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Steve and Diane are pleased to announce their support of the **American Shetland Pony Club Amateur Excellence/Amateur Companion Horse Program**. Overlook Farm is offering a **\$300 Incentive Award** to any ASPC registered Shetland bred by Steve or Diane Zmolek, who achieves 300 points under the rules of the **Amateur Companion Horse Program** beginning with the 2011 season. You can download the Rules and Forms by going to the ASPC Website and clicking on the links for the Amateur Shows. We are excited to offer you our support, encouragement and publicity as you make progress in this fabulous program. We wish you our best! We have several ponies for sale to fit every lifestyle or interest.

<http://overlookfarmponies.blogspot.com/>
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Overlook Farm

Classic/Modern Shetlands
Steve & Diane Zmolek (503) 324-7504
43845 N.W. Woollen Rd., Banks, Oregon 97106



AREA VII

Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Association, Inc.

Spring 2011 • April, May & June

It's Show Time!



IN THIS ISSUE: "Physical Therapies for the Equine Athlete" (Part 1) • Calendar of Events • Ranch and Member News

CALIFORNIA CLASSIC

MAY 21-22, 2011
WILTON, CA

CALIFORNIA CLASSIC

MAY 21-22, 2011
WILTON, CA

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CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
MAY 21-22, 2011

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CD

Owner Name



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Area VII Web site: <http://www.areaviiclub.com/>

President's Report

President Jim Curry

Doom and Gloom! That seems to be the attitude of most of those involved with equines of all sizes currently. Club memberships are down, registration numbers are down, shows are fewer and smaller, sales are poor or non-existent etc. etc. At the Spring Board Meeting of ASPC/AMHR, membership losses in the various areas were listed. Area VII (the entire area, not our club) had a decrease or non-renewal of membership of 137 members. The poor economy is effecting all of us in various ways.

On the bright side, we have several new members this year, our meetings have been well-attended, and members are enthusiastic about our planned activities. Our show committee has done a great job of locating a new site for our California Classic ASPC/AMHR point show. Officials have been hired, the date approved, and a class list made that will hopefully encourage participation. We even have some Open Non-Rated classes for those not participating in our classes for registered animals. The premium booklet and entry forms are available on the Area VII website, and are also being mailed to our membership with this newsletter.

While some clubs have elected to not have shows due to the economy, others are experiencing success. The Pacific Coast Miniature Horse Club had almost 200 entries at their one-day March show. I understand the show was so large it ran until 2:30 in the morning.

Again on the positive side of things, Area VII has been approached by the Walnut Creek Equestrian Association about possibly working together and having a show or other activity at the Walnut Creek Equestrian Center. A committee from both organizations is being formed to follow through on this. Recently, representatives from our clubs, Valley Sierra Miniature Horse Club, Norcal Miniature Horse Club, and the Petite Equine Association met and agreed to work together on activities that will benefit all of us.

The question is, do we do nothing and complain about the sad state of affairs? Or do we put forth the effort to make each and every activity as successful as possible? It's up to our members! —Jim

STEP-N-STONE



~American Shetlands~

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Calendar of Events

**APRIL
16**

Area VII General Membership Meeting

Lunch and meeting, starts at 12 Noon
Fresh Choice Restaurant, 5419 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights
Susan Browning Wroe or Robert Blackwell, (916) 723-6932

29-May 1 Oregon Horse Center Spring Fling (AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR)

Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR
Heather Engstrom, (541) 689-9700
email: info@oregonhorsecenter.com

**MAY
6-8**

Woodland Stallion Station Vineyard Classic CDE

3-Day Combined Driving Event
Woodland Stallion Station, Woodland, CA
Shelly Chavoor, (530) 753-6761
<http://www.wssvineyardclassiccde.com/>

21-22 California Classic (ASPC/AMHR)

Hosted by Area VII SP&MHA
Pacific Equestrian Center, Wilton, CA
Lisa Brostad, (541) 664-4644
<http://www.areaviiclub.com/californiaclassic.html>

22 California Scurry Challenge

Any breed of horse, any kind of vehicle, any dress code!
Sargent Equestrian Center, 15757 E. Sargent Road, Lodi, CA
Jeanne Williams, (650) 465-8528 cell, (209) 727-0200 office
<http://www.sargentequest.com/>

28 PCMHC Mini Madness (AMHR)

Norco, CA
Kathi Albanese, (951) 205-7998
<http://www.pcmhclub.com/>

**JUNE
10-12**

Western States Horse Expo

Cal Expo Fairgrounds, Sacramento, CA
(530) 672-7490 or (800) 352-2411
<http://www.horseexpo.com/index.html>

19 California Scurry Challenge

Any breed of horse, any kind of vehicle, any dress code!
Sargent Equestrian Center, 15757 E. Sargent Road, Lodi, CA
Jeanne Williams, (650) 465-8528 cell, (209) 727-0200 office
<http://www.sargentequest.com/>

24-26 Area VII National Show (AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR)

Los Angeles Equestrian Center, Burbank, CA
Laurie Villalpando, (801) 985-9720
<http://www.pcmhclub.com/>

**JULY
10**

California Scurry Challenge

Any breed of horse, any kind of vehicle, any dress code!
Sargent Equestrian Center, 15757 E. Sargent Road, Lodi, CA
Jeanne Williams, (650) 465-8528 cell, (209) 727-0200 office
<http://www.sargentequest.com/>

12-16 ASPC Shetland Congress

Des Moines, IA
E-mail: showdepartment@shetlandminiature.com

16 Whisper Equestrian Center Fun Extravaganza

Open to all Ponies & Horses 46" and Under
Whisper Equestrian Center, Aptos, CA
Julie Mabie, (831) 684-1555
<http://www.whisperponies.com/>

For more information about these and other events, see the events page on the Area VII web site: <http://www.areaviiclub.com/events>



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Is It Physical or Behavioral?

By Vicki Shinneman,
Certified Equine Natural Movement Practitioner,
Vancouver, BC

This is the first in a series of three articles on physical therapies for the equine athlete. The first installment tells you a little about some of the challenges the carriage horse faces that limit his power and ability. Later on, the articles will address different therapies and how to choose them, plus a more in-depth look at equine anatomy.

Most of us are old enough to have experienced some type of chronic pain in our horse-filled lives. It's a challenge to stay strong, healthy and flexible with all the opportunities for accidents we run into. Who among us doesn't have some longstanding injury or persistent ache that won't go away no matter what we do?

We may head off to the physical or massage therapist, chiropractor, acupuncturist or nutritionist. And we often complain to anyone who'll listen that we've got a cranky shoulder or stiff back.

Horses have very few effective ways of expressing discomfort. When they try to tell us something hurts, we humans often misinterpret that and think we need more practice at a certain task or that we just need a different harness or training device to set things right.

The horse is a prey animal. If a predator sees a horse showing weakness or injury, that predator is likely to single her out and attack, knowing she's less able to respond than her herd mates. Unless you are skilled at understanding the difference between the expression of pain versus disobedience, pain can be hard to recognize. To a frustrated driver, this expression of pain may look like laziness or obstinacy, a behavioral problem.

Driving horses have different types of physical stress than saddle horses because they have shafts to cope with, and the "pushing" of the vehicle with their chest. They also have the same physical and mental stresses as the riding horse, such as: the rider (driver), the bit, the tack, limitations of their conformation and level of fitness. These elements are potential roadblocks to success in achieving the relaxed and responsive forward movement we train for in the world of combined driving.

Our harness horses develop stress and tension in their upper and lower neck, as well as their shoulders and chest. Combined driving horses, in particular, will also show tension in their hindquarters, lower back, and the ligaments and tendons of



Vicki Shinneman moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1988 to attend the University of Washington, where she obtained a master's degree in Chinese language. During her studies, she traveled to China and Tibet where she admired many beautiful Tibetan ponies. In 1996 she moved to Vancouver to work in technology at the Hewlett-Packard Company. In 2007 she took early retirement so she could spend more time working with animals.

Vicki is trained in acupuncture, homeopathy, animal physiology and anatomy, equine nutritional standards, and hoof management. She received her certification as an Equine Natural Movement practitioner in 2010. She currently lives on a small acreage in Vancouver and has three Morgans, three dogs, two cats, a lovely cow and many laying hens.

their lower legs because of the need for quick response to the driver on the marathon course.

When your horse is not performing a movement correctly, ask yourself if she may be showing disobedience or expressing physical discomfort. For instance, if she bends to the outside (counter-bent) when working on a circle she may be expressing tightness in her neck or barrel, soreness in the deep muscles of the hindquarters, or her adductors.

The best way to meet your personal competition goals is to have a physically capable partner. Instead of thinking she's not meeting your needs as a carriage horse, take some extra steps to learn more about how she functions. Especially consider checking for sore muscles, teeth that need attention, spinal injuries and diet.

Convention Sponsorships Needed

Hello Everyone,

I am writing this to check in with the wonderful members of the AMHR/ASPC to see if they would be interested in a Sponsorship toward Convention 2011. This is WHATEVER you feel like giving. We are looking at some exciting items for a raffle, along with gifts for each member that comes to convention. Do you want to be a part? We are looking at approximate donations of around \$1,500 (being very up front) all of these might not happen but we hope with your help they can. This will include one very large item for the raffle. And the other items have a couple of different ideas. Youth support is a big push from this area, and so we want to donate some back to them. If you can give \$5.00 that will cover a lot. If you can give \$15.00 even more. Whatever you can give will be most appreciated. You will be thanked so much. And your name will be up in lights (okay maybe not lights) at the Convention in Portland. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Have to keep these surprises a secret. *Rob Crater*
doublebarcq@yahoo.com



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www.sonic.net/~tomamini

Step-N-Stone Ranch News

Been a quiet winter at Step-N-Stone, and with everything going on everywhere else, thank heavens! The ponies, along with the rest of us, are getting pretty tired of the wet and rain. Oh, and did I forget, mud? The mares have begun to look at us as if saying, “DO something about this!” Fortunately, we’ve not had the flooding or wash-outs and mud that other regions have, so no complaints...yet.

Have had some inquiries on ponies. Have four mares that *might* be sold. Two of them I’m pretty positive will go to new homes later in the spring, but the other two...Well, the prospective owners say they want them and that they’ll come and get them (and cross my palm with silver—always important) but this has been going on for over a month so I ain’t holding my breath. Hopeful that it’ll all work out. We’ve all had snags in plans so we’ll see.

Piper continues to look pregnant, but with her it could be a great big hay belly. Plan to bring her to the house around the 15th of April. The foal, if there is one, would be born mid-June. Will keep you posted.

Best of luck to everyone with foaling and show season.—Howard & Shirlee Busbee



We were delighted when Step-N-Stone’s Silver Feather completed his HOF Halter last year at the Santa Cruz County Fair. Many thanks to Regina Nelson, shown here with Feather.

NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Great Radulovich Farms News



Granddaughter Gwendolyn Naomi is born... and what a blessing. And yes she does really like her fingers...—Grandma Penny

News from Whisper Equestrian Center

I am so looking forward to spring. I think everyone is. The rain has been great and the grass is green—but enough already!

I want to congratulate our clients on their Top Ten awards. Every one of our clients earned one. What a record. Whispers Sundance Kid also got top ten recognition again. We love these great ponies and the thrill of presenting them at the various shows.

I just returned from the ASPC/AMHR spring board meeting, and there are a lot of positive things in the works. The 2011 ASPC/AMHR convention will be in Portland, Oregon, and if you can attend, the committee meetings and training sessions are great. We have also been invited to participate in some combined driving demonstrations at Happ’s. Happ’s is an internationally-known combined driving center located 15 minutes from Portland. I will have more information on the time and directions, as we get closer to convention.

On a personal note, we are expecting two babies this year. We bred two mares to CD McCall’s Jazzee Jett. Jett is Redrock breeding, and one of the foals will be double Redrock. We are very excited to see what he produces. I am hoping for a filly to eventually breed to our Hall of Fame stallion Master’s Painted Kid Ryan. Both stallions are 100% pinto producers so there is no doubt they babies will be pintos.

We are thinning our herd and have some excellent ponies for sale at very reasonable prices if you know anyone interested. We have both trained and untrained available.

We will be scheduling about three drives at Fort Ord this year for those of us who enjoy just getting out and driving. I will be posting those dates on our Facebook page and in the Area VII newsletter.

We are looking forward to getting back to basics and enjoying our ponies. We do have openings in our training barn so come to the coast, enjoy the cool weather and have some fun. —Julie Mabie

On a side note: The tsunami did a lot of damage to our Santa Cruz harbor (17 boats sank, 4 went out to sea and the docks are non-existent.) No people were injured. 17 million dollars in damage not counting the boats. The wave was not that big but it was strong.



KIMBERLY WHITE/GETTY IMAGES

News from Fog Ranch

Not much news from Fog Ranch. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our only foal this year. We bred Fog Ranch’s Bay Watch Babe HOF to Double Stuf HOF.

We will not be showing much, only at Julie Mabie’s Schooling Show in July and the Santa Cruz County Fair. Cost of every thing is really getting to the old pocket book.

All of our ponies are in fine health as are myself and Pat.—Mimi Woolem

News from Jim Curry

Area VII lost another of our long time members recently with the death of Pat Grady. Pat and his wife Aggie, who also died recently, were very active members and will be greatly missed. Several of our members that have been active and officers of the club in the past have had severe health problems recently and I wish all of them a speedy recovery.

There have also been problems here. Some of my best suppliers of tack have gone out of business because of the poor economy or retired because of age. Many of my products were purchased from Glover Equine Products in Canada, and after twenty-five years, they made the decision to close because the imports from India and China made it impossible to compete price wise. Triple L products made a similar decision. My rope supplier retired—all these things have had an effect on my tack business and have made it necessary to change some of my activities.

Horse sales are not what they were in recent years, and prices are certainly down. As a result, I only bred two mares for 2011 foals, and the day after I sent my entries in for the ASPC and AMHR futurities one of those came into season. Thank goodness I have always been an optimist and feel sure things will be better soon.

On that thought, I am looking forward to the one (hopefully two) foal or foals due this year. Both mares I bred are maiden mares and the crosses are long-planned and anticipated. I am also looking forward to judging Congress again this year, as well as the other shows I will be adjudicating. I also hope to show some of my horses this year and finish gaining the necessary points to obtain HOF status for a couple.

I will close with best wishes to everyone for a good year and a thank you to all those who support the club activities. Working together and enjoying our horses and ponies makes it all worthwhile! —*Jim*

Bellota Miniature Ranch News

We are excited about our three new babies this year. Our first baby was Duke, seen in the picture below with our horse exercise dog, Ralphie, as they are becoming acquainted. We finally got a buckskin colt, hoping he will make a future driving horse.



We are currently grooming and getting our little guys ready for the upcoming shows. Training goes on every day, rain or shine! And so does cleaning stalls!—*Pat and Linda Anastasio*

Vermont Update

Excerpted from the The Journal April-May article "Coming Full Circle" written by Area VII's John Killacky.

Vermont winter has us training with Mike and Tina Mauss in the indoor arena at Windswept Farm amidst much larger dressage horses and jumpers. We lunge, trot, and walk in spiraling circles. A teenage barnmate, Abbi Glitman, is helping be my legs for long lining in preparation for the cart this spring. Both my new Raindrop and I are learning patience and focus as she is being broke to drive.



Fog Ranch's Pacific Raindrop may be a California girl, but she seems to be adjusting to life with John and Larry in Vermont.

Send us your Ranch and Member News! The deadline for the Summer issue (July, August, September) is Monday, June 20. E-mail news and photos to michelenelson2@sbcglobal.net, or USPS to 932 60th Street, Oakland, CA 94608.

From the Neighbors to the North

from Diane Zmolek, ADS Shetland Breed Steward

We can feel the pace gearing up for the upcoming season of non-stop events. Today, we spent the entire day at the **Northwest Horse Fair** in Albany, Oregon. There was a great attendance and a vibrant energy everywhere. I am confident the American spirit is going to prevail through some distressing times and launch everyone into a renewed vigor of equine life. It has been a few years since we attended. We loved the feeling of a reunion with long past friends and competitors.

People were buying new inventions, puppies, and tack, which contributed to the air of excitement. The trailer vendor told us he sold four of the large, living quarter trailers just this weekend. It was astonishing to see the stands packed in the main arena with spectators, kids laughing, and people generally having a great time. The Miniature Donkey club was well represented in their breed promotion presentation and everyone was smiling, the pressure was off, the comraderie inviting. I could not help but think, despite the effort it takes to go to these events, we must continue to keep our little equine in front of the public eye, promote every aspect of the charm of owning them and support each other.

I particularly noticed the youth. This is an area we all need to continue to nurture and find opportunities to help kids have the chances we have enjoyed for generations. Our High School Equestrian teams need so much help supporting the young men and women wanting to further their equine interests. I recently donated all of my western hats I wore to shows "back in the day." It felt so good and I know they all went to new homes where they will be treasured for many years.

Further news from the north...the spectacular Arena Driving Trials are complete for the season. Clinics of all disciplines and therapies are being held every weekend. There is barely time to clean tack.

Members of Western Whips & Wheels (www.westernwhipsandwheels.com) and many more driving enthusiasts are in the final planning stages of a "must attend" CDE near Corvallis, Oregon the weekend of July 1-3. Whether you are new to CDE or a veteran, this group goes the extra mile to make this event a fabulous opportunity for Shetlands and Miniatures; not all of the CDEs do. Information is available at <http://cdeatinavale.sitesvp.com/>. Corvallis is only 4 hours from the California/Oregon border in the beautiful Willamette Valley.

Happ's (happs-inc.com), off of I-5 in Ethel, Washington, is in full swing preparations for one weekend of activities after another with their CDE "happ"ening August 4-7 and the VSE in September. **Happ's loves Shetlands and Miniatures!!!!**

And as everyone knows, Area 8 is seeking assistance from all of our pony and miniwestern region comrades to make the 2011 Convention in Portland as great as the one in Reno hosted by Area 7. We have a tough act to follow. A featured event will be an exciting "Field Trip" to Happ's, where attendees will be driven on the marathon course by some of the great Northwest drivers.

I recently attended a Navigator Clinic presented by Thomas Smith of Vacaville, California, and one of the most respected navigators in the nation. A Navigator is required in ADS approved events for all single and multiple Shetlands and for all Miniature multiples. If anyone is considering CDE and its associated events, I would put this clinic on the "Must Do First" list, whether or not you will be a Navigator or are making navigating your primary goal. There is an incredible amount of knowledge required, not only for success but for the safety of you, the driver, the pony, and the equipment. Through repetition, it will become second nature, but if you *only* learn as you go, you will probably be more likely to learn from the school of hard knocks, which hurts. There is physics involved, body posture, techniques, positioning, and strength to be understood just like any athletic endeavor...it is not a free ride! There is a great video available by emailing driveon@quest.net and asking for Navigating 101. A good Navigator is worth their weight in gold...so pick someone light, because it may be costly.



The deadline for the next Area VII column in the June/July issue of *The Journal* is May 1.

Please send your news to
Naomi Stacy,
n_stacy@clearwire.net
(530) 921-8518

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