

July 2023

We navigated our way through the construction at the Monson Feedlot and held the June show in a new but temporary pen. It was well received despite a few bumps in the road. Since the show we have changed the configuration of the pen just increasing the depth so we can hold the cattle at the gate through which they entered. It made a huge difference. An unintended benefit is that the show office will be behind the newly relocated judges stand and we won't have an issue with spectators and show office activity where it shouldn't be. So in August look for things to be just a little different but better. Thank you to all members for your patience while we sort this out.

We have so many thank yous to our wonderful members that I'd like to mention. Thank you to Paul & Heidi Wittig, Steve & Nicallee Smith and Loraine Varriano for the terrific circuit awards. It takes effort, time & creativity and you set the bar pretty darn high.

While we're holding practices & shows in the temporary pen, it requires setup and tear down EACH time because they do rope in this arena. The Monson feedlot graciously provided us with the panels to make this happen during this construction period so we owe the feedlot a huge thank you. We also need to thank Jerry McGuire, Steve Smith, Don McKune, Michelle Beauniaux, Sean Snyder, Cheri Meador, Kim Young & Greg Jones for jumping in & getting this done. We also want to thank Paul Wittig for managing the cattle on foot no less as he's still recovering from some broken ribs.

BMC is very grateful to Cecil Stuurmans for an unexpected and generous cash donation. It will go along ways in providing incentives to the membership.

We had the privilege of once again awarding the **Jim Cox Memorial** buckle, thanks to the generosity of Gail Cox, at the June show to the winner of the \$550 NNP class. It was truly exciting as it required a ride off between Ginger Taylor & Jon Valenzuela. While both performed extremely well, it went right down to the buzzer to determine the winner and the winner was.....Ginger Taylor. Ginger had known Jim so I can say that being the recipient of this

buckle moved her to tears. As Gail awarded the buckle to Ginger it gave all of us an opportunity to pause, remember & reflect. Congratulations Ginger.

BMC has had many changes since COVID came to town and the return to normal has been anything but normal. Today however, we find ourselves in a unique time where adversity has given us an opportunity. We are pleased to announce that it appears we can meet our financial obligations and lower our entry fees at the same time. Effective with the August show, the entry fees on all classes with the exception of the Youth, Ranch Horse & Boxing, will be reduced by \$15. While it would be great if it encouraged members to enter an additional class, our main objective is to give back to the membership that has been so supportive over the years.

Now for a few reminders. We will once again post Loping Pen Etiquette guidelines. Really the most important thing to remember to keep the flow of horse traffic moving smoothly is that if you're walking stay to the inside of the circle. Fast moving trotters and lopers have the right of way to the very outside of the circle and should not have to dodge around slower traffic nor should they have to weave in & out of slower moving horses in order to maintain their pace. If we keep it simple & use common sense when entering or exiting traffic, problems should be minimal. Everyone occasionally gets distracted & momentarily loses awareness so be kind if you feel the need to speak out.

Dogs. We all love our dogs but as with nearly all cuttings from ranch cuttings to public venue cuttings, dogs must be secured at your vehicles and are not allowed at or in the arenas. It's just the way it is and we all need to be respectful of the club rules and those of the venue owner.

As I wrap up this newsletter, the club sends a recover & got back at it wish to Jason Schaper who is recovering from surgery.

See everyone in August with hopefully a little cooler weather.