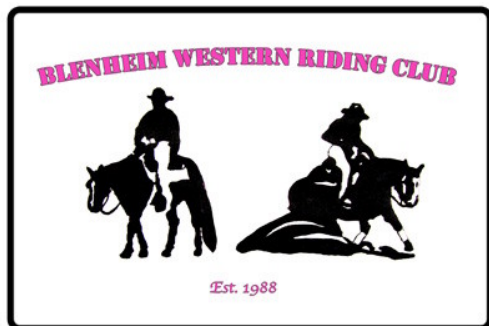


# Blenheim Western

# Riding Club inc



FEBRUARY 2009

President:

Lisa Pearce

03 570 5198

[pynrock@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pynrock@xtra.co.nz)

Vice President:

Kelly Hawkins

03 571 6105

[kellyhawkins11@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyhawkins11@hotmail.com)

Secretary:

Kim Weatherhead

03 574 2720

[springvale.farm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:springvale.farm@xtra.co.nz)

Newsletter/Website:

Swan Michel

021 309 155

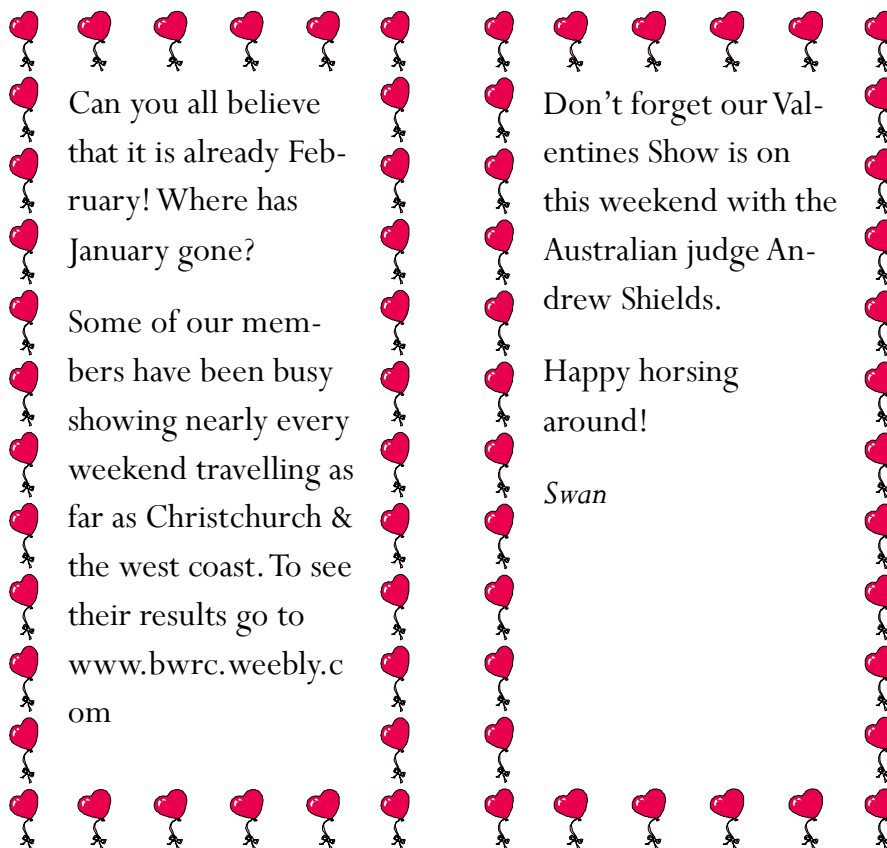
[swan@georgesmichel.co.nz](mailto:swan@georgesmichel.co.nz)

Treasurer:

Barbara Grinter

03 572 9220

[info@alpaca.co.nz](mailto:info@alpaca.co.nz)



Can you all believe that it is already February! Where has January gone?

Some of our members have been busy showing nearly every weekend travelling as far as Christchurch & the west coast. To see their results go to [www.bwrc.weebly.com](http://www.bwrc.weebly.com)

Don't forget our Valentines Show is on this weekend with the Australian judge Andrew Shields.

Happy horsing around!

*Swan*

## CLUB DAYS

HELD EVERY LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

10AM TO 3PM APPROX.

*Arena fee: non members \$5.00 per horse & rider. To be paid at the start of the day. Members: free*

## **!!! Dates to remember !!!**

**Next club day: 22nd Febuary 2009 10:30am to 3pm approx.**

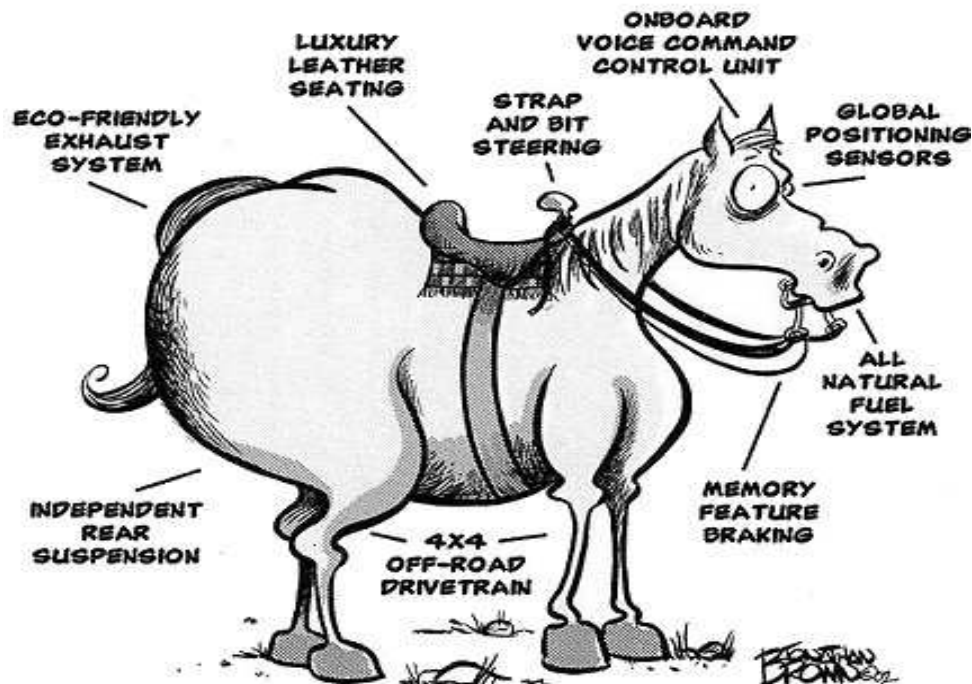
**Club Meeting: 11th FEB 2009**

**7:00pm start Havelock Tavern**

- **13/14th Feb 09—BRANCOTT Blenheim "Valentines" Show. Judge Andrew Shields (Aust)**

I've attached the entry form with this newsletter or go to [www.bwrc.weebly.com](http://www.bwrc.weebly.com) to download it.

- **7/8th March 09—All breeds Nelson, email Rochelle [[flaggoncreek@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:flaggoncreek@slingshot.co.nz)] for Show schedule. Judge Janine Adcock**



**ORIGINAL S.U.V.**

**!!!ClassifiedClassified!!!**

- **BWRC Merchandise: caps, sleeveless vest, tshirts. Email Barbara Grinter to order.  
A percentage of the sale of the black/pink & black/green items will be donated to the NZ breast cancer association.**
- **1 \* black Show SUMMIT wool felt hat, made in Mexico. size 57. NEW. \$60  
Classy black faux felt has a comfortable elastic band inside, gives a comfortable fit. 4inch brim & low crown**
- **1\* Cream straw BANGORA hat , size 57. NEW. \$65  
Email Swan on [swan@georgesmichel.co.nz](mailto:swan@georgesmichel.co.nz) for photos or more info.**
- **1 x Pair of Wrangler Aura jeans, size 14, light wash \$80 Call Kim Weatherhead on 0273295157.**
- **Western Saddle made in Texas by Courts, very well made good quality leather with suede padded seat and silver conchos. Its a 15" seat, is Semi QH bars and would suit a high withered horse that is not too broad. It is mahogany brown colour with basket weave stamped leather on the skirts, cantle and forks. Happy for it to be tried at the arena on club day or at other times by agreement. I am looking for \$1400 for it. Contact Heather Deacon on 021502316 for details and photos**
- **Good Quality Meadow hay for sale. \$7/bale. Contact Heather Deacon on 035729645**
- **2006 IFOR Williams Double float in great condition, with tack box. Contact swan to view: 021309155 POA**

## Ready To takeoff?

**Be sure with these pre-ride checks from Step 1 of “AQHA’s Fundamentals of Horsemanship.” [www.americasdaily.com](http://www.americasdaily.com)**

You wouldn't want to get on an airplane without knowing that someone had checked the fuel and made sure everything was in working order, right? It's no different with a horse.

Once you've saddled up, there are two things you really shouldn't do:

1. Get on without any preparation.
  2. Turn your back and walk away from the horse, with him following.
- In either case, if the horse is a little girthy or cinchy, you might be in for a nasty surprise - either getting bucked off or having the horse jump down the back of your shirt.

Before you climb aboard your horse, perform a short series of exercises from the ground to check that everything is in working order and going well for the horse - mentally, emotionally and physically.

- Don't just chase the horse around in mindless circles. Keep his feet busy, but keep him interested. If you're interesting, he'll be interested. Back him up a little. Send him to the right and to the left. Disengage the hindquarters and send the shoulders out in a new direction. Do lots of smooth transitions and changes of direction. This will all help the horse get connected to you before you get on his back.
- Every once in a while, as you're going through these exercises, tighten up your cinch a little bit. You'll find that once your horse moves a little, he'll blow out some air. Usually, three adjustments are enough.
- As you tighten the cinch, try to get in time with the horse's breathing and be polite. Tighten up the girth as you would your own belt.

These exercises are not meant to get the horse physically tired. They're more to get him mentally prepared. If he's confident, light and connected on the ground, you can be sure that things are going to go much better when you get on his back.



We've all done it: on the way home from the barn or a show, we pop into the grocery or a gas station.

But a London-area equestrian was recently asked to leave a grocery because, as the security guard put it, she was, "smelling too much."

According to the report on [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk), rider Krys Gunton stopped at the shop, still in jodphurs and boots, after finishing a ride on her boarded horse. She says she had a bit of dried mud on her boots, but no "muck" (love the Brits)--just "eau de horse."

I was thinking about this story last night as I went on my own post-barn errand, in my case, to rent a movie. Sitting in the parking lot, I decided to untuck my jeans from my mid-calf barn boots to camouflage them a bit. I also opted--despite the cold--to leave my beloved barn coat in the truck. You see, this coat is not a "light duty" barn coat. It's a relic of my college equestrian team days and has years of riding, stall cleaning, wheelbarrow dumping, and hay tossing, as well as layers of horse slobber and dog hair ... anyway, you get the picture. While I do wash it annually (a must before it's stored in a shared closet!), it absolutely seeps the dreaded "eau de horse" from every stitch. Simply put, it's not fit for polite company.

So I shivered my way into the movie store, made my selection quickly before my boots had a chance to get up to room temperature, and headed for the door. At the checkout, the clerk made a remark about the weather, which I replied to with an offhand remark about being glad to be done with barn chores. He froze (as I think "oh no! I'm smelling too much!"), looked up, and started telling me about he and his wife's horses, asked where I board, remarked on the price of hay, and generally seemed thrilled to have a little horsey moment in the middle of his shift.

Guess I could have worn the coat!

Published in Thehorse.com

### **Skeleton of "Alien Mutilation" Horse at Center of Custody Battle**

by: Erin Ryder, *TheHorse.com News Editor*

Everyone in Alamosa, Colo., suddenly wants Snippy, reports [The Denver Post](http://TheDenverPost.com).

The skeleton of Snippy, an Appaloosa mare that was the first animal reported to be "mutilated by aliens," was to be offered on eBay last week with a starting bid of \$50,000. But as word of the auction got out, relatives of her former owners and officials with the town's Chamber of Commerce are lining up to dispute ownership, the paper reported.

No one's quite sure what happened to Snippy, who was found dead in her pasture in September 1967. According to the *Denver Post*, the most popular theories involve either alien abduction or teenagers with rifles, depending on who you ask. The alleged lack of blood and hoof prints in the area where the body was found, and the confirmed lack of flesh from the horse's head to withers, only add to the mystery, as do the two .22 bullets in her rump.

But what is certain is Snippy's status as a local legend.

"I'm going to put up a fight to get Snippy," Chamber of Commerce President Debora Goodman told the paper. "She's an icon to this valley. It's important that she stay here and represent that mysterious period in our history."



*We would love to hear from you....*

*What are you up to?*

*Do you have any foals born? We would love to put photos in the Newsletter!!*

*Photos of you riding your horse would be good too.*

*Or any articles that you wish to share with everyone.*

*Send to me:*

*[swan@georgesmichel.co.nz](mailto:swan@georgesmichel.co.nz)*





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