



**Mile High Mustang Club  
February 22, 2011**

**Club Officers**

President: Nancy Gough  
 Vice President: Leeann Lynch  
 Secretary: Lue Davis  
 Treasurer: Barb Schwartz

**Treasury**

Checking account has \$155.67 and the savings account \$2135.88. Approved as read. Motioned by Leeann Lynch and seconded by Rebecca Green to accept.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of November 23, 2010 meeting were read. Jackie Dunn motioned and seconded by Charlotte DeFreitas to accept.

**In Attendance:** Tina Mavor, Gail Star Cloutier, Dean and Charlotte DeFreitas, Julie and Katie Cummings, Jackie Johnson, Heather Brown, Leeann Lynch, Jackie Dunn, Rebecca Green, Nancy Gough, and Barbara Schwartz

**New Business**

**APRIL DUES ARE DUE**

**\$20**

The times for our regularly scheduled meetings was discussed. The decision of the members present was to keep the current dinner/meeting time of 5:30 Dinner and 6:30 Meeting for the balance of the year. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.. The next meeting will be February 22, 2011 at **Guadalajara Restaurant, Elizabeth, CO**

**Old Business**

HORSE EXPO is March 11-13 with check-in and set-up on Thursday, March 10th meet between 10 – 10:30am. Nancy Gough provided a list of items needed to bring. This list was discussed and members volunteer items to be brought. There will be 8 horses attending the Expo. Volunteers are needed to man the booth for approximately one hour per day, anyone who can volunteer please contact Nancy Gough. Also we will be conducting a raffle, if anyone would like to contribute items for the raffle, please contact Nancy Gough.

If anyone has pictures of their horses and activities of previous events, please E Mail to Lue Davis for our website.

Possible Activities in future

Another TACK SWAP is planned for the spring (perhaps in April) prior to the regularly scheduled meeting in the Guadalajara's parking lot. More information to follow.  
 Justin Borders is willing to do a CLINIC for our club in the summer. More information to follow.  
 Guest Speaker of a Message Therapist will be coming up soon. Date will be announced later.  
 Nancy would like to hear suggestions from the membership regarding topics and guest speakers at our meetings also activities for the upcoming spring, summer, and fall.

**Activities**

March	
10-13	Horse EXPO 2011
22	<b>Meeting will be at Guadalajara Restaurant, Elizabeth, CO</b> (in the same shopping center as Elizabeth Post Office and Bank of the West). Dinner at 5:30 and meeting 6:30.
April	
22	<b>Meeting will be at Guadalajara Restaurant, Elizabeth, CO</b> (in the same shopping center as Elizabeth Post Office and Bank of the West). Dinner at 5:30 and meeting 6:30.

Movies for Horse Lovers

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Citizen Mane                       | Cool Hoof Luke        |
| Withering Heights                  | Bonnie and Clydesdale |
| The Bridle of Frankenstein         |                       |
| Gentlemen Prefer Palominos         |                       |
| Prances with Hooves                |                       |
| For Whom the Belgian Toils         |                       |
| Rein Man                           |                       |
| Lawrence the Arabian               |                       |
| Stall Wars                         |                       |
| The Man with the Gelding Farm      |                       |
| The Day the Girth Stood Still      |                       |
| The Fall of the Horse of the Usher |                       |
| Horse Blanket Bingo                |                       |
| Saturday Night Feeder              |                       |
| Gone with the Whinny               |                       |

## February President's Corner

Greetings all and I hope many of our members are planning to attend the upcoming Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, March 11-13, 2011! One particular issue I hope to learn more about is giving positive input about keeping trails, parks, etc. open to horseback riding. Too often other interests advocate for their sport, and few if any horse people are there – we get shut out by not being informed and active. It happened at Castlewood Canyon folks! All the different attractions, including the evening special “Mane Event” info is on the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo website. Go with friends and make a party of it, but please try and give MHM an hour of your time to staff the hospitality table in the barn area. Call Nancy at 303-648-3426 and commit to a day and time. We'll have snacks, mustang info and raffle tickets and T-shirts to sell. For those who come and help, we can walk a parking pass to you outside the events center, so you can park free and help out (you just have to return it!). Hope to see one and all there!

Horse trainers Justin Borders and Autumn Haugen spoke at our February meeting, and some members indicated they would like to have a clinic with Justin and/or Autumn this season. My questions:

1. 1 or 2 day clinic?
2. 10-12 riders all day?
3. 3-4 riders 2-3- hours?
4. Groups at similar skill levels?

Call Nancy (303-648-3426) or e-mail Nancy (wallnan@myedl.com) if you are interested and have preferences. This info will be valuable for future activities the club may sponsor as well.

Mile High Mustang club dues are “DUE” now for April, and I hope some of you will also consider joining Colorado Horse Council as individuals, for their news, activities and the liability insurance they offer. Memberships in CoHoCo are January to December so hurry and join NOW!

As always, your officers would love to hear from members with ideas about future rides and/or activities. We have members with new young mustangs, members progressing with our long-term horsies, and members just plain enjoying their equine friends. Let us hear from YOU!

Happy Spring Trails, Nancy Gough

March update – just a quick note that we will have a horse wellness person, Dendria McLaughlin present at our March meeting. She does equine Reiki, as well as other forms of holistic healing. Hope to see you there. Nancy Gough

## Additional from Nancy

Hi All MHM Members, I would like to remind everyone that officer elections are coming up in April and I am not a candidate for any office. This is the time for members to step up and reach out and support the club. YOU need to dig deep and decide if you are willing to commit to the objectives of the club and dedicate your time and energy to the Mile High Mustang Club. If you are, then you must step up and run for an office. The club is what the membership makes it, and if you are a member in name only, you get what you give. That simple. So, members, step up and be counted. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you. Nancy Gough

## A HORSE STORY SMOKEY GOES SWIMMING

At 14 hands, Smokey was a pony by rights, but he was my horse, my friend, and my companion. We had many adventures together and formed a special bond that I still treasure today. He was four and I was eight when our friendship began. Our early years together were filled with learning experiences for both of us. He learned to enjoy the freedom I allowed him and I learned to trust his judgment.

I would ride bareback, with no bit, on the trails through the woods near my home in northern Wisconsin. Smokey knew his way as well as I did so, most of the time, I didn't really even pay attention to where we were going. I had to practice my saxophone and I knew he would take care of me.

One day we were wandering among the trails on the far side of the woods, along the bank of the river. It was a very hot day in August and I was trying to get ready for the placement tryouts in band class. I really wanted to place in the jazz band. I gave him his head, told him to be good, and proceeded to find out that saxophones do not float.

I didn't realize he had walked into the water until my foot was getting wet. I threw my music toward land to save it from getting wet, but my sax was fastened to its strap around my neck. By the time I got it loose it was too late. Smokey was swimming, I was sliding off his back into the water, and my saxophone was dropping to the bottom of the river like a rock. I was not a good swimmer, so I decided that holding on to my horse was a better idea than trying to save my saxophone.

I had never been in the water with a horse; even though I had watched others do it. My friend and often riding companion, Jill, had tried to convince me to give it a shot. She often swam in the same place with her Paint, Pizza, but to be honest, I was afraid. The fear left forever that day. It was such a feeling of freedom to hold his mane and allow him to propel me through the water. We swam for about an hour that day. My music sheets had gotten wet and I had to find a long stick to “fish” for my saxophone, but I found it and dried it off. It was really no worse for the bath it had gotten. When I explained to my mother why my music sheets had gotten wet she laughed and told me that she would replace them if it were necessary.

Mom told me to be very careful when I went swimming with him as his hooves were very sharp and she didn't want me to get hurt. She knew that, even though I had always had a fear of the water, I had complete faith and trust in my horse and there would surely be other swimming adventures for us. She was so right! It became a regular ritual for us every summer, one that we both enjoyed completely and often. Jill and Pizza were thrilled to have regular swimming partners, too. The four of us spent many hot summer afternoons in that swimming hole.

As for the tryouts, I made the jazz band. To this day I thank my horse Smokey for that experience. He loved to hear me play and would walk calmly around for hours so that I could practice. Sometimes he would stop and turn his head for a while like he was listening. He was a very patient audience, trusted friend, and excellent swimming instructor.