

NWMHC NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2024

Thank you to all who came out for our Winter Membership Meeting! We had 32 members attend this important meeting, and I feel great accomplishments were made for our club. A great morning with AMHA Senior Judge, Chris Bickford, proceeded our meeting. We all learned much from him about ring procedure, show rules, dress requirements, stock classes, driving tips – you name it, if it had to do with showing your horse we asked him and he answered! Thank you, Chris!!!!

First off, I would like to apologize to our members who have made donations to the club this year that I failed to recognize at the meeting. Lisa Brostad has donated a brand-new printer, Christine Houts has donated a box of copy paper, Sue Moore is donating flowers for the show awards, and an anonymous doner has supplied us with a new computer! Thank you so much to each and every one of you! You are very much appreciated!

Our first event, The Schooling Show and Clinic, is just around the corner and is looking to be a very exciting time. There will be classes in the morning to learn the ropes, and a show in the afternoon to put your new skills to the test. There will be a used tack and clothing sale, so you can get what you need for the upcoming show season. Tom Kimball will be there to sharpen your clipper blades and to fix your broken clippers. Many thanks to Linda VanFleet and her crew for putting this event together!

Our financial situation has not changed much at this time, and we were facing the fact that we couldn't afford to buy more ribbons for the last two shows. Dorothy Whiteman and Tammy Osgood shared a new way of awarding participants other than ribbons. The membership voted unanimously to accept their proposal. At the Western Washington and Grays Harbor Shows when you come to the office to get your number you will be given a bud vase. The awards will be a colored flower that corresponds with the placing, i.e. blue for first, red for second, yellow for third, etc. You can place your vase on your table at your stall and see who can fill their vase with the most flowers. And, as was pointed out, the prettiest bouquets will not be the ones with all blue flowers but the ones with flowers of every color. A great way to brag about your placings!!! Thank you to all of our amazing members who are stepping up to make this the best year ever for the Northwest Miniature Horse Club!

Sheryl Peterson
NWMHC President

AMHA RULE CHANGES THAT TOOK EFFECT ON JAN 1ST

- ♥ The World Show will award Honor Roll points! One set of points will be awarded Show
- ♥ Protest fee has increased to \$200 Height Protested horses may be lunged for up to 15 mins
- ♥ 2024 World Show Horse and Youth Qualifications remain the same as 2023
- ♥ Pay-To-Play World Show Qualifying fee is now \$300/horse/show
- ♥ Judges may stay on the show grounds in certain instances
- ♥ New Fees as of Jan 1st Amateur Card - \$20 Youth Card - \$20 Open Card - \$30 Permanent Height Card - \$50 Returned check fee - \$50



Save the Date!

March 30, 2024
Miniature Horse
Free Clinics Followed by
Schooling Show



Bring Your horse

**Tune up for the show
season**

FREE CLINICS starting at 8am

Open Halter
Stock Type Halter

Driving

Hunter/Jumper

Halter Obstacle



Location:
Oregon State Fairgrounds
Salem, Oregon
For more info contact
Linda
vmfarm@aol.com



Approved 2024 Clinic and schooling show

NORTHWEST MINIATURE HORSE CLUB CLINIC AND SCHOOLING SHOW TACK/SHOW CLOTHES SALE

March 30, 2024

Tack/Show Clothes Sale 9-2:00 PM

Clinic 8:00 AM

Schooling Show 10:30 AM

Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR

Do you have tack, show clothes and/or horse related items to sell?
Reserve a 12'x12' space at the clinic/schooling show in the arena
building.

12'X12' space is \$10.00

You need to provide your own tables, set up and take down and manage
your sale space.

For more information and/or reserve your space, contact:

Kathy Howard, howardstables@aol.com



If you have any questions, please contact Linda VanFleet before you send entries to her. She needs 1 entry form for each horse/handler team. She will be assigning a back number for each team.

That way more than 1 person may show the same horse in classes where you are judged 1 at a time; like Showmanship, Hunter, Obstacles.

We are permitting cross entries between Halter and Stock Type Halter. You may cross enter between any of the driving divisions. Send an email to Linda at VFMfarms@aol.com and she will email you the form.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOLING SHOW
MARCH 30
SALEM, OR

PARADE
APRIL 13
MEDFORD, OR,

CAPITAL CITY
APRIL 27-28
SALEM, OR

PARADE
MAY 4
MERLIN, OR

WESTERN WASHINGTON
MAY 25-26
RIDGEFIELD, WA

Please make sure to share all types of events with the Publicity Committee, So that we can make sure the word is getting out.

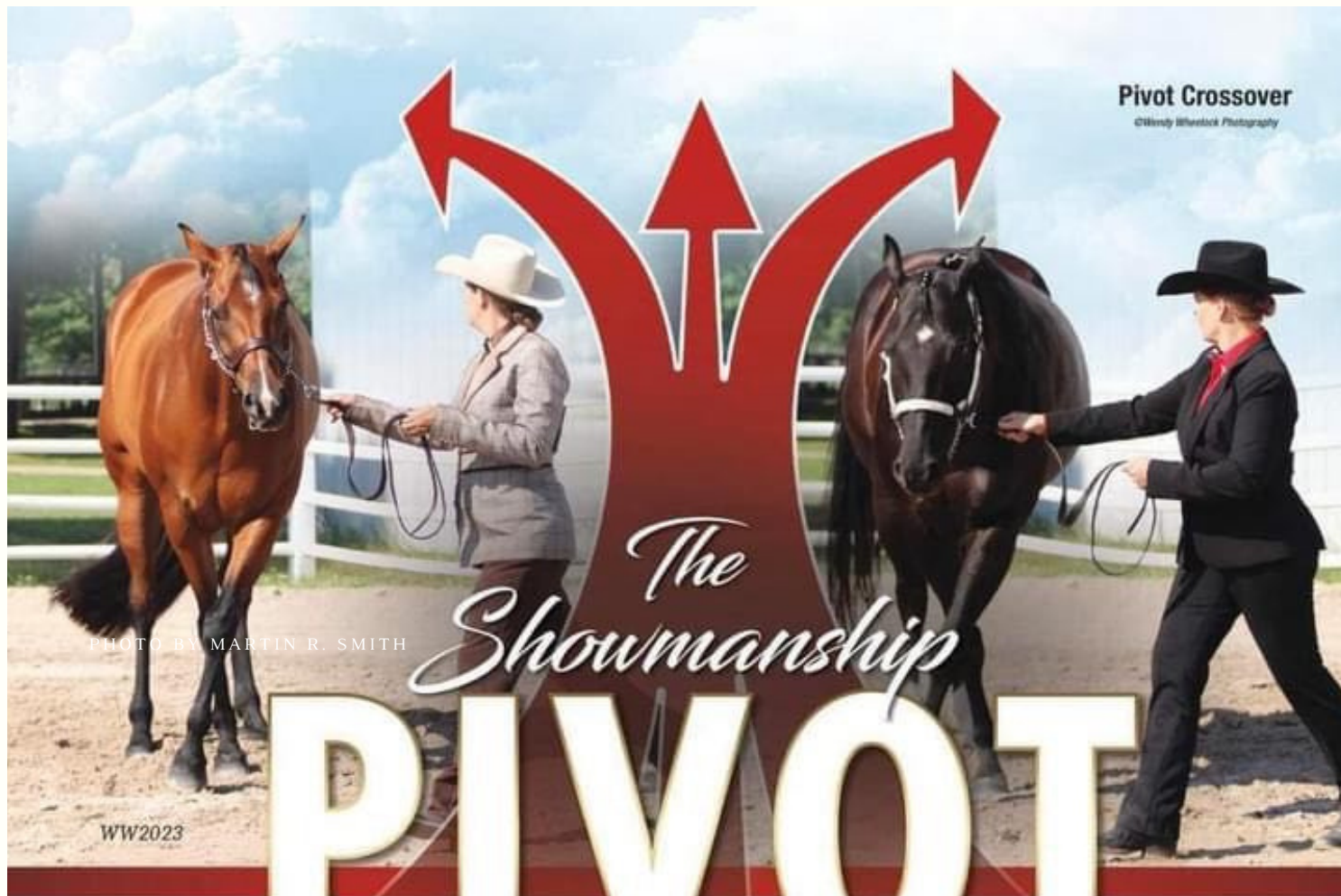


PHOTO BY MARTIN R. SMITH

WW2023

The Showmanship PIVOT

BY LAURA BOYNTON JOBSON

It's one of the most anticipated Showmanship maneuvers to watch and the most stressful to perform—the challenging pivot. The multitasking that is involved for exhibitors to execute this technical maneuver correctly can be overwhelming, and it's equally as demanding for the horses that show in this class.

Three Showmanship trainers share tips about how to fix pivot problems and give us advice about how to keep the right foot grounded—in practice and in the show ring.

It Starts with a Stop

AQHA judge, clinician and multiple World Champion trainer Clint Ainsworth of Clint Ainsworth Show Horses says in order to prepare for a great turn, the stop is where to start.

When training for a correct stop, Ainsworth wants his horse to have



Pushing the shoulder

©Laura Boynton Jobson

concrete feet, ones that are still until he asks for movement. He continues by saying, “Stopping and always squaring-up horses produces busy feet and proves horses and handlers aren't working in sync.

“When a poor stop is done, it's an automatic re-do and we work on moving and stopping our legs. Once we have a balanced and obedient stop, we move on to turns.”

Don't Forget to Ask

AQHA Professional Horsewoman and multiple World Champion Jenny Jordan Frid, who co-founded Robin Frid Show Horses with husband Robin Frid, says, “Oftentimes handlers forget to ‘ask’ horses to pivot which makes them both just walk into the turn.”

She explains, “Exhibitors need clear and consistent communication that comes from verbally queuing the

horse first, receiving a reaction, and then moving into the pivot."

The Crossover

"Teaching a horse to pivot takes a steady push to the horse's shoulder closest to the handler. This will help lift the front leg over the other and set the shoulders to move first. Once you have the shoulders moving with the head it's time to worry about the pivot foot," states Ainsworth.

Don't Neglect the Left

Trainer and multiple World Champion Shannon Gillespie—who is also an AQHA, APHA, PHBA, and NSBA judge—co-founded Gillespie Show Horses with her husband, Tim Gillespie. She says, "Exhibitors tend to focus on the right hind during a pivot overlooking what the left hind needs to do."

Gillespie says, "When a horse's front leg crosses over into the turn, then the left hind steps up and propels the turn. To help emphasize the lift and step the left hind needs to have for a successful pivot, I practice in-hand side passing."

Training Sideways

Gillespie encourages lateral movement by holding the horse's head straight while pushing the whole body over in both directions with a side pass. She says, "Not only does this help with the pivot step motions, but side passing also frees up the horse's body."

Just because pull turns aren't usually done in patterns today doesn't mean that Gillespie won't train a horse to perform one. "These exercises cross over into riding the Horsemanship and Equitation maneuvers and they improve walking and trotting square corners."

Straightening Out

"The exhibitor's posture needs to remain square to the horse perpendicularly," shares Gillespie. "The shoulders and hips form a box and shouldn't twist. When one leans too much to the left it can cause the horse to curl its head into the pivot causing an overbend."

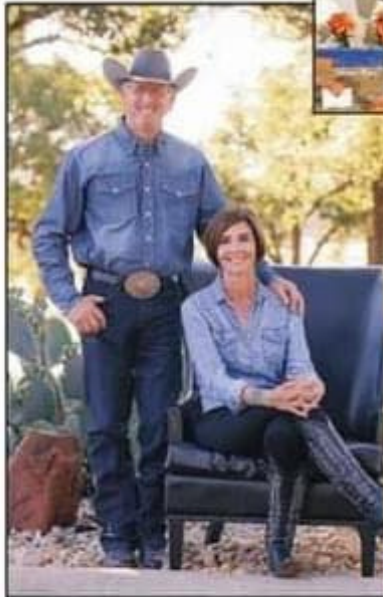
Frid agrees with Gillespie and comments, "When bodies get unorganized and there's an unbalance, the horse's shoulders stay in place and the head moves first creating a C-shaped body pivot."

Ainsworth further explains, "The most efficient pivots come



Clint Ainsworth

©Shane Rex



Jenny Jordan Frid

©Malory Borders



Tim & Shannon Gillespie

©Terri Cope Photography

from a horse having a straight spine from nose to tail. When there's too much right head bend, it's common for the horse to fall off their right hind foot and walk a circle rather than pivot."

Staying Grounded

"If there's a problem with pivoting on the wrong foot then you're dealing with a balance issue," Ainsworth explains. "When the left hind gets too far behind, exhibitors need to pull forward to have the horse step up and set, correcting the left hind when it's too far forward by pushing back on the lead. Both rear legs should be close in proximity to each other, not too wide or too close. When the balance is there, you'll find it easier to negotiate the pivot."

Stop Stepping Out

When correcting a horse who is stepping out of pivots, Frid says, "You have to get into the nature of the problem. If the right hind is moving forward out of the pivot, I may ask the exhibitor to back the horse up a few steps then try the pivot again. This is telling the horse to stay back on

its haunches more."

Frid also suggests that exhibitors cut the circumference by creating a smaller circle. "If the horse is backing the right hind up out of the pivot, normally the exhibitor is not bringing the left hind up to the right hind pivot foot quick enough and the horse has to back up."

A Chain Reaction

"Showmanship can get stale for horses," Ainsworth explains, "It's common to see horses show their irritation by being bad-eared, busy-tailed, and sour-faced. To help with these behaviors, handlers should limit training sessions to roughly 10 minutes—never going over 20 minutes—and reward the horse by releasing the chain with a lot of praise," shares Ainsworth.

Gillespie explains the significance of only having the chain shank under a horse's chin for a short amount of time and only when practicing, warming-up and showing. "Horses don't know there's a difference between working and relaxing until they're shown the difference."

To achieve this, Gillespie stresses when the chain is on, it's



Getting square to prepare for the pivot

© Laura Roylton Johnson



Pushing the shoulder for the pivot

© Laura Roylton Johnson

time to be serious. "After a warm-up at a show, waiting for the class, talking to friends, looking at the pattern and finishing up last minute grooming prep, the chain comes off. It doesn't go back on until doing a short 1-to-2-minute warm-up right before entering the show arena to wake the horse up and signal it's time to get the job done.

"No exhibitor wants a dull horse to pivot and only using the chain when its necessary will not only fight the deadening that having the chain on all the time has on a horse. It will also help with boredom and mouthiness and make a horse more comfortable with the job," says Gillespie.

Ask For Help

Frid recommends reaching out for help from a coach, sooner rather than later, when experiencing trouble with pivots. "Every great athlete needs a trainer or a good set of eyes to better their skills."

Ainsworth shares, "I ask my clients to send me videos so I can review and give feedback. This is the easiest way for both of us to tackle any issues when we can't be together to train."

The Last Pivotal Advice

"Tight and square footwork are qualities that will set an exhibitor and horse apart from the rest of the class," Frid says. "The more profes-



Sidepassing

© Laura Roylton Johnson

sional and precise the footwork shows a higher degree of difficulty in this maneuver and should

result in a higher score."

"Hands play an essential role in pivot preparation," Gillespie says. "Depending on the height of the handler and horse, the chain hand should be held level to the nose ring of the halter and should never cross over or under the horse's nose. This stance should help keep the horse's head straight and avoid stepping forward or backing out of pivots."

"Instead of pushing for a faster pivot than you and your horse can manage, or settling for a slower drawn-out one to stay safe—handlers need to find the optimum pace that works best," explains Ainsworth. "Being a judge, I reward the pair that can make a pivot look and feel effortless."



Showmanship with the chain off

© Laura Roylton Johnson

COMMITTEE CONNECTION

Our committees are the backbone and the behind the scenes workforce that keeps the Northwest Miniature Horse Club moving forward and in line with current trends. Our hard working committee members plan and implement shows, clinics, fun events, meetings and social gatherings.

If you have the time and would like to help the club, please consider joining any of the committees where you think your skills could be helpful.

ByLaws/Rules & Regs

Chair - Sharon Hardt
divemom5@gmail.com

Futurity

Chair - Katie Hansen
kathansencvt@gmail.com

Sunshine/Welfare Committee

Chair - Sharon Hardt
divemom5@gmail.com

Year End Awards Committee

Chair - Katie Hansen
kathansencvt@gmail.com

Fall/Winter banquet

Chair - Beth White
bethwhite82@yahoo.com

Website Committee

Chair - Mary Houts
NWMHC.2023@gmail.com

Finance/Audit Committee

Chair - Sharon Hardt, Joanne Ross
Divemom5@gmail.com,
joanne@scottcreek.com

Youth Committee

Chair Leslie White
lesliewhite00@gmail.com

Gelding Incentive Committee

Chair - Katie Hansen
kathansencvt@gmail.com

Show Committee

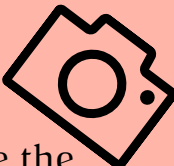
Chair - Joanne Ross
joanne@scottcreek.com

Publicity Committee

Beth White
bethwhite82@yahoo.com



PHOTO WALL



This show season we will have a photo wall set up at each show. This will be the place for you to take all after class photos. Please use it for other photos as well. Take pictures with all your horse show friends and family. Have some down time at the show? Toss one of the silly props that will be provided on your horse and snap away. Then please share these photos and hashtag the club on all our socials. This helps not only promote the club but this will also show everyone how much fun we have at the shows.

The Show Closet

We are hoping to start a show closet. This will be the place that people can borrow show clothes. Maybe they are new to showing or maybe once they paid the entry fee there wasn't money left for new clothes. Maybe you want to try stock but don't have the right attire. The Publicity Committee will set this up at each show and will clean and store items after the shows.

What we need from you is the donation. Do you have something that doesn't fit, isn't your style anymore, the kids out grew? Please reach out to Beth at Bethwhite82@yahoo.com to make arrangements to donate items. We want to have a wide selection of show clothes for people to borrow. Our hope is to help everyone feel their best while presenting their horses.

Items we are looking for: Jackets, Shirts, Pants, Boots, Hats, gloves



SPONSORSHIPS



Do you know a local business that would donate? We could use all the sponsorships we can get.

with a sponsorship these companies will get posts on our social media, and shout outs at the shows. we will hang banners and pass out flyers if they provide them for use.