

Welcome to the 2015 George H. Morris Clinics!

Our two clinics last year were certainly full of challenges - beyond those that George provided - but we made it through and we all became better riders for it! The folks at the Pretty Good Horse Barn got to reconnect with participants from the 2013 clinic and we made some new friends from Canada, Colorado and Washington this year, as well as meeting more of the Larkspur Farm ladies. What a treat!

The riding levels for the Bozeman clinic will be 2'6", 3', and 3'6" (which ended up at 4'3" last year!). The Larkspur Farm (Kalispell) clinic will have 3', 3'6" and 4' levels (please contact Bryna Closson - [brynaclosson@hotmail.com](mailto:brynaclosson@hotmail.com) - to get information on the Larkspur clinic 31 July-2 August). Again, groups are limited to 8 riders each and are two hours long, with the 2'6" group starting each day at 9:00 am. The 3' group will ride from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and the 3'6" group will start at 2:30 and end around 4:30 all three days. These times are subject to slight changes as George may need to go beyond the allotted time with whatever he is working on. Last year we got the BEST education about getting a horse to truly accept the leg aids, and another amazing lesson on the flying changes. Both of these were well worth the extra time!

- **Clinic** - Date for the Pretty Good Horse Barn clinic is 7-9 August. Cost is **\$695.00** per horse/rider, per level (is anyone planning to ride in more than one level?) and **entries open 15 January 2015. *Make out entry checks to George Morris Clinics.***
- **Stabling - indoor stalls** at the Pretty Good Horse Barn **are \$80.00** from Thursday-Sunday, and **outdoor 10'x12' panel stalls are \$70.00** from Thursday-Sunday. Indoor stalls are on a first-come, first-served basis. All stabling includes 2 bags of shavings. Please bring your own feed, buckets and stall-cleaning equipment. ***Make out stabling checks to Holloways.***
- **ALL STABLED HORSES MUST HAVE 2015 PROOF OF VACCINATION** (or approved titre levels) **AND NEGATIVE COGGINS TEST.** You may send copies with your completed forms (or separately, if your spring vaccinations happen after you send in your entry).
- **Please send** completed entry and stabling forms along with checks to Meggan Holloway, 770 McReynolds Road, Bozeman, MT 59718, for the Bozeman clinic.
- **Auditing** costs \$75.00 per day for each of the three days of the clinic. Riders will receive an auditor's wristband for themselves and one (free) for a friend or relative to use during the three days. Pre-registration is NOT required, but auditors will need to sign in daily.

- **Please leave your small children at home for this clinic.** If your child is too young to sit quietly and listen through the day then please do not bring them to the clinic.
- **Dogs are NOT permitted at the Pretty Good Horse Barn.** Please do not bring them. You will be asked to leave if they are in your vehicle.
- **Food!** There are some great little places to eat within a few miles of the barn. The Farmhouse Cafe is in Gallatin Gateway at the gas station. They serve great homemade breakfasts; MoJava coffee, just to the north of us on the highway makes super coffee drinks, and Brianna makes the muffins, breakfast burritos, etc...from scratch! There is Mama Mac's, the Kountry Korner and a City Brew kiosk all at 4 Corners (right around the TACK STORE!!!). Lunch and dinner can be had at Stacy's or Post Office Pizza in Gateway, at the Kountry Korner, the Corner Club, Best Burger or Buffalo Bump Pizza at 4 Corners. If you need GF stuff, Buffalo Bump has good stuff, and Brianna at MoJava makes great GF frittata muffins!

### **Some tips for preparing for the clinic**

If you have yet to ride with George, here are some hints to help you be prepared:

- **Please be respectful** to Mr. Morris and to your fellow participants and auditors. This includes showing up on time for your lesson and being attentive and ready when it is your turn to do an exercise.
- **Have your horse clean** with properly pulled mane. White markings should be white! Tails should be washed and untangled and have no "foreign bodies" (shavings, poo, twigs) in them.
- **Have clean, properly adjusted tack.** Check that your stirrups are even, and that they are easy to adjust from the saddle (with your foot in the iron!!).
- **Wear:** *shirts* with collars and sleeves; light, *conservative colored breeches*. Tuck shirts into your breeches and wear a belt. Wear *spurs* (even if it is a tiny 'dummy' spur). Spur straps should buckle at the center of your instep and your spurs should be level. *Boots* should be clean and POLISHED! *Gloves, a hairnet* (ladies) and a well-fitting *helmet* are all 'musts'. Carry a jumping bat at least 18" long.
- **DO NOT USE:** ear bonnets, ear plugs or standing martingales. No jumping bats under 18" long; no dressage whips.
- **Plan** to enter a level at which you are TRULY comfortable. This is the time to polish and perfect things so that you can move up at your next outing! Plan to watch the rest of the riders in your group, and to take full advantage of the free auditing opportunity you'll be given!
- **Be punctual.** "You are on time if you are five minutes early". Be five minutes early. DO NOT give your horse a full workout before you go to the ring. George has a warm up plan for each day. Just walk around the outdoor arena, down the road or in the

pasture (weather permitting) for a few minutes before your lesson starts. *Then* show up at the arena five minutes early!

- **Be fit enough to do three intense 2 hour workouts...**you AND your horse! Be prepared to ride at least one day without stirrups (start practicing...now!!!).
- **Listen, and try** everything George asks you to do. A great thing about riding with George is that he wants us to be effective before we are pretty. He really wants riders to dig in and “fight for it”. Don’t be afraid to mess up in front of him. He’s here to help correct us, not to pat us on the back.
- **WATCH** George teach the young equitation champs and jumpers at his Horsemastership clinic in Wellington. It is on USEFnetwork.org and is free. Perfect thing to do when the weather outside is frightful! See how those kids are dressed? How their tack is adjusted? How their horses are clean and beautifully turned out? How they listen and do what is asked of them (without any back-talk)?
- **Emulate them.**

I hope this helps you get ready to ride! If you have more questions, please email me at [goodhorses@live.com](mailto:goodhorses@live.com).