

4-H program teaches sportsmanship

Children have many hobbies and sports to keep them occupied during the summer, however those children who show horses have an added advantage. The advantage is they learn good sportsmanship.

Show season usually begins in spring and is in full swing by summer. Most of the serious showmen have a show every weekend.

To start with, one needs a horse. The horse can be a cheap, grade horse or an expensive purebred Arabian or whatever breed is favored.

The next step is to learn how to ride. Some are lucky and have a family member who can teach them how to ride. Others join clubs. The Pony Club is particularly good for those interested in showing Hunter/Jumpers. 4-H is also a good source.

Clackamas County has many knowledgeable leaders, including Jim Havelhurst, the 4-H Horse Advisory Board chairman and Supervisor of the Clackamas County Horse fair. According to Tom Zurchre, Clackamas County extension agent, there are 1,055 horse 4-Her's, that is a third of the total 4-Her's in Clackamas county.



4-H is a program designed to teach youth about their animals, the care of their animals and tack, how to ride, sportsmanship and horsemanship. Along with horsemanship comes the ability to make friends and work with others.

Shows are times of excitement even for the experienced showman. People are gathered together to watch, show and have fun with friends.

The classes at the show usually include Showmanship (the ability of the handler to show the horse), halter classes (the horse's conformation), Western Pleasure (the way the horse performs with western tack on), Western Equitation (the rider's ability), English Pleasure and Equitation and trail horse classes.

At breed shows there are specialty classes. For example, at Arabian horse shows they have Ladies Side-saddle, Mounted Patriotic Costume, Park horse, and Formal Driving. Appaloosa shows also have costume classes.

Meal time is a time together and usually about horses and the last horse show or the one coming up.

Many horse shows also have what is called an Exhibitors party. The club who is sponsoring the show usually supplies the food and entertainment.

Horses and horse shows are lots of fun, according to Jonelle Ward, a local 4-H member.

"It's a lot of hard work but a great reward of joy and self-satisfaction," said Ward.

The beach is covered with towels, ice chests, water skis, beer and coke bottles, and grocery sacks full of snacks. In the distance is the sound of someone's voice yelling "hit it".

It is summer and water skiing time: the great cooler of the summer heat. The scene described would be common at most lakes and rivers where people are allowed to water ski. Water skiing is a favorite pastime of many Oregonians.

In order to water ski you should know how to swim or at least dog paddle.

The equipment you need are water skis, ski belt or vest, rope and a boat.

"Ski belts and ski vests are better than life jackets. Jackets are designed to help keep your chin up, therefore making it very difficult to ski. Ski belts are not always safe because they can break on impact. They are not coast guard approved either," said Steve Ward, a long time skier.

"The speed of the boat depends on the type of engine, type of prop, size of person and if they are on double or single skis," said Jeanne Ward, who has been skiing since 1963.

Water-skiing tips for amateurs

Shasta in California. They said Northfork was good but cold and Prineville Reservoir is alright.

Another important thing to skiing is the boat and the driver.

The driver and skier must have a set of hand signals to follow. Also a good driver keeps the skier on his side of the boat at all times, so he can watch him at all times. This helps to prevent accidents.

Everyone starts out on doubles (two skis) then, when they have mastered that they can go to the single ski.

Besides just following the boat the skier can "jump the wake". This is when you jump the wave behind the boat. You can also do cutting or going side to side.

After mastering the single ski you can go on to trick skis. Trick skis have no fins, are short and shaped like a banana, according to Steve. With trick skis you can go sideways and turn completely around.

"If the water is smooth, like glass, you can go barefoot skiing. You start off on a single then drop your ski," said Jeanne Ward.

You can expect to fall a lot if you ski. It helps if you're limber and agile.

The Wards' favorite place to go skiing is on the Columbia River and down on Lake

