

Valarie Seimer Clinic

The club's annual riding and driving clinic was held over the April 24/25 weekend at Porter's Equine Centre in Stewiacke. Again this year, we enjoyed a visit from Valarie Seimer from Florida who shared her experience and expertise with 8 riders, 4 drivers and a number of auditors.

Valarie is the Head Trainer at West Coast Morgans in Odessa, Florida, and has been a well-respected horse professional for over 25 years. She has won several national and world championships and National Trainer Awards and her clients usually end up in the top 10 percent of their classes at Morgan shows, as well as when showing against other breeds.

During the weekend, Valarie worked one on one with each rider and driver and shared many secrets and tips leading to successful horsemanship. This year, a number of very young riders decided to take the plunge and sign up for the sessions, riding several of Porter's excellent lesson horses. Each and every rider and driver showed significant improvement from the first session on Saturday, to the second on Sunday. One of Valarie's strengths is her ability to use what an individual has already learned from his/her coach or trainer, and then build on that basis to improve their overall understanding and skill level.

Valarie was impressed with the abilities of our Nova Scotia riders and drivers, and asked that she be kept up to date with their progress. She was very supportive of a couple of riders, Ashlee Wheaton and Jenna Fisher, whose goals are to travel to Oklahoma City this year to compete in the Morgan Grand National and World Championships. She is positive they will indeed qualify, and that they will be excellent representatives for Nova Scotia in Oklahoma.

An evening of pizza and good conversation was enjoyed by all on Saturday evening.

We offer our sincere thanks to Porters Equine Centre for again providing their facility for the clinic, and to all those who set up, took

down, cooked, baked, billeted, organized, entertained, provided transportation and coped with the inevitable glitches.

Hope to see you all, and many more, next year.