

Waska Riders Member Letter

Revised March 2009

INTRODUCTION

Waska Riders Saddle Club is a member of the Western Saddle Clubs Association (WSCA). A club newsletter is mailed out around the 15th of each month with news to keep you updated on club activities.

MEETINGS

- 4th Monday of each month, May through September at Wild Ridge, Glenwood at 8 p.m. October and January through April at Pizza Ranch, Glenwood at 8 p.m.
- Social time follows the business meeting; educational presentations may also be given.

DUES

Single: \$15

Family: \$25

Membership dues are renewed annually and are to be paid before April 30 in order to be a member in good standing. Late fees will apply after April 30 (see by-laws). When members reach the age of 21, they no longer fall under their parents' family membership & must join as an individual.

MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

In order for the club to offer events and shows, there must be voluntary involvement by the members. Each family or individual is expected to be involved in some way with the open show and fun shows and are encouraged to participate in parades. Committees are formed and work lists are passed around to allow club members to choose what they would like to do as far as working at shows, etc.

In order to pay for the awards for the open show, we need to have sponsors. In 2009, we will again have a sponsorship committee that will be in charge of obtaining sponsorships from area businesses. If you would like us to contact someone specific, please contact Chris Staebler, sponsorship committee chairperson. It is our hope that through this committee, we will be able to contact more potential sponsors more easily, and avoid having more than one individual ask the same business for a donation. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Chris.

Many years we will be having a saddle raffle to raise additional funds for the club. Tickets will be available at meetings or at Blairview Saddle Shop in Alexandria. Each family is asked to sell two books of tickets. The drawing for the saddle and prizes is held at the open show.

OPEN SHOW

The open show is our biggest annual fund raiser and is held at the Glenwood fairgrounds arena on the first or second weekend in July. It is open to the public and anyone is welcome to compete. This show has a WSCA approved judge and participants can compete for the chance to go to the WSCA Champ Show in September. A show of this caliber requires a lot of dedication and planning by the membership. We need everyone's involvement to make this show run smoothly.

PARADES

The club enjoys getting involved with parades in the area. The Waterama Parade is the biggest one we do every year and it is always the last Sunday in July. We also ride in a few smaller towns every year. Anyone can ride in parades. It's our biggest advertisement for the club so it's very important everyone looks good. The following parade attire is required: blue jeans (dark navy), white short sleeve polo shirts, light-colored western hats. Everyone should bring a clean saddle blanket to put on their horse under the blue Waska saddle pads which are provided at the assembly area. We also have blue leg wraps that are applied to at least the forelegs of all horses.

TRAIL RIDES

The annual fall ride will include Saturday night supper paid by the club and you must make a reservation for this ride so they can get an accurate count for the meal. All other park reservations, fees, meals, snacks, etc. are the responsibility of each family or individual. Members may come and go as they like for part or all of the weekend.

FUN SHOWS

There are five fun shows this year. They are held between May and October at the Glenwood fairgrounds arena. The show committee meets in February to draw up the schedule for the fun shows. In 2009, shows will be held on Saturday or Sunday afternoons; rain or shine, starting at 1:00 p.m., with games starting not before 3:30 p.m. and not after 4:00, with the exception of the July show starting at 9 a.m. Show chairs are assigned at the February show committee meeting and members can sign up at meetings to help at their choice of shows.

These shows are open to *members only*. \$15 individual or \$25 family membership fee must be paid prior to riding at a club event. The fun shows are free to all current members. This is a good time for learning.

All fun show classes are divided into age groups as follows (age as of January 1 of the current year):

PEEWEE	10 and under
JUNIOR	11-13
INTERMEDIATE	14-17
SENIOR	18-34
SENIOR+	35 & over

Fun Show Rules

- In order to qualify for year-end, you must ride in at least three of the fun shows.
- Dues must be paid before points count towards year-end.
- Points for year end awards will be taken from your three best shows.
- Most WSCA rules will be followed except as follows:
 - Boots, jeans and tucked in shirts with sleeves are the only required attire for participation in fun shows.
 - Horses will not be disqualified for using training tack, but shall not be placed above horses wearing regulation tack in that class.
 - Knock-downs will result in a 5-second penalty.
 - Riders must wear a number on their back or their saddle pad. Use one number per person, regardless of number of horses ridden.
 - The same horse may be used by two different people in two age divisions of the same class, but only one may ride for points.

QUALIFYING FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

Year-end awards will be given to high point and reserve high point in each age division. In each class, six points are awarded for 1st place, five for 2nd, four for 3rd, etc., regardless of class size. Eligibility requirements will be reviewed each year and published in this letter. For the 2009 qualifying year, in order to qualify for year-end awards, your dues must be paid before points count and you must ride in at least three shows.

YEAR-END ELECTIONS & ANNUAL BANQUET/AWARDS CEREMONY

Each year at the October meeting, we elect officers, directors, committee members, WSCA delegates, a queen and a princess. This is a very important meeting for members to attend!

We also have an annual banquet, which is usually held sometime during January or February in conjunction with Sauk Centre and Osakis saddle clubs. New and outgoing officers are acknowledged and club awards are presented. Dinner and a dance are also a part of this fun evening. This is a great finale to a fun year of horsing around!

These guidelines are voted on by the entire club membership and revised as needed. Any changes made throughout the year will be published in the newsletter prior to their being enforced. Questions should be directed to a club officer of your choice.

Join a committee & attend as many events as you can. Enjoy being a part of the Waska Riders!

Visit us on the web at www.waskariders.org