



The Gaited Horse Group of Ontario

MAY 2007

This is the exciting time of year that those of us who don't have indoor riding areas wait so patiently for. There are so many opportunities available it is difficult to find enough time to fit it all in!

We feel that the April GHGO executive meeting held at Don and Sharon Woodrow's on April 27th was very productive. Highlights of the meeting are included in this Newsletter.

We would like to put an "Open Invitation" out to all of our members to join us at our next Executive Meeting on Friday, June 8th, 2007 at 7:00 pm. There will be a Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 pm for anyone interested in attending. This meeting will be held at Gloria Humeniuk and Frank Surrette's home at 555 Mayfair Avenue, Ste. 1908, Oshawa. The Executive feels that membership representation at our Executive meetings would enhance the direction of GHGO. The opinions of all of our members count and we want to ensure that GHGO is going in the direction that the majority of our members feel is most beneficial to our Club.

If you are interested in joining us at the next, or future, Executive meetings, please be sure to let us know via eMail at www.gaitedhorsegroup.com. We will provide you with the address, directions and time of the meeting(s).

As always, we hope that you have had a chance to view the GHGO website at www.gaitedhorsegroup.com. John Ross and his committee are doing a wonderful job keeping our web site current, interesting and attractive. John says that we are getting a significant number of visitors to our site.

We would like to remind you that your comments / suggestions regarding GHGO are always appreciated. If possible, please send us an eMail via the website (www.gaitedhorsegroup.com). We will definitely respond!

If anyone is interested in the "Cattle Sorting Clinic", please send an eMail to the GHGO website.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS - Thanks to our new GHGO members for joining our Club.

PLEASE SHARE - If you have any pictures, articles or information about our equine friends that you would like to share with the members of GHGO, please let Karen Clark know. We are looking for information to include in our newsletters to keep them interesting, informative and fun. We appreciate your input.

HOW TO REACH THE EXECUTIVE

You can contact members of the GHGO Executive through the eMail link on the GHGO website (www.gaitedhorsegroup.com).

GHGO EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 2007

A list of the GHGO Events scheduled for 2007 can be found on the GHGO website (www.gaitedhorsegroup.com). These events have been confirmed and we have tried to provide as much information about them as possible, however, we may still be waiting for "final details" for a couple of these events. We have included a revised "2007 Calendar of Events" with this newsletter.

Please refer to our April 2007 Newsletter for details of events that our members have provided to us.

This is a brief summary of “**What’s Happening**”:

June 2	GHGO Spring Ride at the Vivian Forest
June 3	OEF Ride
June 23	GHGO Open Potluck Meeting - (Don & Sharon Woodrow, Cannington)
June 26-30	Larry Whitesell Gaited Horse Clinic - Riders Only (Ambleside Paso Finos, Coldwater)
June 30- July 1	GHGO Camping Weekend
July 2-6	Larry Whitesell Gaited Horse Clinic - Riders Only (Ambleside Paso Finos)
July 22	Gaited Horse Show (was originally going to held at the Teen Ranch, Orangeville) - Erin Fair Grounds
July 28-29	Larry Whitesell Gaited Horse Clinic - Riders & Auditors (Ambleside Paso Finos)
August 12	Sutton Fair & Horse Show
September 8	GHGO Potluck and Corn Roast (No Meeting) - (Dave & Sheryl Constable, Baxter)
September 21	Lindsay Fair - Gaited Horse Show
October 6	Erin Fair Gaited Horse Show - will be offering Tennessee Walking Horse and Icelandic Classes
October 20	2 nd Annual Gary Convery Memorial Ride - Pleasure Valley
November 17	GHGO Annual General Meeting (location to be determined)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 27th, 2007 EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Members Present were:

John Ross	- President
Don Woodrow	- Vice President
Karen Clark	- Treasurer
Sharon Woodrow	- Secretary
Bonnie Whaley	- Promotions
Eveline Eilert	- Promotions
Dolly Puccia	- Projects
Gloria Humeniuk	- Saddle Seat Association
Frank Surrette	- Honorary Director

Members - We now have 79 GHGO members.

Newsletter - The newsletter will continue to be sent via Canada Post, unless members specifically notify Karen Clark, via the GHGO website, stating that they will retrieve the newsletter off of the GHGO website. Members will be asked at the AGM if they wish to continue receiving their newsletters via Canada Post, or if they would prefer to retrieve them off the website.

- Karen suggested that we sell “business card ad space” to equine-related businesses to help offset the newsletter costs. If anyone knows of businesses that may be interested in purchasing newsletter advertising space, please notify Karen via the GHGO website.

Library - No Report

O.E.F. - John Ross submitted all items required by the O.E.F. for our 2007 Grant Application. Many thanks to all GHGO members who were involved in preparing and submitting data for this application.

A special "THANK YOU" to George Puccia who did our audit. We appreciate the time and effort George put into this, especially considering it was Tax Time - his busiest time of year!

Promotions - Letterhead, one-page flyers and fold-over brochures were designed and acquired. A copy of the flyer and brochure are included with this newsletter. If you would like additional copies of these items for upcoming events that you may be involved with, or if you know of any "stores" where you could post our flyer, please let us know via the GHGO eMail address and we will send some to you. Thank you!

Breed Reps:

Fox Trotter – Will add the Ontario Club link to our website

Mountain Horse - No Report

Peruvian Paso – No Report

Paso Fino – Same as detailed in the April Newsletter. A Fun Show on July 22 and an all Gaited Horse Show, originally scheduled at Teen Ranch Mono Cliff, will now be held at Erin Fair Grounds.

Icelandic – Refer to April Newsletter.

Tennessee Walker – May be a Tennessee Walker event at the Erin Fair.

Projects – Currently sourcing a venue and speaker for the AGM.

WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE UXBRIDGE HORSEMAN'S "EVERYTHING EQUINE" EVENT

Many thanks to all of our GHGO members for participating and attending this event. Carol Matthews did an outstanding job hosting the GHGO booth. Thanks to all of those involved in the set-up and tear-down of the booth. The booth had many visitors and was located in much the same location as last year.

This really is a tremendous event for GHGO to be involved in. Our "gala" was somewhat later this year - 4:00 pm, but there were plenty of spectators watching the show. All of the horses looked great - Paso Fino (Glenda Newland, Ambleside Paso Finos), Icelandic (Chris Soeffner), Rocky Mountain (Jim Higgs), Rocky Mountain Saddle Seat (Gloria Humeniuk) and Tennessee Walker (Colleen Marquis-White).

Jim Higgs was the narrator and did an impressive job describing gaited horses in general, and did a terrific job explaining details of the specific breed of horse as they were show-cased. The GHGO "Parade of Horses" was definitely a crowd pleasure, and all of the horse and riders looked amazing and impressive.

The "Everything Equine" Event is an extremely well-run and interesting event. In addition to GHGO, there were various exhibitors and guest speakers. This show really does offer something for everyone.

ANOTHER NEW SHOW FOR GHGO

We have confirmation that the Lindsay Fair would like to have the GHGO to participate in their light horse division. The website is www.lindsayex.com The horse show date is Friday September 21st. The entry fees are \$7.00 and payout is \$20, 25, 30 & 35.

We will be looking for volunteers to set-up, take-down and host the booth.

MORE INFORMATION

Included in this newsletter you will find some general horse-related information sheets published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. We encourage you to visit the website at www.omafra.gov.on.ca. As well as viewing and printing a variety of publications, you can also subscribe to their "FREE" newsletter (www.omafra.gov.on.ca - Quick Links [at bottom of page] - Newsletters - subscribe).

The Ontario Equestrian Federation website is full of information. If you want to have a look, the address is www.horse.on.ca.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

All members of GHGO who have OEF memberships need to give their membership number to Sharon Woodrow. This information is required by OEF when we submit our application and grant requests.

CLASSIFIED ADS - We finally have something "for sale" in our Classified Ads section. Please make use of this "free" service (for our GHGO members in good standing) if you have any equine or equine-related items you would like to advertise. You can forward the information to us via eMail and we will include it in our next newsletter. Simply let us know once you have "sold" the item(s) and we will remove it from our Classified Ads.

BUSINESS CARD / COMMERCIAL ADS - For those of you making a living selling horses and/or horse related products, you may want to run a business ad in our newsletters. We will publish your ad in each of our monthly newsletters. The cost for a business card sized ad is \$40; 1/4 page is \$50; 1/2 page is \$75; 3/4 page is \$100; full page is \$125. Space that is purchased after June (running in our newsletters until the end of December 2007) will be discounted by 50%. We are always looking for new people to advertise their "wares" in our "Business Ads" section. If you know of anyone who might like to advertise in our monthly newsletters, please let us know (via the GHGO website, www.gaitedhorsegroup.com).

We appreciate the following summary that Robert Darling has given us for Mary Rizo-Patron Clinic:

MARY RIZO-PATRON CLINIC

The much anticipated weekend of May 5th - 6th had arrived. It was the 4th Annual ECPFHA Training cClinic held at Willow Run Training Center in Ridgeville Ontario, this year featuring Mary Rizo-Patron from Waynesville, Ohio, USA.

Mary is the VP of the PPFTA (Professional Paso Fino Trainers Association) and brings with her 23 years experience as trainer, breeder, and exhibitor of the Paso Fino. Mary has competed at the National Level and has won many National titles and placements. Mary's background includes showing Dressage and training Polo Ponies with her husband Alfredo.

For this year's clinic we had eight horses and riders, along with a group of auditors. The horses involved were six Paso Finos, one Rocky Mountain horse and one Icelandic owned by Chris Soeffner. The Rocky Mountain horse is owned by Harry Mills who enjoyed a one-on-one session with Mary where she taught him the importance of balance in the seat, which also keeps the horse in balance. Balance is key in keeping a Gaited Horse in rhythm.

The Icelandic proved to be a challenge to Mary, as well as a lot of fun, as she worked her around the 1/2 mile track in gait and with some considerable speed, much to the delight of the auditors watching all this fun.

Several challenges were addressed for those who brought horses - how to maintain balance in the saddle and how balance affected performance in the horse as far as rhythm and cadence are concerned.

Other subjects addressed were asking a horse to step off correctly in the right lead; how to adjust for speed to keep a horse in proper gait; and methods to correct a horse that is too strong in the bridle.

Mary possesses great skill in communicating ideas and does so with such humour that everyone was left with a great deal of knowledge to take home and apply in their daily training regimen.

This clinic proved to be a success in every way and those in attendance were able to leave with a sense of satisfaction that will carry on for later use in their training plans.

ECPFHA thanks those who attended this event, both as exhibitors and auditors, and we look forward to presenting training clinics in the future to help and inform you with all your required needs.

Thank you for your support,
Robert Darling,
BOD for Education and Clinics
ECPFHA

Many thanks to Robert Darling for the following "TRUE STORY":

A Paso Fino Success Story

In February of 2007 a young Paso Fino gelding entered the arena at Fox Lair Stables in Canfield Ontario to begin training in sorting cattle. There are no other Paso Finos attempting this so I looked forward to the challenge ahead.

As the owner operator of Paso Fino Niagara, a small training stable in the Fenwick area of Southern Ontario, I had been looking for opportunities to show the qualities of the Gaited horses, the Paso Fino in particular, and their versatility as an all round animal.

I purchased Orlando de Fina Vista as a weanling and now as a youngster rising four he was ready to accept more responsibility that would take him beyond the Fall Fair circuit.

As a trail horse he has already established himself as a steady , reliable and brave mount that gives me great pleasure on a regular basis in the eighteen hundred acre park nearby, a location that provides every challenge for training and conditioning a youngster.

Orlando and I had a rather shaky start when we were first introduced to cattle sorting but slowly our confidence grew as our abilities developed and took on a more competitive edge.

The crew at Fox Lair Stables were great supporters as we entered the annual points race that would determine the measure of success during the season which begins in October and ends in early May. I was jumping into the fray about half way into the season.

Orlando began to earn points in early February, starting at the bottom of the list at forty-three. There was no where to go but up I thought!

My goal was to attempt to get into the top ten in the standings before the series ended in May. On May the fourth we had achieved our goal, I was very proud of Orlando as we checked our position and realized that we were at number ten, we had climbed slowly from the basement to the level I had aspired to. Unfortunately this was short lived as another event scheduled for the May fifth sixth weekend prevented me from attending the final sorting date and Orlando and I ended up as number eleven finishing the season with over seven hundred points. A long way from the leader but a satisfying result just the same.

The Paso Fino drew observance during this time period, standing out amongst all the Quarter Horses we competed against and as a result drew a lot of attention and raised eyebrows as week after week he accumulated points. Some of the regulars were pleased to see Orlando do well others thought that "Ponies" didn't belong there! The hope in all this is to see other Gaited Breeds get involved in Horse Sports of a similar nature whether it be Sorting, Penning or Working Cow Horse.

The Paso Fino is a capable animal and are wonderful to have in a stable. They excel in trail, are used on endurance rides passing Vet checks they drive in harness and for some gifted trainers are ridden in basic Dressage. For the younger riders the Paso Fino does well in the gymkhana games.

It's been a fun season at Fox Lair Stables and Orlando will be returning for the fall start up in October which will begin a new series and another attempt at achieving a top ten standing.

Horse Sport involving cattle is an exciting and challenging event and one in which I hope to show that Paso Finos can be competitive, and besides what a way to show off that smooth comfortable ride even while chasing down a calf!

While we wait out the summer Orlando and I will be doing our thing in the beautiful Short Hills Park building and developing those young muscles getting ready for the next great adventure.

Robert Darling
Paso Fino Niagara

GAITED HORSE TACK - SADDLE FITTING

This is an "article" that Colleen Wood has written, as requested by one of our members who can't find a saddle that fits her gaited horse properly.

APRIL 2007

GHGO CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE:

13yr. old bay gelding Paso Fino horse 14hh , exceptional manners, road safe, used as a lesson horse for children, does everything willingly, suitable for an older person. For further info contact Robert Darling, Paso Fino Niagara, rodarpasofinos@sympatico.ca

FOR SALE:

FOR SALE: 2 - CASA DOSA Freedom Trail Saddles. Size 16 and Size 15. Designed for gaited horses & riders. Black leather with suede padded seats, brass hardware and leather covered bars to help achieve a comfortable saddle. Includes CSI Freedom Pad - soft foam pad shaped for Freedom saddle; plus Neoprene Girth - McClellan with brass hardware - size 26. Used about a dozen times.

Asking \$1,200 for each saddle with tack. Call Diane at 905-549-7990.