

KTRA NEWSLETTER

May, 2011



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May Campout, Orienteering and Pig Roast

This Kensington spring campout will be held May 20—22. You will need to prepay for reservations. Please contact Judy Seifried to reserve (see her contact information on the bottom left of this page.

Rates for the camping weekend will be \$18/night per rig and a \$10/person charge for food. The orienteering event will be an additional \$5/person.

For the campout you can begin pulling in at 10:00 on Friday morning. You will be directed to your camping spot.

Bill Gunn will be preparing breakfast as usual on Saturday morning and will be the Pig-meister on Saturday night for the roast. The potluck begins at 5:00. Please bring a dish to pass.

On Saturday the orienteering event will be held from 10:00 to 4:00. Bring your team of from 1—5 riders (\$5/rider). You will also need to bring glasses and a map compass. There will be a limited number of compasses available for sale. Remember to dress for the weather. There will be

awards and prizes for the best team.

The Proud Lake Trail Riders have also invited us to their pot luck on Sunday at 12:00 at the Proud Lake Staging Area.

See you at the Roast....



KTRA Board of Directors:

- Judy Seifried, Chair
 Kim Liebowitz, Vice Chair and Treasurer
 Keria Rossin, Secretary
 Debbie Cavallaro
 Bruce Darr
 Bill Gunn
 Jeanie Kelleher
 Beth Kelly
 Ken Peltier
 Pattie Perushak
 Carrie Tokarczyk

If you would like to contact the Board, please email or phone Judy Seifried:
 karmajames509@hotmail.com
 734-891-2788

Annual Banquet and Square Dance

This year's Annual Banquet and Square Dance was held at the Lazy J Ranch in Milford on March 26. The square dance caller was a big hit and everyone had a great time.

The owner of the Lazy J entertained everyone with great stories.



If you missed this year's annual banquet and square dance make sure you come

next year—spots fill up fast and we usually have limited amounts of seating. So be sure you reserve early when the time comes.



KTRA Newsletter

Getting you and your horse back in the saddle this spring.....

Check hooves—Schedule a farrier visit to be sure the horse is trimmed or shod correctly before increasing his exercise or training.

Check teeth—This should be done once or twice a year by an equine dentist or veterinarian. A dental checkup can prevent some training problems like head-tossing and fidgeting, and will also help to ensure that your horse gets the most benefit from whatever he eats.

Check for parasites—Start or continue a schedule of deworming. Some owners prefer to do a fecal check to determine parasite infestation, while others simply buy and use popular deworming products. Check with a veterinarian if you are unsure about the right products and scheduling for your horse.

Check vaccinations—Consult immunization records or ask your veterinarian what shots your horse needs and special conditions in your area. There is some evidence that horses develop a stronger immunity and have fewer skin or metabolic reactions if vaccinations are spread out over several days or weeks instead of being given all at once.

Check tack and equipment—Look over halters, saddles, bridles, and other equipment and repair or replace as needed before starting training or competition. Clean and condition leather to avoid irritating the horse's skin.

Monitor grazing—Pasture time may need to be limited at first to avoid problems related to overconsumption of lush grass. Because fresh spring grass contains a high percentage of moisture and very little fiber, continue to offer horses hay for the first few weeks of grazing. Heavy, cresty horses and those subject to laminitis may be sensitive to the fructans (sugars) in rapidly growing grass. The use of drylots or grazing muzzles can allow horses to get out of the barn without risking metabolic upsets.

Check condition—The resumption of training or exercise is a good time to evaluate your horse's body condition. If a visual examination doesn't tell you whether your horse is too fat or too thin, try a "hands-on" determination—generally you should be able to feel, but not see, the ribs of a horse that is in moderate condition.

Evaluate feeding program—Will you be asking your horse for a much greater level of exercise? If so, he may need more grain or a high-fat ration to meet his energy requirements. He may also benefit from electrolytes, a muscle recovery supplement, or a feed designed to minimize tying-up. In areas with extremely hot, humid summers, some sweet feed proponents change to feeding pellets to avoid problems with mold. Any modification of a feeding program needs to be made gradually over several days, blending new feed into old and allowing the horse to adjust to the new regimen.

Finally, begin training! *If the horse has been off work for the winter, you need to schedule steadily increasing work to bring him back into condition. Start with brief periods of walking, moving to longer rides and faster gaits over a period of several weeks. Conditioning involves not just the horse's muscles but also his lungs, heart, tendons, ligaments, and bones. By progressing slowly and paying attention to the horse's reactions, you can often avoid lameness and injuries.*

We're on the Web at:

www.kensingtontrailriders.org

Upcoming Events:

May 20-22—Spring Campout, Orienteering Event and Pig Roast

July 4—July 4th Parade

August 20—Scavenger Hunt

Sept 30-Oct 2—Fall Campout and Proud Lake Circle Ride

Nov 26—Thanksgiving/Christmas Parade.

Welcome New Officers

The Board of Kensington Trail Riders has experienced some changes this past election. We say goodbye to old friends and board members:

Sandi Barnes
Joanne George
Lisa Long
Sandy Navetta
Rendy Kondrath

And welcome new board members:

Debbie Cavallaro
Bruce Darr
Ken Peltier

With the departure of Sandy Navetta, the spot of Vice Chair opened up. Kim Liebowitz has filled that spot and is now our Vice Chair and Treasurer.

