

May 2018



Fort Westernnaire

Tack Swap – June 9th

The annual Tack & Other Stuff Swap Meet is a fun shopping experience for all! Whether you're looking for affordable horse tack (new and used), clothing, art, jewelry, or more, this is the place to be.

- Admission is free
- WD ground specialties perform each hour
- Food & beverages available
- Raffle tickets / door prize giveaways

For more information, or to reserve your sales booth, please contact us via email at info@westernnairesalumni.org or by phone at 303-800-7699.



Your Board of Directors

The Westernaires Board of Directors is a small group of people in charge of the overall running of the organization. The current board members are: Margaret Cawthra, Glen Keller, Elizabeth Keller, Terry McDaniel, Jean Mensendick, Bob Parson, William Schleicher and Mike Skelton.

We introduced Mr. McDaniel in the last issue, so this time we'll introduce you to the two newest members: Mrs. Jean Mensendick and Mr. Mike Skelton. Both were voted in to the board last September to replace two members who resigned during the Summer. Mrs. Mensendick was selected to replace Mrs. Dana Monroe who had been our Treasurer for a number of years. Mrs. Mensendick announced at the February 2018 Board meeting that she thought Mr. Bill Schleicher (a public accountant) was better qualified to act as our Treasurer, so she stepped aside and Mr. Schleicher assumed the Treasurer position. She has continued with the day-to-day work she had been doing in depositing money and recording the financial transactions, while yielding the title. Mrs. Mensendick then accepted the position of board Secretary.

Mrs. Mensendick and her husband Jerry joined our family with their daughter Robin in 1988. Robin graduated from Red Team, Red Trick and Belle Starr at Stock Show in 1998 (and is back instructing). Mrs. Mensendick served as the

monitor of Red Team from 1997 until 2001. In 2007 she became the curator of our Museum of Western and Riding History after its two-year renovation. Recently, she headed the committee to revise the bylaws of our organization.



Mr. Mike Skelton joined Westernaires in 1958 as a member. His father served as Westernaires legal counsel during the 1960s. Mike graduated from Cavalry and Red Team in the Summer of 1967. Mike and his wife Pam (a 1965 Red Team alumna) brought several riders through the organization: Mike Jr. (1988), Bobbie (1989) and John (1990). Mike returned to the organization to serve as an instructor. He was the Cavalry instructor for many years. Currently, Mike works with the new Instructor training, and he can be heard at the ticket rally each September as he motivates the riders at the conclusion of the rally.



Drivers Needed!

We're looking for truck drivers that can help our riders, volunteers, and horses get to their shows this Summer show season.

Requirements:

- A current Class A CDL
- A clean driving record
- The ability to start and stop slowly -- our horses appreciate this!



Westernaires truck drivers are highly-appreciated volunteers -- Westernaires could not go far without them! Unfortunately, Westernaires had to turn down a show this summer due to not having enough truck drivers. If you, or someone you know, are qualified and interested in helping, please get in touch with us soon -- even if your rider is not in Red Division. Let's help our kids get to their shows!

Interclub is Here!

by Lori Davies

What is this thing called “Interclub”?

Interclub is an opportunity for our youngest Westernaires to show off their newly-gained equitation skills. Riders are grouped into classes based on their age, and are asked to compete as individuals rather than in a team setting.

Outsider, independent, judges are utilized. There are 5 ribbons given to the top 5 riders of each class. The top 3 riders of each class will then compete again at the end of the day (after all the classes have showed their talents). The judges will then pick the top 5 riders overall. The top rider will receive the E.E. Wyland Championship Trophy. For those of you who are not sure who E.E. Wyland is, he is the founder of this great organization that you are all part of.

Between classes, the audience is entertained by the Senior riders of the organization. These are the riders who have just graduated from high school. They will perform fun little skits for the audience, and hand out those ribbons to riders.

With Interclub right around the corner for our great Tenderfeet and Junior riders, we thought we would share a little bit of background about this event.

What is the history of “Interclub”, and where does the name come from?

When Westernaires was formed – in 1949 -- all Westernaire riders used their own horses. It was common that Westernaires riders also showed their horses in equitation and horsemanship on a regular basis, for recreation. In fact, at numerous shows where Westernaires performed their precision mounted drills, riders would change out of their costumes to compete individually in the horse equitation events. Shows such as this were recreation for the average horse owner in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

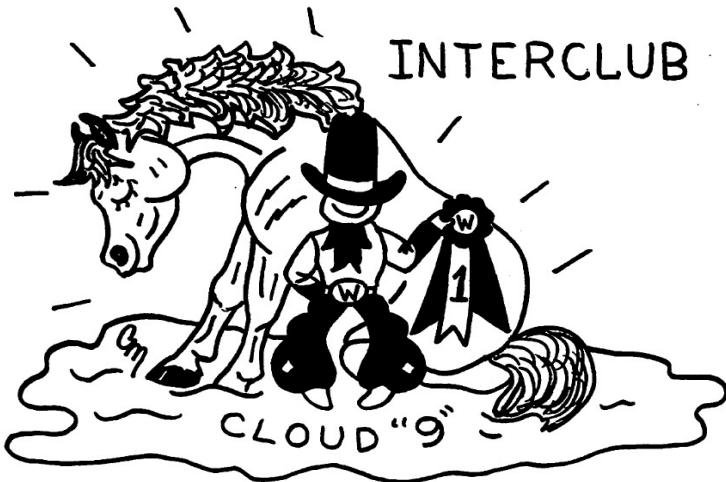
At the time, many other riding groups existed in the Lakewood and Golden area. By calling this event an “Inter-Club” show, it indicated that this event was not “open” to the other riding clubs. Mr. Wyland commented that “there would have been 1,200 entrants if it were an ‘Open’ show.”

Interclub used to be for both Blue and White Division riders, but the organization grew so large that it was eventually limited to just Blue Division. Unlike other horse shows, there was, and still is, no entry fee for the “Inter-Club Show.”

Nowadays, Westernaires uses this opportunity not only as a fun, friendly challenge to its Tenderfoot and Junior riders, but also as an internal gauge of the riding skills that are developing in the youngest riders. Westernaires has been known to make changes to its training program based upon the needs of its riders.

To the young riders who will be part of this year's Interclub, we want to wish Good Luck to each of you, and have a great time. This event is designed as some fun competition, so wear your best cowboy/cowgirl outfits, put on that big smile, and enjoy the ride!

AS ALWAYS, RIDE WITH PRIDE!



ANOTHER KIND OF WESTERNAIRE: AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PARENTS

Written by a Westernaire parent

What makes a Westernaire? You bring that bright and eager boy or girl to a rally one day in September, pay a small sum, and you have an instant Westernaire. He's fidgeting and squirming - she's shy and giggly. Both of them are filled with butterflies and unadulterated joy.

They've made it! They've arrived! One huge step into that magical world of classes and lectures, costumes and teams - and dreams, Wonderful dreams.

At first it's enough to sit on the sidelines and watch the fear melt away, to be replaced by the wild abandon that belongs only to the young. Soon, though, when the newness of their thrill wears off, for parents it's not so exciting - even a little boring, and your attention turns to the adults in this group, that somewhat "inner circle" of people bustling around looking so darned competent and in control.

The whole show is obviously running quite well without you, you say to yourself. "Fine," you say. "I'd faint in panic if I got within three feet of a horse, anyway." You make lunches and dinners and breakfasts and snacks seven days a week -- the last thing you need is to work in the kitchen. You work hard all week -- weekends are time to put up your feet and watch the games, or practice your putting. Besides, there are plenty of people running around out there, and they're doing a fine job, you say. They sure don't need you. But **OH, YES THEY DO!**

Not all Westernaires are bright, eager young kids. They got here the easy way. There is another type of Westernaire: one who is just as vital to this organization as any Red Team rider. A little older, a bit wider around the middle, occasionally a little creaky, a wrinkle here and there. Don't be fooled by appearance. That's a Westernaire too, and the most special kind **AND THAT COULD BE YOU.**

All those people you see looking so darned familiar with what they're doing started out the same way. They aren't any different or better or smarter or more clever than you are. The only thing they have on you is they are on the inside already -- and involved -- and enjoying it. **AND YOU CAN BE TOO!**

"I'm Quitting Westernaires"

By Gabi Ahles, Nighthorse Rangers

I've heard this so many times and every time my heart sinks. This organization has been the one of the most challenging things I've navigated through in my life. It's the place I've cried, the place I've thought I might die, but also the place where I've smiled the most. I love this set of buildings and metal poles more than I love anywhere else. It's a home. And unfortunately some kids haven't been able to find out why yet.

The Tenderfoot boy who I heard say this today is going to lose one of the greatest places in the world without giving it a fair chance. I really hope someone pushes him to stay because I know that over time he'll realize it's really not all about that horse that bit you, or the one that knocked you over, or the one who gave you the big bruise on your leg. It's about the one that you love, the one that never lets you down, and the one that makes your heart sing again. And sometimes these "ones" aren't just horses. Sometimes your one is that friend who makes you pick the hooves. Sometimes your one is the instructor who yells at you because they know you can do better. Sometimes the only thing you need is to be out at Westernaires for a Saturday.

So to the boy who's not yet tall enough to climb on a horse by himself, please don't quit. There was someone there today to help you get up on that horse and that same person is going to help you become someone so incredible you can't even see it yet. All you need is to give it a few more chances. And from first hand experience, those chances are so worth giving.

Varsity Red Team Teambuilder

By Taylor Carlson, Varsity Red Team rider

On Friday May 4th, the Varsity Red Team gathered in the Volunteer for a team builder consisting of pizza and a very elaborate teamwork oriented obstacle course. After everyone had finished eating their pizza and cookies, the activities began with a walk through. Everyone was given a hula hoop that we held and as we made pairs and fours we linked together. After the walk through we counted off into groups of 6 and immediately as we reached the first station we were all tied together by a rope and remained that way as we completed the rest of the stations. At



one of the stations all of the groups' feet were strapped to two long, ski like boards where we had to walk together and maneuver around barrels into the designated area. At another station we were given the task of crawling through a tube of barrels, army crawling under multiple liberty jumps,

weaving a tractor tire around poles, climbing a very large stack of hay, then turning around and doing it all over again to get back to the start while all still tied together. Some of the other stations consisted of

pulling a large pony cart over a ramp and around barrels, as well as Westernaires trivia with Mr. and Mrs. Keller. When each group had completed all of the stations everyone grabbed a partner and we tied our legs together to play three-legged soccer with a large inflated ball.



To finish off the night some of the team headed over to Chick-Fil-A for chicken nuggets and milkshakes. All of the riders had such a great time and are incredibly grateful for all the volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts toward organizing such a unique event.

Breed Show - May 12, 2018

By Ashlyn Gregory, T-8, and Addyson Gregory, T-6

Going to the breed show was the most beautiful and amazing thing to see, with all the different types of horses from small ones to large ones, colors, and shapes. Additionally, it was terrific in knowing that some of the Westernaires kids who are known as the trainer's help show the different type of horses as well and the factor of training all the new horse to make them safe for the younger kids. Some of the things that we liked most about the horses was seeing the Friesian dance in the middle of the arena. Moreover, understanding the different types of ponies and how tall or small they could be; and seeing the different colors between the horses from the Palominos, Appaloosas, Paints, and Red Roan and Blue Roan horses. Furthermore, when it comes to the Arabians seeing and learning that they have one fewer vertebrae, then the rest of the horse was, in fact, useful information, along with when we got the chance to come up and pet them the Arabians seemed to be the softest ones out of all the other horses. Thus, when it comes to the Morgan horse, it was nice seeing how different they are. Also, the Morgan horse was named after Justin Morgan when he acquired a bay colt which was born in 1789. Additionally, the Morgan horse was one of the earliest horse breeds in which was developed in the United States. Hopefully one day we can be part of the trainers and help the further generations of kids to stay safe.

We welcome comments and suggestions. Submit comments, stories, photos, or ads for future editions using either
Boots@Westernaires.org or
Westernaires.Boots@gmail.com.

Colorado Stampede Teambuilder

By Lauren Matthews, Colorado Stampede rider

The most recent team builder for Colorado Stampede was at the Golden Puzzle Room. The evening was filled with fun, even if you weren't in the puzzle room at the time, one of our wonderful instructors had brought games for those of us waiting to play. Some of these included: A weird mouth game that caused lots of laughs as you try to say tough twister (or just silly things) with a dentist like thing in your mouth. Another game was: Find this in a box!--no that was not the real name of the game--however we stood around a box that was filled with objects, take a card and find that object in the box without your eyesight. Easy, right? Not when you pull out a Rhino toy when you were looking for a spoon. We were also able to play Twister, and apples to apples. The actual room was also a blast. Definitely a challenge. The escape room my group did involved birds and was masterfully created with the help of our voice in the sky we were able to complete the room in the allotted time. This team builder built up many relationships and caused an immense amount of laughter. Truly a great time.



Seeking Building Materials



A faithful group of volunteers would like to rebuild the wooden saddle racks that reside between the Hutchinson and Moore arenas. We have a uniform design for the racks, but are now looking for some redwood to build them. Do you have an "in" with a wood supplier? Please contact us at boots@westernaires.org if you can assist.

Westernaires Museum Quiz

- What is the name of the horse skeleton?
- What is the scientific name of the modern horse?

Answers in next edition – or come see us in the museum for the answers! Museum hours: 10AM-2PM, first two Saturdays of the month. July & August by appointment only. Call 720-480-4479 to schedule a tour.

Forward Ho!

(schedule is subject to change)

June 3 – Interclub – Blue Division Equitation
June 9 – Tack Sale/Swap Event (select WD ground specialties)
June 9 -- Quick Change Training
June 16 – Tenderfoot take home tests returned;
Tenderfoot Museum tours (T1, T2, T7)
June 16 & 17 – White Division Show
June 23 – Junior Lecture #1
June 23 – Golden History Museum grand re-opening
(select Cavalry, ponies, and ground specialties)
July 3-4 – Granby Rodeo (Red Team & select specialties)
July 6-8 – Queen City Horse Show
July 7 – Junior Lecture #2
July 13-14 – Estes Park (and no Tenderfoot ride) (Red Division)
July 21 – Park County Fair, Fairplay, CO (Precisionettes)
July 21 – Junior Lecture #3
July 25 – Western Heritage Show
July 28 – Buffalo Bill Days parade, Golden
July 28 – Tenderfoot Mandatory meeting
August 1-5 – Sandoval County Fair, Cuba, NM (Red Team)
August 9-13 – Marcus Community Fair, Marcus, IA (Red Team)
August 10-12 – Jeffco Fair (Pony rides, WD ground specialties, Red Division TBD)
August 11 – Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival parade
August 18 – Western Welcome Week parade, Littleton
(Royal Rangers & Crimson Rangers)
August 18 – Junior Testing
August 18 & 19 – White Olympics
August 24 – New Tenderfoot Induction meeting
August 25 – Last Tenderfoot ride
September 2 – Last Junior ride
September 7 – Tenderfoot Graduation
September 14 – Junior Graduation
September 7-9 – Burning Mountain Festival, New Castle, CO (Precisionettes, Cavalry, Warriors)
September 8 – Arvada Harvest Festival parade
September 29 – Sheridan Celebrates parade
October 27-28 – Horsecapades Annual Show
January 12-27, 2019 – National Western Stock Show
(performance dates TBD)

