

Sharon Bonner-Brown

4 Donald Drive
Orinda, Ca 94563
bonner_brown@mac.com

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Dear Tony,

Thank you and the CCC for allowing me to address your meeting on January 20, 2007. I look forward to an ongoing working relationship with all of you. The CCC and our National Directors all have the same common goal of supporting, nurturing and growing our Paint Horse Industry in California. Working together, I feel confident we can really make a difference.

During the meeting, there were several questions that I took to research for you. Here is a recap of my findings.

Question#1: Re: Safety Helmets

Does our rule change requiring 5-9 year olds to wear helmets conflict with any APHA rules regarding attire?

Some fairgrounds and public facilities require all youth to wear safety helmets. Some facilities define youth to be anyone under 18 years of age. Would this requirement conflict with any APHA rules regarding attire?

Answer#1: I spoke with Candy Caine at the APHA who said that any safety laws/requirement regarding the use of helmets supersedes APHA rules. In most cases, she feels the APHA rules have already been changed to allow this flexibility.

Question#2: Re: New Optional 3 Year Old Classes

Beginning in 2007, APHA has added a 3 Year Old Western Pleasure Class and a 3 Year Old Hunter Under Saddle Class to the list of approved classes. If a horse shows in the 3 Year Old Class, they are not eligible to show in the Junior Class.

Will the 3 Year Old Classes be eligible for the Honor Roll?

Will the 3 Year Old Classes be offered at the World?

Answer#2: Again, I spoke with Candy Caine who indicated these classes would be eligible for the Honor Roll, however, at this point in time, they have not been added to the list of classes offered at the World. The 2007 World Schedule is now available online at APHA.com.

Question#3: Re: Changes to the World Show

We discussed that a World Show Task Force had been created last summer to discuss changes/improvements to the World Show. Splitting the World Show and qualifying for the World Show are two things, in particular, being discussed. How can we influence the Task Force?

Answer#3: The Task Force makes recommendations to the APHA Executive Committee (EC). The power to actually make changes to the World Show resides exclusively with the EC.

Ron Shelly of Georgetown, Texas chairs the Task Force. Ron is also Chairman of the APHA Show and Contest Committee. Holly Nelson, Director of Shows, is the APHA representative to the Task Force. Ron's address & telephone number will be published in the February Journal. Holly's number is also published in the Journal.

Probably the most effective approach to influencing the Task Force would be to write a letter to the Task Force in care of Ron Shelly. Copy the EC to make them aware of the "Grass Roots" input being forwarded to the Task Force. A letter from the CCC would probably have more "weight" than a letter from an individual.

Question#4: Re: California National Director Committee Assignments

We discussed the 11 APHA Committees that National Directors serve upon. We also discussed what Committees our California Directors served upon in 2006. The question was asked: Since the Committee assignments may change each year, how do we know what Committees our National Directors are serving upon?

Answer#4: Committee Assignments are currently being finalized. They will be published in the February Journal.

Question#5: Re: Judging

What can we do about the quality of judging? "Sometimes it seems so obvious that a judge is giving preferential treatment to a "friend" or another judge." We discussed that Clubs have ultimate control since they hire the judges. The active networking among Clubs, regarding both good and bad judges, could help avoid this problem. Beyond that, what can Clubs do?

Answer#5: APHA judges are reviewed every 3 years and must attend at least one judges seminar every 3 years. The APHA Judges Committee is responsible for the review, approval and disciplinary action of judges. Any letter received regarding a judge, both good and bad, goes in the judge's file to be reviewed at his/her review time and possibly sooner depending on the nature of the letter.

Brad Perkins of Thomas, Oklahoma is the Judges Committee Chairman. Brad's address and telephone number will be published in the February Journal. In addition, the EC initiated a program about 3 years ago specifically aimed at improving the quality of judging. They hired Butch Carse to be the "on the ground" person for this program. Butch works on Judges Education and works directly with judges on a wide variety of subjects. Carse also attends a large number of shows each year to observe judging first hand and is a member of the APHA Judges Committee.

Discussion Item: 37% Crop Failure in California

During my presentation, I provided a number of statistics regarding our California Paint Horse Industry. In particular, we discussed the shocking fact that 37% of our APHA horses in California, under the age of 8 years, are Solid. From the experience of members at the meeting, it appears that this number is low since a sizable number of people are not even registering solid fillies or colts.

Discussion Item: 37% Crop Failure in California (continued)

We discussed the concept of a “Solid Paint Bred Outreach Program.”

The goals would be:

1. Draw new horses and people into our shows and into our clubs.
2. Provide an entry point for amateur and youth who may want to train & show their own horses and/or may not be able to afford a Regular Registry horse.
3. Attract people who are currently showing “solids” in the open circuits.
4. Increase attendance and entries at the 2 judge shows.
5. Help develop a market for Solid Paint Bred horses in California.

Some of the specific ideas regarding a potential “Outreach Program” include:

1. All 2 judge APHA approved shows would offer a common list of core Solid Paint Bred classes. Exhibitors could always count upon these classes being offered.
2. Clubs could offer more solid classes if they wish, but the core classes would always be offered. The core classes would meet APHA’s requirements for show approval.
3. Entry fees would be as low as possible and cover only “out-of-pocket” costs such as drug fees and APHA fees. For example, \$10 per class (Not \$10/judge.)
4. Year end awards would be offered for the core classes. Funding of the awards could initially come from private donors. Consideration could be given to separate Year End Awards for Northern & Southern California.
5. Advertisements/promotional literature would create the perception of a “Solid Paint Bred Circuit” to be held in conjunction with our 2 judge APHA shows. (For one idea of what such a flier might look like, please see the attached “For Discussion Purposes Only” Flier.)
6. Promotional literature would specifically target owners of Solid Paint Bred horses and each flier would promote all 2007 APHA approved 2 judge shows in California.
7. Having the mailing list of all Solid Paint Bred horse owners in California would be an excellent tool for targeting the “Solid Community.” Although Regional Clubs can receive one free mailing list per year, Solid Paint Bred owners is not a “standard” list and a variance would need to be approved. I have requested such a variance from the APHA and am waiting word from the Association now.

I am hopeful that the CCC Representatives will discuss the concept of a Solid Paint Bred “Outreach Program” with their clubs and, in particular, with the show management for their 2007 two judge shows. I feel quite certain that there are club members who will have creative and innovative ideas that may lead us to some “breakthrough thinking” in this area.

I believe we all agree that a Crop Failure of 37% is detrimental to our California Paint Horse Industry. Let’s find a way “to make lemonade from the lemons.”

Thank you again, Tony, for the opportunity to address the CCC and I look forward to an exciting and successful 2007 for all.

Warm Regards,

Sharon Bonner-Brown
APHA National Director from California

c. CCC Representatives

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

The California APHA Horse Clubs Invite You and Your APHA Solid Bred Paint Horse To Our 2007 Solid Paint Bred Show Circuit

Offered in Conjunction with Our APHA 2 Judge Show Circuit, Your Solid Paint Bred Horse has the Opportunity to:

- Earn APHA points
- Become Eligible for Year End Awards
- Give You A Lot of Fun and New Friends as Well

Halter Classes

- Open Junior Halter Mares: 2 Years and Younger
- Open Senior Halter Mares: 3 Years and Older
- Open Junior Halter Geldings: 2 Years and Younger
- Open Senior Halter Geldings: 3 Years and Older
- Amateur Halter Mares: All Ages
- Amateur Halter Geldings: All Ages
- Youth Halter Mares: All Ages
- Youth Halter Geldings: All Ages

Performance Classes

- Amateur Yearling Longeline
- Western Pleasure – All Ages
- Hunter Under Saddle – All Ages
- Trail – All Ages
- Western Riding – All Ages

Make Your Plans Now:

Southern California

- March 3 – 4: Temecula
- March 30 – April 1: Bakersfield
- April 28-29: TBA
- June 2 – 3: Temecula
- September 29-30: Temecula

Northern/Central California

- May 19: Woodland
- June 16: North Highlands
- July 8-9: Yreka
- September 8-9: Turlock
- October 6-7: Rancho Murietta

2 Judges per Show / \$10 Entry Fee per Class

Visit our Website at: _____

For Show Information and

For Information about an APHA Club Near You.

COME JOIN THE FUN!