you, the rider, The Leader, must pick it, not the horse - 'cuz then he'll be boss and you are sunk. <g>

#5 - Always know where you want to go next. Again, this makes you the leader, the one in charge. If you are jumping then you should know where you will go next (after the jump) BEFORE you take off over the jump in front of you. (another thing Fay stresses!)

#6 - to help a horse unwind and focus, ride a continual pattern for a while. The rider of the high-strung horse was told by O'Connor to ride a figure 8 over a jump for several minutes, with the small jump being the middle of the 8. The girl would go over the jump, turn right and circle back around to go over the jump and then turn left, circle around, jump, go right, again and again. We could see the horse (and rider) relax and pull himself together after several minutes of this.

O'Connor also tried to get the riders to focus on how their horses approached and landed over the jump - did they go towards the right, the left or straight down the middle (as they should!). If they went towards the right, then he put a cone there, causing the rider to automatically keep the horse from going that way. The rider didn't really have to think about what she was supposed to do, she just did it because she was avoiding the cone! On to another clinician now. :) Ted and I are feeling more encouraged about Sam's recovery after we met Van Harding, [www.equine-equilibrium.com](http://www.equine-equilibrium.com) Van put on several clinics about using massage, acupressure, crano-sacral, and myofascial massage therapies to help your horse. We spent time

talking with him about Sam, as he has been working on another horse that is recuperating from the same surgery that Sam had - only this horse's basket was placed a couple of vertebrae lower to correct wobblers caused from a cross-tie accident.

I felt comfortable enough with Van to tell him that we use an animal communicator - and you should have seen him light up! He then started telling us about a couple of his experiences with having horses talk to him when he's gone to work on them. (He never said "boo" about communication during his presentations.)

I watched one presentation by Shawna Karrasch, the On Target clicker training expert. I did not learn anything new about clicker training, but I did learn a couple of new tricks for Copper and how to teach them to him. <VBG> Decided to forego her other clinics that I had "maybe'd" on my list of "Go See's" because after listening to her I feel that I have a good handle on clicker training and how to incorporate it in my riding/training.

We enjoyed a couple of demos by Arizona's own Steve Edwards, Queen Valley mules <http://www.muleranch.com/> . Steve was a hit with us right off the bat because he wore a riding helmet the whole time he was working with the mule. He told the audience at the beginning of every clinic that he was too old of a cowboy to get his head knocked ever again, that safe was much better than sorry! Ted fell in love with the molly mule that was used for each demo. She was owned by a 15 yo girl, who also participated in the demos, learning from Steve how mules are different from horses and how to work WITH them, not against them. Steve stressed that his techniques also apply to horses. All I can say is that this mule sure picked up on stuff and responded very quickly to the proper training techniques; I was impressed.

We spent a whole lot of time going through the vendor exhibits - well, gosh, there were five or six big exhibit halls of them! - looking, talking, TOUCHING (yeah, I'm the touchy-feely person!), getting free samples (well, I DID promise Copper that I'd bring him lots of treats!) Ted found "the perfect" horse trailer - all \$80,000 worth of it. I think it held 15 horses <g>; it was one of the most well-built trailers we've ever seen, had all the features we're looking for - straight load stalls, ramps, movable dividers . . . now, we just need to win the lottery so we can buy it and the big tractor (truck) to pull it.

I bought the items that I intended to buy - a couple of long lunge whips, a shorter whip to use while ground driving Copper, a Clint Anderson handy stick (a cross between a lunge whip and a long arm extension for me, the trainer). I also bought a cute little stuffed pony and two pink pony baby rattles for my not-here-yet granddaughters <VBG>.

Then, I splurged and ordered a pair of semi-custom pull-on riding breeches [http://naturalequine.com/new\\_page\\_2.htm#full](http://naturalequine.com/new_page_2.htm#full) (of course, I don't look near as nice from the back as the person in the photo, but then I can't see my rear unless I'm in front of a mirror - and there's not any mirrors out at the barn!). For the same price as their off the rack breeches, they will send me breeches that will fit my (cringe) size 30 Long waist, size 28 knees and (grin) size 24 ankles - and still, hopefully, go over my big feet. No wonder I have a problem finding off-the-rack breeches that fit! Another nice thing about Equissentials is that when the fabric wears out on my breeches, they will build me another pair of breeches, using the deerskin full seat from this pair; and, if in the mean time, I should gain :< or lose :> weight, they will resize them for free.

One of the clinicians we purposely avoided was Monty Roberts, because we are not impressed by what we know about him (that he has lied about his childhood) and some of his methods (running a mustang down for several days, in the name of "Natural Horsemanship"); plus, we have a problems with people that blow their own horn. Ted's mom went to a couple of his clinics, though. She came back from his first one all glowing about how he said he has had all of these successes with getting problem horses to load in trailers in 15 minutes or less, blah, blah, blah, and only 3 failures over all during his many years of working with horses. Well, he met horse #4 in Pomona, California! She came back from his second demo to tell us that an Arab that had bucked off several other trainers and who was basically dangerous and unmanageable, refused to listen to Monty and his join-up technique. Monty never got near enough to the horse to get a saddle on him, much less mount up and ride. <g> (Oh, do we appreciate Marv Walker and his humbleness!!)

Well, I think that's about it, as far as summarizing (LOL!!!) my vacation attending the Equine Affaire. We decided that this Affaire wasn't as exciting as our first one (three years ago) because most of the stuff wasn't new to us - dressage and Natural Horsemanship, to be specific - but we were still glad to have gone and we still came away with some new things learned.

Hugs,  
Barb

PS - yes, Copper was happy with all of his sample treats, as were the other boys.

# MOHC DINNER 1-29-05

On Saturday afternoon the Medina Chapter of Ohio Horseman's Council held their annual dinner celebrating the accomplishments of 2004. The dinner was held at Waters Restaurant in Hudson, Ohio. 41 members and guests were present.

The theme of the afternoon was the murder mystery "Death In Them Thar Hills" set in Arizona in 1883 in the town of Cactus Gulch. During the course of a dinner honoring Dusty Jones he drops dead and the town marshal deputizes all present to solve the murder of Dusty Jones. Each table at the dinner was formed into an investigative team. Within 45 minutes the mystery was solved and Dusty's long lost sister (brother?) was determined to have "done him in" by feeding him poisonous seeds collected from the desert.

Following the mystery Sherry Eucher presented tokens of appreciation to several of the club members for their contributions in the past year. There was also an auction of mystery gifts using funny money that was earned during the evening.

The food was good, the company was excellent, the cast of characters had great costumes and really got into playing their roles and a wonderful time was had by everyone who attended this lovely affair.

## JACK'S STALL

February 2005

With the record (or close to record) snowfall that we have had this winter I am ready for spring. Double-checking my "Valley Girls" calendar I find that it is 42 days until the first day of spring. I can hardly wait to be able to complain about how hot the weather is. Those of you who know me know that I'm not happy unless I'm unhappy about something. I would like to know if any of you are interested in forming a parade or drill team unit. The two parades that I was in last summer were a lot of fun. I think it would be nice to participate in a couple or three parades this year. The group would look much sharper if we could stay in formation and do a few simple maneuvers during pauses in the action. If you would like to try something like this let me know and talk it up with your friends. Our annual dinner has come and gone. It was a fun afternoon and it is a big relief to know who killed Dusty. The food was very good and the funny money auction was a big success. We had 41 members and guests at the dinner. Next year I would like to see twice as many of our members and guests taking part of the food and festivities. To borrow one of Madam Marishka's fortunes. "When riding bareback be sure to use plenty of sunscreen". May you stay with your horse as you traverse the trails of life.

**An update on the status of wild horse legislation can be found at this website [www.horserescueofamerica.org](http://www.horserescueofamerica.org)**

Rep Nick J. Rahall of West Virginia has introduced legislation (HR297) to reverse the legislation submitted last December by Sen. Conrad Burns of Montana. The Burns amendment would permit the BLM to sell wild horse at public auction. This is essentially a death sentence because the horses would be bought for slaughter as meat for human consumption outside the US. Please contact you local representatives to support Rep. Rahall's bill.

## MOHC FEB. 2,2005 MEETING

After a pleasant social hour in the lower level of the Hines Hill Conference Center the meeting was called to order in the upstairs meeting room by President Sherry Eucker at precisely 7:26 PM.

The previous minutes were read and accepted as was the treasurers report.

President Sherry reported that thank you notes were received from Donald Runo, Jo Ellen Reikowski, and CVNP. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming OHC-NE Regional meeting 2/13/05 and stated that all are welcome to attend.

Reuss Griffiths is working to get the park to host a trail building seminar in September. He will report back after he meets with Bill Carroll.

The first trail work session is March 26th. Meet at Robinson Field at 8:30 AM.

Reuss also made a few comments regarding the status of the wild horses on lands controlled by the

federal government. Give him a call for more information.

Vice-president Jack Weese brought to the attention of the members present that By-law amendments will be voted on at the state meeting 2/27/05. Both amendments are related to the board of directors. The first proposal calls for 5 regional directors to be appointed by the president. The second proposal calls for the directors to be elected from within their region and also specifies additional duties for the reps. Most of the members supported the second proposal.

Rhonda and Phil Urbank will be club representatives at the state meeting.

The 2005 Celebration Trail Ride is set for the weekend of July 8, 9, 10. The ride budget of \$2500 was approved.

The Financial Committee Report was presented by Pat Vance and Stacy Sadar. The proposed plan meets the requirements of the Standing Rules approved by the club last September. The club will have two separate funds. A General Fund for normal operating expenses and to provide initial funds for activities and a Trail Building Fund to be used only for trail building projects. The members present voted to accept the finance committee recommendations with the General Fund and the starting amount in the account. The club also voted to purchase a surety bond for the club officers.

A St. Paddy Day ride will be held 3/19/05 at Hinckley. Contact Susan Burrows or Sherry Eucker for more information.

Linda Weese reported that cards have been sent to Joyce Tretow, Shari Dahmer, Nancy Bedillion, Ken Lear and Sandy Bauer.

Sandy Bauer is interested in having the club sponsor a judged trail ride. After viewing a video and much discussion Sandy is to form a committee to investigate further and report back to the club at the next meeting. Jim McRichie of the Clev. Metro Parks Mounted Unit will be consulted as he is an expert in this kind of ride.

A special note to those of you who were not able to come to the Feb. meeting. Please remember that our club is now a club that is run by the members rather than a board of directors. We need to have the input of each and every one of you. Please try to come to the meetings so that your point of view can be heard. The next meeting will be March 2, 2005 at the Hines Hill Conference Center in CVNP. Doors open about 6:30 PM for social hour (snacks are appreciated, no booze however) with the business meeting starting somewhere about 7:30 PM. When the weather breaks we will probably meet outside as the grounds are beautiful. If you have not been to Hines Hill it is a very interesting place that has many unique features not to mention an occasional bat in the bathroom and maybe a mouse or two peeking out around the fireplace during the meeting upstairs.

This is sorta how I remember the meeting. We need a volunteer to write up the highlights of the next meeting for the web site. Jack Weese, vice- president with no vice to preside over.