



FEBRUARY 2021

HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF HCWE NEWS 2021!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello

My name is Chris Stanko, Welcome to High Country Working Equitation 2021.

For those of you that don't know me here is a little history. I have been an instructor/trainer for well over 40 years. Classical horsemanship being the basis of all of it. I attended my very first Working Equitation Clinic in 2008 and was immediately hooked on the sport. I hosted the first play days in our area in 2013 and was one of the original founders of HCWE in 2014. In my opinion Working Equitation is the best cross training and the best way to develop a good partnership between horse and rider.

2020 is gone. What a year it was.

2021 is going to be a better year. We are working on a clinic schedule and an event calendar that will be out by March or before. We usually have our kick off party at the end of January but because of the on-going COVID-19 restrictions we are waiting until March. Our show schedule for 2021 is out.

Hang on to your Hats as we gallop into a really fun year to ride, play and learn together!

Our gate is always open!

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COVID UPDATE

The High Country Working Equitation Board would like to reiterate that we take the nation's current COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. As horse folks, our gatherings tend to be a little different than your typical "social gatherings", as we gather in large open areas and already practice social distancing beyond the 6-foot rule as part of our horsemanship/safety protocol. We now just must carry that over to our two-legged time as well as our four-legged time. Our first scheduled HCWE show is April 18. We will continue to follow what the pandemic is doing in Colorado during that time and will let everyone know if the schedule changes. Should the pandemic continue through spring/summer, each show will be decided on 30-days prior to the show date. For non-HCWE events that are on the HCWE website calendar, please contact the organizer directly to find out the status of those events. In the event that shows are continuing to cancel throughout the season due to the pandemic, we are also exploring the possibility of some virtual shows. We want to encourage folks to keep working toward their riding goals, while avoiding having large gatherings. The barn is probably one of the safest 2 places around right now (safer than the grocery store, gas station, etc.). We are exploring virtual events as well.

Stay safe everyone and hope to see everyone this season!

SHOW SCHEDULE

Please join us for great friends, learning and an awesome time!



Here are the dates of upcoming shows and also check out the flyer on the events section of [Events \(highcountryworkingequitation.com\)](https://highcountryworkingequitation.com)

Please note: The April 18 schooling and June 12-13 B-Rated Show has been moved to Circle Star Arena in Platteville.

April 18 – Schooling Show – Circle Star Arena – Platteville, CO

May 30-31 – Schooling Show – Eagle County Fairgrounds – Gypsum, CO

June 12-13 – B-Rated Show – Circle Star Arena, Platteville, CO

July 11 – Schooling Show – Circle Star Arena, Platteville, CO





August 20-22 – B-Rated Show – Douglas County Fairgrounds, CO

September 11-12 – B-Rated Show – Circle Star Arena, Platteville, CO

October 9-10 – B-Rated Show – Circle Star Arena, Platteville, CO







WELCOME 2021 HCWE BOARD MEMBERS

<p>Chris Stanko – President / Show Management</p> <p>Favorite saying: We can't always choose the music life plays for us. But we can choose how we dance to it.</p> <p>1chstanko@gmail.com 970-846-6129</p>	
<p>Janie Brueckner – Vice President / Newsletter/Website support</p> <p>Favorite saying: If you think you can or you think you can't, you are right.</p> <p>jtbwinsett@comcast.net</p>	
<p>Maureen Beavin – Secretary / Volunteer Day/Colorado Horse Rescue</p> <p>Favorite saying: The easy paths are not always rewarding. Give me adventure any day.</p> <p>mabeavin@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Carissa Cumine – Treasurer / show secretary</p> <p>Favorite saying: If God brings you to it, he will bring you through it.</p> <p>Carissa.cumine@gmail.com</p>	



Our gate is always open!

<p>Kitty McLaughlin – Membership</p> <p>Favorite saying: There is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse.</p> <p>garrowk@aol.com</p>	
<p>Erin Gilbert – Youth/volunteer coordinator</p> <p>Favorite saying: Don't look down, you'll end up on the ground.</p> <p>Gilber.erin@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Karen Burch - Show Management</p> <p>Favorite saying: Never give up!</p> <p>Crickest413@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Lauren Gueswel – Temporary Consulting Director</p> <p>planeview@mesanetworks.net</p>	

KICK-OFF PARTY

Kick-off Party scheduled for March 21 at Plane View, Erie CO. This date has changed from March 7 to March 21. Please join us for a fun day. Check out the flyer on the events section of the High Country Working Equitation website: [Events \(highcountryworkingequitation.com\)](http://Events(highcountryworkingequitation.com))



MEMBERSHIP

Hello, High Country Working Equitation Members

It is time to renew your memberships. HCWE truly values our members and we want everyone to stay with us during these trying times. We have an active show season planned. Even if you don't show, there will be activities for you to ride and enjoy. Check the show schedule and membership flyer and forms at [Membership \(highcountryworkingequitation.com\)](https://highcountryworkingequitation.com) for more information. The flyer will tell you how to pay and where to send your membership form.

We practice all safety rules and are even offering a COVID RELIEF SIGN UP: \$25. AND \$37.50 FOR FAMILIES

NEW MEMBERS WILL PAY \$50 AND \$75 FOR FAMILIES.

I personally want to talk to those who are thinking they would like to give Working Equitation a try. HCWE welcomes you to our HCWE family and that's how we think of our members. **It doesn't matter the type of horse you ride or the disciplines you have tried, come, and join us in this multi-faceted, fun way of working with your horse.**

Here is what High Country Working Equitation is offering our returning members and new members:

A Welcoming Atmosphere – Comradery

7 B-Rated Shows

3 Schooling Shows

Educational Clinics, Playdays, Ride a Course or Ride a test.

A Quarterly Newsletter.

Most of all, you get to have fun and learn with your horse.

ATTENTION: This year the two National Working Equitation Organizations have merged into one. Under the name USAWE. The links to the renewal form will be listed below. These links will take you directly to USAWE website. There you can get your National membership and to register your WE competition horses. In order to compete in B-Rated Rated licensed USAWE shows you and your horse must have USAWE membership and recording numbers. If your horse was already registered through WE United, the registration will transfer over to USAWE. You can check the horse recordings on the USAWE website.

USAWE Membership form and USAWE Horse Recording Form – <https://usawe.org/membership/>

Thank you all!

Kitty McLaughlin - HCWE Board Membership Chairman



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – ELLA ST. CLAIR

How did you first learn about Working Equitation and what attracted you to the sport?

When we moved our horses to Plane View Farm, I started taking lessons with Ms. Erin on my horse, Smoke. After about three months, the opportunity arose where I could volunteer at a show. It was a lot of fun. When Ms. Erin asked me if I wanted to do one of the shows with another girl my age, I agreed. We only had three weeks to practice, but Ms. Erin made sure we were ready. I had a lot of fun at the show.

I really enjoy Working Equitation because it helps me control my horse and it has helped my horse become sounder.

Prior to Working Equitation what other riding disciplines were you, or are you still, interested in?

Before I knew Working Equitation was a thing, I really wanted to try barrel racing. I used to love watching horses flying around the barrels. I still kind of want to do it, but not nearly as much as before.

What are some of your goals with Working Equitation (e.g., showing, improve your dressage, fun for you and/or your horse)?

At my last show I wasn't able to do some obstacles like the garrocha, the jump, and the gate. This year I would also like to improve my neck reining.

What are some of your earliest memories of working with horses?

When I was very little, I rode a donkey named Lucy. I often rode her on a trail with my mom and I even rode her in a parade. Our family did a lot of trail riding and we liked to camp with Lucy and our horses.

Tell us about your horse (e.g., breed, age, personality, training, how long you've had a partnership).

Smoke is a 20-year-old breeding stock paint. Her background training was in reining. My mom has shown her in dressage, and she has done a lot of trail riding. She is very well behaved, and we have worked together for about a year.

Tell us something about yourself that most people might not know.

I love animals and I have several pets. I have a bearded dragon, rabbit, 2 dogs, a cat, 4 fish, and 2 horses. I want to be a marine biologist when I grow up, but if that does not happen, I want to work at a zoo.

Thank you, Ella. We are very happy to have you part of our club!



Our gate is always open!



Please check out our website for current information on any upcoming events at www.highcountryworkingequitation.com

SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to be a HCWE sponsor, it's never too late! Please visit our website, click on the Sponsors menu option, and download the form. Sponsorships and donations are tax deductible.

Please be sure to support our sponsors. You can find links to their websites on our sponsorship page:

<https://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com/sponsors.html>

CO HORSE RESCUE

Colorado Horse Rescue actively seeks out and takes in all types of at-risk horses and tries to rehome them. The COVID crisis has made volunteer opportunities at CO Horse Rescue challenging. HCWE will highlight and post on our social media adoptable rescue horses. Stay tuned!

HCWE donated \$100 to this 501c3 organization to help with their mission.