

December 2013

The Valley Equestrian News



Wishing You Love, Peace, and Joy
During this Holiday Season!

Inside You'll Find:

- AQHYA National Racing Experience
- The Influence of Turkmenian Horses
- National Day of the Horse Dec. 13

Coffee for a Cause: Favorite Cowgirl Coffee

By Kari Hagstrom

What do you get when you combine dark, bittersweet, utterly satisfying and energizing? Well, you might get a really good cup of coffee, or you might get the joy and sadness combined from rescuing a horse, or you might get the satisfaction derived from using your coffee business to help support worthy causes and organizations. Put them all together, stir, and you get Kathy Zachman, the driving force behind Favorite Cowgirl Coffee.

Zachman, of Clearwater, Minn., rode into her coffee company. While exhibiting her art at a coffee shop, she met the roasters, and fell in love with the coffee (often buying up to 50 bags of coffee a month to share, "because this coffee was so good!"). Zachman was invited on a horse camping trip with several other women, and was asked to bring something to share. "I brought coffee. The gals LOVED it!" Zachman's friend and Trail Sister, Teri Even, said, "You have to do something with this coffee."

"My 'other' friends (not cowgirls) LOVED the coffee. ...Many miles later, riding with fellow Trail Sister and dear friend, Lynnette Even, [and discussing the prospect of starting a coffee company] Favorite Cowgirl Coffee was born."

Zachman, a life-long horse lover, "I think it's in the genes," combines her passion, energized action, and caring for horses and coffee into something special.

"The inspiration for Favorite Cowgirl Coffee is simply a combination of my very favorite things: great coffee, good horses, wonderful family and friends, photography, and time spent in the saddle. Enjoying and sharing a remarkable cup of coffee can be an everyday experience, and should be ... just like riding a good horse." Zachman is also inspired by giving back. "Actually the

idea of giving back/sharing is something I was raised with. When my mother would bake something, she would share with the neighbors. She was a very thoughtful, giving person and set a great example for me and my siblings. ... [Giving back] just seems like the right thing to do. Why not help someone (2- or 4-legged) if you can? Sometimes the help is financial, sometimes it's a hand, and sometimes it's some hay. And sometimes it's simply a cup of coffee."

Zachman uses her photography and her own horses as models for her coffee labels, and each coffee label photograph has a story behind it, such as Trail Sisters, Favorite Pony, Whoa Pony!, Sunny's Palomino Pecan, World Champion Cowgirl (Smokin' Hot Hazelnut), or Cowgirls for the Cure. The artistry of Zachman's photos is worth a trip to the website, in and of itself. Trail Sisters, of course, is named for the sense of camaraderie and fun derived from trail riding with friends, Favorite Pony is for Zachman's first horse and "favorite black Arabian gelding," Skye, and Sunny's Palomino Pecan is named after Sunny, a rescued palomino gelding, who is blind in one eye. On the website (www.favoritecowgirlcoffee.com), Zachman writes movingly about how her horses have given to her, and of the experiences she has had with each.

World Champion Cowgirl coffee is named in honor of world champion mounted shooter, Tammy Sronce, who was "instrumental in developing Freedom Horses, a non-profit organization based in Weatherford, TX. This foundation is devoted to enabling women of domestic violence and assault to gain confidence and courage through interactions with hand-selected horses." Cowgirls for a Cure coffee, supports the Coborn Can-

cer Center Greatest Needs Fund, in support of women with breast cancer, as does Jamaican Me Crazy coffee. Red, White and Brew Vanilla coffee helps to support Horses for Heroes—New Mexico, Inc. Cowboy Up!, "a unique horsemanship, wellness and skill-set restructuring program based in Santa Fe, NM free



primarily to Veterans and active military (both men and women) who have sustained physical injuries or combat trauma (PTSD) during their time serving our country." A portion of proceeds from certain coffees is used in support of these organizations. Hope Rides, of Mayer, and Stacy, Minn., receives benefits from proceeds of all Favorite Cowgirl Coffee purchases. "At Hope Rides [see article in the November, 2013 issue of "The Valley Equestrian Newspaper"], our mission is to open doorways of hope and create opportunities for personal growth through connecting horses with people. ... to connect children and horses

together in a safe, peaceful and loving environment intended for healing, growth and hope. ... When you give a kid hope, you can change their world."

Jewelry-making is also part of Zachman's repertoire, with proceeds from sales of the "Hope" pendant going to support Hope Rides.

Zachman and Favorite Cowgirl Coffee offer hope to many in need. Whether it is rescuing "ditch kitties" or helping horses in need. "We don't LOOK for organizations, events to give to, but it seems they actually present themselves to us. For instance, while on Facebook, I

saw a post regarding two baby Haflinger sisters that were on their way to the 'kill lot' if not purchased by a certain date. There wasn't even a second thought; I knew Favorite Cowgirl Coffee had to give them a home. Our customers have been so supportive and we truly want to honor our mission of giving back. I [had] attended a clinic [presented by] Elizabeth Graves, with proceeds going to the Heartland Girls Ranch in Benson, MN. One thing led to another, and through Liz I met the kind people at the HGR. . . only to one day rehome the [Haflinger] sisters, 'Annie' and 'Kashmere' with the ranch, to fulfill their

purpose of helping young women who are recovering from abuse in the MN sex-trafficking industry."

As an entrepreneur, Zachman offers this advice: "Ha! None! I still don't know what I'm doing! In all seriousness, I guess I'd have to say, follow your heart and do the right thing. And learn to relax. It's not brain surgery . . . it's coffee. It's funny, because I never really cared for 'sales,' but I truly like everything this company offers, so it feels more like sharing a good thing."

"The immediate dream for this company is to provide excellent products (coffee, clothing, unique jewelry, hand-made mugs and stoneware), to help support some very deserving and amazing organizations, . . . ultimately, we hope to build a stable where women and horses can ride, relax, rehab and rest. Part of this dream includes taking on several rescues a year, rehabbing/training and rehoming them. . . .

[Our mission is] providing the VERY best coffee and products around and giving back. It's the Cowgirl Way! By the way, you don't

have to have a horse to be a Cowgirl!"

The Favorite Cowgirl Coffee dream has led Zachman to participate in Road to the Horse, held in Lexington, Ky. Tammy Sronce, talk show host on Western Radio, and world champion mounted shooter, encouraged Zachman to attend. She and Favorite Cowgirl Coffee have also attended Mustang Makeover in Fort Worth, Texas, this past September. In April 2014, Favorite Cowgirl Coffee will attend Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio, and the Minnesota Horse Expo in St. Paul, Minn.

The most important outcome for Favorite Cowgirl Coffee and Zachman is "to help a bit along the way . . . from two-leggeds to four-leggeds. Our time on this earth is brief." Her overall guiding philosophy is, "Don't worry about giving too much . . . after all, the gift is in the giving."

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Dakota 50/50 Recap

The 10th Anniversary of the Dakota 50/50 Sale, Futurity and Maturity was held Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2 at the NDSU Equine Center in Fargo, ND.

This year's futurity purse was \$19,293.75. The 3-day event includes a Mane Event Social. The results as provided by the organizers include:

Maturity:

Grand Champion: RSJ Hotrod Jetset, a buckskin 4-year-old AQHA gelding owned and ridden by John Hovde, bred by Roy and Sheryl James, earned \$1,114.88 and a trophy saddle sponsored by Langerud Custom Saddles, Hovde Horsemanship, Hovde Veterinary Service and Wade and Becky Benson.

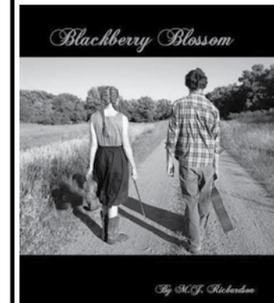
Reserve Champion: AR Midnight Chic, a black 4-year-old AQHA mare owned, ridden and bred by Phil Adams of Deloraine, Manitoba, with earnings of \$929.07.



Left: Maturity Grand Champion: RSJ Hotrod Jetset, a buckskin 4-year-old AQHA Gelding owned and ridden by John Hovde, Bred by Roy and Sheryl James.

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Youth Award: MaryKate Caulfield, Detroit Lakes, MN, who finished in 5th place on her horse, BCM Zippin Zans Bar, bred by Marv & Becky Gustafson. Youth Buckle sponsored by Oak Creek Stables & Medalen Ranch.

Futurity:

Thirty-three horses competed for a total purse of \$19,293.75.

Grand Champion: Echo Invited to Many, AQHA brown gelding with a total of 88 points, owned and ridden by Garth Helstrom, Grimli, Manitoba, bred by K&R Stuart, Eriksdale, Manitoba.

This mare also won the pattern division receiving a fleece cooler sponsored by Rolette State Bank. The breeder received \$1,378.13 and a fleece cooler sponsored by S&N Tack. This horse was also the winner of both the Conformation (fleece cooler sponsored by Luther Family Ford, Fargo) and the Rail Divisions (winter blanket sponsored by Envision of Towner, ND).

Reserve Champion: Snazzy Little Lena, AQHA sorrel gelding, total of 67 points, owned, ridden and bred by Kim Kraft, Rolette, ND. The payout for second place is \$3,279.94 and an Air Ride Saddle Pad sponsored by Hinsz Ranch. Kraft also received check for \$826.88 in breeder incentive monies.

Third place went to SH Smartchextocash, an AQHA brown mare, total of 55 points, owned and bred by Gene Vandenberg, Epping, ND; ridden by Ashley Peterson of Crookston, MN, earning \$2,701.13.

This mare also won the pattern division receiving a fleece cooler sponsored by North Country Mercantile of Minot, ND.

Hi Point Amateur: Kim Kraft, Rolette, ND. Trophy Saddle sponsored by Lost Spur Trailers, Faribault, MN.

Hi Point Youth: Ali Mullin, Cartwright, Manitoba. Trophy Buckle sponsored by Alkali Ranch & Clay Ranch.

Sportsmanship Award: John Hovde, Epping, ND. Travel Chair sponsored by Double J Horse Sales.

Photos by Brose Photography



Above: Futurity Grand Champion: Echo Invited to Many, AQHA brown gelding, total of 88 points, owned and ridden by Garth Helstrom, Grimli, Manitoba, bred by K&R Stuart, Eriksdale, Manitoba.



Above: High seller/Wild Card: Lot 127 Sweet Lopin Lucy – consigned and purchased by Mark and Darby Kakela; \$4,000.00.

High seller/Wild Card: Lot 127 Sweet Lopin Lucy – consigned and purchased by Mark and Darby Kakela; \$4,000.00.

Average: \$820.49
1 gelding: \$750.00
28 mares Avg: \$825.00; removing the wildcard from the mares drops the average on the remaining 27 mares to \$707.41.
32 Stallions Avg: \$818.75
Can't get any tighter than that!

Total Proceeds of the Sale on 61 head is \$50,050.00

Total Purse: \$20,020 (40%)

Futurity Purse 2015: \$17,517.50

Maturity Purse 2015: \$2,502.50

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About the Cover
 The holiday horses that grace the December cover of the *Valley Equestrian Newspaper* represent some of the horses that participated in the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival and Parade held annually in Waseca, MN. Various events run through the month of February, annually; this year's parade will be held Feb. 8, 2014.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukka, Joyous Kwanza and Happy Holidays

from the team at the **Valley Equestrian Newspaper!**
 We appreciate the loyalty of our readers and advertisers that keep this horse newspaper viable. We wish for you a blessed holiday season filled with joy and love!

Please be safe and accept this gentle reminder to not drink and drive or text and drive. Hug your horses, cats and dogs!



Left: Annise Montplaisir of Moorhead, MN., accepts a check for first place in the AQHYA National Racing Experience scholarship in Hollywood, CA., page 16-17.

Photo by Robin Alden

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Pros and Cons of Lunging

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 Golden Eagles Finish Season

Right: Anna Twinney concluded a successful clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, MN., Nov. 22-25. See her writings in the November issue of the *Valley Equestrian News*, find it online at www.theveonline.com.



Editorial Information

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 200 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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Errors: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement to the extent of the space covered by the error.

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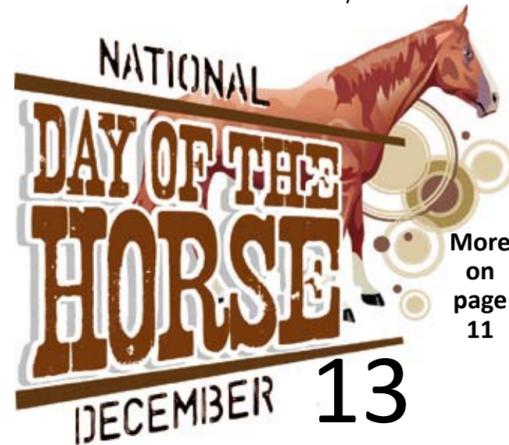
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 by Janice Ladendorf



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How to Keep Pets Safe this Holiday Season

We love the holidays for celebrating some of life's happiest moments and making memories with loved ones. Dogs and cats love the holidays too, especially when their owners and guests share extra time and pet treats with them. But all the interesting foods and decorations in our homes during the holidays can be irresistible to pets, sometimes landing them in emergency pet hospitals after tasting or eating them.

"Every year during the holidays, calls to Pet Poison Helpline increase substantially," said Ahna Brutlag, DVM, MS, DABT, DABVT and associate director of veterinary services at Pet Poison Helpline. "Certain foods and items that bring holiday cheer to our homes can have the opposite effect on pets when ingested, making them very sick."

Armed with knowledge, pet owners can keep their beloved best friends out of harm's way this holiday season. To inform pet owners, and also to debunk some age-old myths, the veterinarians and toxicology experts at Pet Poison Helpline offer these tips for pet owners.

HUMAN EATS AND DRINKS: NOT FOR PETS
 Some holiday foods we hold dear can be quite dangerous to pets, such as chocolate and cocoa, candy and sugarless gum that contain xylitol, yeast bread dough, leftover fatty meat scraps, and fruit cakes with raisins and currants. The fruitcake threat can be compounded if the cake is soaked in rum or another alcohol. Alcohol poisoning in pets can result in a dangerous drop in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature, potentially leading to seizures and respiratory failure. So, while entertaining this holiday season, it's perfectly acceptable to ask guests to refrain from sharing human food and drinks with pets.

HANDBAGS: STOW THEM AWAY!
 Be sure to store guest's handbags out of your pets' reach. Handbags typically contain many items poisonous to dogs and cats. The most dangerous are prescription medications, pain medications (e.g., Tylenol, Advil, Aleve), sugarless chewing gum, asthma inhalers, cigarettes, coins, and hand sanitizers.

GIFTS: THE BEST CHOICE FOR PETS
 Give the gift of safety and health to your pets by downloading and using the Pet Poison Help iPhone app for only \$1.99. It has an extensive database of more than 200 foods, drugs, household cleaning

supplies and plants that are potentially poisonous to pets. Each toxin has a full color photo, description, list of symptoms, and a bright yellow banner that indicates the severity of the toxin, from "mild to moderate," to "moderate to severe." As you deck the halls and celebrate, keep the holidays happy for pets by placing potentially dangerous items out of their reach. If, however, you think a pet may have ingested something harmful, take action immediately. Contact your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline at 1-800-213-6680. At only \$39 per call including follow-up consultations, Pet Poison Helpline is the most cost-effective animal poison control center in North America.

been exaggerated. In reality, if ingested by a dog or cat, the sticky white sap usually causes only minor mouth or stomach irritation. Likewise, Christmas cactus can cause vomiting and diarrhea, and the spiny leaves of the Christmas or English holly can cause irritation and damage to pets' stomachs and intestines. While serious complications aren't likely with holiday plants, it's still best to keep them out of pets' reach.

TINSEL AND LIQUID POTPOURRI: CAT OWNERS BEWARE
 Tinsel should be banned from households with cats. It looks like a shiny, fun toy to cats, but when ingested, tinsel can wrap around the tongue or anchor itself in the stomach making passage through the intestines impossible. Matters are made worse when the intestines contract and move, as tinsel can slowly cut through the tissue and cause severe damage to the intestinal tract. For all these reasons, it's also best to keep ribbon, yarn and thread stowed away. Liquid potpourris are dangerous too. They typically contain cationic detergents and essential oils that, if consumed by a cat, can cause severe chemical burns in the mouth, fever, difficulty breathing and tremors. Dogs are not as sensitive to the chemicals, but its best to keep potpourri out of their reach as well.

Bessie owned me from 1999, at age 20, until this year, and she died of old age at 34, on Sat., Nov. 16. She lived longer than Trigger! He was 33 when he died, and Roy Rogers and Trigger was my favorite TV show when I was growing up!

Bessie was sound, healthy and could be ridden right up until she died and she blessed me in the 14 years I owned her. I have many happy memories of Bessie. She was an ALPHA mare right down to the end and had two speeds: fast and faster! She had to be at the head of the pack on any trail ride and at a show she tried to race around the ring like a freight train. Enclosed is a picture of Bessie and me at the Steele County Fair horse show in Owatonna, MN in August, 2011. We entered the costume class. Bessie was 32 years young and my 16-year-old granddaughter was riding my other horse, Kayla, who was about 28.

There were 20 horses in the class. It was a big outdoor arena but still crowded with that many horses and riders in costumes so it was walk-trot. We were trotting around the arena, Bessie was doing her extended trot and my other horse could not trot as fast as Bessie, but she was trying to keep up to her, and so she was breaking gait and cantering. My granddaughter got mad because she couldn't keep her trotting! At one point Bessie and I had an open spot on the rail and went past the judge. Bessie had her head down, on the bit at extended trot and she was just strutting her stuff and having fun. I looked at the

ous items out of their reach. If, however, you think a pet may have ingested something harmful, take action immediately. Contact your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline at 1-800-213-6680. At only \$39 per call including follow-up consultations, Pet Poison Helpline is the most cost-effective animal poison control center in North America.

Readers' Letters
 Tribute and Memorial to Bessie Koridge

judge and smiled at him. We got sixth place out of 20 horses!

Two years ago, at age 32, Bessie and I were still doing dressage-leg yields and shoulder-ins. She knew more dressage but I didn't know how to get her to do it. And she liked to do levades like the Lipiz-zaner stallions. I thought they were fun and so did she. She had so much impulsion and loved to go on trail rides, so that if I held her back she would do levades. She had such a big heart and she would have tried so hard to please me that it would have killed her.

Last spring, we decided we couldn't afford to keep Bessie and Kayla (my 28-year-old mare), and I was going to put them down to prevent them from getting in a bad abusive or neglectful situation. But it was so expensive to do that and I was getting really depressed thinking about it because they were both sound and healthy and running around the pasture and enjoying life! At the last minute, I got connected with the North Iowa Cowboys for Christ chapter.

They told me about Even Star horse rescue farm by Joice, Iowa (no website, see Facebook page). The owner of the farm loves mustangs and goes all over the country picking up abused and

neglected mustangs and bringing them to her farm for rehab and adoption. She agreed to take Bessie and Kayla and promised they would get good homes and be taken care of. It was really hard to let them go but I had to give them a chance to live the rest of their lives and be happy and healthy. They had been together since 2000 and were both Alpha mares but Bessie was the boss. She insisted on being fed grain first and Kayla always followed Bessie around the pasture. Bessie's hearing was not good when she was a long ways away from me in the

pasture but was ok close up. They took care of each other. Bessie was adopted in June by the rescue farm owner's niece, and she took her to her farm. On the Facebook page, there was a picture of her niece riding Bessie and someone commented on the picture that it was good to see her niece riding AGAIN. I didn't know what that meant. Did her horse die or did she get hurt and not want to ride? When the rescue farm owner contacted me and told me Bessie had died I asked her what that meant about her niece. She said that her niece had been taking lessons and had been bucked off really badly before Bessie and Kayla came to the farm. Her niece fell in love with Bessie and Bessie with her, and Bessie was the perfect horse to get her riding again! So Bessie blessed people right up to the day she died. Bessie loved life and got over being abused when she was

and good rides we had! Bessie would want us to be happy and celebrate her life because she is up in heaven running around like a colt with the rest of my herd in heaven and she doesn't have to spend another winter in MN! Thank you God for letting me have Bess for 14 years, and thanks to my husband for paying the bills, helping haul hay, and feeding Bess and Kayla, cleaning out the shed, fixing fence, etc. Bess was a great horse and I will never find another horse like Bess. Bessie was Bessie til the day she died! Have a great time in heaven and I will see you again someday and we will ride together again in heaven!

Carolyn Duncan



young. When I was doing therapeutic riding from 1996-2001 I bought Bessie for my personal horse because no inexperienced person could ride her because of her issues from being abused. (She didn't like western saddles, curb bits or doing reining, and would rear and get scared if I tried to make her do it.)

But she loved dressage and so did I, so we did dressage just for fun. I did use Bessie in therapeutic riding, and if she was being led she was ok. Her fast walk was especially good for a traumatic brain injury car accident victim,

who rode her with a bare-back pad so the fast motion of Bessie's walk would stimulate the rider's brain and the speech center of her brain. Bessie enjoyed her time as a therapy horse with other riders, too.

Thank you, Bess, for all the good memories

Adopt-A-Horse & Find a Partner for Life ...

For more info please contact the
High Tail Horse Ranch & Rescue
 chart@loretel.net
 Ranch: 701-526-3734
 Hawley, Minn.



GRETA

Greta is a gentle mini mare, close to 4 years old. She is lead line trained for kids, and had done many pony rides at our fund raising events. She came in with her mini mule baby, called Cinder, and we would love to place them together.



CINDERS

Cinders is a yearling mini mule. She is halter trained and people friendly. We want to place Cinder along with her mother, Greta in the same home.

Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary

P.O. Box 1685
 Green Valley, AZ 85622
 520-398-2814 (Phone)
 520-398-3221 (Fax)



Mystic

Mystic is a beautiful, former PMU mare. She is a draft cross with gorgeous movement. She had serious trust issues when she came to Equine Voices, but has since overcome those with lots of love and patience. She has had some training and has been under saddle, but it has been awhile. Mystic would benefit from someone with experience, lots of love to give and patience. She has great potential. Mystic is 14 years old. The asking price is \$1500.

Canterbury Park and Minnesota Hay Bank Team Up to Address Hay Shortage

Golden Valley, MN – November 27, 2013. The Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition (MNHWC) and Canterbury Park have joined forces to address the hay shortage in Minnesota. The Minnesota Hay Bank has purchased a semi-load of horse-quality hay and Canterbury Park will store it for the winter.

"This is the first time Minnesota has stockpiled hay in an attempt to deal with the hay shortage, and we are now better prepared to address emergency horse needs this winter," said hay bank co-founder Stacy Bettison. "Purchasing large quantities of hay, finding storage and keeping it secure are enormous undertakings that require money, facilities and equipment. Teaming up with Canterbury Park has made this possible. This is the perfect example of people working together to help horses." Twenty tons of hay has been shipped to Shakopee, Minnesota, and Canterbury Park will provide

For more info please contact the
Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue
 PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398
 (763) 856-3119 or info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Emma is a very sweet bay mare foaled sometime in the late 1980's who stands approximately 15 hands.

She came to us as part of a 2013 humane case and was severely underweight. She has bounced back beautifully. She is a wonderful girl who is well broke to ride. She neck reins and does best with a curb bit. Current on all vet work, including dental. Her breeding is unknown. This mare is very solidly built and definitely has some power and speed. She definitely does not look, act, or feel her age. For more information please contact us at info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org.



Emma

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish

The Pros and Cons of Lunging

By Charles Wilhelm

I've seen too many people over the years get hurt because they just mounted without getting the freshness off the horse. Some people like to call lunging play, but it is running, bucking, and rearing to let off steam and have a good time. Especially during the winter when there is not a lot of turnout and a horse has been in a stall or paddock for two or even three days, it is critical to let the horse unwind. When we get on to ride without allowing this, we wind up wrestling with the horse instead of enjoying our ride. It is all about safety, and getting on a horse under these circumstances does not make sense to me. Every horse needs to have an opportunity to move and blow-off some steam.

When I was 25 or even 35 years old I would get on a horse like that. The horse would be all fired up and I used to show off how well I could maintain control. That was not a really good or smart thing to do. The horse industry primarily represents women 35- to 55-years-old and some well into their sixties. I've been working with problem horses for approximately 25 years and most of the problems I've seen occur because the horse is too full of energy. The horse starts moving fast and the rider grabs the reins, which is a natural instinct for us. The horse

may then rear up or even go over backwards. The horse may buck or crow hop because of all the pent up energy. I say, let us all be smart and lunge our horses before we ride them.

There is another reason why it is good to lunge a horse before riding. I know the natural horsemanship people say lunging is mindless work. However, if you do this exercise correctly and are very specific in your actions and directions, it is a far from mindless use of time. As you watch your horse moving around you, you can see how he is tracking and moving. You can identify any stiffness, lameness or attitude issues. Even my finished horses are lunged, if only for five minutes or less. When I mount, the horse is warmed up and loose in the joints. I don't have to spend time in the saddle getting the horse physically and mentally ready to work. I know that the horse has his mind in the right place.

Another good reason to lunge is to teach certain commands. Commands that can be learned on a lunge line include go forward, walk, trot, canter and stop the feet. Transitions between gaits such as trot to canter and trot to walk can also be taught and practiced. You can work on canter departures

from a stop on a long lunge line. Lunging is also a gymnastic exercise and you can see how the horse performs various gaits and movements. You can add other training aids such as poles, to help get the horse collected and engaged.

If your horse has not been trained to lunge properly, much of the benefit of the exercise will be lost. I want to get the play out of my horse and use the time as well to get some other benefits. You may have to teach your horse how to lunge properly. How do I know when the horse is lunging properly? First, the horse is not pulling on me. I can't tell you how many times I have seen trainers, particularly in the English discipline, be pulled around by horses running on the end of a 25- or 30-foot lunge line. When a horse is pulling, he is not getting the benefit of the gymnastic part of the exercise. With pulling comes resistance and you are working against yourself. I don't want a big drape in the lunge line but I do want some softness in the line, in other words a little bit of play.

When lunging properly, the horse's nose is slightly tipped to the inside. I don't want the neck bent around because then the right shoulder, if the horse is going left, will float out. When the shoulder

floats out, that teaches the horse to run through the shoulder and we don't want that. I want the horse's body straight. I have seen many trainers, particularly western trainers, who lunge with the hind quarters to the inside of the circle and the nose to the outside. It almost looks like the horse is side passing on the lunge line. We don't want that either. Finally, when we are finished lunging, we want the horse's movements to have a nice rhythm and cadence. The horse should be relaxed and coming through from behind rather than dragging himself along. This can take five minutes or twenty-five minutes.

It does take time to train a horse to lunge properly. You need to find someone who can teach you the proper way to train your horse to lunge. We do not begin to train a horse using a thirty-foot line. When I am teaching a horse to lunge, I begin with a line as

short as three feet. I may even need to start with my hand just below the snap to get the horse to start moving around me. This also helps keep the nose slightly tipped in. As the horse learns the exercise, I gradually increase the length of the line. Any time you start a horse on a 25- or 30-foot lunge line, you are asking for trouble. The horse will likely run away, run through the shoulder, possibly run off and pull you along. Like everything else related to properly working with a horse, the challenge is learning how to do it correctly.

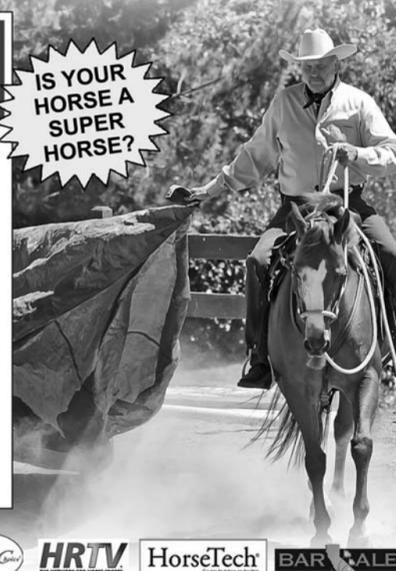
I use the lunging exercise all the time. Not just to get the energy and play out but to get the horse relaxed. If you go to a show or some place that you have never been and your horse is edgy, get out the lunge line. Work the freshness out and get the horse concentrating on you. My goal is that the horse's ears are on me. Also, I want the inside eye on me looking

for direction. Internationally known and respected horse trainer Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training which combines the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship. This method is applicable to every riding discipline. Charles is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating with and motivating people as well as horses. His training methods reflect his motto, "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault".

Charles' warm and relaxed demeanor has made him a favorite at regional and national clinics and demonstrations. His training center in Castro Valley, California is among the top equine educational facilities in Northern California. Charles offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship.

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Welfare Code of Practice - American Horse Council Introduction

Editor's Note: We hear many stories about neglected, released, seized and unwanted horses. There are many standards of care and much of it may depend upon the way people are raised to care for their animals and how they saw their parents care for the animals they owned. Dozens of organizations have signed their agreement to this "Welfare Code of Practice," developed and published by the American Horse Council. The code reflects a standard of care for our equine friends. Please share and spread the word so we can eventually eliminate the unwanted horse situation in America.

American society has grown away from its agrarian roots of only a few generations ago. The horse, which was once a staple of American agriculture and general transportation, is now used primarily for breeding, competition, sport, recreation and entertainment, although there are still many horses used for work on farms and ranches, and in urban areas and exhibitions. The horse industry is committed to the safety, health, care and welfare of all horses and to always "Put the Horse First." We address equine welfare and responsible care (1) by supporting a uniform Code of Practice regarding the responsible breeding, training, competing, care, use, enjoyment, health, transportation, and retirement of horses; and (2) by initiating communication with the public, the media, federal and state officials and within the horse community regarding these issues.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL HORSES AND THE HORSE INDUSTRY
 The organizations listed below are committed to the principle that the welfare and safety of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all owners, service providers, organizations, events and activities. Please see the web site for a full listing of organizations.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the dignity, humane care, health, safety and welfare of horses in all our activities and care. These are our highest priorities. We are the stewards of our horses and must be firm in the standards and practices that guide us. Our first principle is: The welfare, safety and stewardship of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all segments of the horse industry.

WE ARE COMMITTED to promoting responsible breeding practices and to produce better horses, not just more horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to responsible training techniques. All training should be done with the maturation and ability of the horse considered. Horses should be prepared for competition with proper training and conditioning methods. Excessive disciplining methods, whether in stables, training areas, or during competition, will not be tolerated.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating owners, trainers, veterinarians, competitors, exhibitors and recreational riders to ensure that they know and respect their horse's abilities and limits, and their own, so as to not push the horse or themselves beyond their ability level.

WE ARE COMMITTED to making all competitions fair and ensuring all competitors an equal opportunity to succeed. Performance-enhancing drugs, practices or equipment have no place in competitions or exhibitions. Effective drug testing by accredited laboratories is essential to the safety and welfare of our horses and the public support of competitions, with appropriate penalties levied for violations. The welfare of the horse must take precedence over the demands or expectations of owners, breeders, trainers, sellers, buyers, organizers, sponsors, officials, or spectators.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the welfare of the horse as paramount during compe-

tion. The horse industry should invest in the infrastructure, environment and facilities to provide a safe environment for all horses in all activities, whether breeding, competing, or simply riding. Any facilities that house horses should be committed to the appropriate care and treatment of all horses while in their facility, and should be designed with the environment and the intended use of the horse in mind.

WE ARE COMMITTED to minimizing injuries to horses during training, competition, use, or work. Whenever possible injury data should be collected, documented and reported to the governing body of the competition or any other injury database for analysis in order to ensure a safer environment.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the continual review, evaluation and improvement of all rules, regulations, policies and practices in all equine activities, based on science (where indicated). When warranted, they should be refined or changed. This includes existing practices to ensure they are not being perceived as acceptable, particularly if new research has called them into question.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing continuing education on all activities involving horses and eliminate inhumane practices as well as strengthening sanctions for non-compliance.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating all people who own or work with horses to ensure they are knowledgeable in the proper husbandry, care, and handling of horses. Each horse should be observed frequently to ensure that they are healthy. In consultation with a veterinarian, all such individuals should develop a sound health care program, appropriate to the facilities, environment and needs of the horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing an environment in which anyone aware of

equine cruelty or neglect is willing to report it to the proper local, state or federal authorities. Should an incident occur at an event it should be reported to judges, stewards, responsible authorities or the sanctioning organization.

WE ARE COMMITTED to improving the health and welfare of horses through scientific research, collaboration, advocacy and the development of appropriate rules. The industry should continue to support and work with the many individuals, universities, veterinarians and foundations doing and funding equine health and welfare research in order to reduce injuries and improve health.

WE ARE COMMITTED to horse owners and caretakers ensuring horses in their care are current on vaccinations and following best practices to minimize infection and disease. When a disease outbreak occurs horse owners and events must act quickly and responsibly, monitor the horses, report the outbreak to, and cooperate with, veterinarians, authorities, facility management and all stakeholders to bring a rapid resolution to the outbreak.

WE ARE COMMITTED to ensuring that our horses will have an opportunity to transition to additional careers, uses or activities as the need arises. When necessary, owners and veterinarians may have to consider end-of-life decisions. The welfare, safety and dignity of the horse must continue to be the guiding principle in deciding how and when to provide a humane death.

WE ARE COMMITTED to being transparent about our activities in order to ensure the public, the media, federal, state and local officials and the various segments of the horse community understand what we do, why we do it, and support it.

Golden Eagle Western Equestrian Wraps Up Strong Fall Season

CROOKSTON, Minn. - The University of Minnesota Crookston western equestrian team finished the 2013 portion of their schedule Sat., Nov. 16 and Sun., Nov. 17 with a pair of shows at University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

"Our Fall season has come to a very successful close and I could not be more impressed with my team," said Assistant Coach Kayla Krueger. "This weekend was very competitive for us and all teams were competing at the top of their game as it was the second to last chance at accumulating final points for the season."

Saturday's show presented many challenges for the Golden Eagles. Seniors Mitzi Marlin (Nowthen, Minn./Agricultural Business) and Caitlin Kelley (White Bear Lake, Minn./Equine Science) both had very successful rides in both their Reining and Open Horsemanship divisions. Both girls had challenging draws but came out with very strong rides. Marlin placed third in her Reining class and Kelley followed with a fourth in her Reining class.

Sunday's shows proved to be even more impressive for Marlin and Kelley. Kelley finished as High Point Rider during Sunday's show after placing second in her Reining class and earning first in her Open Horsemanship division. Marlin also had two very good rides for Sunday, coming out with a third place finish in her Reining and a fourth in her Open Horsemanship.

Sophomore Chloe Nelson (Little Falls, Minn./Animal Science) continued to ride very competitively in her Advanced division in which she finished third out of a large group of riders on Saturday. Sophomore Amanda Guimont (Nowthen, Minn./Agricultural Business) also had a very successful show as she finished second in her Novice division which pointed her up into the Advanced class. Junior Shannon Salm (Jr., Larsen, Wis./Equine Sci-

ence), returned from an injury which sidelined her during the Golden Eagles' last show. Her time off didn't faze her as she back into the ring and placed a strong second in both Saturday and Sunday's show in her Novice division. Salm looks forward to pointing out of her Novice division later this year.

Freshman Jenny Tack (St. Bonifacius, Minn.) found her groove in her Intermediate II division in which she dominated her class and finished with a first place on Saturday and a third during Sunday's show.

Newcomer Amberly Pesall (So., New Brighton, Minn.) rode into her pen during Sunday's show extremely determined to ride at the top of her class to finish her class with a win in a very difficult Advanced Horsemanship division. Lastly, newcomer Randi Bethel (Fr., Cedar, Minn.) could not have been happier as she continued her streak of blue ribbons by winning her Beginning Horsemanship class on Saturday.

"Overall this Fall season has been very successful," Krueger said. "As a new coach I could not be more proud of my team. So far we have five riders that have individually qualified for Regionals in the spring that will be held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. We still have three riders that are hoping to qualify at our final show of the season that will also be held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls the day before Regionals."

The Golden Eagles next competition won't be until Feb. 22 when they go Head-to-Head again with South Dakota State University. Their next full show will be March 1 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls before the IHSA Regional Championships March 2 in River Falls, Wis.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

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Dennis Reis was the sponsor and author of the 2003 National Day of the Horse. On November 18, 2004 Senate Resolution 452, recognizing December 13 as the National Day of the Horse was passed.

Day of the Horse was a resolution designating December 13, 2004, as "National Day of the Horse" and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to

economy, history and character of the United States.

According to the American Horse Council:

- There are 9.2 million horses in the United States.
- 4.6 million Americans are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees and volunteers.
- 2 million people own horses.
- The horse industry has a direct economic effect on the U.S. of \$39 billion

annually.

- The industry has a \$102 billion impact on the U.S. economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account.
- The industry directly provides 460,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs.

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Tax Court Case Discusses “Market Study”

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

In the Tax Court case, Richard H. Daley, T.C. Memo 1996-259, an Arizona surgeon was denied deductions with respect to his cutting horse activity. The Tax Court, which in recent years has become more and more hard-nosed, concluded that the activity was not conducted for profit within the relevant IRS Regulations.

A number of facts worked against Dr. Daley: (1) He entered the activity without the aid of a written market study; (2) the evidence suggested that his motive for entering the activity was recreational; (3) he never relied on a formal profit or business plan; (4) in managing the activity he used a ledger to record various transactions and events, and had a separate “drop” file for each horse—but failed to maintain them in a completely accurate manner; (5) while he claimed to have devoted 10-12 hours per week to the horse activity, he was unable to substantiate this to the Court’s satisfaction.

The Court suggested there should have been “a formal market study prior to undertaking his horse activity.” Under this Court’s criteria, very few horse owners would pass muster. The opinion suggests that taxpayers in the horse industry are going to have to engage in a lot

more of formalities insofar as documenting how they started the activity. If you have a significant amount of losses you have a good chance of eventually being audited; it is therefore very important to document your compliance with IRS Regulations pertaining to the hobby loss rule.

Dr. Daley was unable to show that he consulted with industry experts prior to entering the activity. He testified that he had such consultations, but the judge found his testimony lacking in credibility. There was no documentation to back him up. This case therefore amplifies the importance of establishing groundwork documentary evidence and preserving it. It is important to maintain inventory records on each animal, including parentage, birth date, birth weight, and registration information. There should be a chart of horses owned and sold, with details. It is important to keep separate files on each horse.

If you are audited, it is important to immediately obtain legal assistance.

Evidence of your businesslike purpose should be presented to the auditor in the most favorable light. Your business plan should be set forth in a clear and concise manner. How you eventually expect to make a profit should be made clear. If losses are due to

unforeseen circumstances or setbacks, including disease or fluctuating market prices, you should maintain documentary evidence to prove these facts. The IRS also wants to see evidence that you keep abreast of industry practices and that you investigate the possibility of changing or abandoning current methods of operation in an effort to mitigate losses.

In many cases, taxpayers have convinced the Tax Court that their horse activity is a business rather than a hobby despite over two decades of losses. In those cases the taxpayers had good evidence showing the businesslike manner in which they operated their venture. The horse owners who come through well in audits usually have a working knowledge about genetic principles and other elements of animal husbandry. They usually strive to raise high quality animals, and have a plan on how to market them or otherwise make a profit.

John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He serves can be reached by telephone at (310) 278-0203 or via e-mail at JohnAlanCohan@aol.com. His website is www.johnalancohan.com.

Anna Twinney Clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, MN

Right: Pam and Saphra navigate the Obstacle Course at Liberty at the Anna Twinney Natural Horsemanship Clinic at Spirit Horse Center Brainerd, MN.

Left: Sara and Yogi conquer the Parachute during the Spook Busting portion of the Anna Twinney clinic at Spirit Horse Center.

Photos by Bourn Photography

Cowboy Poetry with Orv CHRISTMAS TITLE

GREEN SCENE GIVERS

I have Christmas memories where parents gave each, one special gift. Paying for land and livestock, it was a world of tight thrift. A brightly wrapped gift to call my own was truly worth the long wait. We drew family names. One gift given and received, we did equate. Some crops were bountiful, others were meager and days were lean. Winter was a radiant white, summer crops were a pleasant green. Something about the long wait with one Christmas gift on the shelf Put keepsakes in my mind, since, I could open it by myself.

A YEAR’S TOIL

We enjoyed other gifts, sunshine, rain, and pastures lush and green. The long awaited harvest was like a vast golden scene. Parents and siblings were gifts, also three square meals on our plate. No shortage of Mother’s love. It was freely given...and great. Frolicking newborn calves, princely colts, kittens and pups seemed pristine. We picked produce and then preserved it from a garden so green. Our Christmas baking produced some seldom treats for the shelf. And long waits for that one gift, something picked special for myself.

TRAINING: A DOUBLE MEANING

Repetition and hours of horse training...time for listening and talking. Trail rides were special. Neighbors claimed they never saw us walking. Grain and horses to sell brought income to “AK-N BREAK ACRES”. More duties include household chores for the ‘home-baked’ bread baker. From lamps and lantern days to electric switch, when the last light Was turned off, out in fresh air country, it was a silent night. Siblings shared their toys. To play, we could just take them off the shelf. Christmas giving and joy included opening that one gift by myself.

PINING FOR HOLIDAY SCENTS

Awaiting the big day, school and Sunday School made us recite. We loved winter skiing and skating in a land so bright white. We drove horses and bobsled for caroling for the townfolk. I rode a borrowed horse, “Formerly Known as Prince”! He was well broke. You haven’t lived til you have skied behind a galloping horse; A lariat gift was tied to harness hames, then my spirit soars. Soft falling snow, reflective icicles made me lose myself; Parents gifts: “Like what you have, don’t wish for more, just be yourself.”

GENEROSITY’S RETORT

Generosity prevails, I still donate magazines and books. American Legion ‘Open Your Heart’, gave me some backward looks. Regifted clothes, toys, chairs plus gifts that were my creations; Two dozen toy dump trucks, mixers and cradles. My donations Came from lumber yards and paint stores. All were pictured in a row. Shop class, assemblers and me, made toys to make young hearts glow. I gave gifts to my offspring. They taught me to laugh at myself. One child told her teacher, “Dad made toys, so, he must be an ELF.”

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AHC Testifies Before House Committee on Soring Bill

(Washington, D.C.) On November 13, 2013, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, held a hearing regarding the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2013 (H.R. 1518) or PAST Act. American Horse Council (AHC) President Jay Hickey testified in support of the bill.

is not strictly protective or therapeutic. These new prohibitions would not apply to other breeds that do not have a history of soring.

The legislation would also increase fines and penalties for violations, including the potential for a lifetime ban for repeat offenders.

“The AHC supports the PAST Act and believes it has the potential to end the abusive practice of soring in the Tennessee Walking horse, Racking horse, and Spotted Saddle horse industries,” said Hickey. “I was happy to appear before the committee and explain why the AHC and almost all national horse show associations support the bill.”

Soring is an abusive practice used to cause pain in a horse’s forelegs and produce an accentuated show gait for competition. It usually involves the use of action devices, chemicals, pads, wedges alone or in combination with the application of irritating or blistering chemical agents to a horse’s forelegs. The showing, sale, auction, exhibition, or transport of horses that have been “sored,” has been prohibited by the Horse Protection Act (HPA) since 1970.

“Despite the HPA’s 43 year prohibition on soring, a 2010 USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report found that this practice continues to be a problem in the “big lick” or “performance horse” segments of the Tennessee Walking horse, Racking horse, and Spotted Saddle horse industry,” said Hickey.

The PAST act would amend the HPA to prohibit a Tennessee Walking Horse, a Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse from being shown, exhibited, or auctioned with an “action device,” or “a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band or other device or material” if it is constructed to artificially alter the gait of the horse and

“The wider horse community might not realize it, but soring is garnering more and more adverse and unnecessary publicity for the horse industry at large. Witness the press surrounding Jackie McConnell and Larry Wheelon and others. This affects the non-walking horse sectors of the show industry because the public does not

understand the differences between various show breeds and what they do.”

“The public sees other breeds doing an animated gait and thinks it is a walking horse and being sored, rather than performing its natural gaits. That reflects badly on the entire show horse industry,” says Hickey.

Also, testifying in support of the PAST Act were Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, Executive Vice President & CEO American Veterinary Medical Association, Marty Irby, International Director and Former President Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ & Exhibitors’ Association, Teresa Bippin, President Friends of Sound Horses, and Donna Benefield, International Walking Horse Association.

Witnesses opposing the bill were Julius Johnson, Commissioner Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and Dr. John Bennett, on behalf of Performance Show Horse Association.

Other national organizations that support the bill include, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, U.S. Equestrian Federation, the American Quarter Horse Association, the American Paint Horse Association, the American Morgan Horse Association, the Pinto Horse Association of America, the Arabian Horse Association, the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the United Professional Horsemen’s Association, the Appaloosa Horse Club, and the American Veterinarian Medical Association as well as many other state and local organizations.

The bill has broad bipartisan support and currently has 223 co-sponsors in the House and 26 co-sponsors in the Senate.

The full written testimony of the AHC and full hearing can be viewed at: <http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/legislative-hearing-hr-1518-bill-amend-horse-protection-act>

Retired Racehorse Barrel Racing Event Gets a New Name and New Possibilities

The “X” in the newly renamed “Ultimate X Showdown” doesn’t stand for ex-boyfriends or ex-wives, but it does have something in common with the X Games, namely that the toughest, fastest and strongest athletes will be on hand to compete. Only the “X” in this competition stands for “ex-racehorse.” September 5, 2014, the Dreaming of Three Foundation will host its second all off-track thoroughbred barrel racing event at the Simmons Equestrian Center in Negley, Ohio. And this year, a new name was in order.

Originally conceived as the “Extreme Retired Racehorse Makeover,” the event sought a name change this year after a little letter from a rather big company forced the founder, Jacqueline Harris, to consider a name change. “When we created this event last year, I did not in my wildest dreams expect our event would be big enough or get enough national attention to get us noticed by the corporate suits at Disney. I just liked the name and didn’t think of any similarities!” said Harris of the request by Disney’s legal team for the event to have a name change (it apparently infringed on their “Extreme Home Makeover” TV show). “I guess we did something right last year, the first event certainly created a lot of buzz inside and outside the barrel horse community!”

So for 2014’s event, the competition will be called the “Ultimate X Showdown,” the “X” of course is

a nod to the thoroughbred ex-racehorses that will be the only competitors.

“Our mission is to increase the marketability of the off-the-track thoroughbred in the western events, namely the speed events like barrel racing,” said Harris. “We want to showcase their abilities in this competition and show the world that they can compete toe-to-toe with any other breed.”

The Ultimate X Showdown invites barrel racing trainers to seek out and the retrain an ex-racehorse



that comes to them with no prior trainer, other than what they learn at the track. The team of horse and rider then has 100 days to refine their barrel racing technique before the final competition in September.

“Last year we filled the arena with 12 riders, using just word of mouth advertising,” says Harris. “This year we would like to see 100 or more applications to fill the 15 spots we will have available for this year’s event and hope to see some of the barrel world’s biggest names as well. I know they are out there, competing every weekend beside the rest of us on quarter horses, we just don’t know it, as

it’s not advertised. I heard that Martha Josey competed on a few OTTB’s and I hope we can see more riders consider these great horses.” All proceeds from the event go to support off-track thoroughbred placement and marketing through several nationally accredited thoroughbred rescues.

Trainer/Rider applications for the 2014 event can be found at Dreaming of Three’s website: www.dreamingofthree.org.

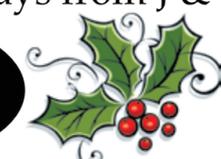
Media Contact (for interviews and photos): Jacqueline Harris Jackie@dreamingofthree.com. Ph: 724-272-3351

Dreaming of Three is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to charitable fund raising through our passion for horses and rodeo. We raise funds for American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and several animal rescues. Whether you compete on your horse, rodeo, or trail ride, you can join us and make your riding more meaningful.

The name comes from the founder, Jackie Harris, who decided to donate her own barrel racing winnings to the three charities after losing her stepfather to cancer and her father to heart disease, and because of her passion for barrel racing, which consists of THREE barrels. Then, as time went by, it grew into so much more. More information on our missions and structure at www.dreamingofthree.org

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STORING PESTICIDES

By Jerry Buckley, University of Minnesota County Extension Educator, Norman and Mahnomen Counties

Many farmers have leftover pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.) at the end of the cropping season, and deciding how and where to store these chemicals can be as important as how and where pesticides should be used.

By storing pesticides and application equipment properly, you avoid damaging containers, letting product deteriorate, polluting wells and water supplies and exposing children, pets and livestock to concentrated pesticides. It is a good management practice to limit your pesticide inventory by buying only what you need and taking delivery close to when you plan to use the pesticide.

After purchasing the pesticide, read the label to see if any special precautions should be taken for safe storage. Store the material in a secure area, away from feed, food, water supplies, or drains. Legal requirements for pesticide storage areas may change, and additional requirements pertain to storage of bulk pesticides. Contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for current storage regulations at <http://mda.state.mn.us> or call 651.201.6000 or 800.967.2474.

Storage containers
Store pesticides in the original containers and make certain the labels are intact. Don't put pesticides in other containers, especially not in used food or feed containers! If you have any old, unlabeled containers with contents, safely dispose of the contents as waste pesticides, even if you think you know what the contents may be. You can't expect to remember contents, directions, precautions, and antidotes for an unlabeled container of pesticide. Others will have no idea what is in an unlabeled

container. Check periodically for leaking containers. If a container is defective, it should be repaired. If this is not possible, then place the leaky container in a larger container, keeping the label intact. If you need to put a pesticide into another container, make sure that the label is transferred to the new container.

After August 16, 2011, all portable refillable containers must meet new requirements. FARMER-OWNED CONTAINERS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM THIS REQUIREMENT. Each refillable container must have a unique ID, such as a bar code or serial number. Refillable containers must meet DOT packaging requirements, have seals that meet specifications, and undergo periodic pressure testing. Pesticide distributors and manufacturers will provide you with information on their refillable containers.

Storage areas

The storage facility can be in a separate building or in a separate area within a building; store pesticides in a locked storage room, cabinet, or secure area to prevent access by children, animals, or other unauthorized persons. Post a sign on the door that indicates it is a pesticide storage area, and that no food, drink or tobacco products can be used. The storage area should be used only for pesticides and pesticide equipment. A pesticide storage facility should never be used for other purposes. Never store pesticides with food, feed, seed, planting stock, fertilizers, veterinary supplies, clothing, respirators, or other protective equipment.

The storage area should be well lit, well ventilated, and well insulated against extremes in temperature. Locate the storage building downwind and downhill from sensitive areas, such as houses, recreational areas, schools, or barns. The storage area should have a non-permeable floor, such as sealed concrete,

that will not let fluids pass through and is easy to wash. Shelving should be made of plastic, metal, or other non absorbent material for easier cleanup. Ideally, the structure should be fire resistant. As an extra precaution, let your fire department know that you are storing pesticides and give them the location and information about the kind of pesticides. Post warning signs and contact information for firefighters and emergency responders outside the storage area. Extremes of temperature can affect both the safety and effectiveness of stored pesticides. Never allow pesticides to become overheated. Some pesticide formulations combust if they heat to above a specific temperature. Protect pesticides, especially liquids, against freezing. The labels of most liquid products state the lowest temperatures allowed for safe storage. For more information, contact Dean Herzfeld, Coordinator, Pesticide Safety and Environmental Education by e mail at dean@umn.edu or call 612.625.4271. This is the first of other articles on pesticides.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact me at the Norman or Mahnomen county Extension office or email me at gbuckley@umn.edu
Source: University of Minnesota, "Private Pesticide Applicator Safety Education Manual," 19th edition.

BWFA 2013 Farriers' Hall of Fame

The Brotherhood of Working Farriers Association, Inc. (BWFA), congratulates Dave Gibson, BWFA Master Farrier and Blacksmith as the BWFA 2013 Farriers' Hall of Fame Inductee, presented this year at the BWFA Annual Event held at the Kentucky Horse Park on October 26, 2013.

The BWFA 2013 Farriers' Hall of Fame Poster



of all members is now on display at the Farrier Shop at the Kentucky Horse Park. There it will be on display for thousands of spectators who pass through daily.

More information about Dave Gibson and all Hall of Famers available at www.bwfa.net/documents/63.html

Be sure to view the slide show on the front page of the Kentucky event. www.bwfa.net
Horse museums and exhibitions facilities can contact the BWFA Headquarters to find out how they can receive a "free" 2013 Poster.



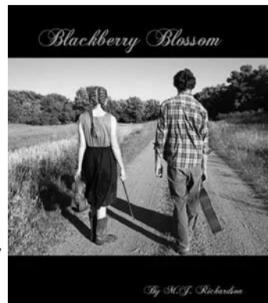
Bottom: Dave Gibson Top: Group left to right Link Casey, Billy Fortner, Kathy Fortner, Ronney DeBoard, Ralph Casey, Dan Marcum, Dave Gibson, Doug Eidner, Buck McColl, Ginger Casey

To learn more about the BWFA, contact us at: 14013 East Hwy 136, LaFayette, GA 30728. Phone/fax: (706) 397-8047, Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Email: info@bwfa.net, or at www.bwfa.net.

Blackberry Blossom Review

Editor's Note: Readers may be familiar with other works by young author, Mattie Richardson, a young lady from North Dakota who has written 3 other novels and contributed to the Valley Equestrian News.

in-dust, home. It's not clear right away why she has left, but her feelings will eventually come out.



Haven't read "Blackberry Blossom" yet? How about a recent review?

Folks, you are going to fall head over heels for this sixteen-year-old girl named Molly. She's very sensible, but has run away from a depression-laden and buried-

Anyway, she's now on the road by herself, and in order to eat and have a place to sleep she plays a killer fiddle at cafes and bars. (To me there is no more enchanting music than that from a fiddle.) The people who hear her love her music.

Eventually she meets Pepper, a full-of-fun but a bit unruly lad, who joins her music with a guitar. She likes this boy but soon realizes her hands will be full dealing with his antics. They go on, together get through every scrape, and eventually get to New York which has been her goal and...but—OK, no spoilers!

Up to now I've mostly been interested in reading "thrillers" (not to say this isn't a thriller in its own right) and having met this strong female lead, I might just be changing my mind. When Molly gets a letter from "home," my tears appear, and I will have to fight with tears again and again before this charming book ends.

-James Nelson, Amazon Review (used with permission)

What is an n-3 PUFA? And why should you care?

By Juliet M Getty, Ph.D

Recently, I saw the term "n-3 PUFA" used in an article about supplementing fat for insulin resistant horses. It discussed a study performed at Colorado State University where "n-3 PUFAs" were shown to significantly reduce insulin levels. Great news! But what in the world is an n-3 PUFA?

First, PUFA stands for "polyunsaturated fatty acid." All fatty substances contain a combination, in varying amounts, of three types of fatty acids:

- Saturated—the kind you'd find in butter, beef, or coconut oil
- Monounsaturated (abbreviated MUFA)—found in high amounts in olive oil and rice bran oil
- Polyunsaturated (abbreviated PUFA)—more complex molecule found in most plants and in fish

There are two main types of PUFAs, which are named based on their chemical structure—Omega 3 or Omega 6. The Greek letter, omega, is often symbolized in scientific literature by an "n" followed by the number. The omega 6 PUFA, symbolized by n-6 and known as linoleic acid, is important because the horse cannot produce it; therefore, it is considered "essential" and must be in the diet. A problem occurs when the diet contains too much; high amounts of linoleic acid (an n-6 PUFA) can lead to inflammation. Oils from soybean, corn, safflower, sunflower, and wheat germ are very high in this specific fatty acid. Omega 3 (n-3) PUFAs are found in three forms:

- Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)—found in fish oils
- Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)—also found in fish oils
- Alpha linolenic acid (ALA)—found in high amounts in flax, chia, and fresh grasses. ALA is also "essential" and can be converted to the other

two n-3 PUFAs.

Back to the good news... While all fat is high in calories, foods that are high in n-3 PUFAs can lower blood insulin levels, which helps reduce fat storage and lessen the risk of laminitis. For more about fats, visit library at www.GettyEquineNutrition.com and read "Fat is Fat, Right? Check Your Omegas!" And keep learning by listening to the recorded teleseminar, "A Clear View of Fat – Types, Sources, and Benefits."

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally respected, independent equine nutritionist who believes that optimizing horse health comes from understanding how the horse's physiology and instincts determine the correct feeding and nutrition practices. She is the Contributing Nutrition Editor for the Horse Journal, and is available for private consultations and speaking engagements.

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Stassi Pyne, Michigan 2011 & 2012 International Professional Rodeo Association World Champion

Keep learning with Dr. Getty! At www.gettyequinenutrition.com, sign up for her informative, free monthly newsletter, *Forage for Thought*; browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum; and purchase recordings of her informative teleseminars. You can also pick up copies of her books, including Dr. Getty's comprehensive reference, **Feed Your Horse Like A Horse** along with the various volumes in her **Spotlight on Equine Nutrition Series**. The latest book shines a light on the intricacies of **Equine Digestion—It's Decidedly Different**; it's available now through Dr. Getty's site, and in print and Kindle formats on Amazon. Contact Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from
The Valley Equestrian News Team

May your holiday season be a safe one, filled with joy and happy memories.

Five Days in the Fast Lane

By Annise Montplaisir

At the beginning of October, I received a letter in the mail from the American Quarter Horse Association. I didn't think much of it at first, figuring it was just a general notification to renew my membership...until I opened it and read, "Congratulations! You have been selected to attend the AQHYA National Racing Experience." I was absolutely ecstatic, and I had to go sit down before I passed out, as my mom continued jumping up and down and screaming in excitement.

I waited in anticipation for the next month until I could depart on November 6 from my home in Moorhead, Minn., for beautiful, sunny California. When the day finally came, I was greeted in the California airport by a diverse group of girls from numerous states, plus a very wonderful and excited Robin Alden, the manager of AQHYA. The first day was spent getting to know each other, laughing at everyone's accents, eating at some great restaurants and shopping on Balboa Island.

The next morning, our entire crew piled into our

red and black SUVs and headed off to Los Alamitos Race Course to be paired with the trainers we would work with for the next three days.

After eating a delicious breakfast at the track kitchen (I got to try huevos rancheros for the first time!), we made the trek through the shed rows to find our trainers. My teammate, Jacy, and I were to work with John Stinebaugh. As it turns out, Mr. Stinebaugh was still traveling to the racetrack that day, so we spent the next few hours walking through his barn admiring the horses, asking his assistant trainer, Tiger, questions and getting to know one of the grooms, Jose. Tiger also put us to work grooming a gorgeous gelding named All About Larry, and he explained that "Larry" had won the \$125,000 Red Cell Distance Challenge Championship (G1) race the year before.

On our way back to the track kitchen, Jacy and I stopped to watch a pair of horses schooling in the starting gates. The official starter and the other gate crew guys invited us to check out the gates and

take pictures. I clicked away on my camera as the official starter taught us all about the starting gates. Not long after, we were joined by the two AQHYA youth representatives, Mary Claire Cornett and Kalee McCann, as well as the racehorse trainer they were working with. The starter suggested that the four of us have our own little race. So, Jacy, Mary Claire and I all chose our post positions while Kalee stood back and watched. I ended up winning, but we all had a good laugh out of the race.

After that we piled back into the SUVs once again, and headed off to Vessels Stallion Farm. The farm was absolutely gorgeous, and the tour we were given was amazing. My favorite parts were getting to see all the trophies and photos in the Vessels office building, as well as getting the opportunity to tour the stallion barn. All of us girls tried to convince them to let us move into one of the empty stalls, but without any luck.

We finished the day in Oceanside at the beach. Everyone went their own

separate way, relaxing before dinner. Makayla DeMoss and I walked back and forth on the beach, collecting shells, taking pictures and marveling at the beauty of it all. Later, we enjoyed a delicious dinner at Rockin' Baja Lobster. I've never had such amazing seafood before!



We began our Friday morning bright and early, arriving at the track by

around 6:10, to watch a demonstration on how to saddle a racehorse in a racing saddle. Afterward, Jacy and I headed back to our barn to meet Mr. Stinebaugh for the first time. After asking a gazillion questions about the nutrition, training and expenses of his racehorses so we could complete our trainer packets, we went with Mr. Stinebaugh to the racing

office so he could get an owner's license.

We spent the rest of our time in the barn that morning admiring the crazy goat "Lucy," who keeps a champion filly named PJ Chick In Black (or "PJ" for short) calm, looking at baby chicks, and getting to

know a few other grooms and a pony rider named Susie.

Jacy and I headed back up to the track kitchen, our group's designated meeting location, and then headed off to an AQHA Racing Committee meeting. At the meeting, each of us introduced ourselves and shared with the audience what our favorite part of the trip had been thus far. For me, it was being able to be around such incredible equine athletes.

There's something so special about racehorses; they emit such a powerful presence. It was a privilege to watch the process that goes into preparing them so they can be their absolute best when they get to the track.

Before going back to the hotel, we stopped at a small Vietnamese sandwich shop to grab lunch.

Although several online reviews gave the place five stars, we were all skeptical. The lady working at the counter was so excited when she saw this entire herd of girls piling into her tiny (and I mean really tiny!) shop. After we ordered, she came outside with pitchers of iced green

tea and refilled our glasses about five times before we left. And the sandwiches turned out to be really good. I'm not sure I knew what I was eating, but it was delicious!

When we got back to the hotel, we sat down to watch two informational videos: one on the history of the American Quarter Horse, and the other about the professionals that work at a racetrack, such as the starter, outrider and stewards.

After a bit of down time, we got ready and headed to the track to take in a night of American Quarter Horse racing. When we arrived at the track, we toured the jockeys' room, then went to the Vessels Club to eat a meal that was absolutely to die for (all the food we ate there

My trip to the AQHYA National Racing Experience

By Annise Montplaisir

was amazing!). Then we headed up to go meet the stewards. There was a balcony set outside of their office, and from there, we had a beautiful view of the track. We watched a nail-biter of a race with a nearly dead heat finish! We saw the photo-finish picture, and it was so close, you could barely tell who the winner was. Thank goodness for such incredible technology!

After watching the rest of the races that night, we headed back to our hotel to get some well-needed rest before another long day of adventures.

When we got to the track the next morning, Jacy and I headed back to our barn. It was an exciting day, because the Bank of America Challenge Championship races would take place that night. Mr. Stinebaugh had two horses in the Red Cell Distance Challenge Championship: All About Larry and Frankie B.

We spent the morning hanging out, talking to the grooms, Susie and Mr. Stinebaugh, and watching the horses get bathed. I was impressed by how well Larry stood for his bath; he hardly moved a muscle. I wish my horses stood that well for baths! Jacy and I stood with Mr. Stinebaugh as Larry and Frankie dried off in the sun. He taught us a lot about medication use in horse racing, which I thought was very interesting. Although people still try to get by with illegal substances, Los Alamitos, and many other racetracks for that matter, do a lot to keep the sport clean and drug free.

I also really enjoyed learning about Mr. Stinebaugh's extensive nutrition plan for his horses, with their various supplements and grain and hay, all to keep them in peak condition.

After saying goodbye to everyone in our barn and wishing them luck for the races that night, Jacy and

I headed back to the track kitchen, where we wrote out thank-you cards, then headed back to the hotel.

When we got there, we finished up our packets of information about our trainers and turned them in.

Next stop, Hollywood Park, to take in some great

was kind of bittersweet being at Hollywood Park and knowing that in a few months it won't be there any longer. I felt very privileged to have been able to visit such a beautiful and historic track before it's gone forever. [Hollywood Park is scheduled to close after its final race meet December 22, 2013.]

When they announced the first-place winner, I was overjoyed to hear my name being called. I hardly knew what to do for a few seconds!

After taking pictures with Zoey Oropallo and Austin Brewer, the second- and third-place winners, and AQHA President Johnne Dobbs, I was interviewed

the track, Jacy and I found a good spot on the rail to watch with two other girls from our group.

When the horses broke from the gates, it looked as though Frankie and Larry got a good start. But when they came around the hook, it was obvious that something was wrong with Larry. His jockey eased him

baugh for a while about the race. He told us that if you're going to work in horse racing, you have to remember that you will always lose more often than you win. I really had to respect how positive his outlook was after such a tough race. We then bid everyone farewell one last time before heading back up to the stands. It was sad saying goodbye to Mr. Stinebaugh, Jose, Susie, Tiger and the rest of the barn staff. They all taught us so much and were so kind while we were there.

Back in the stands, we watched the final few races, and then headed back to our hotel to spend our final night. Jacy and I packed up our things and went to bed, exhausted. The next day, we got up and ate breakfast together one final time before heading off to the airport. After we went through security, all of us met up at Starbucks to hang out before our planes flew off. One by one, and sometimes in pairs, our group disappeared as girls headed to their flights. Crystal Malo and I flew to Minneapolis together (since she's from Hector, Minn.), and from there I flew to Fargo, N. D., which is closer to my home in Moorhead, Minn.

Although it felt good to be home and see my family, it was sad leaving California. I met so many great new friends and people and had the opportunity to be around some amazing, beautiful horses. It was an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything.

Photos:
Far left: A view of Los Alamitos racetrack from the stewards office at night.
Center: The grave of First Down Dash at Vessels Stallion Farm.
This page: Cowgirl boots meet the Pacific Ocean at a California beach.

thoroughbred racing! I fell in love with this track right away; it was beautiful on the outside and inside. The infield and the paddock area were especially gorgeous. Wendy Davis, or Ms. Wendy as we called her, had a friend with a horse named Chico Suerte running in a claiming race that day. Her friend was kind enough to let us go into the paddock to watch "Chico" get saddled for the race. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw jockeys like Mike Smith, Joe Talamo and Kayla Stra walking past me on our way to the paddock and back. We sat in the reserved box seats to cheer on Chico to a fifth-place finish. It

After a couple more races, it was back to the hotel again. Everyone took a speed nap before heading down to the hotel lobby to take our final exam. After the test, we went back up to our rooms and got ready for a fun-filled night of Challenge Championship races!

When we got to the track, we headed straight to the winner's circle for the announcement of the scholarship recipients. Our scores from our workbook, trainer packet and exam were added up and combined into a total score to decide the winners. I could hardly stand still – I was so excited and nervous.

by TVG. It was such an amazing experience; it just felt so surreal!

Then it was back up to the Vessels Club for another amazing dinner. After the fifth race, Jacy and I headed to the paddock to meet up with Mr. Stinebaugh and watch him saddle Frankie and Larry for the Red Cell Distance Challenge Championship. Both horses were calm and composed and looked absolutely amazing. All About Larry had sustained a tendon injury a few months back, so there was bit of worry about how he would hold up in the race. After the horses went out on

up in the stretch, and we observed, downhearted, as they loaded him into the horse ambulance. After watching a few more races, all the time wondering how Larry was, Jacy and I decided to run back to our barn to see if he was going to be OK. As it turned out, he had injured his tendon again. Frankie also had a rough trip in the race, as he started bleeding badly from his nose and finished second-to-last.

Talk about a rough night for Mr. Stinebaugh and his connections! But both horses are going to be OK, which was great to hear. We talked to Mr. Stine-



Continued on next page

Upcoming Events

Call Before You Haul

Dec. 11: RC Barrel Race Series at 5:30 p.m. at Sapphire Event Center in Corvallis, MT, 406.381.5118.

Dec. 6-14: Wrangler National Finals Rodeo at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, NV. Watch the VEN Facebook page for daily updates and the January issue for full coverage.

Dec. 14: CSMA Winter Series I at the M&D Arena in Anoka, Minn.

Dec. 14: Annual Christmas Special Tack and Horse Sale at R&J Arena at 10 a.m. Verndale, MN. Call 218-445-5849 for more information.

Dec. 14: High Roller Productions Winter Series at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center in Joilet, MT, call 406.962.3769

Dec. 14: Winter Team Roping at 2 p.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, Mt. 406.671.9887

Dec. 15: NBHA Barrel Races at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, 406.628.4100

Dec. 18: RC Barrel Race Series at 5:30 p.m. at Sapphire Event Center in Corvallis, MT, 406.381.5118.

Dec. 21: Game Show at Hi Circle Vee Ranch at 10 a.m. at Isanti, MN. Call: 763-689-4053 - WSCA Qualifying Game Show. Heated indoor arena. Ribbons 1st-6th, High Point trophies, Sidepot Classes. \$5 office fee, \$5 per class.

Dec. 28: High Roller Productions Winter Series at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center in Joilet, MT, call 406.962.3769

Jan. 1: RC Barrel Race Series at 5:30 p.m. at Sapphire Event Center in Corvallis, MT, 406.381.5118.

Jan. 4: Kirkwood Tack Swap Meet at Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Contact Nellie at nwilson@kirkwood.edu or call 319.398.5882.

Jan. 4: R&J Horse Sale at Verndale, MN.

Jan. 8: JJK Jackpot at 10:30 a.m. at Kings Arena in Great Falls, MT

Jan. 10-12: Kirkwood Saddle Club & Abraham's Equine Clinic Winter Challenge Series at Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Contact Nellie at nwilson@kirkwood.edu or call 319.398.5882.

Jan. 11, 2014: 28th NWHC Sleigh and Cutter Rally at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Wisc., contact Charlie Singler at 715-682-5544 or Julie Dahlberg at 715-897-2141

Jan. 11: High Roller Productions Winter Series at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center in Joilet, MT, call 406.962.3769

Jan. 12: NBHA Barrel Races at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, 406.628.4100.

Jan. 15-21: Parelli Clinic with Kristi Smith - 4 Star Parelli Instructor at Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Contact Nellie at nwilson@kirkwood.edu or call 319.398.5882.

Jan. 18: MNBHA District 4 Awards and Barrel Race at R&J Arena in Verndale, MN.

Jan. 24-26: Kirkwood Saddle Club & Abraham's Equine Clinic Winter Challenge Series at Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Contact Nellie at nwilson@kirkwood.edu or call 319.398.5882.

Jan. 25: Winter Team Roping at 2 p.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT. 406.671.9887

Jan. 25: High Roller Productions Winter Series at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center in Joilet, MT, call 406.962.3769

Jan. 25: Carbon County Kids Rodeo at 8:30 a.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, call 406.208.0348

Jan. 26: Right out of Currier & Ives. Join us at the

Winter Carnival Sleigh & Cutter Festival Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014 on the beautiful scenic golf course at Eagle Valley Golf Course in Woodbury, MN. All breeds of horses and ponies and all types of sleighs are welcome. Ribbons awarded in multiple classes. Current equine health rules apply. For your personal invitation, call John Block at 651-433-5312 or email johmar1@frontiernet.net

Jan. 26: NBHA Barrel Races at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, 406.628.4100

Jan. 31, 2014: Bulls Barrels and Broncs at R&J Arena 6 p.m. at Verndale, MN. Call 218-445-5849 for more information.

Feb. 3: Animal Communication and Horses: Giving a Voice to the Voiceless at Jefferson County Horse Council, Golden, CO. Contact Andrea Raschke, www.jeffco.com

Feb. 8: Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Parade through downtown Waseca, MN starting at noon.

Feb. 8: Winter Team Roping at 2 p.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT. 406.671.9887

Feb. 8: High Roller Productions Winter Series at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center in Joilet, MT, call 406.962.3769

Feb. 8: Carbon County Kids Rodeo at 8:30 a.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, call 406.208.0348

Feb. 9: NBHA Barrel Races at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, 406.628.4100

Feb. 14: Super Select Catalog Horse Sale/Auction at R&J Sales in Verndale, MN.

Feb. 22: Winter Team Roping at 2 p.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT. 406.671.9887

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Feb. 23: NBHA Barrel Races at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, MT, 406.628.4100

Feb. 27-March 2: North Central Reining Horse Show at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, MN. Contact mec@hbci.com or call 507.452.5600.

March 2: Animal Communication 101 at North West Natural Horsemanship Center fall City, WA. Contact Jim "Hutch" Hutchins at 425.222.3623 or nwnhc@nwnhc.com

March 7-9: SC Barrel Productions Event at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, MN. Contact mec@hbci.com or call 507.452.5600.

March 8: Winter Team Roping at 2 p.m. at Miller's Horse Palace in Billings, Mt. 406.671.9887

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ROOTS OF THE LIGHT HORSE BREEDS Turkmenian Horses

By Janice Ladendorf

The equine species evolved in North America. To reach Asia, they traveled over the Bering Land Bridge that once linked Alaska to Siberia. As horses spread through Asia and Europe, they encountered many changes in climate, terrain, and feed. As they adapted to each environment, evolution would have gradually selected for whatever factors maximized their ability to survive. Environmental factors do have considerable impact on conformation.

When humans first domesticated horses, three new factors affected the development of horse breeds. Migrating tribes often take their horses with them and humans have shipped horses across vast distances. They have also bred horses for desirable qualities, and can give them better feed. Like Iberian and Arabian horses, Turkmenians made major contributions to the development of our modern breeds. Their story illustrates the impact that evolution, selective breeding, and quality of care can have on the development

of a new breed of horse.

Turkmenistan, one of the Turki states of Central Asia. The ancient Silk Road that linked the Middle East with China ran through it. It lies east of the Caspian Sea and is bordered by Iran, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The Karakum desert lies in the middle of it. There is little



fertile land, but most of the semi-arid desert land can be used for pasturage. The Ahkal-Teke and the Iomud breeds still survive there. They are thought to be direct descendants of the ancient Turkmenian horses. The Turkoman horse of Iran includes both of these breeds.

When steppe horses first migrated into this area, they had to adjust to the hotter, dryer climate and

meager feed. Like the Mongolian pony, they may have been descendants of Przewalski's horse. In Turkmenia, the short, stocky steppe horse probably evolved into a lighter boned and more refined type of horse. This is a typical adaptation to a hotter climate. They also became taller, lankier, and longer-legged. This build may have come from evolution and/or selective breeding. It let them gallop more efficiently over the rolling plains of their semi-arid homeland.

After domestication, the Turkmenian horses were bred for endurance and speed. By 1000 B.C., racing over long distances had begun. If a young horse is well fed, he may grow taller. When Iran discovered alfalfa, the domestic horses in the classical world could fare better than grass fed brothers. Turkmenian horses were fed alfalfa, barley, and other concentrated foods. Their diet contributes to their height and lean frame. Their environment, selective breeding, and better feeding all played a role in their development.

Like the Iberian horses, the "heavenly horses" from Turkmenia had been well established as a type by

200 B.C. In classical times, they became famous for their beauty, strength, and speed. Over the centuries, the same breed of horse has been known by many names that reflected the



ever changing ownership of their homeland. Examples are Fergana, Bactrian, and Parthian. In the eight century A.D., the Oghuz tribes from Mongolia settled in this area and soon became known as Turkmen. Their country has been called Turkmenia, Turkistan, or Turkmenistan. All three of these names have been used to describe their horses.

From their homeland on the plains east of the Caspian Sea, humans could easily take the Turkmenian horses through Iran and into the Middle East. For example, 30,000 Bactrian horsemen made up the cavalry of King Darius of Persia. Philip, the father of Alexander the Great, brought 20,000 horses from Fergana into Greece. As his son marched west with his armies, he married Roxane, the daughter of a Bactrian king, to get more of their horses for his cavalry. The Romans never conquered Turkmenia; if they had obtained Turkmenian horses from the Parthian Empire, they may have used them to breed better mounts for their cavalry.

From their

homeland, these horses could also go in other directions. To the east, the trading routes reached Mongolia and China. When the Chinese Emperor Wu heard about the "heavenly horses," he had to start a war in 103 B.C. to get some for his stables. To the west, the Turkmen guards of the Khalif of Baghdad rode Turkmenian horses. At a later time, Turkmenian horses were bred all though the Ottoman Empire, including Eastern Europe. To the north, their blood is in many of the Russian breeds. When Russia annexed Turkmenia in 1881, their popularity and availability increased.

Western Europe was the last area to be influenced by the Turkmenian horse. There were several reasons for this delay. One was the geographic and political barriers that lay between Central Asia and Western Europe. Second was the common and confusing misuse of the term, Arab, to describe all Oriental horses, including the Turkmenian and the Barb.

Third was their unfamiliar appearance. The Iberian

horse stayed popular well into the seventeenth century. They have a square, deep body type that is well suited to the hard, rocky, broken terrain of their Iberian homeland. Their build gives them handiness, collectability, and sometimes explosive speed for short distances. The Turkmenian horse has a different type of body that is rectangular. It helps give them the speed and endurance to gallop for miles over relatively flat country and to race over longer distances. Horses with square builds tend to excel in collection while those with rectangular builds tend to excel in extension. The rectangular type has become the desired one in our modern sport horse breeds.

Information Resources: Hayes, Capt. M. Horace. "Points of the Horse," 7th edition. NY, Arco Publishing Co., 1969, pp. 300-309. Hendricks, Bonnie. "International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds." University of Oklahoma, 1995.

Turkmenistan map courtesy www.geology.com.

Turkmenistan stamp image courtesy www.wikipedia.com.

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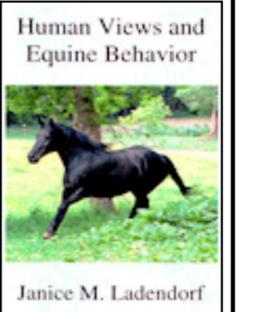
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