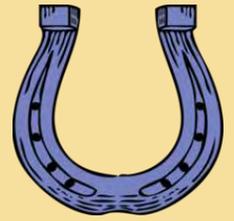


BCCHA MAY NEWSLETTER

Issue 4



**All Club
information can
be found at:**

<http://www.bccha.ca>

President: Ed Hurd

Past President: Campbell
Garrard

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Directors:

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Binky Moffat

Wendy Garrard

Diane Lindsay

Trudy Hanaghan

Bob Magrath

Roger Smeeton

Ken Hartley

Secretary/Treasurer: Cheri
Smeeton

Show Secretary: Lynn Graham

Upcoming Events:

2015 AGM and Awards Banquet will be held on November 14, 2015 at the Sandman Signature Hotel, 225 Lorne Street, Kamloops



Show Dates

NCHA Days @ Circle Creek

BCCHA, CCHA,
NCHA

June 6-7, 2015

Maturity Classic Challenge @ Circle
Creek

BCCHA, CCHA,
NCHA

June 25-27
2015

BCCHA Bonanza and Maturity @ Circle
Creek

BCCHA,CCHA,
NCHA

June 26-28,
2015

Houghton's Jackpot

BCCHA ,ICHA

July 11-12,
2015

Photos used were taken at the Susan Stewart Clinic at Zirnhelt's Ranch in Cherry Creek, B.C.

Please make sure to check BCCHA.ca for current announcements, Sponsors and Dates!



Thank-you to those of you who came out to participate in the Susan Stewart clinic, there was a great turnout and some excellent works. A big thank-you goes to Wendy Garrard, Rick Hook, Bob Zirnhelt and Lee Poncelet for helping lead the clinic, Binky Moffat for leading the judging seminar, Bob and Mary-Lynn Zirnhelt, Ken and June Hartley for hosting and organizing the clinic, and also to Janet Cant for preparing meals for everyone for the weekend.

Member Spotlight; Shirley Telford

Thanks to Val martin and Kathi Fisher for the contribution

Really what were the Odds???? For most of us the thought of actually buying a horse, sight unseen over the internet would prove to be too high a risk to take, a major gamble....but Shirley Telford is not your average person. Passing a cold winter's day on Dreamhorse.com in 2008, on the search for a broke ranch horse, Shirley saw a photo of a horse that reminded her of a gelding she used to own. Playing the odds proved to be a wise decision for Shirley and her mare Golden Ohyes Mate (Smart Mate x Miss Hickory Dell) aka "Ottie" or "The Court Jester." Her former owner said she was a cutter and after making the trip from Texas to Merritt, Ottie was taken to trainer Rick Hook for a "test-drive." "She'll Do" was Rick's comment, and so the ranch horse then became a cutter. Rick first showed her in 2009 at a BCCHA event in Maple Ridge, winning his class and intriguing Shirley with this new equine discipline.

Shirley was born into the family Dairy farm business in Abbotsford, BC learning to work the farm and proudly coming third in a hand milking contest against the boys.... one of the few accolades this modest lady will actually admit to. Growing up on the farm might explain her lifelong, close connection with animals...raising everything from peacocks to donkeys, deer to koi fish that allow you to pet them....there is at any given time at least 4 dogs on her Merritt Ranch. Her mom's advice was "always look after them as best you can and then when they're done, they're done."

Her first ride was actually on one of the family cows. Shirley's mom used to pick her up from school on horseback. Moving up to horses at a young age, Shirley started showing Gymkhana at local play days, BC Quarter Horse Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, etc. Shirley also spent a lot of time breaking and galloping Thoroughbreds at several training facilities in the lower Mainland.

When asked about riding cutting horses Shirley says that "Rick Hook is her Go-To-Guy and Wendy Garrard has really helped me a lot. For the first few years Rick always wanted me to go practise....I told him I was practising in my mind." Now going into her 7th year of cutting this Dream Team have amassed quite an impressive array of awards. Her rules are simple, it's gotta be fun and if things don't go as expected you can only whine for a maximum of 3 minutes, period. I've met a lot of wonderful people through cutting, it's a great sport."

Although flying under the radar would have been preferable to this quiet cutter, the story of their incredibly journey and their accomplishments precedes them. Everyone is on an "even playing field" because there are so many uncontrollable variables in this game of chance called Cutting. Spin the wheel, or roll the dice and play the odds....this team is certainly one that dreams are made of.



2015 SUSAN STEWART MEMORIAL CLINIC

Once again the Susan Stewart Memorial Clinic held at Zirnhelt's was a great success.

There were 26 riders under the excellent instruction of Wendy Magrath, Rick Hook, Lee Poncelet and Bob Zirnhelt. Each rider got to work cows for 3 days with a jackpot on the last morning, followed by more cow work. At the end of the clinic, awards were given out for the most improved female rider – Erin McKay-Schwieger and most improved male rider – Sand Schumann. A cooler donated by Greenhawk for Mr. Congeniality was won by Tom Danyk.

The food was fantastic and many thanks go to Janet Cant who organized and cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Mary Lynn Zirnhelt for her help in the kitchen.

Thanks again to Bob & Mary Lynn for the use of their arena, house, and facilities to hold the annual clinic.

Without the time donated by each trainer this clinic would not have been a success, all the riders came away with a lot of knowledge!
