



ON THE CENTER LINE

GLASS-ED MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MAY – 2009

Welcome to the May edition of “On the Center Line” a monthly newsletter for members and friends of Glass-Ed. We hope you enjoy keeping up with the activities of your organization and your thoughts and ideas are always welcome. Just call or email one of your board members.

The weather god’s were shining on GED on Saturday April 18th for a great clinic with Jane Kelly at Equine Line. It was a beautiful spring day and Jane’s enthusiasm, knowledge and encouragement made for a wonderful clinic. Thank you Jane and Equine Line for hosting this clinic.

If you haven’t checked out the new, redesigned GED website, you have got to do it. This month’s featured video is Anky VanGrunsven riding Keltec Salinero at the 2006 WEG. A new video will be featured each month. Thank you, Carrie.

The 2009 show season is underway with the first show Burlwood at Equine Line in the record books. This was one show over 2 days and the entries filled up the two days to the max. Saturday started out a dreary and rainy, but the weather improved throughout the weekend. Due to all of you who entered this show, there was a nice profit to pass along to Margaret Spencer. Thank you!

Those of us at the Burlwood show on Saturday got a rare treat...two horse/rider combinations riding Third Level tests. Thank you Dey Goodman riding Claybrook Farm’s Voyager and Kelly Hill riding her Valentino. What inspiration!

If you haven’t gotten your entry in for our second show at Lamoreaux Ridge in Grandville, you’re too late! But, it’s not too late to volunteer your services or just come out and watch your fellow dressage enthusiasts. I’ve also heard that someone is riding a Prix St. Georges test, what a treat to see this level at a GED show.

Wednesday, May 27th is the closing date for Mystic Marsh’s June 6th show. Get your entry into the mail today! This is always a popular show and you don’t want to be left out.

Rounding out June's shows is High Point Stables in Charlotte on June 27th. Here's an opportunity for our Lansing area members and friends to show closer to home. The closing date is June 18th.

May's GED member spotlight is Kim Barnes. I've known Kim for a couple of years and learned things about Kim I never knew. Like she's.....Dr. Barnes!

Hi! I'm Kim Barnes, a member of GLASS-ED officially I think for 3 or 4 years now. I am a mom to two wonderful children: Dane (7 years old) and Brianna (5 years old). I am married to the most supportive, understanding and fantastic husband out there, Spencer Barnes. Without him I would not be able to enjoy this other great love of my life horses and riding. Rounding out our family is Grace our cat, Toby our dog and Lexi (Vintage Vogue) the horse of the family.

To support my horse habit I work part time as a small animal veterinarian at Seidl Veterinary Hospital in Hastings. Yes, there was a time I was going to be an equine veterinarian but after many twists and turns this is where I belong. Balancing work, family and my passion is challenging sometimes but always worth it at the end of the ride.

I would have to say I always loved horses and can not remember a time when I didn't want to ride. My uncle gave me my first opportunity to ride at the tender age of 3. From then on my parents heard nothing but horse talk from me. Finally I wore them down when I was 13 years old. We were given an older retired jumper named Blitz. I loved her so much and rode her everywhere (and over everything). She was the perfect horse – solid when I needed her to be and forgiving when I didn't know all I thought I did. As Blitz grew older my mounts changed from year to year as friends loaned me a horse to show and ride so that Blitz could live out her retirement years at pasture. The summer of 1999 brought a dark cloud to my new phase of life. I had just graduated from MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. I was entering the real world as an educated adult but that didn't give me the ability to stop the inevitable. I became a horseless horse person June of 1999, one month after graduation.

My entry back into the horse world came spring of 2005 in the form of a bay thoroughbred gelding named Joe (Java Joe). With much help and support from Christie Bigelow and the Maybes from Mystic Marsh we went from ground work to dressage and to jumping. This is also where I was introduced to GLASS-ED and I knew I was hooked again!

Two years ago I began the difficult journey looking for a horse more suited to what I wanted to do (more dressage with some jumping for fun). After many months of driving, riding & looking I settled (somewhat begrudgingly I will admit) on an underweight bay Trakehner cross on the advice of my trainer Christie. Lexi at first was not an easy horse to work with. In fact I



considered selling her after only after a few months because she was very difficult to work with and ride.

Thank goodness I didn't sell her though. Mary Johnson of Equine Line doesn't know this but she helped me several ways last spring. She let me bring Lexi over to school before one of our GLASS-ED clinics. This trip showed me the generosity and kindness so many GLASS-ED members possess. She truly wanted the clinic to be a positive experience for us so she allowed us to school at Equine Line before the clinic. It was also important in another way. It helped Lexi and I develop trust in each other as this was our first trip to a new place together. After that day we were different and it meant so much to me that someone who really didn't know us was willing to help us grow and help us succeed.



Over this past year and winter Lexi and I have really begun to improve and grow in our training. She is a joy to ride and every time I am with her I realize how lucky I am to have her. This year you will see Lexi and I competing in Training Level at our shows and doing some schooling jumper shows. We wouldn't be here without all the help and support we've gotten from our family, our trainers (Christie Bigelow & Carolyn Hoekstra of Premier Dressage), our barn family (Roy, Mary, Pam, Suzanne & everyone else at Equine Line) and also from so many other friends we've made through GLASS-ED. THANK YOU to everyone for the kind words you've said and the support you've shown!!!! Please don't forget to dream big & believe in yourself. If we can do it – anyone can do it!!!!

Keep on top of GED news by logging into our exciting new website www.glass-ed.org.

Leslie Cash
Member Newsletter Editor