
HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



Letter from HCWE Regarding COVID-19

Dear HCWE Membership,

The High Country Working Equitation Board would like to let you know 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 May 16. We will continue to follow what the pandemic is doing in Colorado over the coming weeks and will make a decision for that show by April 16. 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

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places around right now (safer than the grocery store, gas station, etc). If these virtual shows come to fruition, they may look something like this:

- You would trailer into a facility and have a specific ride time for dressage in which you would rotate with 2-3 other riders (a rotation of 3-4 riders total).
- You would ride your dressage test, then your EOH course, rotating with the other riders in your “rotation”, then leave.
- We would video each ride from the same perspective (where the judge would normally sit/stand).
- The videos would be sent to the judge for scoring.
- There would be a set of strict bio-security rules in place including: no spectators or “non-essential” humans. No lunch or snacks will be served (bring your own food/drinks).

Our focus would be getting riders in and out of the facility quickly/efficiently and with no contact so that we limit how many horses/riders are on the grounds at any given time and social distancing would be practiced at all times. If you would be interested in participating in these shows, please respond to this and let us know!

Thank you – we hope you are all staying safe, healthy, and sane!

Lauren Gueswel
HCWE President

2020 KICK-OFF PARTY!!

The HCWE 2020 Kick-Off Party was held on January 25th at Plane View Farm. Around seventy WE enthusiasts attended this fun-filled event on a sunny afternoon. There was delicious food, EOH demos, stick horse match races, and a raffle but most importantly it was a time for fellowship amongst WE enthusiasts.

The raffle, organized by Barbara Harris, raised \$1050 to support the activities of the club. A special thanks to our many sponsors who donated! Winners walked away with awesome prizes and smiles on their faces.



Lauren Gueswel introduced the sport of WE to the group, discussing the history and format of the sport. Jo Bottorff explained how to easily renew or become a new member. She also gave a shout out to Stacey Ruel who redesigned the HCWE website, making it very user-friendly.

Chris Stanko and her horse Bella demonstrated the EOH round at the Intro level and Jo Bottorff and her horse Levi demonstrated the Novice A level. While they were riding, Leslie Martien described what a judge is looking for at each obstacle.

Erin Gilbert explained how easy it is to volunteer for the club, using the SignUpGenius website. The stick horse match races were so fun with lots of laughter coming from the riders and the crowd!

The party provided the perfect opportunity for members old and new to get together and get fired up for 2020!



Michele Beehner on her trusty stick horse Pinky



Chris Stanko on her trusty mare Bella

2020 Rules Review Meeting

Some club members started off the year by attending the Rules Review meeting held on Feb. 15, 2020. Lauren Gueswel, along with Leslie Martien, explained all 2020 rule changes to the group. There was lively discussion amongst the group, and everyone walked away with more knowledge to keep them in the game through all phases (No DQ's!) Attendee Kate Steffes said, "It was great to go over these rules with the knowledge that Lauren and Leslie could provide. Very helpful!"

An article below explains the rule changes for 2020.



We have some important changes to announce for this year:

Opportunity Classes

Each of our B-rated shows will now offer **Opportunity Classes**. Opportunity 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. An Opportunity Class is like a schooling show class but at a recognized show. For people who are new to the sport, it is a great way to try it out without the commitment of entering the whole show, so no membership fees are required. The cost for an Opportunity Class is less expensive than if you are competing in the actual show even though you get to ride the same course as the competitors and experience the same show environment. You and your horse get the experience of the real deal, but since your horse will not know the difference, it is an invaluable teaching tool. Opportunity Classes are also a great way for competitors at any level to try a class at the next level up, exposing you and your horse to a more challenging Ease of Handling Trial, or the next level up Dressage Test, or the Speed Trial, with no worries about your score “counting.”

High Point Program and Volunteering

For our members interested in qualifying for our High Point Program, we have added a three-hour minimum volunteer requirement. The purpose of the High Point Program is to encourage fun and friendly competition and to reward members showing in our competitions. Volunteering at any of our HCWE sponsored events gives our members a chance to really be a part of the club and get to know one another better. We want HCWE’s High Point Program to be not just about showing and getting the highest scores, but to also be about participating and contributing. The awards presented to each level’s winner at the End of the Year parties have made being a High Point winner something worth striving for!

Rule Change Update for 2020

Finally, we want to make you aware of the changes made this year to the United States Rules for Working Equitation. The United States Rules for Working Equitation is the national rulebook for working equitation in the U.S. The most up-to-date version of this rulebook is maintained on the following websites:

www.confederationwe.us



www.weunited.us



A summary of the rule changes is as follows:

- Rule change proposals may be submitted up until August 1 of any year; the form is included in Appendix F.

- Trials are presented in order: Dressage Trial, Ease of Handling Trial, Speed Trial, Cattle Trial
- The Youth Division is open to riders ages 7-17. Youth riders may compete up through Level 6. The Children Division includes riders 7-11. Juniors include riders 12-17. The Children Performance level has been eliminated.
- No Speed or Cattle Trial for L1
- Rising or sitting trot allowed in L3 Dressage.
- Curbs chains must be a minimum of ½" wide and lie flat on the horse's chin.
- Optional attire may be used or omitted in any trial without penalty.
- Spurs may be used in any trial at the rider's discretion.
- The outside assistance restriction begins when the Judge rings the bell to indicate the start of the trial and ends after the final salute.
- L1 thru L5 riders riding one handed may use two hands without penalty and may briefly stroke/touch horse in front of the rein hand.
- Riders are required to salute the Judge before and after every trial. The horse should face the Judge and remain immobile during the salute. The rider salutes with a nod of the head, a drop of the hand, or both. The hand dropped can be either the rein hand or the working hand. Men not wearing a helmet may remove their hat if desired. When there is more than one Judge, riders are required to salute the President of the Jury but may salute all Judges present. Failure to salute the Judge will result in a 5-point penalty in Dressage and EOH trials and a 10-second penalty in Speed and Cattle trials.
- Occasional use of a soft voice is allowed in Dressage and EOH trials. Loud or excessive use of voice will be penalized by the Judge in the collective marks for the Rider. The voice may be used in Speed and Cattle trials.
- Qualifying scores are not required to enter A- or B-rated shows.
- Show secretary verifies memberships and horse registrations.
- Technical Delegate must have Protest forms (Appendix G) available. TD monitors entries and documentation at championship shows. If someone competing has been a trainer, coach or student of the TD within 30 days of that show, that TD may not officiate.
- A mark of 4.5 or below is considered a negative score.
- The Cattle Trial is scored by elapsed time plus penalty time. The winner of the Cattle Trial is the competitor who successfully pens a cow in the lowest adjusted time.
- New form added for submitting protests (included as Appendix G).
- Protests concerning irregularities or incidents during the competition for all trials, including Cattle, as soon as possible and no later than 30 minutes after the ride.
- Collective marks for L7 dressage test modified to match WAVE.
- Removed requirement for arena to be flat as EOH and Speed trials can be held outside.
- Walk only in Pen for L2/L3.

- Trot in Double Slalom for L3.
- Walk only for Sidepass Rail for L2 thru L5.
- Minimum obstacles required for L6 is 12. A minimum distance of 10 meters (30 feet) is required for the line of travel between successive obstacles on the course. A minimum of 10 meters (30 ft.) is required for the line of travel between the entrance/exit markers and the first and last obstacles. Obstacles such as the Jug, Remove Pole, Spear Ring, etc., must be positioned to enable access from either side to accommodate the rider's working hand.
- Introductory (L1) level riders (all divisions) may have a person read the EOH course order during a trial. The reader is limited to announcing the obstacle number and name once only. The reader may give no additional information; the Judge will penalize a competitor whose test reader adds additional verbiage (see section 1.10, Outside Assistance). The reader must be positioned outside the perimeter of the arena, not near the in/out gate.
- Knocking over any portion of the obstacle will result in a negative score. If a competitor knocks over or drops part of an obstacle that is required to complete its execution: L1 riders will be handed the item and allowed to complete the obstacle or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 score. L2/L3 riders must dismount, reset/retrieve the item, remount, and continue to complete the obstacle, or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 score. L4 through L7 riders must dismount, reset/retrieve, remount, and complete the obstacle or get disqualified. The rider is not judged on the dismount and remount. There is no restriction on the use of hands when the rider is remounting while holding the dropped item; however, the item must be transferred to the working hand before the rider continues to complete the obstacle.
- Course errors will be penalized but may be remedied before passing through the entry approach flags of the next obstacle to avoid disqualification. The obstacle does not need to be performed in its entirety if the error can be corrected without re-performing the entire obstacle.
- Speed trial course design may include different obstacles than EOH.
- Competitors are allowed to walk the course for the Speed trial.
- After 3 refusals, L2/L3 riders can opt to take a 30-second penalty.
- There is no restriction on the use of hands when the rider is remounting while holding the dropped item; however, the item must be transferred to the working hand before the rider continues to complete the obstacle.
- Eliminated 10-sec penalty for selected cow going back over foul line.
- If a rider has a dispute about a run in the Cattle Trial, he/she must submit a protest in writing within 30 minutes of the ride (see Section 4.9.2).

In addition to the Rulebook, there are several Appendices with additional information. Appendix A gives details about the Dressage Trials at each level and Appendix B gives detailed requirements for the Ease of Handling Trials at each level. In these Appendices the following changes have been made:

- App A, L1 test: Modified movement 2
- App A, L2 test: Added/modified movements 2 and 10.
- App A, L3 test: Trot can be performed rising or sitting.
- App A, L7 test: Collective marks modified to match WAVE.
- App B, 3: Modified size of entrance for Pen.
- App B, 4: Removed entrance/exit flags as transition points for Jug.
- App B, 8b: Clarified execution for Switch Cup.
- App B, 8c, 9c, 10c, 11c: Rider not penalized for leaning out of the saddle.
- App B, 14: Clarified use of solid Gate for B-rated shows.
- App B, 15: Jump height for L4-L7 is 0.5m (22 in.).
- App B, 19: Direction around Drums is first to the right unless specified to the left on the course map.
- App B, 22: Varied Footing material does not have to be “natural.” Minimum size of obstacle reduced.
- App C: All score sheets modified; new Team final placement form; revised notes for points, placements, and ties.

Please see the Appendices themselves for more details on these updates. All changes made in both the Rulebook and the Appendices are highlighted in red print, so they are easy to spot as you scroll through the pages.

On our website, we have a link to the updated rulebook. Reading and knowing the rules for the level you will compete at is essential. It may seem like a daunting task, but it is a small thing compared to all the hard work and preparation you and your horse have done. By knowing the rules, you will increase your chances of having a successful ride and earning the score you and your horse deserve.

We look forward to seeing everyone and meeting all our new members! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the board members listed below:

2020 HCWE Board

President: Lauren Gueswel – planeview@mesanetworks.net

Vice President: Leslie Martien – lesliemartien34@gmail.com

Secretary: Michele Beehner – horsesgobarefoot@gmail.com

Treasurer: Carissa Cumine – carissa.cumine@gmail.com

Membership/Newsletter: Jo Bottorff – bottorff7578@gmail.com

Community Outreach/Sponsorship: Barbara Harris – poniedr@yahoo.com

Youth Promotion/Volunteer Coordinator: Erin Gilbert gilber.erin@gmail.com

Show Management: Leslie Martien/Carissa Cumine lesliemartien34@gmail.com
carissa.cumine@gmail.com

Please contact any of the board members if you have any questions or concerns!

Volunteers Needed!

Summer is almost upon us and HCWE has so many fun events coming up!

There's no better way to get your feet wet with WE than volunteering. Come check out our B-rated shows and hang out with the WE community by signing up to volunteer today in our Sign up Genius. <https://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com/volunteers.html>. Want to volunteer but can't find something to sign up for? Contact Erin Gilbert, Volunteer Coordinator/Youth Promotion, gilber.erin@gmail.com and she will find the right event for you!

Don't forget to be applicable for this year-end **High Point Award** you must **volunteer a minimum of 3 hours** at any HCWE event. The event calendar is posted on the website. <https://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com/calendar.html>.

Membership

It is time to renew your membership for 2020!! I also encourage anyone new to this sport to become a member. WHY? Because we have so much fun with our horses!! Also, you will receive a quarterly newsletter, pay less for show entry fees, and have fun at many of the activities the club has planned - B-Rated Shows, Schooling Shows, Playdays, Clinics, and Cattle Work! Memberships can be paid by check or PayPal.

Go to: <https://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com/membership.html>

Member Spotlight – Sabina Gilbert

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

Lauren Gueswel introduced me and my Arabian Whiff to the sport and I was immediately hooked.

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

I rode hunters and jumpers my whole life and played polo back in the 80's and 90's.

What are some of your goals with Working Equitation (e.g. showing, improve your dressage, fun for you and/or your horse)? I am very serious about this sport and I plan on getting through all the levels and hopefully make it to the top!

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

I grew up in Europe and first starting riding in Italy with an Army Colonel. I would spend my days at the barn. He used to shout out “gambe, gambe,” meaning, “leg, leg”. I went to school in London and use to ride my thoroughbred mare “Miranda” in Hyde Park.

I even got to ride at Buckingham Palace!

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

My thoroughbred, Tejon and I have been in partnership just over a year now. I lost my Whiff in a freak accident and even though I had not even considered keeping Tejon (we were trying to sell him as a pack/trail horse) I thought, why not see if he might enjoy working equitation. The rest is history. Tejon and I both love the sport and it has brought us closer together. He is happy, as am I.

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

I speak four languages, French, Italian, Spanish and English.

Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

The Rocky Mountain Horse Expo was held in Denver from Feb. 27th - March 1st. HCWE was well represented and this Expo provided a wonderful opportunity to market to and educate the horse community about the sport of Working Equitation. Chris Stanko and Lauren Gueswel were part of the *Ride with the Experts Program* and taught Working Equitation Intro and Advanced clinics. There was also a HCWE booth in the barn/stall area where spectators could pick up informational brochures, watch WE videos, chat with volunteers, and practice handling



Sabina and Tejon rocking their Working Equitation dressage test



Sabina and Tejon enjoying a lighter moment

the garrocha pole. The blow-up bull attracted lots of attention! All in all, it was a very successful Expo and hopefully new interest was garnered for the sport.



Lauren Gueswel teaching riders how to maneuver the gate



Lauren Gueswel and Chris Stanko introducing Working Equitation at Expo



All smiles in support of HCWE and Working Equitation



Tools of the trade – the bull and the garrocha

Colorado Horse Rescue Spotlight

Our newest CHR spotlight horse is Legend. Legend is lucky to be taking part in a training course within Colorado State University's Equine Sciences program. He will remain off-site until the end of the semester. Visitation is still available by contacting Sharon Gilbert, CHR's Adoption Manager, at sgilbert@chr.org.

AGE: 11

BREED: Arabian

GENDER: Gelding

HEIGHT: TBD

RIDER EXPERIENCE: Trainer

RIDING LIMITATIONS: None WEIGHT LIMIT (Rider + tack: 200 pounds

ADOPTION FEE: \$1500



Thank you sponsors!

High Country Working Equitation would like to send a special THANK YOU to our awesome sponsors and donors. Without them, we couldn't do what we do. 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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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>

B-rated Shows May 16th and May 17th

Introducing the Judge, Barbara Price, Torre Piñon Farms, Valley Center, California

Barbara Price is an Iberian horse enthusiast and amateur rider who discovered the discipline of Working Equitation during travels to Portugal and Spain and has been involved with developing the sport in the U.S. since 2013.

Ms. Price is a credentialed 'R' judge with WE United and 'r' judge with the Confederation for Working Equitation. She completed her initial judge training with the World Association for Working Equitation's International Judge Instructor, Claudia Elsner Matos, and more recently with Antonio Vicente. She also has participated in clinics with Portuguese Working Equitation Master Nuno Matos. Ms. Price is an active supporter of Working Equitation and views it as fun, but serious training for horses of all breeds and disciplines. She has judged numerous licensed shows since 2014, conducts Introduction to Working Equitation clinics, is a founding member of the U.S. Rules for Working Equitation Committee, and currently serves on the WE United Board of Directors as Past President.



Meet our judge, Barbara Miller Price



COMING SOON:



Saturday, May 16th and Sunday, May 17th

IT'S SHOWTIME!



**Dressage • Ease of Handling • Speed
Levels 1—5**

Two B-Rated Shows

Featuring: Judge Barbara Price



Brought to you by

High Country Working Equitation

Opening Day: April 1, 2020

Ribbons for 1st - 3rd place

Prizes for Champion and Reserve

Opportunity classes will be offered

Prizes for high score Dressage and EOH



Exclusively playing at:

**Plane View Farms
4738 Weld Co Rd 5
Erie, CO 80516**



For more information contact us at HCWEInfo@gmail.com • Thank you sponsors and donors! •

Look for entry forms to be available soon • We will have opportunity classes •

Start cleaning your tack now • Lunch will be available • You can show
in the tack you have, just make sure it's clean •



Show Photographer – Susan Sheldon

