

**THE C.W.H.J.A NEWS**  
*Colorado West Hunter Jumper Association*  
*www.cwhja.com*

**January 2011**

Michelle Bonfils Thibeault – *President*

Bob Pietrzak – *Vice President*

Cindy Scholl – *Treasurer*

Martha McCoy – *Secretary*

Tarah Wolf & Lisa Flynn -- *Points keeper*

Tom Goode

Vanessa Carter

Kim Dixon

Carolyn DeVan (Jr. Rep)

Annie Graber (Jr. Rep)

**2011 SHOW SCHEDULE**

<i>April 30</i>	<i>Strang Ranch</i>	<i>Bridget Strang</i>
<i>June 4 &amp; 5</i>	<i>Strang Ranch</i>	<i>Bridget Strang</i>
<i>June 11 &amp; 12</i>	<i>Advocate Safehouse Show Aspen Equestrian Estates</i>	<i>Susie Wallace &amp; Martha McCoy</i>
<i>June 25 &amp; 26</i>	<i>Crystal Springs Ranch</i>	<i>Tarah Wolf</i>
<i>July 2 &amp; 3</i>	<i>Sopris Therapy Benefit Show Aspen Equestrian Estates</i>	<i>CANCELLED</i>
<i>July 9 &amp; 10</i>	<i>Pony Club Show Strang Ranch</i>	<i>Leslie Thomas &amp; Robyn Myler</i>
<i>July 16 &amp; 17</i>	<i>Cozy Point Ranch</i>	<i>Lisa Flynn</i>
<i>Aug. 20 &amp; 21</i>	<i>Strang Ranch</i>	<i>Bridget Strang</i>
<i>Oct .1 &amp; 2</i>	<i>Year End Show</i>	<i>CWHJA Board</i>

## BOARD NEWS

---

Dear Members:

Thanks for a great Year End Show! It was wonderful to have so many participants to enjoy the beautiful course that our Board members put together (special thanks to Kim Dixon for course design), to enjoy the nice facilities of Crystal Springs Ranch (thank you Kathy), and to enjoy the good weather we had (thanks Mother Nature!). I can't remember a recent year end show that the weather was so pleasant.

Our Year End Banquet will be held at Tempranillo Restaurant in Basalt, Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> for a luncheon. Save the date! Watch your mail for a formal invitation with full details.

As part of the banquet, some of the prizes are accompanied by a trophy. These trophies are graciously donated by individual CWHJA members. We are working to better document the donations of these trophies so I can properly acknowledge everyone at the banquet. If you have donated a trophy, please send me an email or give me a call and share your inspiration for donating the trophy to our organization.

Last year at this time, I had the pleasure of writing that "Our membership in 2010 was the largest in the past 10 years (and maybe ever) and our horseshows are well attended and managed." This year, our membership was notably smaller certainly in part due to a slow start of the season from the Equine HPV scare and possibly from current economic conditions in general. The Aspen Chamber Resort Association recently released a economic report for 2011 and found that economic activity was down in all business sectors in the valley for the first half of 2011 compared to last year.

A smaller membership means the Board has to be extra conservative with our funds in hosting the Year End Show, the Year End Banquet and reconsider our ability to award junior scholarships and support clinics. Our membership numbers also influence how many horseshows will be hosted in next year's show season. Your membership is so important to the vitality of our organization. Please take advantage of the ease of renewing your membership for the 2012 season at the Year End Banquet.

It is also election season. Lisa Flynn, who has graciously served on the Board for several years and been our go to person for Point Keeping, is finishing her term this December to spend time with her beautiful baby girl, Kayleigh. Bob Pietrak, Cindy Scholl and myself are up for re-election. Other nominees include Kristy Gregg, Patti Watson, and possibly Carol Dopkin. If you are interested in running, please let me know. A voting station will be set-up at the banquet and those of you who can't make it will receive mail-in ballots.

I look forward to seeing you at the Banquet and thanks again for helping us end the season with such a fun show!

Sincerely,

*Michelle*

Michelle Bonfils Thibeault  
President, CWHJA

# *Board Minutes*

---

## CWHJA Meeting Minutes October 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at Bella Mia Restaurant in El Jebel.

Board Members Present: Michelle Thibeault, Bob Pietrzak, Cindy Scholl, Tarah Wolf, Tom Goode, Vanessa Carter, and Martha McCoy.

Board Members Absent: Kim Dixon and Lisa Flynn.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 9<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Martha gave a brief report on the year End Show. Cindy presented a Balance Sheet as of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and a Profit and Loss Statement for the same period. The CWHJA account balance is currently \$12,597.16. Expenses for the remainder of 2011 include the Year End Banquet and associated ribbons, and prizes.

CWHJA currently has 80 members, down approximately 25 from last year. There was discussion about the decline in membership, and general agreement among board members that increasing membership should be a priority for 2012. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Member Services: 2012 Election of Board Members: Terms for Michelle, Bob, Cindy, and Lisa will be ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Michelle, Bob, and Cindy stated that they are willing to run for re-election. Michelle will ask Lisa if she is interested in running again. Junior Board members are also up for re-election. Michelle will place a notice in the November newsletter soliciting nominations from the general membership. The newsletter notice will appear 30 days prior to the Year End Banquet, as required by the CWHJA bylaws.

CWHJA Scholarship: There was in depth discussion regarding the CWHJA Scholarship. Several board members expressed their concern about the organization's ability to fund the scholarships over time. The question was raised as to how the funds that are given out in scholarships are replenished, especially in light of the current decline in membership. There was also discussion about competing uses of CWHJA funds, such as supplies and prizes for the Year End Show, and CWHJA sponsored clinics. Tom reviewed the history of the scholarships, the worthy recipients from the past two years, and the value of supporting young people who are members of CWHJA. Tarah brought an idea suggested by Kathy Weiss Stephenson to hold a silent auction at the year End Show to benefit the scholarship fund. A motion was made to postpone the decision of whether or not to award scholarships in 2012 until the next board meeting. By that time, expenses for the year will be complete, giving board members an accurate financial picture, and new board member will have an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Year End Banquet: Michelle reported on Tempranillo's bid to host the banquet, and provided several menu options. A motion was made to put on a luncheon banquet at Tempranillo

Restaurant in Basalt on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried. Martha will help Michelle with the invitations. Tarah and Michelle will work together on prizes and engraving. Cindy will assist in preparing trophy donor recognitions. Michelle will ask Lisa if she is interested in teaming up with junior members again to create table decorations. Bob and Vanessa will set up the voting table and conduct the tabulations. Martha and Cindy will set up a table for collecting memberships and division sponsorships. Cindy suggested also having a form for sponsoring perpetual trophies. Board members will wear name tags.

It was noted that the Year End Banquet is held in December so that there is ample time after the year End show to order personalized prizes. The date for the Year End Show is set so that it does not conflict with Fall High Prairie.

New Business: The board briefly discussed the changes that were made to Flower Power this year and decided the matter should be discussed in greater detail at the next board meeting. The discussion would include cross entry restrictions into other divisions.

Several suggestions were made for improving the year End Show and upgrading the association. They included purchasing equipment and supplies for running the show, more numbers for jumpers, and arena decorations. Many of these items were borrowed or donated. It was suggested that these items could be budgeted for in 2012.

A proposal was also made to consider limiting the number of divisions an individual horse could compete in, with the idea of providing for the welfare of the horses at CWHJA shows.

Board members agreed that all of the ideas presented had merit and would be discussed at the next board meeting to be held in late December or early January.

Michelle extended thanks to everyone for their efforts towards the Year End Show. She gave special recognition to Kim Dixon who worked tirelessly before and throughout the show. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McCoy

## **STRANG RANCH FALL 2011 NEWS**

The fall at the ranch has been quite busy with the National Sheepdog finals in September. Despite the rain over 12,000 people came to the valley for the week to watch the best sheepdogs in the country compete at Strang Ranch. There were over 180 volunteers that helped set up, park, organize and entertain at the finals. The Strang Ranch Community of friends, clients and family pitched in in every capacity. They enjoyed watching the dogs, learning about the sport and making new friends in far off places. Some things I learned... 1,200 hundred cars at the ranch at one time fills up most of a hay field! Patty Watson really is one of the most efficient and organized humans in the world! Everyone that comes to the valley for the first time thinks it is a very special place, and finally, the best of the best in any sport really are!

Other news, Congratulations to Martha McCoy on the new partnership with "Henry". Good luck!!! Laura and Bob Pietrzak took off to California in October showing at Del Mar. Bringing home two Reserve championships by the first weeks end. Way to go!!!! On a more somber note, BC may you rest in Peace. He was the best horse ever, and taught a lot of little kids how to canter!!!

In Closing, THANK YOU to everyone the helped us run our horse shows, and thank you for coming to support the local shows. The local shows are extremely important to the health of the horse show industry and I hope that the local professionals and everyone who has any interest in the horse show community will continue to do their best to support them, in any way possible, even if it is a little out of the way.

Where would you be with out the CWHJA??

## **CRYSTAL SPRINGS RANCH & SADDLERY**

In August, Randy Henry, her daughter, Micca, and I flew down to Monterrey, Mexico to Horse Shop. We went to Rodrigo Lambre's Private Riding Club of 200+ horses, and "La Silla", a world renowned breeding, training, selling, and International showing facility... My old friend, Poncho Roma de la Garza, the owner of "La Silla," was there. It was so nice to re-new our friendship again...

All is all; we looked at more than 100 horses. (Bought one). The most notable thing about our visit was that 99% of the male horses were stallions- not geldings. They were all perfectly behaved, and had wonderful manners w/ the grooms, riders, and the mares. The better riders really stood out. The professionals- male and female- were from all over the Globe- Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Sweden, Ireland, England, Germany, and Canada. Some rode great- others were pretty dismal. While there, there was a Week End Jumper Show held in the Outdoor Ring. Riders and horses shipped in from hundreds of miles away.

The winners rode for their Plaques and ribbons. There was much ceremony: the "Beauty Queen" handing out the prizes, the Victory gallop and the music- For every single class.

The only sad note while down there was that a Casino was bombed by the Drug Lords ( Narcos) that Sat. causing 73 deaths. Amazingly, the town, Hotel, the Equestrian Center, the shopping malls and the Restaurants, acted like it never happened. If it weren't for CNN on the Hotel T.V in my room, I would not have known.

Being in Mexico was a good Mental Prep for High Prairie Fall Shows. All that machismoism really made me think I could do anything on a horse! We took my Band of Bays and we were ON IT from Day One. We took home multiple Championships and Reserves over the 2 weeks. Does anyone need a picture Frame?

The Weekend of Oct. 1 & 2, we hosted the CWHJA Year End Show. Liza Dennehy was the judge and did an excellent job. We were done every day before Dusk. A BIG THANK YOU to all the CWHJA Board Members for volunteering their time and talents to putting on one Fabulous Show.

We have been busy here getting the paddocks in back of the Arena a face-lift, the pastures harrowed, and the winter's Supply of Hay and Shavings in the Barn.

We welcome back Mary Faldaz, the Soffer Family, Morgan White, Summers Moore and her girls, the Cassetty's and the Fitzgerald's. Happy to have Lynn Bopeley, Lucy, and Mariemma, Peg Devan and Carolyn here, along w/ Leslie Hill and daughter, Jeannine Kadow, Ella and Siri Henderson, Jessica Hagen, and Jill Passero.

As I write this, Jill Henselwood, and the Team Horses arrived in Guadalajara, Mexico today for the Pan American Games. She is representing Canada with "George" on the Jumping Team. Jill and her Juniper Farms are bringing down more than 12 horses to Crystal Springs West this winter. It is always such a pleasure to ride w/ Jill, her staff and students every morning. She has her own Vets and Farriers come down throughout the winter. I am continually learning something new every day with them in the Barn. Jill is a very fine horsewoman and I have the upmost respect for her and her Operation.

The horses and I leave for the Desert in November. Between Consepccion, Beto, Tarah, and Reyes, the Ranch, the Barn, and the Saddle Shop should be well taken care of.

I am planning on Showing at the Oaks for 2 weeks in Dec. w/ Randy Henry coaching me.

I will miss the Year End Banquet- but will be with you in my thoughts. Have a Great Banquet and a Wonderful Winter.

Please Visit if you are in the Desert this winter!

Kathy Weiss Stephenson

**News Flash from Crystal Springs** Hi all, Just got word that my new horse, Soulmate , AKA "OMG", will be arriving in LAX from Denmark . He will be out of quarantine and ready to pick up Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>! Perfect timing. I will send photos to CWHJA soon.

Best,

Kathy

## ROARING FORK HUNTER JUMPERS

I am so excited for 2012 -- Snowflake Horseshows at Cozy Point, Rita Timpriano clinic in February, (call 379.9118 or email me if you are interested in participating in either), my wonderful clients and several new horses and riders to share the new season with!

I would also like to congratulate Lisa Flynn, on the much anticipated arrival of her beautiful daughter, Kayleigh. Lisa is such a calm and natural new mother. And where we once thought the water at Cozy Point only made it possible for our professionals to have boys (Mary Margaret's Nate, Patti's Bryce, Ginger's James & Caleb, and my Sebastien), Lisa broke the mold with a GIRL! And she already has a pony. Watch out for our next Leadliner!

See you at the banquet!  
-Michelle

## *Advertisements and Announcements*

**For Sale:** 16 1/2" Henri De Revel saddle, long flap. Good condition. \$550. Call Martha @ 309-0983.

Send your submissions for the next newsletter to Michelle at  
[RoaringForkHJ@gmail.com](mailto:RoaringForkHJ@gmail.com)

**CWHJA**  
PO Box 348  
Basalt, CO 81612