
HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



Letter from the Board

2016 has been a great year for High Country Working Equitation. We collaborated with Rocky Mountain Horse Expo to bring a WEIAUSA B-Rated show to the National Western showgrounds, hosted clinics and shows with judges Rebecca Algar and Tarrin Warren and are currently collaborating with RMIHC on their WEIAUSA Working Equitation show at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to be held at the end of August. The HCWE 2016 Fall Championship Show is scheduled for September 10th and 11th at Circle Star Arena.

Based on our experience with these events the Board has decided to change the format of our 2016 Fall Championship Show. The Intro division (Amateur and Open – currently our largest division) will show both Dressage and Ease of Handling phases on Saturday, Sept 10th, 2016. The Novice division (Amateur and Open) and Intermediate division (Amateur and Open) will show Dressage, Ease of Handling and Speed phases on Sunday, Sept 11th, 2016.

The Board believes this format will deliver the best opportunity for our members to enjoy their show experience while maintaining a great relationship with Circle Star Arena. One of the advantages of Circle Star is the “family” feel of our schooling shows. However, as a private facility, Circle Star is challenged to offer the same level of infrastructure that a public venue, such as a fairground, is able to provide. Parking is limited and stabling is minimal. This has limited the number of show entries

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Letter from the Board

to the number that could be handled in a one-day show. With this in mind, the Board has come up with a strategy to offer our members a quality show experience while working within the parameters of Circle Star Arena. This will ensure we continue to encourage the “family” feeling of showing at Circle Star, while offering everyone an opportunity to ride.

The most common show structure, when offering a two-day format, is for the Dressage phase of the test to be offered on the first day, with the EOH and Speed phases offered on the second day. In some cases, such as the Haras Cup, the show is held over three days, with a different phase each day. The Board felt this option meant that riders would have to haul to Circle Star two days in a row which would be burdensome on our members who would be showing. Instead we decided to split the days by division.

For our Championship Show, Intro Amateur and Intro Open riders (currently our largest division) will show both Dressage and Ease of Handling on Saturday, Sept 10th, 2016. The Novice (Amateur and Open) and Intermediate (Amateur and Open) divisions will show all three phases on Sunday, Sept 11th, 2016.

Here are a few of the reasons we have adopted this new format:

- A one-day show limits the number of riders that can show. Our July show had 24 riders, started at 8 am and the final ribbons were awarded at 7:20 pm. By dividing the divisions, not only can we handle more riders, but the overall length of the day

should be shorter.

- Overnight accommodations at Circle Star Arena are limited. Most riders would have to haul back and forth two days. With the new format, riders haul in one day, the available parking should meet our needs and few, if any, horses would need to stable overnight.
- The horses are being asked to stand at the trailers for a very long time. We expect that the new format will reduce the amount of time between rides and the overall time horses will have to stand tied.
- The new format will allow our members more opportunity to watch the other parts of the show. We hope that the Novice and Intermediate riders would come to the show on Saturday to watch Intro, and that the Intro riders would seize the opportunity to come to the show on the second day to watch the Novice and Intermediate riders perform.
- There is an opportunity for members to get involved with the show on the day they don't ride. HCWE is always happy for additional volunteers to help on show days.

Based on these factors and our experience this year the Board believes this format will deliver the best opportunity for our members to enjoy their show experience at our Championship Show. We would welcome feedback at the end of the show from the members that attend (either as show participants or spectators) so that we can modify our approach in the future.

Best wishes and we hope to see you at the show in September.

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HCWE Summer Show

July 16, 2016

July 16th dawned bright and warm, with a slight breeze that kept the day from being unbearably hot. Trailers began arriving at Circle Star Arena a little after 6 a.m. as riders began to prepare for their day. It did not take long for the excitement to spread amongst the riders. Horses were brushed, tack straightened, and clothes adjusted. Volunteers were assigned their duties and moved into position. The rides started at 8 a.m.

Introductory level dressage had ten amateur riders registered and four open riders. One of the amateur riders did not ride the dressage test, so there was a total of thirteen rides. Kitty McLaughlin read for the riders that requested it.



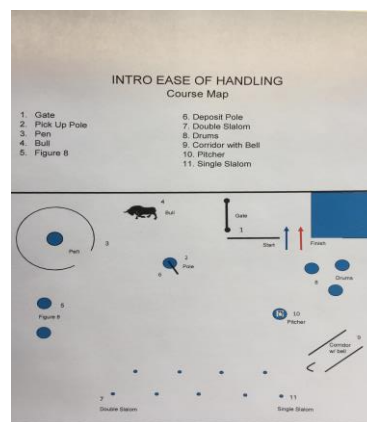
Kim Speek riding Sabio

After the Intro riders were finished, the judge took a brief break while the Novice riders warmed up. There were six Amateur riders and two open riders. After the Novice riders finished their rides, the two Intermediate Open riders rode their tests. Everyone did very well.



Claire Gosnell on Bitta

There was a break after the dressage phase of competition, and then the judge walked the Ease of Handling course with the afternoon riders.



The Ease of Handling course consisted of eleven to sixteen obstacles, depending on level, several of which were ridden while carrying the garrocha pole. Many of the obstacles were decorated with tinsel or pinwheels which made them very exciting. It was a very challenging Ease of Handling course, which the riders tackled with determination.

HCWE Summer Show Awards

July 16, 2016

Following the Intro Ease of Handling trial, awards were handed out to the riders. First through fourth place were awarded, with a Champion and Reserve Champion ribbon for the top two riders in each division.



Barbara Harris won Intro Amateur Champion

Following the awards ceremony, most of the Intro riders left for the day. Novice riders rode the Ease of Handling course and immediately followed by the Speed trial, so the course did not have to be reset more than one time.



Karen Burch won Novice Amateur Champion



Lyndsey Fitch won Novice Open Champion



Maree McAteer won Intro Open Champion



Chris Stanko won Intermediate Open Champion
Lauren Gueswel won Reserve Champion

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HCWE SHOW RESULTS

July 16, 2016

Intro Amateur Riders	Dressage	EOH	Speed
Barbara Harris/Dazee	70	74	N/A
Kim Speek/Sabio	65.238	70	N/A
Silja Knoll/Ruby	64.286	66	N/A
Allison Palmer/Kota	58.571	64.667	N/A
Philip Himanka/DH Aref	55.238	50	N/A
Susan Buer/Rondi	59.524	DQ	N/A
Mary Sadler	56.667	DQ	N/A
Queta Smith	46.19	DQ	N/A
Martha McCoy	Scratch	38	N/A

Champion: Barbara Harris/Dazee

Reserve Champion: Kim Speek/Sabio

Intro Open Riders	Dressage	EOH	Speed
Maree McAteer/Dunny	70	66.667	N/A
Maree McAteer/Smokey	62.381	56.667	N/A
Maree McAteer/Marco	69.524	DQ	N/A
Allison Mazurkiewicz/Ziva	47.143	DQ	N/A

Champion: Maree McAteer/Dunny

Reserve Champion: Maree McAteer/Smokey

Novice Amateur Riders	Dressage	EOH	Speed
Karen Burch/Ashke	59.333	64.444	3:30.14
Ann Ware/Cypher	62.667	56.111	4:02.91
Pat Paul/Baily	55.333	55.555	DQ
Linda Baur/Dolly	53.333	52.778	DQ
Claire Gosnell/Bitta	53.333	51.111	DQ
Angie Zabritski/PD	61.667	DQ	DQ

Champion: Karen Burch/Ashke

Reserve Champion: Ann Ware/Cypher

HCWE SHOW RESULTS

July 16, 2016

Novice Open Riders

Lyndsey Fitch/Bisquick

Maree McAteer/ Henry

Dressage

64.667

65

EOH

DQ

DQ

Speed

3:03.84

DQ

Champion: Lyndsey Fitch/Bisquick

Reserve Champion: Maree McAteer/Henry

Intermediate Open Riders

Chris Stanko/CO

Lauren Gueswell/Uno

Dressage

59.63

60.37

EOH

54.737

52.632

Speed

4:40.09

DQ

Champion: Chris Stanko/CO

Reserve Champion: Lauren Gueswel/Uno



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HCWE HIGH POINT STANDINGS

HCWE Spring Show					HCWE Summer Show			Total
Name	Level	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Dressage	EOH	Speed	
Barbara Harris Riding Dazee	Intro AA	71.429	92.5	NA	70	74	NA	307.929
Allison Palmer Riding Kota	Intro AA	56.19	77.5	NA	58.571	64.667	NA	256.928
Mary Sadler Riding Heart	Intro AA	51.905	62.5	NA	56.667	40	NA	211.072
Silja Knoll Riding Ruby	Intro AA	----	----	NA	64.238	66	NA	130.238
Claire Gosnell Riding Bitta	Intro AA	55.238	67.5	NA	----	----	NA	122.738
Martha McCoy Riding Raffi	Intro AA	----	----	NA	----	38	NA	38.0

HCWE Spring Show					HCWE Summer Show			Total
Name	Level	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Dressage	EOH	Speed	
Lyndsey Fitch Riding Sabio	Intro Open	62.857	89.167	NA	----	----	NA	152.024
Maree McAteer Riding Dunny	Intro Open	----	----	NA	70.476	66.667	NA	137.143
Maree McAteer Riding Smoky	Intro Open	----	----	NA	62.381	56.667	NA	119.048
Chris Stanko Riding Prince	Intro Open	51.905	64.167	NA	----	----	NA	116.072
Maree McAteer Riding Marco	Intro Open	----	----	NA	69.524	40	NA	109.524
A Mazurkiewicz Riding Ziva	Intro Open	----	----	NA	47.143	40	NA	87.143

HCWE HIGH POINT STANDINGS

HCWE Spring Show

HCWE Summer Show

Name	Level	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total
Pat Paul Riding Baily	Novice AA	50	70	66.819	55.333	55.555	40	337.707
Karen Burch Riding Ashke	Novice AA	----	----	----	59.333	64.444	66.477	190.254
Linda Baur Riding Dolly	Novice AA	----	----	----	53.333	52.778	40	146.111
Angie Zabritski Riding PD	Novice AA	----	----	----	61.667	40	40	141.667
Netti Zillman Riding Aragon	Novice AA	53.667	40	40	----	----	----	133.667

HCWE Spring Show

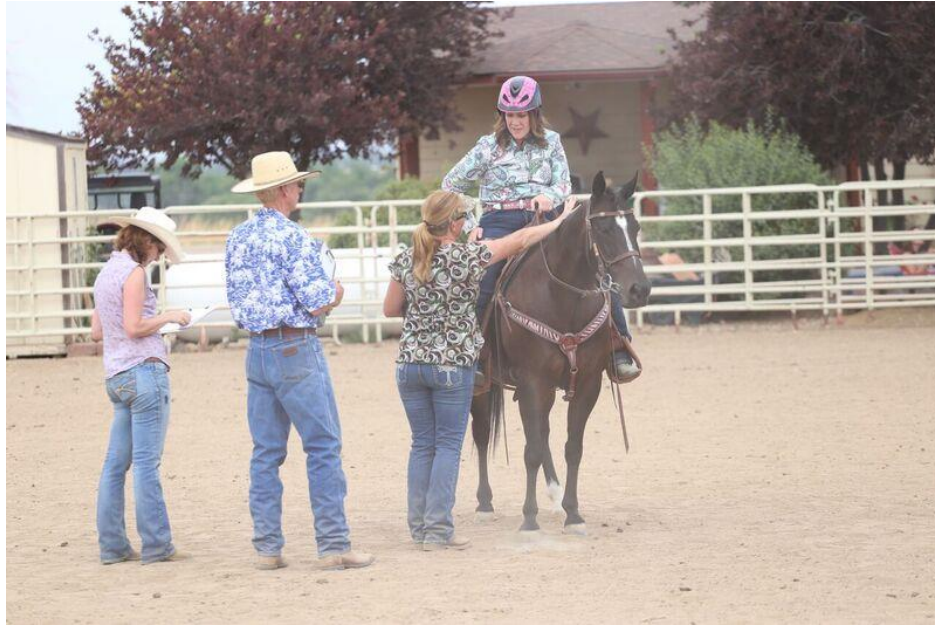
HCWE Summer Show

Name	Level	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total
Lauren Gueswel Riding Uno	Novice Open	77.667	75.714	67.036	----	----	----	220.417
Keith Jacobson Riding Cody	Novice Open	50	90	67.169	---	----	----	207.169
Lyndsey Fitch Riding Bisquick	Novice Open	----	----	----	64.667	40	66.866	171.533
Maree McAteer Riding Henry	Novice Open	----	----	----	65	40	40	145

HCWE Spring Show

HCWE Summer Show

Name	Level	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total
Chris Stanko Riding CO	Interm Open	52.74	80	67.268	59.63	54.737	65.315	379.69
Allison Mazurkeiwicz Riding Rosa	Interm Open	55.185	67.143	67.001	----	----	----	189.329



*Thank you to Tarrin Warren for judging our Summer Show
and for taking the time to educate our riders.*

**A shout of thanks to those who worked the show, without
whom this show would not have taken place:**

Kitty and Gary McLaughlin and Circle Star Arena

Tristan Burch

Rachel Cohen

Philip Himanka

Jenn Hutchinson

CJ Jacoby

Samantha Pursley

Queta Smith

Kate Steffes

Chris Stanko

Annaleen Vermeulen

Tarrin Warren Clinic

July 17th, 2016

The Tarrin Warren clinic took place on Sunday, July 17th. The first riders started at 7:30 a.m. and rode, in pairs, for one hour and forty-five minutes. Tarrin worked with riders in the outdoor arena, using the same obstacle at the same time.

Riding in pairs was a new format that the Board, working in conjunction with Tarrin, and based on feedback from clinic riders, designed to maximize clinic time. As riders worked the double slalom, one from each end, with Tarrin directing them verbally from her place in the middle, it seemed to have been the right decision.



Tarrin was able to keep the riders working an obstacle, minimizing the amount of time they were standing and watching. There were moments of verbal coaching directed at one or the other of the riders, but most of the clinic time was spent moving the horse's feet and working through the varied obstacles.

Tarrin also focused the rider's attention

on the gait the rider should be traveling for each individual obstacle as well as how to plan out a travel path between obstacles. She suggested over and over that the rider consider the path of travel based on a cantering horse.



Through the course of the clinic, the riders worked a majority of obstacles. The focus was on the obstacles that had created the most issues the prior day at the show and how to pick better lines to showcase the horse. Interference with other obstacles was discussed, since the sidepass poles were set close to the fence and traveling between the fence and the poles would have been considered crossing an obstacle the rider had not yet ridden, leading to a disqualification.

At the end of the day, it was very apparent that this format worked the best of any so far. Tarrin was able to work directly with all ten riders and the amount of time spent standing around was minimized.

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Next to the Judge

Perspective by Keith Jacobson

At the July Show with Tarrin Warren, Keith Jacobson requested permission to spend the day with the judge since he was not planning to show. Keith felt this would be a great educational opportunity for both the club and him. It would give him a prime viewpoint to evaluate the riders from a judge's perspective, which in turn he could communicate to the trainers, who could ultimately work with our riders to improve their performance in the show ring.

With that in mind, the following are the most frequent comments made by the judge to the scribe, indicating recurring issues the judge observed. Improving one or more of these areas could significantly improve the rider's score. Keep in mind that these are not specific comments designed to improve the rider's use of the aids, but are more generalized to the group as a whole. The dressage and EOH tests have the judge's comments specific to each individual ride.

Introductory Level

- **Entering the arena at A.** The rider is better advised to start the test riding a straight line at the medium walk from *just outside the arena*, rather than starting within the arena and turning down centerline at A. The judge noticed that many riders using the approach from inside the arena lost straightness because of the turn at A. The turn at A created a wobble in the approach to X.
- **Don't lose the halt at X because you are in a hurry to salute the judge.** When you have executed the

halt, take a deep breath, exhale and then salute the judge. Take another deep breath and exhale while gathering your reins, before cueing your horse to move forward. This will help you and your horse relax and you will continue in a relaxed manner.

- **Know how to perform a medium walk.** Most riders were travelling well below a medium walk. Impulsion will help with straightness during the entry and during four of the twelve movements in the Intro Level test.
- **Geometry of circles was poor.** Most riders simply did not begin their circle at E or B. Prepare your horse for the circle prior to reaching the letter so the horse is actually leaving the rail when you pass by the letter. Tarrin has specifically stated that starting a movement a little early is better than a little late, since it shows the horse is responding to the aids of the rider, rather than resisting.
- **Prepare your horse to halt at A.** From the judge's table at C, it is very obvious when the rider is past A before halting.
- **The reinback at A calls for 3 – 5 steps.** Many riders exceeded the five steps.

Ease of Handling

- **Do not ride the entire course.** Most of the riders walked the entire course for EOH. The judge will always award lower marks for a walk over a trot. This may seem like a safe bet to the

Next to the Judge . . .

Intro rider, however, from the a self-penalizing strategy. The best ride at the walk is always going to score lower than most rides at the trot.

- **Performance of the rope gate was a struggle for most Intro riders.** The biggest issue was horse and rider position prior to lifting the rope. The rider should stop with the leg next to the pole, not needing to lean over to lift the rope from the pole.
- **Carrying the pole in the proper position will improve your score.** The front tip of the pole should be pointed toward the ground with the pole between the horse's head and shoulder. Lowering the front of the pole will help the horse relax and lower it's head as well. The rider lost points every time they bumped the horse on the butt or in the head with the pole. The more times that happened, the more points were lost on that obstacle.
- **Stopping to pick up the ring or deposit the pole was common.** Stopping is considered a break in gait and the highest score the judge can award is a four. Learn to swing the butt of the pole forward as you approach the barrel and then let it slide gently into the barrel as you pass by. This will eliminate the need to stop and will make the rider's presentation fluid and smooth.
- **Know the appropriate gait for each obstacle.** Practice the obstacles at home at the appropriate gait and keep a copy of the Table of Gaits for Obstacles handy at the show. Remember a more difficult gait will

always score higher than an easier gait.

Novice Level**Dressage**

- **Most riders failed to show much or any impulsion at the Medium Walk.** The medium walk is a clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse remains on the bit, while walking energetically but relaxed with even and determined steps.
- **The B-H free walk troubled most riders.** There is a limited amount of distance from F to B to prepare for the walk between B and H. Many riders were not prepared to start the movement at B and were a few steps past B prior to making the turn. This movement is a coefficient of 2, making the diagonal one of the more important parts of this dressage test.
- **The 10m half circles from B to X to E, with a change of bend at X, were a common problem for Novice riders.** The three most common mistakes were 1) lack of preparation before starting the half circle, resulting in missing the beginning of the movement at B; 2) lack of geometry due to the circle not starting at B; 3) lack of proper bend.
- **The test does not end with the salute.** According to the test, the rider salutes and then leaves the arena at a free walk. The rider is still being judged until they cross out of the arena at A. Move forward and make a turn at C, then free walk your horse on a slight diagonal out the exit at A. This will give the judge a good look at your free walk.

Next to the Judge . . .

- **Missing Centerline.** Riders missed the centerline when entering at A (enter from outside the arena if possible), the change of bend on centerline during the 10m half circles, and centerline at the turn at X to approach the judge to salute at the end of the test.
- **Loops to the quarterline.** Most riders failed to reach the quarter line, which is midway between centerline and the rail. Few riders managed to return to the rail at M or H prior to turning the corner. Again, this is a movement with a coefficient of two, so hitting those marks is doubly important.

Ease of Handling

- **The gate continued to be a challenge.** The two major areas of improvement were 1) properly positioning the horse so the rider's leg was even with the post, reducing the reach needed to lift the rope; 2) inadequate bend. The horse should be bending around the rider's gate-side leg during this obstacle.
- **The Switch a Cup/Rounding Several Posts obstacle must be ridden differently than the corridor with bell.** 1) At the Novice level, the rider should enter this obstacle at either the trot or the canter. The trot or canter should continue until the rider has reached the end of the alley. Many riders trotted up to the alley, then transitioned to a walk down through the alley. This is considered a break in gait. 2) Failure to execute a clear,

solid halt before picking up the cup was frequently noted. 3) Another clear, solid halt after the reinback and prior to depositing the cup was also a common error. Nearly every rider made this error. 4) A majority of riders had difficulty executing a reinback that remained straight between the poles. 5) Few horses were fluid while backing up through the alley in a straight line.

- **The Corridor with the Bell.** This obstacle must be negotiated at either a walk or a canter. Since most of the Novice riders trotted between obstacles, several failed to transition down to a walk when entering the corridor. While this did not result in a disqualification, it is considered a break in gait with the subsequent lower score.
- **The Livestock Pen.** Just like the Corridor with a Bell, the Livestock Pen is never negotiated at a trot. It should be ridden at the walk or the canter. To do otherwise is a break in gait.

The final piece of the EOH puzzle is in calculating the best approach to the obstacles. We suggest the rider should determine the approach by the evaluating how they would ride between obstacles at the canter, even if they are still riding at the trot. In the clinic on Sunday, Tarrin indicated that she lays out the course based on canter approaches and movement between the obstacles. In order to develop a good eye for handling the challenge of riding from one obstacle to another, riders should consider this approach.

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DISQUALIFICATIONS

A consistent issue seen in the Working Equitation shows this year has been the issue of disqualification (DQ) during a phase. We have seen it most commonly during the EOH phase at all levels. In hopes that we, as a club, can minimize the number of DQ's going forward, it seemed pertinent to address ways a rider can DQ.

General Disqualifications (all phases):

- Taking more than 45 seconds to enter the arena after being called.
- Entering the course area before being called, the dressage arena before the bell rings, or beginning the trial before the bell rings.
- Taking more than 45 seconds to start the trial after the bell has been rung.
- Failure to salute the judge(s).
- At the Advanced/Masters levels, touching the reins with both hands for longer than it takes to make a momentary adjustment to the reins.
- At Advanced/Masters levels, touching the horse's neck in front of the reins.
- All faults in respect to tack and attire.
- Fall of rider
- Dismounting a horse for any reason other than to collect dropped parts of obstacles or to correct an obstacle, which has been disturbed by the horse and/or rider so they may complete the obstacle.
- **Inconsistent Use of Hand.** When operating obstacles the rider must use the same hand consistently throughout the trial and may not switch hands or use different hands on different obstacles. **This is the most common fault we have seen at shows.**

Disqualifications for Dressage Trial:

- Stepping all four feet outside the arena
- Refusal to move forward for a period of more than 10 seconds
- Failure to comply with the sequence of movements or to correct a course error.
- Three course errors.

Disqualifications for EOH and Speed Trials

- Failure to correct a course error prior to starting the next obstacle. (Going off course – a very common issue.)
- Failure to execute or complete an obstacle. The most common obstacle observed with this issue is the Drums: the rider exits the obstacle without completing the circle around the final barrel.
- Refusal to perform the obstacle:
 1. Three refusals to perform an obstacle at Intro and Novice will result in a score of zero and the judge will signal the rider to move to the next obstacle.
 2. At Intermediate/Advanced/Masters three refusals on the same obstacle will result in a DQ.
 3. At Speed, for Novice, three refusals will result in a 30 second penalty and the judge shall wave them on to the next obstacle. A refusal on three obstacles is a DQ.
 4. At Speed, for Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters, three refusals will result in a DQ.
- At Intro and Novice refusal to advance forward for more

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Spotlight on: Barbara Harris



Barbara and Dazee

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

I didn't get my first pony until I was 21. She was a blind POA named Angel that I leased. I rode her bareback everywhere because I couldn't find a saddle that fit us both. When the lease ended, one of my barn friends bought me a horse as a gift for helping her with her horse. She was an extreme beginner and had a very dangerous young horse. I had that horse (Raritee) for 9 years and won a ton of Morgan shows with him.

I've never paid a trainer to break/train my horses for me. I almost paid a trainer to work with my last colt because my back was in so much pain, but the trainer ended up buying him.

My current horse, Dazee, is the only horse I ever bought outright. All my others were given to me or I traded work for a breeding.

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

I used to beg my mom to take me riding or buy me a horse for as long as I can remember. Every Christmas and Birthday, all I wanted was a horse...and racecars. I remember my

mom letting me ride the pony rides at fairs and festivals.

When I was 9, she finally let me take riding lessons. I started jumping a Clydesdale-Thoroughbred named Hubert. He was the kindest giant I ever met.

After that I started taking saddle seat lessons with Patty Wooter and her wonderful Saddlebreds. My favorites were Topaz and Indian Summer.

When I was 11, we moved to Golden and I took jumping lessons at Hillcroft Acres. I fell in love with a spunky little pony named Pickles. He was my favorite until I rode a horse named Gypsy. Gypsy taught me that some horses know their jobs better than you and it is best to just hold on for the ride (that was my first time pole bending...in an English saddle). It was somewhat fortunate that I ended up at Hillcroft because Hubert ended up being there! He had become a western horse by that time.

When I was 12, we moved to the other side of Golden and the only option my mom gave me to ride was to join Westernaires because it was all she could afford. I reluctantly joined (after all, I was an English rider!) but it turned out to be one of the best experiences. I worked my way up the ladder, became a Jr. instructor, and Officer for my team. My favorite horses were a plucky little Appy with a floppy lip named Chuck, and a beautiful, talented dun Quarter Horse named Waylon.

All during my teens my mom would work part time in Steamboat and she would drop me off at the same livery stable for 2 hours while she worked every weekend. We went so often that they just let me pick out whatever horse I wanted and go ride off on my own for 2 hours. I used to know the names of every horse I ever rode, in order, until I hit around 500. I was also lucky enough to have friends that were willing to let me ride their horses too.



Barbara and Angel

I eventually went to college, got my associates in Equine Science at NJC, then transferred to CSU to get my Bachelors of Science. It was during my first year at CSU, while I was working at the pizza place where I was a delivery driver, that my boss's wife approached me and asked me if I wanted a horse. Duh, of course I want a horse. She was a volunteer at Hearts & Horses and they had a pony that was blind that they couldn't use in the program anymore (some rule about not having the blind leading the blind). Long story short, we agreed on a one-year lease and Angel was all mine! She had never had a bit in her mouth so we had to start there. Also, she had been used to being led in an arena, and I rode her all over the place. Needless to say, I hit the ground more times than I would like to admit. But the end of the year, we were quite the pair. I even taught her to jump on cue!

When Angel's lease was over, a friend from the barn (who had recently inherited millions of dollars) insisted on buying me

any horse I wanted as a thank you for helping her with her very dangerous stud colt. She was a beginning beginner and it was the most dangerous match ever created. Long story short, we helped her find a good mare to take great care of her. I went horse shopping and found a spunky little 3-year-old Morgan, Raritee. Raritee was hot. Really, really, really hot. And not broke. So my solution was to hop on his back, ride him down the road, underneath 6th Avenue to the Jefferson County fairgrounds, and gallop to Green Mountain. That is how Raritee was started. No, I did not wear a helmet. Yes, I know I am lucky to be alive to tell the story. Eventually he became a very good show horse in both Western and Hunter pleasure. I still have a huge bucket for all his ribbons and trophies.



Barbara and Raritee

Of course there have been dozens of other horses I have owned, started, or trained on during this time. I have a whole book of stories I could tell you about all the amazing horses that have had an influence on my life. Decades ago, I worked either as a groom or assistant trainer for several top Morgan and Open trainers and learned a ton from them. I also love to attend clinics and learn about different disciplines.

How did you first learn about Working Equitation and what attracted you to the sport? What are your goals?

I first met Kitty McLaughlin at a Jack Brainard clinic and she friended me on Facebook. I had seen the videos of Pedro Torres before, but never knew what the sport was called. Eventually I put two and two together.

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

Jumping, Saddle Seat, Drill Riding, Cutting, Reining, Western Dressage, Cowboy Dressage, Liberty, Gymkhana, driving, cattle sorting, extreme cowboy racing, trail riding, whatever involves a horse. I love it all. I'm even taking Dazee to a Barrel Racing exhibition in August. Should be fun!

About the only thing I never really got into was endurance riding.

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

I mostly want to have fun with my horse. After her accident a little over a year ago, the vet told me her performance career was over. Since it had yet to begin, the thought of her just going on light trail rides was heartbreaking. Now that she is healing better than anyone ever expected, I want to see where I can take her. We both love variety in our rides and WE fulfills that desire. I want to take it easy with her and gradually move her through the levels. I also want to be careful not to push her too hard since she is still sensitive to pain (or what she thinks will be painful). But I do have a competitive side and I'd be lying if I said I don't care about the ribbons. No, winning is not more important than my horse,

but being competitive and showing to the best of our abilities is important to me.

In the end, I hope to continue to improve my relationship with Dazee. As long as we progress and she enjoys it, I'll take it as far as she is willing and able to go! I love this sport! I'm showing Intro this year, but I'm looking forward to adding the speed phase next year. We'll see if Dazee is as excited as I am.

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

Dazee (Registered name: Fortunate Destiny) is an 11-year-old Morgan mare that I bought as a 3-month-old filly. For those that are into the "horsenality" thing, she is a left-brain introvert, but is pretty centered. She is very trusting of me and trusts others around me. But when she does "lose it", she goes all out! While she does like people, she really doesn't like other horses. Other than her exceptionally bouncy trot, she is a ton of fun to ride and loves to go for rides. I am the one who started her and did all her training, so good or bad, it's all on me. Yes, I have taken her to clinics, but rarely has another trainer sat on her back.



Barbara and Dazee EOH

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Obstacle Overview: Livestock Pen

There may be no better obstacle for testing the suppleness of your horse, his responsiveness to your aids or her confidence and obedience to the aids than the Livestock Pen. The obstacle consists of an inner pen 3 meters (10 feet) in diameter, which should contain livestock such as chickens, ducks or geese where practicable; life-like statuary may be used when livestock is unavailable.

The outer pen has an inside diameter of 6 meters (20 feet) that is contained by an outer barrier with an opening of 1.5 meters (5 feet) through which the horse and rider team enter the obstacle. The combination of the inside pen and the outside barrier create a circular passage approximately 15 meters (50 feet) in diameter.

The inner pen may be made of a variety of materials such as chicken wire, a wire crate or other material that can contain the livestock or statuary so that is visible to the horse. The outer pen can be made of bales of shavings or straw, rails, fencing or similar material. The height of the outer pen is not prescribed but should be of sufficient height as to create a visible barrier for the horse.



Introductory and Novice level riders must enter and ride the obstacle at a walk. Intermediate and Advanced level riders enter and ride the obstacle at the canter. Competitors may enter and circle the obstacle in the direction of their choice unless otherwise specified by the judge. They then exit the obstacle, change direction, re-enter the obstacle and complete the circle in the opposite direction. The change of direction can be executed with a volte, pirouette, or half turn on the haunches, with a change of lead when performed at the canter. The change of direction is considered part of the obstacle and its execution is included in the overall score.

When judging this obstacle consideration is given for the smoothness of the execution, calmness of the horse and rider, the rider's use of aids and the regularity of the horse's gait. The difficulty of the obstacle is increased when it is performed with the garrocha pole. Holding the garrocha pole requires that the obstacle be ridden with the reins in one hand, which is an excellent demonstration of the rider's use of seat and legs and the horse's responsiveness to the aids.

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Carlos Carneiro Comes to Colorado

By Claire Gosnell

On June 25th and 26th Colorado was fortunate to welcome world-class Working Equitation rider and instructor Carlos Carneiro for a two-day clinic at Circle Star Arena in Platteville.

Carlos grew up immersed in the horse culture of his native Portugal and studied under some of the world's great masters, including Luis Valença of Portugal and Master Joao Oliveira (son of the revered Nuño Oliveira) in Walnut, CA. He teaches classical dressage and Working Equitation clinics in Portugal, Germany, Austria and the U.S.

Carlos hails from Napa, CA where he has been the head trainer at Sierra Nevada Lusitanos since 2011. He is adept at progressing young horses through the training levels with the ultimate goal of having a happy, light in the hand, eager to please, healthy horse. Carlos achieves these goals by paying particular attention to every detail from exercises promoting flexibility and strengthening to those oriented towards cadence and self-carriage.

Thanks to the efforts of Chris Stanko and Allison Mazurkiewicz, Carlos shared his expertise and instruction with ten riders and their horses, plus many more auditors at the June clinic. Horses came from a variety of disciplines, levels of training and breeds from Morgan, Iberian horses, Quarter Horse and Tennessee Walking Horse. Riders came from across Colorado and as far away as Utah and Texas. Carlos, with his quiet demeanor and expert eye, was able to take each

horse and rider combination from their current level and help them to improve their technique and communication. Additionally, he encouraged riders to think about training for the next level.

On Saturday each of the ten riders had the privilege of a private dressage lesson with Carlos. While each horse/rider combination came with different challenges, there was a common thread of instruction: working off the haunches versus the forehand and teaching our horses to be in self-carriage. We were regularly reminded that our horses needed to be working "uphill" and that we are our horses' personal trainers. As such we are responsible for teaching our horses self-carriage but never forcing them by holding with the reins. The horse must figure it out and become able to support itself. The goal is to get our horses off the forehand, working off the haunches and we must be razor-sharp to correct in the moment and not when it's too late.

Carlos taught us different techniques, depending on the individual horse, for achieving that uphill engagement. Often the rider was instructed to slow the horse at the walk, then bring the horse to a halt to shift its weight to the hindquarters before continuing the walk or starting the trot or canter. Sometimes he instructed a shoulder-in to get hindquarter engagement and to encourage a more up-and-down motion in the horse's gait. He also advised some riders to use more outside rein as a way of asking the horse to "sit" more. Some of us were encouraged to develop more

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HCWE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

501(c)3 Non-Profit Tax Exempt Status

This has been a busy year for the HCWE board. At the beginning of the year, one of the first items on our list to accomplish was to become a 501(c)3 non-profit group as recognized by the IRS. There were several reasons behind this goal and the board members felt that this tax-exempt status could be very beneficial to our club.

Aside from reducing our tax liability, the 501(c)3 non-profit status provides a number of other benefits to our organization. As HCWE grows we may need to seek out larger venues for holding some of our shows and clinics. The cost of renting public fairgrounds is reduced significantly for non-profit organizations. Additionally, it is imperative to gaining sponsorships from both individuals and organizations, since the 501(c)3 status allows the donations to be claimed on the sponsor's tax returns.

We consulted with the club's attorney and CPA and decided to pursue the application despite the cost and lengthy process. Keith Jacobson managed the change in status, from dissolving the LLC (HCWE original entity), to registering HCWE as a non-profit corporation with Colorado, to completing the tedious process of putting the information together for the 501(c)3 application.

And then we got lucky. The IRS reduced the cost and simplified the filing process; as a result it took a matter of weeks

instead of a matter of months. We received notification at the end of July that our 501(c)3 status had been approved.

We have already received our first donation! Rocla Concrete Tie, Inc. a manufacturer of concrete railroad ties, has donated a copy of Microsoft Office for the club.



As we begin planning for 2017, we will be creating a wish list of items the club would like to acquire in the future. The Board strives to improve our member's experience so if there are any suggestions you would like to share, please let us know.

Calling All Members

We still have an opening for any HCWE members interested in joining the Board of Directors. Anyone who has a passion for Working Equitation, enjoys working with a group of WE enthusiasts, and who likes to plan, organize, collaborate, write, and fund-raise is welcome to apply. Non-riders are welcome to apply as well.

Applications are available at www.highcountryworkingequitation.com.

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High Country Working Equitation Member's Halloween Fun Show



BOBBING FOR APPLES



Saturday October 29th

**Circle Star Arena
16191 County Rd 17
Platteville, CO
10AM - 4PM**

**RSVP by October 16th to:
lesliemartien34@gmail.com
Horses welcome but please let us
know if yours is coming**

COSTUME PARADE



PRIZES FOR ALL



**POLUCK - BRING
A DISH TO SHARE**



RIDE AN EOH SHORT COURSE IN COSTUME

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER WE WILL PARTY WITHOUT OUR HORSES

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UPCOMING EVENTS

RMIHC Show

Judge: Stephanie Soule
Date: August 26th & 27th, 2016
Location: Douglas County
Fairgrounds

HCWE Championship Show

Judge: Stephanie Soule
Dates: Sept 10th – Intro Level
Sept 11th – Novice, Interim
Location: Circle Star Arena
Cost: \$125/ Member
\$150/Non-Member

HCWE Halloween Party

Date: October 29th, 2016
Location: Circle Star Arena
Potluck Lunch and EOH Course
Free to Members

Visit High Country Working Equitation website for entry forms and more information
<http://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com/page15/index.html>

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UPCOMING WE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cattle Working Clinics

Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1
\$125 per horse/rider
10 am – 1 pm
@ Circle Star Arena

Contact Keith Jacobson:
970-391-1838

Tall Grass WE

\$60 per rider (hour)
\$120 - 2 hour private
\$80 ea – 2 hour semi-private
\$70 ea – 2 hour w/ 3 riders
\$60 ea – 2 hour w/ 4 riders
Haul in Fee included
Contact Allison Mazurkiewicz
970-556-1950

Working Equitation

Mini Clinics w/ 1, 2, or 3 Riders

Flexible Scheduling
\$75 for 1 rider for 90 minutes
\$50 each for 2 riders for 2 hours
\$50 each for 3 riders for 3 hours

Contact Keith Jacobson:
970-391-1838

Tall Grass WE

Private Clinics
\$500 per day for 10 – 12 riders
Travel mileage at .50 a mile round trip
Facility Fees paid by riders

Clinics at Hidden Pond - \$500
No mileage, \$10 haul in

Contact Allison Mazurkiewicz
970-556-1950

TC Farm Working Equitation Lessons

\$50/Lesson for 45 mins to 90 mins
Work on Dressage or EOH
Loveland, CO
Contact: Chris Stanko
1chstanko@gmail.com

TC Farm Traditional Garrocha Work Learn to Dance with the Garrocha

August 14th & August 22nd
4 Riders per session
9 am – Noon
\$100 per rider
Contact: Chris Stanko
1chstanko@gmail.com

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Disqualifications continued . . .

than 15 seconds will result in the judge signaling the rider to move to the next obstacle. The rider will receive a score of zero for the obstacle.

- At Novice Speed, a refusal to advance is treated the same way as a refusal on the obstacle, with a 30-second penalty. Three refusals to advance will result in a DQ.
- At Intermediate, Advanced or Masters Speed, refusal to advance for more than 15 seconds is a DQ.
- The rider overtly shows an obstacle to their horse during the reconnaissance prior to starting the EOH or Speed trial.
- Crossing the line of an obstacle during the trial prior to having ridden the obstacle as part of the course. ***If you are not sure of an approach (sidepass rails are close to a fence and you would like to be able to ride between them and the fence, for example) ask the judge during the walkthrough as to whether they will consider it crossing that obstacle.***
- Knocking down an obstacle or part of an obstacle that has not been performed.
- Passing through the entry/exit gates in the direction opposite of that indicated on the course map.
- Passing through the entry/exit gates prior to completing the course.
- Passing through the entry/exit gates prior to saluting the judge.

Hopefully this list will help to prevent our riders from having a DQ on course.

Carlos Carniero continued . . .

consistency in our horse's gaits, keeping a steady pace without slowing down or speeding up.

On Sunday riders were divided into a morning Ease of Handling clinic and two afternoon clinics. We worked 13 (yes, 13!) obstacles individually all under Carlos' tutelage. Some of the techniques we honed were going wider around the double slalom poles, figure 8 barrels and three drums to allow our horses to develop better bend through the entire body and consistency of gait.

We also worked on cantering between obstacles with a proper transition to the walk (no trot steps!) at an appropriate point before obstacles such as the bridge, corridor and bell and gate. Depending on their level of training, horses worked at the walk, trot and canter, sometimes with simple lead changes and sometimes the flying lead changes. But all of us felt as though our brains were about to explode with all the new information we learned during the two days!

With his near perfect riding position, light hands and natural horsemanship, Carlos is able to make almost any horse happy to perform. With his good communication, high standard of work and motivated manner, he is skilled in getting the best results from both horse and rider. Thank you, Chris, Allison and Kitty for making it possible for those of us here in Colorado to benefit from Carlos' expertise and knowledge.

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