



# Purple Briefs

## Annual Meeting Highlights

The first quarter of 2011 is already over and here I am, just now getting a chance to get your newsletter out to you. Hopefully you've been watching Jane's announcements and your emails for the most current of events, but I'll try to recap here as well as show you what's up and coming.

January 9, 2011 marked the 5th Annual RHPC Awards Meeting and there was plenty to celebrate.

Here are the names of the recognized members:

### Award/Recipient

Teflon Buns—**Annette Lutz**; Swamp Bear—**Sue Vinyard**; All Around Horsewoman—**Addy Fowler**; Most Flamboyant—**Melinda Hine**; Spirit Award—**Breanne Anderson**;

Rising Star—**Mary Hill**; Helper Extraordinaire/ Behind the Scenes—**Teri Rypel & Nancy Utterback**; Leadership—**Carolyn Hovious**; Broken Bones—**Cathy Ferguson** (2nd year); **Jane Howard** (4th year); Most Improved Horse—**Tina Nunez** (Aqua); Youth Award—**Sharon Shedron Triplets**; In Spite Of—**Becky Sensenbrenner**; Above & Beyond—**Linda Leamon**; Husband of the Year—**Cal Sumner**; Hero—**Brett Erwood**; Horsewoman of the Year—**Sandy White**; Volunteer of the Year—**Kathy & Don Weiss**; Chicago 2010—**All Chicago Attendees**.

Most of the categories are self-explanatory, but a few of them I'm sure have a pretty good story behind them. Why don't you try to seek out that member at the next RHPC function you attend and see what prompted the board to give them an award! You might just learn something or make a new friend.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY

01—Trail Ride Bristol (North)  
04—Camp & Trail Ride—Deam Lake  
06—Parade—American Village  
07—Blossom Time Parade  
15—Qualifying Clinic/Formation Riding Central  
20—22—Camp & Trail Ride Blackwell (South)  
21—Mini Clinic Charlottesville  
22—Qualifying Clinic North  
27-29—Camp & Trail Ride Midwest

### JUNE

04—Trail Ride South  
04—Clinic Central  
05—Trail Ride North  
11—Parade—Remington (starter parade)  
11—RHPC ACTHA Ride & Tack Sale (Wallace Farms)  
20—Trail Ride  
26—Trail Ride Birdseye (South)

### JULY

01—Trail Ride  
04—Parade (north)  
04—Parade (south)  
09—Parade North  
17—Clinic Central  
23—Peru Circus Parade  
29—Camp & Ride

Please visit the website for more detailed information on these and other activities.

## The Acme Patent Horse Counting Method

(Husband Version 1.01) - It's power is in it's simplicity:

1---2---3---a herd. THAT'S IT!

Anything after the third horse doesn't count. This is especially effective if you can rotate them around your trainer's barn, a show down south or the reproduction vet's clinic for re-breeding. (Because, after all, it's a well known fact that foals absolutely never count).

Supplementing this method with either the batting of eyelashes, or the offer of a particular favorite for supper, depending on his nature, usually increases the rate of success.

I have discovered that this counting method does not work on the mom who still believes that you, at the age of 51, are merely going through a horsey phase which you will soon grow out of. For her you just need to walk her briskly past the field, wave your arm in the vague direction of the ponies whilst muttering under your breath about the negligent neighbor and how you keep having to call him because his horses broke in to your field. It's possible that this doesn't actually work and that your mom is convinced she raised a Mad Horsey Woman.



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## Welcome Newcomers!

Since January, we have added several new members. Perhaps if there's one close to you, you might contact her and invite her to a trail ride, or make arrangements to meet each other at the next clinic or meeting, or perhaps even talk about sharing a ride to a parade. Let's do what we can to make these new ladies feel welcome!

**SHERI MCCORMICK**: resides in Michigantown, Indiana and has two Welsh Cobs and a QH. She is a certified therapeutic riding/driving instructor. Sheri@geetel.net

**JACKIE JONES** is from Indianapolis and has a TWH named Montey. You can reach Jackie at jjones303@comcast.net

**JANET MCCARTY** is located in Danville and has the following horses: A Morgan, A Morab and two TWH/QH. Reach Janet at morganwatch13@tds.net

**DR. SUE WHITMAN**, of Spencer, Indiana is the veterinarian who spoke at Healthy Horse Healthy You last year, and also runs Horse Angel Rescue. Sue obviously works hard, now it's time for us to show her how to have some good fun. Email Sue at sue@horse-angels.org and see when you can catch up with her!

**GINA WEST** resides in Greenwood, Indiana and trains driving horses and has trained them for the downtown jobs, so we have another excellent driving person. Maybe

Gina can beef up our driving program! Contact Gina at gmwest1@hotmail.com

Another lady from Spencer, Indiana is **NADINE JAMES**. Nadine is currently without a horse but wants to be around them. Oh, Gina...there are lots and lots of ladies that have pastures full of horses that just need some TLC. Watch out, you'll be buying a horse very soon! Contact Nadine at nadine1943@live.com.

Another Veterinarian has joined our club, **DR DEBRA SCHAFFER** from Velpen, Indiana which is located in the southwest part of the state in Pike County. Dr. Schaffer has 3 horses and can be reached at debraaschafer@hotmail.com.

**JOAN WEALING** is from Remington, Indiana and has two mules, Roscoe & Phoebe. Her email addresses is jwealing@hughes.net.

Finally, we have **PAULA GARIS** from North Liberty, IN. Send her an email at PGARIS@southbendin.gov and see what her involvement is with horses.

Let's be sure to make ALL of these ladies feel welcomed so that they can enjoy the club and all it has to offer just as much as we do!

# 2011 Drill Team

By Dana Taylor

Hi, I'd like to take this time to introduce myself. I am Dana Taylor. I am the new Drill Instructor for the 2011 Season, and I'm very excited about doing this. I served as a member of the initial RHPC Drill team for four years, under the Master Drill direction of Janet Corbin. Everything I know about drilling I have learned from her.

Although we have already begun our practices, it's still not too late to join if you are interested. I know in the past we had several commitments and did a lot of traveling. I have asked that, for the first year or so we hold all our traveling to two performances in Indiana, and one out of state, most likely in Kentucky.

We have already begun practices, but we are not too far into it that you cannot catch up. You see, one big thing I learned from those years as a Drill Team member is that it's easier to learn the drill by doing it on foot to start. For me, I must know the routine thoroughly before I can teach it to my horse. Therefore, we will often begin each practice by doing the routine on foot. I will try my best to coordinate DT practices after the club clinics to make this as convenient as possible. Plus, your horse must be able to go through the RHPC clinics conducted by Karen Humphreys in order to do the drills. She teaches boot-to-boot riding as well as incorporates several of the drill maneuvers in the clinics.

Aside from practicing at the clinic locations, I have also secured arena use at the Shelby County Western Riders (located in Shelby County) and at RHPC member Joy Fowlers place located on the east side of Indianapolis (just off of I70 and Post Road). Currently practices are being held once a month, but that will increase as we get closer to performance time.

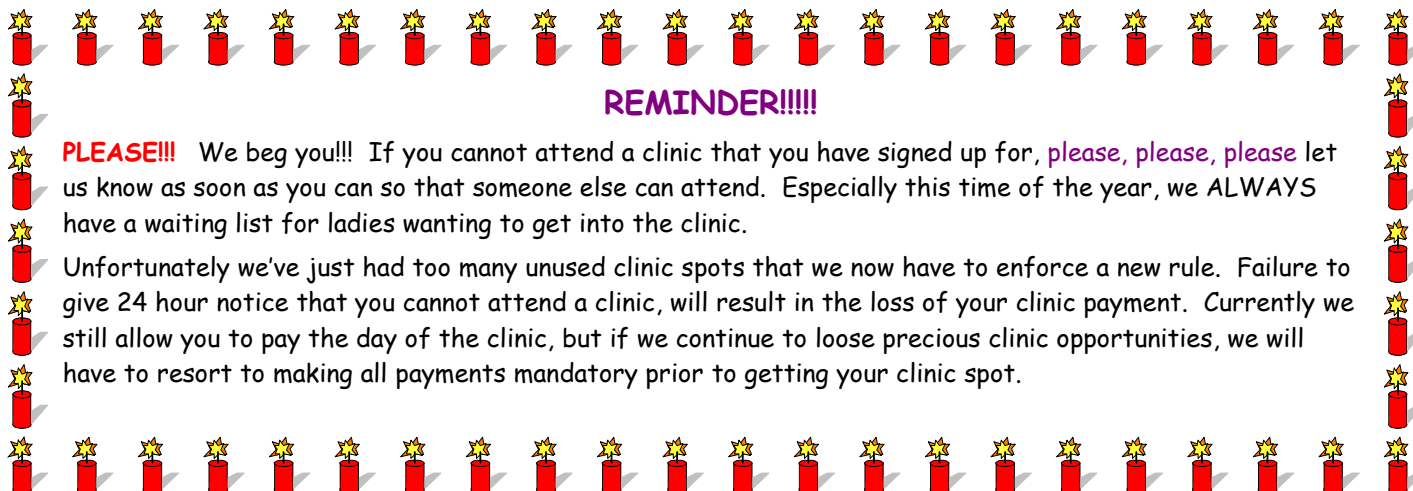
If you are concerned that the Drill Team might consume all your time and you want to make sure you're gonna get your trail riding time in, NO WORRIES! I plan to incorporate some "practices" with camping and trail riding. I have found that this helps the horses and riders to get to know one another outside of the arena. Plus, we can practice some of the drill movements on the trails as well.

I know I was intimidated about joining the Drill Team several years ago but I'm sure glad I did. Not only was it fun (yes, a lot of work, but well worth it) it also helped me and my horse build our confidences.....as individuals and as partners and a team. Even though we have already started, please come join us if you're interested. We will work together to bring you up to speed, and you will really enjoy yourself and your horse as we practice.

I am truly looking forward to an exciting year of rebuilding and with the help of the Purple Briefs will keep everyone up to date as to how things are going and what we are doing. Please come join us and share in on the fun. Keep looking for the next adventure as to what we will be doing next.

Till then Happy Trails.

**DANA**



## REMINDER!!!!

**PLEASE!!!** We beg you!!! If you cannot attend a clinic that you have signed up for, **please, please, please** let us know as soon as you can so that someone else can attend. Especially this time of the year, we ALWAYS have a waiting list for ladies wanting to get into the clinic.

Unfortunately we've just had too many unused clinic spots that we now have to enforce a new rule. Failure to give 24 hour notice that you cannot attend a clinic, will result in the loss of your clinic payment. Currently we still allow you to pay the day of the clinic, but if we continue to loose precious clinic opportunities, we will have to resort to making all payments mandatory prior to getting your clinic spot.

## HORSE OWNERS TEXT REFERENCE

In today's "texting" world, horse people have their own set of acronyms:

OOH—Out of Hay

LAS—Lost a Shoe

BBM—Bastard Just Bit Me

FOMHL—Fell Off My Horse Laughing

FTC—Forgot the Carrots

MIHA—Mare's in Heat, Again

IPTI—I'll Pick Up Tennis Instead

LWW—Lesson Went Well

MSMBO—Mud Sucked My Boot Off

HSIH—Horse Snot in Hair

HAO—Hay All Over

HIMB—Hay in My Bra

PIHH—Poop Induced Half Halt

UD—Unplanned Dismount

PTTDG—Prayed to the Dirt God

MMM—Master Manure Mucker

OOM—Out of Money

MHTS—More Horses Than Sense

BAHHFDP—Bought Another Horse, Husband Filed Divorce Papers

GBBF—Got board Bill, Fainted

GFBF—Got Farrier Bill, Fainted

HRHCF—Husband Realized Horse Costs, Fainted

SLH—Smell Like Horse

DQFOY—Dressage Queen Fell Off—Yippee

HTNHFH—Hiding The New Horse From Hubby

WWFNS—Will Work for New Saddle

AROGC—Arena Rained Out—Going Crazy

SSB—Saddle Sore Butt

BTLGR—B####hy Trainer Left—Good Riddance

ALIGAR—At Least I Got a Ribbon

NLT—No Lesson Today

HGR—Have a Great Ride

R2R—Ready to Ride

**I have a few of my own to add:**

HTA—Heading to Auction

HNTFH—Hid New Tack From Hubby

SOT—Snake on Trail

## BUDDY UP! & Save Money

Let's face it. Horses are expensive. Whether they are your job, your hobby or your habit, whatever you do with them it's expensive to have them, ride them, show them, or prepare them for sale.

I qualify under the hobby/habit section. Trail riding and camping are my favorite, but I also attend the RHPC clinics and some parades. That's a lot of activity with something that doesn't generate any income! Since gas and diesel prices have taken a hike again, I thought I'd share with you again ways that I save "horse funds" by sharing rides to my activities. These suggestions also work for helping someone out that doesn't have a trailer.

The main thing to remember is to be considerate of each other. Here's how things work out for me.

***If I drive, I:***

Fill my fuel tank either the day before or on my way to my rider's location. That way I don't have to do that after picking them up, and my tank is full when the journey begins.

Make sure that I have all my things loaded in an orderly fashion so that my rider won't fall over any tack, sit on my purse or drink, etc. and can get their things loaded easily.

Make sure that I leave plenty of room to arrive at my destination on time. Anything can happen; my horse won't load, my tires need air, traffic, I have to turn around and go back to my house for my cooler or saddle (yes, unfortunately, that's happened), etc. It's not a sin to be early.

***If I ride, I:***

Make sure I'm ready by the designated pick up time. To assist with that, I have a yard wagon that I collect all my belongings in, and generally I start the night before. This includes everything for the horse, (tack, feed, hay, water buckets, grooming supplies), and anything I'm taking for myself, (clothes, cooler with food & drinks, jacket). I'm able to keep that in the garage, so when my driver gets to my house, I just pull the wagon out to the trailer, load my things, then my horse, and off we go.

Either stall my horse or tie my horse up so that the driver doesn't have to wait on me to catch the silly thing.

***Both of You***

**Exchange phone numbers.** We all know that working

*(Continued on page 6)*

# "EVERY MOMENT THAT YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A HORSE, YOU ARE BEING JUDGED."

By: Marry Morrow  
Certified Frank Bell Instructor

As a human, we go about our days, get up, go to work, drive in traffic, talk to our co workers, bosses and look forward to the end of the day to go home. For the most part, we don't try to figure out every waking moment of our life. Horses, on the other hand do.

I call this the human/horse perspective verses the horse/human perspective. When you go to visit your horse, you are more than likely thinking of how much time you have to spare, you have a goal and an expectation of what is going to happen. For the horse, when he sees you coming to the barn, he is looking for

1. Leadership ( are you the leader?) 2. Trust ( can you be trusted?) 3. Love ( will you take care of them?) They do not think about how much time you will be there, what you will expect of them, and how much you need to do.



So I ask my clients to "think" the way the horse is thinking. Try to approach the barn or wherever your horse will see you, in a relaxed way, try to throw out the time, think good thoughts, take a deep breath, and have a kind eye. Don't slouch , be confident but calm. Your body language, your voice control is the way to be a partner with your horse. Work with them on the level they can understand.

Because they don't read watches, have a plan A, and a Plan B, and so on. Plan A may not happen, doesn't mean it's a bad day, just a different one.

Understand your horse's personality. Is your horse a "Thinker" one who stands still and either wants to, or needs to think through a new lesson? Or is your horse a "Worker", one who needs to move to learn. Is your horse more of a flight or flight horse?

Understand your horse's needs. If you are going to desensitize your horse, understand the "correct" way to do this. It's not about how slow or fast you work the object. It's about how the horse understands it. If you don't understand how your horse deals with fear, you can overdo it and the horse may go catatonic and become a danger. Or if you desensitize a horse with the end result being the horse won't move from fear of the consequences, this can be a dangerous horse. It's better to work with a horse on its level of understanding and build a trust and confidence bond so the horse feels responsible for taking care of you. We can never completely stop a horse from ever spooking, and we may even fall off. But if we do, having a horse that tries it's hardest not to step on you, one that stops and comes back for you or stops as soon as he feels you falling are much better than the alternative.

Having a good relationship with your horse is not rocket science, its common sense. It's thinking a bit like your horse does. Don't think if you do something a certain way with one horse and it works, that all horses will understand if you do it the same way. Some horses are happy to relax and stand for 30 minutes, for some horses this is torture. The other side of that coin is some horses want to go all day, and for others, this is torture.

Understanding yourself, understanding your horse and finding success is based on having control. Having control of your horse comes from communication, which gives you and the horse confidence which leads to control.

(Continued from page 4)

with horses anything can happen. Well, actually LIFE happens and sometimes things just can't be avoided. The best way to handle anything that might interfere with your day is to communicate. It may just be that the other person is running late or needs a few extra minutes.

Below are ways that my friends and I "even things out" so to speak:

If our destination is north, then whoever lives the farthest south drives, and vice versa. If there is more than 2 of us going, sometimes we pick a central location to meet at so that no one feels as if they are driving out of their way.

We've been riding together for so long now that we basically don't keep track, but sharing the cost of fuel can easily be done. Since you stopped to fill your tank before your journey began, stopping and refueling will tell you pretty close to what you spent to take the journey. Your rider should then give you half that back.

Remember that it's not only about the fuel, there's also the wear and tear on the truck and trailer.

If you're the rider, perhaps instead of fuel money, you buy lunch and pack the snacks.

If camping together, the rider can always pay for the campsite.

There's lots of ways to work things out so that everyone can enjoy their horses without breaking their bank.

For instance, when we camp, we often share sites. Most state parks allow at least one trailer, one camper and a tent. Some aren't as easy to share (Deam Lake so far is the hardest to share spots that I've found), but most of Brown County's sites are large enough to hold at least two trailers.

Also when we camp we use the pitch-in method for our meals. Everyone tends to bring their own drinks and snacks to share, but then someone is responsible for the lunch meat and then others will choose to price the evening meal.

The bottom line is we all want to ride our horses as much as possible. And we all know that it's much more fun to do it with a friend or a couple of friends. So be flexible, be generous and have a good time!

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Please join me in extending sympathy to Peg  
Carson for the loss of her Mother.

[rafftajean@aol.com](mailto:rafftajean@aol.com)

Peg Carson  
8622 S 100 W  
Romney, IN 47981

**Sympathy**  
Sympathy



RHPC/Purple Briefs  
c/o Tina Nunez  
667 N 700 E  
Franklin, IN 46131