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SUMMER 2020

# HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

[www.highcountryworkingequitation.com](http://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com)



## FIRST HCWE INTRODUCTION TO WORKING EQUITATION CLINIC WAS A SUCCESS!

We are so excited that there has been an increase in the number of folks who are interested in learning the sport of working equitation! On August 1, 2020, HCWE hosted its first Introduction to Working Equitation Clinic held at Circle Star Arena and there were seventeen enthusiastic riders. The format of the clinic included seven obstacle stations and the riders rotated around to each station. Each station had two obstacles and the riders were able to learn about the obstacles, practice with their horses, and were given exercise ideas to practice at home. There was a morning and an afternoon session taught by HCWE board members, Kitty McLaughlin and Allison Mazurkiewicz. Since there was so much positive feedback concerning the format of this clinic, the club has decided to offer a second clinic on Saturday Oct. 3, 2020, followed by a HCWE schooling show on Oct. 4, 2020.

*So, mark your calendars for these two fun events!*

### WHAT'S INSIDE

First Introduction to WE Clinic

Results of Membership Survey

Variety of WE Activities

June Schooling Show

Update on Unified WE Organization of US

Sponsors/Sponsor Highlight

CO Horse Rescue/Horse Spotlight

August B-Rated Show and Clinic

Upcoming Events



**Most of the intrepid obstacle crew**



**You want me to do WHAT?**



**Navigating the triple barrels**



**You can always count on the weather at Circle Star**



**The ins and outs of the sidepass pole**



**Can I just stand and look pretty?**



**Is there anything in that pitcher for me?**



**The bridge to nowhere**



**Circling the livestock pen**



**That's no bull!**

## RESULTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

HCWE sent a survey to our members in late May in an effort to get feedback for ways that we could serve you and provide you with working equitation activities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The response was overwhelming! Well over half of you responded to the survey and it was clear to the board that our members wanted to have some fun this summer while making sure that everyone stayed safe.

The first thing we needed to find out was how many of you even had access to your horses. It's hard to think about competing or clinicing when you can't even ride. Below are the survey questions we sent our members and how our members responded, both in numbers and in percentage of the responses. The final survey question asked you for suggestions for ways we could improve your working equitation experience this summer. Many of you provided us with comments and suggestions.

1. Do you have access to ride and train your horse?

Yes – 49	83%
No – 1	2%
Limited – 9	15%

2. Are you and your horse currently fit and ready to participate in working equitation activities?

Yes – 41	67%
No – 20	33%

3. If no are you likely to be ready later this year?

Summer – 13	33%
Fall – 5	13%
Unsure – 12	31%
Other – 9	23%

4. Are you interested in competing in working equitation shows this summer?

Yes – 29	56%
No – 23	44%

5. If yes, would you prefer rated or schooling shows?

Rated shows – 3	7%
Schooling shows – 19	46%
Both – 19	46%

6. If dress rehearsals for shows were offered would you be likely to attend?

Yes – 21	36%
No – 21	36%
Not sure – 16	28%

7. If Ride-a-Tests were offered would you attend?

Yes – 22	39%
No – 13	23%
Not sure – 21	38%

8. Are you willing to honor mandates regarding social distancing and face masks?

Yes – 51	94%
No – 3	6%

9. Our HCWE family is important to us and we miss having the opportunity to spend time with all of you. We would love to hear how you're doing and have you share any suggestions you have to improve your experience this summer.

- MORE clinics would be great. I have so much fun and it is great to hear from both judges and instructors. I hope to have my facility up for a clinic at some point
- Would love to work on obstacles, cows, dressage at play days and clinics. I have a lot to learn and look forward to improving. I doubt that I will show. I still want to support the club and hope it continues.
- I have been working on what I can on my own. At home I am limited in space. Miss being able to have lessons on a regular basis as we need to trailer in to a facility. So I am not as far along in skill level as I had hoped to be. Now that things are opening up I am looking forward to moving forward.
- Would like to practice obstacle runs if that would be available.
- We're doing the obstacles at my neighbor's arena and expect to continue doing that throughout the summer.
- I miss all of you!
- Ride and live with being cautious.
- Ready to have fun.
- I'd love to have the opportunity to film a dressage test, send it in and have it scored.
- Doing great. Surviving the chaos. Ready to get back to normal. Diseases and danger is everywhere all the time. Can't stop living cause we're afraid of a new danger
- At this point we are still adjusting bodies, tack, and mindset; I'd love some events to look forward to, but I'd just as soon have them later in the summer or into the fall.
- Not too excited about competing until we see the impact of "reopening." If there is another spike in cases, definitely no.
- Doing great. Surviving the chaos. Ready to get back to normal. Disease and danger is everywhere all the time. Can't stop living cause we're afraid of a new danger Not too excited about competing until we see the impact of "reopening." If there is another spike in cases, definitely no.

- I love lessons and learning
- I miss everyone and would welcome an opportunity to get together if everyone abided by social distancing
- At this point we are still adjusting bodies, tack, and mindset; I'd love some events to look forward to, but I'd just as soon have them later in the summer or into the fall.

*Thank you all for responding – it was wonderful to hear from you. Stay safe and enjoy your horses!*

## **VARIETY OF HCWE ACTIVITIES!**

Do you want to participate in some of the HCWE activities but aren't sure what they entail? To help you out, a variety of events with an explanation are listed below:

### **Ride-a-Test**

A Ride-a-Test is designed to help riders learn how to improve their scores in a Dressage test. There are fees charged to cover expenses. Each rider specifies in advance what test they will be riding. They warm themselves up and start with the test of their choice. The judge scores the test exactly as it would be in competition. After the test, the judge discusses the test with the rider and gives suggestions on how to improve the weak areas of the test. Depending upon the format of the clinic, a rider can then re-ride the test with additional feedback from the judge.

### **Play Days**

Play Days are put on by trainers at their facilities and the formats may vary. This is a great opportunity to have fun with your horse and practice doing WE obstacles and riding a course. Some trainers will be there to answer questions as part of the fee while others may charge more for individual instruction.

### **Dress Rehearsal**

A Dress Rehearsal helps prepare you and your horse for a show. It can be held at the same place where the show will be so you and your horse can become familiar with the facility. A rider will ride the Dressage test, receiving feedback from the trainer. Depending upon the format this can be done three times. Then the rider does an Ease of Handling course and receives pointers on the ride. This can also be done numerous times. There is a fee.

### **Clinics**

Clinics are an opportunity for hands on learning and clinician feedback with the benefit of learning from other riders as well. It is an educational opportunity to learn more about horses and riding. Usually there are horse/rider spots and auditing opportunities.

The clinician can be a local trainer or someone else the club has brought in who specializes in a riding discipline /topic. Clinics can be held for one day or over multiple days and there is a fee.

### **Schooling Shows**

Schooling shows are a fun activity for riders and horses to gain experience, practice test and course riding, and get the feel of competition. These shows are not licensed with the national organization and tend to be more informal with less pressure, which is better for the rider/horse who are new to competition. The format of a schooling show is the same as a B-rated show and provides an opportunity to receive feedback from the judge. These shows tend to be less expensive for the riders than B-rated shows.

### **Opportunity Classes**

Opportunity classes can be offered at B-rated shows and schooling shows. These classes are a great way to introduce you and your horse to the sport of working equitation without the pressure and cost of competing in the full show. Competitors at any level can try a class at the next level up with no worries about your score “counting”. As an example, if you are showing in the Intro division which does not include the speed class and you want to try it, you could as an opportunity class. There is a fee for each class.

### **B-rated Shows**

B-rated shows are licensed and must follow the rules of the national organization. The show can take place over one or more days. The Judge must be licensed and an individual other than the Judge must be designated to serve as Technical Delegate (TD). A licensed TD is preferred, but not required. Scores are used to determine eligibility for regional and national championship competitions (competitors must hold an individual membership) and for HCWE High point awards. There is a show fee.

## **SCHOOLING SHOW**

HCWE held a successful schooling show on June 28, 2020 at Circle Star Arena. One of the BEST highlights about this show were the new faces volunteering and competing! A big thanks goes out to Kitty McLaughlin who judged the show in the hot sun, then windstorm, and her scribe Leslie Martien, who was by her side! Erin Gilbert organized her first show as show manager and Rachel Cohen was the “behind the scenes” show secretary. The volunteers were phenomenal and helped throughout the day. It was a great group of competitors and horses and so much fun!!



Let's get this show on the road



Chris Stanko performing switch a cup



Tamara Bray in the dressage phase



Samantha Winsett performing the bridge





**Claire Gosnell competing with a gaited horse**



**Jo Bottorff getting ready to hand out the ribbons**



**Frances Carbonnel performs the jug with an impending storm in the background**

## **UPDATE ON A UNIFIED WE ORGANIZATION FOR THE UNITED STATES**

**Exciting news...there will be a single Working Equitation organization for the United States!!**

As part of the process of working toward this organization, the boards of both WE United and the Confederation for Working Equitation divided into work teams to analyze the programs and structure offered by the two organizations. This was a multi-step process.

**Step 1** – Members of both boards as well as committee volunteers from both organizations divided into work teams, with each team focused on a different program/structure.

**Step 2** – The work teams analyzed the programs/structures of both organizations for similarities and differences and completed a chart to document their analysis.

**Step 3** – The work teams came up with a proposal for a unified program/structure and provided a written rationale for their recommendations.

**Step 4** – The boards of both organizations reviewed the work team's proposal and voted on sending it to the members for their feedback.

**Step 5** – Members of both organizations were given five days to review the proposals and provide commentary/feedback.

**Step 6** – Once member feedback was received, the work teams reviewed the feedback and made modifications as needed before sharing their final recommendations with the combined boards.

**Step 7** – The combined boards voted on the revised proposal for each program/structure in a non-binding vote of support (the final binding resolution will come after all work teams have completed this process, to ensure that the proposed changes do not conflict with one another).

The end result of all of the hard work was the decision between the board member was to merge the two organizations. For those of you who missed the announcement we've included it here. Your input will continue to be important as we wrap up the final stages of the merger and head towards the nomination and election of officers.

## **WooHoo – Big News!**

It has taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears (actually no blood and maybe just a few tears) but the decision to merge the Confederation for Working Equitation and WE United is a fait accompli! Last night, the full boards of both the Confederation for Working Equitation and WE United voted unanimously to merge the two organizations into one governing body for WE in the U.S. There will be a new name, a new logo, and a new slate of officers and directors to lead the way.

While COVID has had a very negative impact on the lives of so many of us, it has also provided us with an opportunity. It has given us the time and impetus needed to work on bringing the two national working equitation organizations together. During the last several months, over 30 members of both organizations have participated on various teams; from governance to licensed officials and ethics to education, they pooled their knowledge and ideas to create a stronger and unified national organization.

None of this could have happened without you, our members. Your ideas, your feedback and your concerns, but most importantly, your support, were all essential to the process. You shared ideas and provided insight that proved valuable to the decision-making process and helped us determine the best path forward as the two organizations worked toward a merger.

Now that the boards have agreed on the approach to each element of the organization, the work to develop the tools (forms, documents, manuals, etc.) that are necessary for the organization to function can begin. This all has to be accomplished by our official rollout date of November 1, so there is plenty still to do. In the meantime, WE United and the Confederation for Working Equitation will still be functioning in their usual capacities until the changeover is finalized.

You play a critical role in the final process of the merger – the nomination and election of officers and directors. Within a week or so the nomination process will get underway, with elections planned for early October. So watch for that, and give some thought as to what role you could play to help the organization be successful. Self-nominations are welcome, as well as nominations of others. We hope to hear from you. All individual adult members (of either organization) living in the United States will be eligible to run for election and cast their ballot to elect the new officers and directors. If you are not currently an individual member but would like to participate in the election, please be sure to join one of the two groups in the next few weeks.

Again, THANK YOU, to each and every one of you who made this goal a reality. It's been a long time coming, but we believe the end result was worth waiting for.

The Merge Management Team,

Leslie Martien Trisha Reed

Jeanne Bond Julie Alonzo

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>

Sponsorships and donations help cover costs like insurance, office supplies, printing costs, ribbons, prizes, social events, advertising, and much, much more.

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## **GOLD SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT**

### **Saddle Up**

Saddle Up is a family owned business in Longmont, Colorado, and we love what we do! We take pride in knowing our customers by name and giving back within the communities we serve. Saddle Up was started in 1997 as a retirement hobby and grew the old fashion way, from referrals and good, solid business ethic.

Saddle Up now has over 250 new and used saddles, and an amazing selection of tack! We are excited to carry most leading equine brands, and many of the tried-and-true cowboy tack and saddle brands on the market today.

The saddle and tack industry is always changing and there are many online competitors. If you enjoy visiting family owned tack shops to see, feel, and touch items, please support your local tack shop!

## **CO HORSE RESCUE**

Colorado Horse Rescue actively seeks out and takes in all types of at-risk horses and tries to rehome them. **HCWE donated \$100 to this 501c3 organization to help with their mission.**

## **COLORADO HORSE RESCUE SPOTLIGHT**

Our newest CHR spotlight horse is Shotzi. A beautiful horse that is a bit of a spitfire! In a collaborative effort with four other Colorado rescues, 58 dude ranch horses found safe landings. Shotzi is one of the 11 CHR took in! She is sound, rideable and has a great mind. Visitation is still available by contacting Sharon Gilbert, CHR's Adoption Manager, at [sgilbert@chr.org](mailto:sgilbert@chr.org).

AGE: 15  
BREED: Paint  
GENDER: Mare  
HEIGHT: 14.1 h

RIDER EXPERIENCE: Advanced

ADOPTION FEE: \$1500



### **HCWE B-Rated Show**

HCWE was fortunate to be able to host working equitation S judge, Doreen Atkinson, for our B-rated show on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The show was held at Circle Star Arena on a scorching hot day but, despite the heat, horses and riders did their very best and got many positive comments from the judge. We had several opportunity riders who showed up to try out the sport and based on the smiles and enthusiasm it's safe to say they'll be back!

The show was followed the next day with a clinic. Several riders took private lessons – much of the focus was on dressage – while a small group of riders focused on the obstacles. Doreen provided riders with encouragement and many valuable tips.



**Carla our scribe with our judge, Doreen Atkinson**



**Happy with a job well done**



**Entering the bell corridor**



**The Livestock Pen**



**Lots of time for warm-up**



**Speeding to the next obstacle**



**Over the bridge**



**It's dressage time!**

Many thanks to our sponsor Ultimate Hoofpick <https://ultimatehoofpick.com/> for providing our special prizes for the show.

Many thanks to Susan Sheldon for standing out in the hot sun to take beautiful photos of our horses and riders. Visit Susan's website <https://www.susansheldonphotography.com/> if you'd like to purchase photos from our shows.



**Mark your calendars!!** There will be a HCWE Working Equitation Clinic on Oct. 3, 2020 at Circle Star Arena. The format will be the same as the clinic held in August. There will be multiple stations with obstacles and riders will be rotating through the stations. The following day there will be a HCWE schooling show so you can practice the obstacles during the clinic and then enter the show!

Please check out our website for current information on any upcoming events at [www.highcountryworkingequitation.com](http://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com)