



## 2012 BOARD OPENINGS

Do you feel that you want to have impact on the direction of the WPSC or have something to offer the Club as it moves toward a future in Divide? Well, this is your opportunity to become a member of the Board. In 2012, the Treasurer and 3 Directors are up for re-election, plus we have 1 Director vacancy. If you are interested in running in the February election, and have been an active member in good standing for one year prior to February 1, please submit your Biography **no later than December 15** via mail or email.

Those received by that date will be included in a special newsletter in late December.

Please answer the following questions in your Bio:

- 1) Why do you want to run for this position?
- 2) What experience do you have that makes you a good candidate for this position? Personally? Professionally?
- 3) What is your vision for the Woodland Park Saddle Club over the next 5 years?
- 4) What do you think is the most important element/focus of the Woodland Park Saddle Club?

If you are unable to attend the February

election, you may vote by absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots need to be requested **BEFORE January 7, 2012 and post-marked no later than January 20, 2012.**

If you are an election-day, floor nomination, you will be asked to present your experience verbally as well as answer the previously mentioned questions.

The date, location and time of the General Membership and Election will be included in the special December newsletter.

The time commitment for these positions involves 12 monthly board meetings, 3 annual board meetings, and attendance at a minimum of 2 events per year. A detailed job description will be available

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

#### MEETING

**October 15, 2011**

The October General Membership meeting was lightly attended as expected which means a lot of folks missed some good food and conversation!

President Chuck Mahoney updated those present on the sale of the Woodland Park property and purchase of the Divide property.

## WPSC BOARD AND CONTACT INFO:

### Email:

[info@wpsaddleclub.com](mailto:info@wpsaddleclub.com)

*Chuck Mahoney—President*

687-9509

*Kelley Serafin—Vice President*

466-7018

*Chris Miller—Treasurer*

748-4709

*Dailynn Bockhahn—Secretary*

290-0763

### Directors

*Mick Bates 687-4360*

*Dale Gemaehlich 687-8205*

*Tay Jeffords 205-0100*

*Dick Gysin 687-1057*

*Stan Vahsholtz 687-3314*

*Steve Vahsholtz 687-6897*

### Club Administrator:

*Randi Heard 687-4253*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS! DECEMBER



### *IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER PARADE!*

### WOODLAND PARK'S ANNUAL "THE LIGHTER SIDE OF CHRISTMAS 2011"

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011**

**Line Up : 4:00-5:30**

**Parade begins promptly at 6:00 pm**

This year's theme is "Happy Trails to Christmas" in honor of Roy Roger's 100th birthday. Pick your favorite cowboy/western dress! As we all know there is only ONE Santa who will already have his own float, so you can't impersonate Santa. (But wouldn't it be great to impersonate his reindeer? Just an idea)!

The parade beneficiary is this year is Teller County Search and Rescue. All proceeds will benefit TCS&R and their activities in our community.

Parade route will begin at Taco Bell, travel east on Hwy. 24, turn left after Tweeds and end at the Ute Pass Cultural Center.

**Meet at Buck's after the parade for food, drink & warmth!**

**Please call Barbara Gardiner at 719-505-8553 by Wednesday, November 30 to sign up!**

## JANUARY, 2012



Your Social Committee (that would be Randi) is diligently working on a potluck dinner at the Florissant Grange with the Florissant Jammers providing lots of fun music to dance to and sing along with! A tentative date of **Saturday, January 28** has been set for this event, and details will be confirmed in the special December issue of our newsletter.

The great folks at the Florissant Grange have offered us access to their facility until we have a home of our own and there is a possibility that liquor may be allowed on the premises. Depending upon the turnout at this upcoming potluck, we will look at the possibility of returning to quarterly social events, or perhaps even monthly if the membership wants. **Participation will dictate planning of social events now and in the future.**

If you have questions or suggestions, please call:  
Randi at 687-4253 or email:  
[randim1948@gmail.com](mailto:randim1948@gmail.com).



**Enclosed in this issue of your newsletter is the invoice for your 2012 WPSC Membership Renewal. Payment is due by January 21, 2012.**

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**Please remember that in order to vote in the upcoming election in February, you MUST be current with your membership dues! Also, in order to run for any upcoming board openings in 2013, you must be a member in good standing (dues paid) for one year prior to Feb. 1, per the WPSC Bylaws.**

**ARENA RULES**

If you use the arena, PLEASE

**Put the equipment back where you found it!**

There are barrels and poles that somebody left in the arena just in the last few days. That means that when we rake the arena to improve the footing for *your* use, we have to clean up after you first unless the next person who wants to use the arena does it first!

The dumpster has been removed, PLEASE  
**Clean up your own trash.**

**LOCK the gate** when you leave. We have found it unlocked on several occasions!



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**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE  
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!**

**FROM YOUR BOARD:**

**Chuck Mahoney**

**Kelley Serafin Chris Miller Dailynn Bockhahn  
Mick Bates Tay Jeffords Stan Vaksholtz  
Steve Vaksholtz Dick Gysin Dale Gemachlich**

**Randi Heard-Club Administrator**

**WPSC BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board meets the **1st Thursday** of each month at 6 PM. Membership is encouraged to attend. We meet at the Woodland Park Professional Building, 400 W. Midland in the 2nd floor conference room. A 2nd monthly meeting may be added if necessary. For details call and leave a message at 687-9975 or email us at [info@wpsaddleclub.com](mailto:info@wpsaddleclub.com).

**ADVERTISING FEES**

**CLASSIFIED ADS (Horses, tack, trailers, farm equipment, etc.) = FREE to Members**  
**BUSINESS ADS - Member Cost = \$30/3 Months, or \$12/Month**

**The Age of a Horse**

To tell the age of any horse,  
Inspect the lower jaw, of course;  
The six front teeth the tale will tell,  
And every dought and fear dispel.  
Two middle nippers you behold,  
Before the colt is two weeks old;  
Before eight weeks, two more will come,  
Eight months the corners cut the gum.  
The outside grooves will disappear,  
From middle two in just one year;  
in two years from the second pair,  
In three years "corner", too, are bare.  
At two the middle "nippers" drop,  
At three the second pair can't stop;  
When four years old the third pair goes,  
At five a full new set he shows.  
The deep black spots will pass from view,  
At six years from the middle two;  
The second pair at seven years,  
At eight the spot each corner clears.  
From middle "nippers" upper jaw,  
At nine the black spots will withdraw;  
The second pair at ten are bright,  
Eleven finds the corners light.  
As time goes on the horsemen know,  
The oval teeth three-sided grow;  
They get longer, project before,  
Till twenty, when we know no more.  
.....Author Unknown

*This is an old poem sent to The Budget newspaper in Sugar-creek, Ohio by Eli E.A. Schwartz of Seymour, Missouri over 25 years ago.*

**TO HAVE A HORSE IN YOUR LIFE**

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice. Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turnout, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you, you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it. Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people- which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well, takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive." In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn. And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures. If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses, it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow. We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle. Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion. In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

## CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Planning Team (Planning Team) recently initiated development of the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan. This plan includes use of the 1,000 acre Top of the Mountain area. This is very important to horse people because the area trail network will include horse trails!

On **Tuesday, November 29, 2011, from 5:30 to 8:00** there will be an open house for the public to attend. This meeting is to enlighten the public of the plan(s) for the area and to seek feedback for the planning, and development for the plan.

We need representation from the horse community to express "Our Right to Ride" and to give our opinion as to the best way to accomplish all uses. We must take a position that we share the trail when it is feasible for safety.

Please mark your calendars so that you can have a voice in this important issue!

### Time to Abandon the "One-Size-Fits-All" Approach to Feeding Your Horse

(Excerpted from myhorse@email.myhorse.com November 7, 2011)

Colic is the leading cause of death in horses, and laminitis is second. "Both can be traced to excess sugar, starch and fructan consumption," according to Katy Watts, independent agricultural researcher.

Horses must be fed according to their individual nutritional needs, Katy said, and yet most horse nutrition research is based on research using off-the-track Thoroughbreds who were donated for this purpose. And the typical Thoroughbred, she pointed out, did not evolve its eating habits over time from living in a harsh natural environment like other horse breeds such as the Mustang or Fjord.

It used to be that horses would get fat during the summer and then live off that fat during the winter, only eating what grass they could find by pawing the snow.

Mainstream nutrition books don't address this, Katy noted; they give advice to horse owners based on the Thoroughbred model.

Back to the grass: As the weather cools, the grasses accumulate sugar. This is nature's way of preparing grass for winter, as the sugar helps the roots, crown and base of the plant to stay alive.

The excess sugar in grass this time of year also offers one last push to the pastured horse to fatten up before winter.

Therein lies the rub: Once the temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit at night, the grasses start piling on sugar. So if you have sunny days and cool nights for three weeks in a row, Katy said, "The sugar content of your pasture can triple."

Big problems arise, she explained, when horse owners feed their pastured horses grain on top of all this natural sugar, or feed their stalled horses hay and grain.

"Most horses do not need grain," she said. "Most nutritional needs are met by forage." 1) Grain has too many calories for most horses. 2) Grain creates acidity in the digestive system that is associated with ulcers, colic and laminitis.

Obesity is rampant. Studies around the world show that 50 percent of pleasure horses at pasture are considered obese.

"Obesity is so common in horses," Katy said, "that most horse owners don't even know what normal is anymore." Every horse has individual nutritional needs—and nearly all of them are going to need trace mineral supplements such as copper and zinc.

For that, she said, it's a good idea for all horse owners to call their favorite feed company and ask for a non-grain based product that will meet their horse's trace mineral needs.

"Look for a product that is advertised as a ration balance that is not grain-based."

For more information about this topic and dozens of free articles on related issues such as laminitis, insulin resistance, mineral deficiencies and more, go to Katy's website, Safergrass (<http://www.safergrass.org/index.html>).



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**www.wpsaddleclub.com**

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**“ROPING OUR PAST AND  
RIDING INTO OUR FUTURE”**

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### **WOODLAND PARK SADDLE CLUB**

#### **IMPORTANT NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY DATES:**

- November** 29: Cheyenne Mountain Management Plan Open House (See pg. 5)  
30: Deadline to sign up for the “Lighter Side of Christmas Parade”(See pg. 2)
- December** 1: Board Meeting (Open to Members)  
3: Lighter Side of Christmas Parade, 2011 (See pg. 2)  
15: Deadline for Bio’s for open Board positions (See pg. 1)
- January** 5: Board Meeting (Open to Members)  
7: Deadline to request Absentee Ballots for Feb. Election  
20: Postmark date for Absentee Ballots for Feb. Election  
21: Membership Renewals Due  
28: *Tentative* date for Potluck/Dance at Florissant Grange