

# AHS Equestrian Team

## 2009 – 2010 Season Information

What a fantastic season we had in 2009! The Grizzlies achieved great personal and team success in all three SOHSET district meets resulting and even made a great showing at OHSET State Championships. But through all the hard work, icy practices and the ups and downs of competition, you should be very proud of your SOHSET Sportsmanship Award, which is a true reflection of your team spirit, camaraderie and a support of your teammates and fellow competitors. What a great team!

As always, our goals for AHSET this season are to build a supportive and competitive team, represent our school respectfully, improve our horsemanship and equestrian skills and have both personal and team success as we enjoy time with our teammates and horses. We look forward to another fantastic Ashland Equestrian Team season!

### **Coaching**

Coaches Todd Steele, Lisa Underwood, Chris Hoffman and Derek Latty will return this year, but each may have to limit or reduce their involvement from previous years due to other commitments and circumstances.

Therefore, we are looking for coaches, trainers, instructors and parents that are willing to work with our athletes at practices and meets throughout the year. If you are aware of any potential candidates, please have them call Todd at 488-1509.

### **Practices**

**Ashland Hills Stables** is again the “Home of the Grizzly Equestrians”. Thanks to Alan and Kathy Adams for donating the facility for practices and allowing AHSET athletes to ride at Ashland Hills Stables free of charge during the SOHSET season (Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>).

*\*\* Please respect the trainers and other activities in the arenas and be sure to clean up after yourself and your horse when using the facility. \*\**

The practice schedule will be determined as we get closer to Dec 1st, but you can count on one mandatory practice per week. The practice schedule will be posted on the team web site ([www.ashlandequestrians.com](http://www.ashlandequestrians.com)) and on the calendar at the Ashland Hills Stables. You must contact the coach prior to the practice, if you cannot attend practice.

Equestrian Team practice is not intended for rider instruction or horse training, but provides athletes with an opportunity to prepare for competition. Practices will evaluate our pattern awareness, allow us to experience the event-specific obstacles and focus on team events. An athlete who wishes to compete at a high level will likely ride their horse 4-5 times each week and be working with a trainer weekly to improve their equitation and competitive skills.

## **Events**

Athletes are limited to 5 individual events and may compete in as many team events as they wish. Athletes should strive to compete in as many events as they can and we request that each athlete compete in at least 5 events at each meet.

### **Performance**

Dressage  
Saddle Seat Equitation  
Hunt Seat Equitation  
Hunt Seat over Fences  
Working Pairs\*  
Drill\*  
Trail  
In-hand Trail  
Showmanship  
Working Rancher  
Stock Seat Equitation  
Reining

### **Gymkhana**

Figure 8  
Barrels  
Pole Bending  
Keyhole  
Individual Flags  
Birangle\*  
In-Hand Obstacle Relay (IHOR)\*  
Canadian Flags\*

### **Cattle**

Breakaway Roping  
Steer Daubing  
Team Penning\*

\* - team events

If an athlete prepares and performs at a varsity level, they will earn a varsity letter at the end of the season. Preparation includes training with their horse, knowing your patterns and events, participating in our practices, being a positive member of our team, and striving for the best performance for themselves and their team at the meets.

## **Meets**

Our meet schedule will change this year moving the meet we have been having around Spring Break to the first weekend in February. The State Championships this year will again be held at the Jackson County Expo.

**SOHSET District Meets** at the Jackson County Expo:

February 5-7

March 5-7

Apr 16-18

**OHSET State Meet** at the Jackson County Expo in Central Point, OR.

May 13-16

## ***Athlete Fees***

### **Athlete Dues **\$325****

Includes new uniform, District fee, State fee and one stall for each of 3 District meets.

### **Student Body Card **\$10****

All athletes are required by AHS to purchase a student body card.

### **Ashland Booster Club **\$30****

All team members' families are required to join the AHS Booster Club. Please add \$30 to your member dues check above if you have not joined the Booster Club this year. Only one membership required per family. Current members from winter or fall sports need not apply again.

### **Shavings **\$15-20 per meet****

This year the team will pre-order our shavings and each athlete will be responsible for reimbursing the team for this expense.

Members showing more than one horse will be responsible for additional stall fees of \$40 for each additional horse per meet.

## ***Team Jackets & Sweatshirts***

New athletes will receive a team jacket free of charge. Replacement jackets may be purchased for an additional fee.

Each year the team produces a hooded sweatshirt and t-shirts with the team logo and offers these to athletes and families for around \$30 for the sweatshirt and \$10 for the t-shirts. We're likely to do this again this year.

## ***Parent Involvement***

We cannot do this without your help. Many parents have been highly involved in team functions over the past years and realize the benefits this organization has for their student athletes. We are losing nearly half of our 2009 team to graduation and will need a new group of parents to step in to help this team run as smoothly as possible. Parents can contribute in many ways, such as fundraising, helping out at the meets, supervising practices or other tasks.

## ***Board of Directors***

Four parents will comprise our Board of Directors. The Board works with the High School to meet their finance and paperwork requirements. They also help the coaches by coordinating all non-competition activities such as fundraising and the "At the Meets" support tasks described below.

I would like to nominate Mack Ransom for team President and Dena Matthews for treasurer.

We also need to fill the roles of Vice President and Secretary.

## **SOHSET Auction**

The auction contributes a great deal towards our district expenses (Expo rental, judges, awards, cattle, etc.), so a successful auction means lower out-of-pocket fees for everyone. In order to improve the effectiveness of our annual fundraising efforts, the auction may be broken into two events: a “Buy it Now” sale on November 14<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Holiday Bazaar at the JC Expo, and a silent auction and banquet later in the season.

We will need 2-3 parents to lead this effort as we gather “like new” items of value, perhaps with a value up to \$50-60, and perhaps the gifts & gift certificates we have gathered in the past from local merchants. All athletes are required to participate in the SOHSET fundraising events.

Set-up & decoration may occur on Friday evening or early Saturday morning, and the event will likely be complete in the early evening rather than late as in previous years. Athletes are required to participate in this event and a few parents must be on-hand throughout the day. We must also promote the event to encourage people to come and buy items at the event.

## **Team Support**

While each of these items may require the efforts of more than one parent, we need one or two parents to coordinate the activities in each of these areas:

1. Team/Athlete Registration – Karen & Patrick McLain
2. Equipment Manager – 2+ parents
  - Equipment storage & delivery to meets
  - Building event obstacles and equipment (e.g, drill equipment)
  - Design and purchase uniforms, sweatshirts, jackets, t-shirts, etc.
  - Athlete numbers & stall cards
3. Coaching / Practice Arena Guidance –
4. Booster Club Coordinator –
  - Attend a few booster club meetings throughout the year
  - Coordinate food booth volunteers for 2-3 basketball games
  - Submit funding request forms
5. Web site, publicity, “Thank you's” –
6. Support for SOHSET meets and OHSET State meet

*\* I'm sure there's more...*

## **At the Meets**

- Set-up Thurs nights –  
Set-up awnings, tarps, saddle racks, tables, etc.
- Arena Duty –  
We will need from 5 scribes and gate keepers at each of the 3 District meets and

- again at the State meet.
- Food –  
Lunches and snacks for the team
  - Stewardship – no coordinator needed  
A few athletes and parents available to attend arbitration and protest meetings.
  - Supervision – *all parents*  
Coaches are there to prepare the athletes for the competitions and keep things on schedule. Parents are responsible for their athletes at all times.

## **Drivers**

If you are going to drive an athlete that is not your own child to or from a team function, please complete the Volunteer Registration Form and Volunteer Driver Information Forms and return the forms with your registration packet. Also note that you will need to go to the DMV and have them fax your driving record to the AHS Athletic Dept.

Per AHS policy, athletes CANNOT ride with other athletes to and from team functions (practices, meetings, meets, etc.). We have been ***STRONGLY*** advised to adhere to that policy, so please everyone, let's not have athletes driving athletes to or from AHSET functions.

## ***Winter Sports***

Athletes participating in an AHS Winter Sport must ensure that their involvement in the AHSET does not interfere with their practice or competition commitments for their Winter Sport. The athlete must still pay all required AHSET fees. Participation in a Winter Sport may affect the team events an equestrian athlete may attempt and the athlete must work with the AHSET coaching staff to ensure they are prepared for any OHSET meets they will attend.