

## ERABC NEWS 2013



### **A Great Canadian Endurance Horse Joins his Canine Buddy in Greener Pastures...** – December 7, 2013

A Great Canadian Endurance Horse Joins his Canine Buddy in Greener Pastures...

A “forever” team has lost a great warrior. Apache Eclipse has been laid to rest on Gail and Elroy’s property this week.

They also lost their great dog Skyla only a few days before. We offer our sympathy and hope the happy memories remain to ease the pain.



### **Help Canada’s Endurance Team get to the World Equestrian Games!** – December 7, 2013

Click the Equine Canada link below to easily donate \$20.14 to support WEG 2014 – tax deductible!

Support Canada at Normandy WEG 2014 - <https://www.equestrian.ca/>

### **2013 AGM and Awards Banquet held 9 November** – November 11, 2013

The AGM held in Kamloops was attended by a smaller group than usual (under 30 people), but we accomplished a lot and have a new keen board of directors. Murray Mackenzie is our new president, June Melhuish is now VP, Lori Bewza and Lynn Wallden stayed on as secretary and treasurer, respectively. New directors include Stephany Dean and Barbara Holmes-Balmer (see the Contacts tab for a full list).

We were treated to a very informative talk by Kevan Garecki, professional horse transporter who got us all up to date on licensing, inspection, and do’s and don’ts of horse hauling. Kevan’s talk was followed by a delicious dinner served up by the Ramada Inn staff, then the annual awards banquet.

Highlights of year end awards included Special Volunteer awards for June Melhuish, Terre O’Brennan and Elaine Bessuille; Venables taking the family award; Terre Laporte getting overall high mileage (1075 miles on one horse, Montana!), Brenda Miskimmin & Paladin taking Grand Champion Sr, Anya Levermann & Tootsie High Point Jr, and Katya Leverman High Mileage Jr (725 miles). The full list of awardees including Top 10 can be found [HERE](#).

There are lots of rides planned for 2014, with a tentative list on the Events page. There will also be at least one Newbie Clinic, and hopefully another. Stay tuned for confirmation of the dates. Note that rides are ALWAYS in need of volunteers, so step up and help the club if you can!

## **AGM November 9, 2013** – October 12, 2013

2013AGM Schedule\_Info

Our 2013 AGM is once again centrally in Kamloops on Saturday, November 9th. Please come – involve yourself in the operation of the club, share a meal and a glass with us...bring in your tack for sale!

The Ramada Inn would like to have your room reservation by October 26, and Lori needs to send in a meal count, too!

As soon as our committee has finalized arrangements for our speaker/presentation, we will announce details.

Looking forward to seeing you – off-trail!

June

ERABC Board of Directors

## **Celebrating success of first High Sage event** – August 10, 2013

2013AGM Schedule\_Info

August 7, 2013

WENDY FRASER

Bridge River – Lilloet News

After 55 miles and more than seven-and-half demanding hours of endurance riding, it all came down to seven riders and their horses galloping to the finish line with mere seconds between them.

Organizers June Melhuish and Scott Hudson say they couldn't have asked for a better finish to the High Sage Ride, the first endurance ride they organized after years of June and their daughters Nora and Molly riding competitively in endurance events.

The July 27 High Sage event featured three rides – a 50 Mile event that was re-sanctioned to a 55-mile distance, a 22 Mile event and an 11 Mile fun ride for newcomers to the sport. Twenty-six riders saddled up for the challenging 55 Mile ride, 21 competitors entered the 22 Mile ride and four riders gave the 11 Mile event a try. Competitors came from the United States, Fort St. John, 100 Mile House, the Okanagan and the Lower Mainland.

First place in the 50 Mile was claimed by Murray MacKenzie of Kelowna, who shared his winning time of seven hours and 58 minutes with the six other riders who raced him to the finish line. He shared his victory with Ransom, his equine partner for the past 10 years. Ransom also won the award for Best Conditioned Horse.

The High Vet Score in the 50 went to Delta's Terre O'Brennan and her horse Koszaar. Shawnee Venables from Salmon Arm and her horse Feisty's Farah Lady won the 22 Mile in a time of three hours and 49 minutes.

Nora Hudson was the only competitor from Lilloet. She and her horse White Sox Victor finished sixth in the 22 Mile event in a time of four hours and 11 minutes.

June Melhuish had planned to compete in the ride, but was forced to the sidelines after breaking her hand before the competition. "I got pretty good at delegating all the last-minute tasks," she said.

Volunteers from Lilloet contributed excellent and much-appreciated support for the ride.

"We dragged all of our friends and neighbours and family there," said Melhuish. "They'd never seen a ride before, and we had compliments from the riders on our volunteers."

The weather for the Endurance Ride was "just about perfect," with a cool breeze.

The course followed trails in the back country south of Cache Creek. The ride camp site was accessed by a 20-kilometre uphill drive from the turnoff at the Wastetech plant.

Melhuish said the hilltop terrain reminded her of the Cariboo Country.

"In B.C. a lot of the rides are up and down, up and down, but this ride – up on top there – was almost like Williams Lake country. The 50 Mile had a significant hill, but the other events had inclines, but not hills."

Is there any chance the ride could be held closer to Lillooet next year?

Melhuish says that's unlikely.

"Lillooet's just a little too rugged," she explained. "We would have to find 50 miles of trail and it's not as centrally located for people coming from the Okanagan."

### **Trails Survey update – Next Steps – May 31, 2013**

This study was a collaborative initiative of the Joint Trails & Access Committee conducted in the summer of 2012. The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of the trail usage patterns, user satisfaction and potential enhancements to BC Equestrian Trail Systems.

The objectives of the study were:

To describe the BC Equestrian Trail User;

To learn how BC Equestrians use existing trail systems;

To measure the level of satisfaction of BC Equestrians with components of the Trail System; and

To determine preferred enhancements to the existing trail system

#### **NEXT STEPS REPORT**

For more info contact HCBC: [recreation@hcbc.ca](mailto:recreation@hcbc.ca)

### **Trails Survey Results – May 18, 2013**

Earlier this year, many of us completed a survey for HCBC on trails. The results are now available:

#### **TRAILS SURVEY RESULTS**

### **Fundamentals of Endurance Clinic – February 22, 2013**

The word is out that we are planning a second Fundamentals of Endurance Clinic this year. Last was a wonderful experience thanks to everyone who helped, and we have at least one woman who, as a result, has bought an Arabian and is excitedly waiting the ride season...

It's still in the planning phase, but, the dates are May 25/26 with the classroom learning Saturday followed by a mini clinic with Stefanie Travers on being a source of confidence for your horse and balanced riding. Sunday we will hit the trails with Fred, (and???) and learn what it's like to ride an endurance ride.

Please pass on this information to anyone who might be interested. Also, if you would like to volunteer, present, or have suggestions, etc please email me: [smilestephy@yahoo.com](mailto:smilestephy@yahoo.com)

Sincerely,

Stephany