

HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



Please welcome Carissa Cumine and Erin Gilbert to the HCWE Board! Chris Stanko, Karen Burch and Pat Paul have recently retired from the Board. Chris was one of the founding members and has been President for the past four years. Karen has been Vice President for the last three years and has also helped with the financials and show planning; Pat Paul served as our treasurer last year. A huge thank you goes out to all three; they have given countless volunteer hours to make this club successful!

Meet the 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

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HCWE Board Bios

Lauren Gueswel - President

I was introduced to Working Equitation about four years ago by one of my clients and have been infatuated with it and completely committed to it ever since. I've completely transitioned my program from Hunter/Jumpers to Working Equitation over the last few years.

I've been serving on the High Country Working Equitation Board for the past three years and am President Elect for 2020. It has been incredibly rewarding to see our club grow to a record number this past year. To me, Working Equitation is the perfect sport. It offers so much for all riders and horses... regardless of level, breed of horse, or discipline.



Leslie Martien – Vice President

In the summer of 2013 I attended “Working Equitation Play Days” hosted by some local trainers as a way to introduce the sport to some of their students. It was great fun, although my understanding of the sport was fairly limited at that time. Then, as luck would have it, some friends who were involved in bringing Nuno Matos to Colorado in 2014, asked me to help organize a clinic. Nuno’s clinic generated so much excitement about the sport for me that I attended the Haras Cup in Texas that fall. I then returned to Haras in March 2015 in order to attend a three-day Working Equitation seminar taught by Claudia Elsner Matos, which cemented my interest in the sport. I have spent the past six years of my horse experience as an enthusiastic amateur dedicated to Working Equitation.

I have been on the board of High Country Working Equitation since 2015, where I have served as secretary for the past four years and plan to continue as a board member and Vice President in 2020. During that time I have also been on the newsletter committee as a contributor and editor. On the national level I've been the Region 3 Director of WE United for the past two years and this year is my second year on the National Rules Committee.



Quinn, my new Working Equitation partner, is a nine-year-old Andalusian gelding. He is very green so I'm not currently showing but I'm continuing to learn by scribing, and shadow judging. I earned my provisional Technical Delegate license earlier this year and am working towards getting my “L” judge license. I truly can't think of a better sport for the development of the horse and rider partnership.

Michele Beehner – Secretary

I am relatively new to the sport of Working Equitation, but I absolutely love the sense of purpose and focus that it gives my horse and me. Being a natural horsemanship instructor, I use many of the developmental exercises as a way to put principles to purpose. I have lived in Colorado since 1997, and currently live in Longmont at the Little Red Riding Ranch where my husband, Mark, my youngest son, Rubin, and our horses, dogs, and barn cat all keep me company. I am happy to be joining the HCWE Board as its secretary.



Carissa Cumine – Treasurer

I became interested in Working Equitation because the barn where I rode became involved with the sport. I had been riding dressage for years and was intrigued. I watched a couple of shows, rode a play day on a school horse, and started volunteering at shows. I had scribed dressage and so scribing Working Equitation was a natural step. The Working Equitation community is warm and welcoming and so keen to educate. Even as a non-showing amateur, I continually absorb knowledge at every event I attend.



In September 2018, I was in Las Vegas during the 2018 Andalusian World Cup, which hosts a WE United show, and was delighted to watch the entire day of speed rides. Seeing the sport on the national stage brought home for me the universality of Working Equitation.

2019 took me from scribing to scoring, a duty I look forward to continuing. 2019 also ended my tenure on the board of directors of a dog rescue allowing 2020 to bring me to the HCWE board of directors. I will not be riding much in the next year but look forward to maintaining my equine pursuits through an active role on the sidelines.

Jo Bottorff – Membership/Newsletter

I have always felt that you are never too old to learn new things and follow your childhood dreams. I did just that when I bought a horse “later in life” and began riding lessons. As a retiree “senior” rider, Working Equitation helps me stay physically strong and rejuvenates my brain cells! I first learned about this sport in 2014, when I attended a Nuno Matos clinic at Plane View Farm. I was hooked from then on and have been showing the past three years. This past year I competed in the Novice A Division and Levi and I worked really hard, learning how to canter between the obstacles and do the Speed Phase. Much to my surprise we were Reserve Champions at the Confederation for Working Equitation National Championship Show. I am on the board of High Country Working Equitation (HCWE), responsible for membership (I love recruiting folks to this sport) and I co-edit our quarterly newsletter. I am also a student of the Pedro Torres Academy of Working Equitation. The folks who are involved with this sport are so supportive and encouraging and I have been blessed to have made many new friends! Horses have helped me survive four different cancers: breast, uterine, skin and most recently bladder. This spring Levi saved my life in around about way! He spooked, I fell off and developed a huge hematoma, so I went to the ER where they did a Cat Scan. The scan showed a tumor in my bladder, which was very small but high grade. If left untreated, the tumor would have grown, so falling off was a blessing in disguise! As a cancer survivor I celebrate life everyday with my horse, Levi!



Barbara Harris – Community Outreach/Sponsorship

Like many people, I was reeled into the sport of Working Equitation after watching a Pedro Torres video. I came to the HCWE Kickoff Party in January of 2016 so I could learn more about the sport. After watching the clinics at Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in 2016, I decided to take a lesson. After a lesson and part of a clinic, I was hooked and couldn't wait to show! I won my first show that May and that was how my WE addiction started. I was blessed to have an amazing horse that seemed to love the sport as much as I did. I won HCWE high point in 2016 (Intro), 2017 (Novice A), and 2018 (Novice B). In 2018 my horse's lameness issues reappeared and I was not able to show her as much as usual. They got worse in 2019 and I was not able to show at all. That did not stop me



from loving the sport. In 2019 I joined the HCWE Board and was able to contribute by raising money with our raffle, and acquiring donations and sponsorships. I was delighted to be Paddock Steward and TD at various shows throughout the show season. I'm honored to be a part of the 2020 HCWE Board and can't wait to see what the new season has in store for the sport of Working Equitation in Colorado.

Erin Gilbert – Youth Promotion/Volunteer Coordinator

I'm Erin Gilbert. I've been a recent addition to the board, and I can't wait to start this new year with everyone! Since starting Working Equitation, I've noticed such a difference in my horse and me. One of the reasons I love this sport so much are the goals it gives you to focus on, which is why I am so excited for all the fun shows, clinics, and events coming up this next show season.



Goodbye Letter from Chris Stanko – Past President of HCWE

Dear HCWE Members,

Everything has to come to an end. Now is my time to leave the board of HCWE. I was one of the founding members and have stayed with this club since it was created. I want to thank each and every one of our members for your continued support and participation in HCWE. I love the sport of Working Equitation. In my opinion it is the best cross training you can do for you and your horse. I am not leaving the sport. I am working on the Confederation of Working Equitation Executive Board and my hope is to help UNIFY both national Working Equitation organizations. I leave the board in good hands with Lauren Gueswel at the helm. The new board will continue to spread the word about this great sport. I am available to offer my time and knowledge where needed.



Chris Stanko and Bella

Respectfully,
Chris Stanko

Licensed Official's Seminar

High Country Working Equitation had the privilege of hosting the 2019 Confederation Licensed Official's Seminar, September 5th-8th, at the Fairfield Inn in Longmont, in conjunction with our final show of the season. Tarrin Warren –clinician, trainer, judge, and competitor – par excellence, taught the four-day seminar and practicum. Tarrin's extensive knowledge of the history and rules of Working Equitation and her passion for the sport helped to create an excellent presentation and learning environment for all of the participants.

Participants attended the seminar for a variety of reasons: as part of their training to become a judge or technical delegate; continuing education; to improve their knowledge of the sport; and to make them better competitors and trainers. Participants came from as far away as Wisconsin and several of them chose to compete with their horses at the two-day show that followed the two-day lecture.

Aside from a thorough review of the rules and how crucial it is to know them inside and out, there were many very important take-aways from the seminar – some of which were obvious, such as: don't show favoritism; continually work to increase knowledge and improve skills; be well-organized. Others were less obvious and should serve to reassure competitors: always give the benefit of the doubt to the competitor; competitors don't show up intending to give their worst performance so be kind; officials do this for the love of the sport – it's not a way to make a living.



Participants Eleanor Thomas, Olga Hendrickson, Kitty McLaughlin and Leslie Martien

Despite the very detailed and extensive rule book the job of the Judge and Technical Delegate is very challenging and often requires multiple judgment calls:

- Are the conditions on the course unsafe and can it be modified?
- Is the horse stiff (i.e. serviceably sound) or is it exhibiting signs of pain?
- Is the use of the whip and spurs excessive?
- Was the competitor showing their horse an obstacle during the warm-up phase?
- Is that bit legal and/or was there a change of bits between trials?
- Is the horse actively bleeding? Judges and Technical Delegates will always rule to protect the welfare of the horse and the cattle if there is a cattle trial.
- Did the rider just cluck or speak to their horse (look for this rule change in the 2020 rules that were just released)?

As competitors it is helpful to know some of the things that judges are looking for while riding a dressage test or performing an Ease of Handling course.

- Does this horse make a consistent, dependable work partner?
- Will this horse be sound after a day of work?
- Is the horse calm, supple, confident, keen and responsive?

- Does this horse have ground-covering gaits?
- Perhaps most importantly, is this a horse you would want to ride all day for work?

After two long days of lecture, followed by dinner, conversation, and camaraderie it was time for the active participants to cut their teeth on an actual show. Each participant had the opportunity to shadow judge and scribe with Tarrin Warren in the Dressage and Ease of Handling, and Speed trials. Participants scored riders and then had the opportunity to compare their scores with Tarrin Warren. Tarrin is so adept at judging and teaching that her commentary provided participants with great insight while also providing comments that were useful to the riders. Technical Delegates in training had the opportunity to work with Kitty McLaughlin who is currently an L Judge, in training to become an “r” Judge. Participants conferred with each other, compared notes, asked questions and became thoroughly immersed in the training and process of becoming a licensed official in the sport of Working Equitation.



Licensed Official's Seminar participants with instructor, Tarrin Warren

While the Licensed Officials Seminar was just one step in the process of becoming a Working Equitation Judge or Technical Delegate it provided in-depth information and experience that will put participants well on their way towards reaching their goal.

September 7th and 8th Shows

Tarrin Warren judged the two, one-day shows on September 7th and 8th, 2019. Participants from the Licensed Officials Seminar had the opportunity to practice what they learned by shadow judging and scribing. It was a wonderful learning opportunity for everyone. This was the final HCWE show weekend of the 2019 year. Many riders had greatly improved since the beginning of the show season...fun was had by all! A special thanks to Barbara Harris who took excellent photos at many shows and events this year!



Jane Brueckner and Rookie



Maureen Beavin and Isis



Michele Beehner and Hesper



Allison Mazurkeiwicz and Ziva



Jo Bottorff and Levi



Stacey Ruel and Amante



Jessica Poe and Jet with Karen Burch

Member Spotlight – Erin Gilbert

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

I learned about Working Equitation about two years ago. I started off just hanging around the shows and taking a few lessons, and started showing this past summer. I really appreciate the connection Working Equitation brings between the horse and rider – Working Equitation really changed my perspective on what a horse and rider partnership should be.

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

I started off playing around in gymkhanas as a kid, and eventually moved on to Hunter/Jumper, which I did for about four years before starting Working Equitation. My focus is Working Equitation now.

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

My goals with Working Equitation mostly involve forming a partnership with my horse and to start moving up the levels. I love having a goal to focus on, and the dressage tests and the obstacles are a perfect “test” to see how far you have brought your horse along in their training and trust.

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

I've been riding since I was eight or nine years old. I don't necessarily have a specific memory, I just know that every horse I've met through the years has been a valuable teacher to me.

I do remember wanting to buy every horse I rode for lessons at first. I didn't think of it this way at the time, but thankfully, my parents weren't willing to buy me a horse that young, and so I got the chance to ride and work with many, many different horses.

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

I absolutely adore the movie “National Velvet” with Elizabeth Taylor. I watched the movie so many times when I was younger that I completely destroyed the disc and my mom had to get me another copy. It was absolutely my inspiration for my interest in horses, the way a girl could believe so much in a horse to make her dreams come true.



Membership Renewal

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

Sponsorships and Donations

HCWE has a fun year planned with lots of varied activities for our growing membership. Shows, clinics, social events, parties, and other activities cost money to put on! In order to keep costs to participants down for activities, we are asking for help from our members to recruit sponsors.

Sponsorship information is located on the HCWE website:

<https://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com/sponsors.html>Sponsorships and donations are tax deductible! We would LOVE for each of our members to think of one business that they can approach for a 2020 sponsorship!

Many thanks to the 2019 sponsors: Sheri Prucka - Watsch Lusitanos, Cameo Global, Scott Murdock's Trailer Sales, Orion Networks, Martin Baldwin and David McNicholas, Saddle Up Western Saddle and Tack Shop, Colorado Tack and Supply Company, Barbara Harris, Allison Mazurkiewicz, DP's Sweet Life, Hooked by Kati, Gunbarrel Liquors.

Confederation for Working Equitation National Championship Show

The Confederation for Working Equitation National Championship Show was October 4th-6th, 2019 at Kiplinger Arena in McCook NE. There were thirty-five rides and participants came from the Iowa, Vermont, Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska. There were two judges, Doreen Atkinson, West, TX and Rebecca Algar, Ocala, FL. Riders competed in the trials that were required for their level - Dressage, Ease of Handling and Speed. Some riders formed teams and participated in the Cattle Trial.

Many HCWE members were involved with this show, from planning to competing. Many thanks to Chris Stanko – Show Co-Chair; Olga Hendrickson – Scribe; Leslie Martien – Scribe; Carissa Cumine – Secretary/Scorer; and Barbara Harris – Volunteer, for their time and effort in making this show a success! The following riders represented HCWE and all had a good showing:

Lauren Gueswel, L5 Open – Reserve Champion

Allison Mazurkiewicz, L3 Open – National Champion

Jo Bottorff, L2 Amateur – Reserve Champion

Stacey Ruel, L1 Amateur – 4th Overall

Sabina Gilbert, L1 Amateur Opportunity – 1st place

Erin Gilbert, L1 Open – 3rd Overall

Chris Stanko, L1 Open – National Champion

The atmosphere of this show encouraged camaraderie. One of the best aspects of the show is that it provided an opportunity to meet new friends from other states and re-connect with others.



HCWE members Carissa Cumine, Leslie Martien, Olga Hendrickson, and Chris Stanko helped make the National Show a success!



Jo Bottorff/Levi and Lauren Gueswel/Uno



Erin Gilbert with Jo Bottorff and Levi



HCWE hosted a welcome booth



Allison Mazurkiewicz and Ziva



Lauren Gueswel and Uno work the cattle



Stacey Ruel and Amante

MARK YOUR 2020 CALENDAR

The Confederation for Working Equitation National Championship Show will be Oct. 2-4, 2020 at the same facility, Kiplinger Arena, McCook, NE!

Year End Party

The Year End Party was held on Nov. 9, 2019 at the Issac Walton Banquet room in Longmont and was well-attended. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and effort our riders put in during the year. The Taco Bar was delicious, with many choices and the desserts from DP's Sweet Life were special and some even had the HCWE logo on top! The Year End Awards for each level were distributed and included High Point Champion, Reserve Champion and Honorable Mention. A beautiful wood crafted saddle rack with a personalized name plate were the High Point awards. The Reserve Champions received a wood crafted grooming box with a personalized name plate. A grooming towel was given to the Honorable mentioned. Susie-Peet-Davis



Our High Point Champions went home with beautifully crafted saddle racks

received the Volunteer of the Year Award for the many volunteer hours she contributed at the shows. Chris Stanko and Karen Burch retired from the Board and were given engraved pocketknives as thank you gifts.



Lauren Gueswel, Sabina Gilbert and Chris Stanko



Allison and Ziva were one of our champion teams this year



Deb Webster and her award



Lauren Gueswel and Jo Bottorff



**Our Volunteer of the Year award went to
Susie Davis-Peet**



Nobody went home hungry



Yummy treats from DP Sweet Life

HCWE HIGH POINT STANDINGS

Level 1 – Introductory Amateur

Rider	Horse	May	June	Sept	YTD
Stacey Ruel	Amante	246.50	256.67	269.44	772.61
Maureen Beavin	Isis	145.32	207.06	235.74	588.66
Sabina Gilbert	Tejan	--	204.07	209.76	413.83
Jessica Poe	Bandera Corsair	--	118.44	260.01	378.45
Deb Freudenberg	Victor	113.73	--	--	113.73
Deb Freudenberg	Saosin	106.88	--	--	106.88
Pat Paul	WYO Cowboy	56.46	--	--	56.46

Level 1 – Introductory Open

Rider	Horse	May	June	Sept	YTD
Erin Gilbert	Tucker	--	239.59	252.40	491.99
Chris Stanko	Bella	238.27	185.11	--	423.38
Deb Webster	Donatello Kreation	--	121.77	66.88	188.65
Deb Webster	Dala Cheval	--	123.96	--	123.96

Level 2 – Novice A Amateur

Rider	Horse	May	June	Sept	YTD
Jo Bottorff	Levi	255.60	387.27	268.46	911.33
Janie Brueckner	Rookie	240.54	--	226.76	467.30

Level 3 – Novice B Open

Rider	Horse	May	June	Sept	YTD
Allison Mazurkiewicz	Ziva	--	364.11	388.0	752.11

Level 5 – Intermediate B Amateur

Rider	Horse	May	June	Sept	YTD
Karen Burch	Ashke	177.16	303.50	--	480.66

Level 5 – Intermediate B Open

Rider	Horse	May	June	Sept	YTD
Lauren Gueswel	Uno	387.72	371.40	385.60	1144.72

Confederation for Working Equitation National Ranking



Congratulations!!!

The Confederation for Working Equitation recognizes member achievement throughout the year, tracking High Point performance, a cumulative record of the horse/rider pairs at all competition levels (Children's through Masters), competing at Confederation licensed B-rated, A-rated, and Championship shows.

The HCWE members who finished the year in the National Top Ten of their levels are listed below:

- ♦ **Stacey Ruel and Amante CDF - Reserve Champion Level 1 Amateur**
- ♦ **Erin Gilbert and Tucker – Top Ten Level 1 Open**
- ♦ **Chris Stanko and Hollywood's Doc Girl – Top Ten Level 1 Open**
- ♦ **Jo Bottorff and Levi – Reserve Champion Level 2 Amateur**
- ♦ **Allison Mazurkiewicz and Ziva – Top Ten Level 3 Open**
- ♦ **Karen Burch and Thee Ashke – Top Ten Intermediate B Amateur**
- ♦ **Lauren Gueswel and Smart Uno Olena – Reserve Champion Intermediate B Open**

The HCWE club had many other members who were listed in the rankings. Visit the Rankings tab of www.confederationwe.us for the 2019 list.

Congratulations to everyone who showed their horses!!! Just stepping into the show ring with your horse is a huge accomplishment! Looking forward to more fun times next year!

Revamped Website – Check it out!

HCWE member, Stacey Ruel, has completely revamped the HCWE website! This new website is user-friendly and easy to keep up to date with activities and events. A huge shout out to Stacey for all of her time, energy and expertise she gave to make this an awesome website!

Check it out!!! www.highcountryworkingequitation.com

Colorado Horse Rescue

Our newest CHR spotlight horse is Ruah. Ruah is an incredible mare that has an incredible tale. This gorgeous red mustang began her story wild, out on the range. At some point in her young adult life she was gathered up and sold at a public auction, as most fresh caught mustangs are. Sadly, Ruah was then passed from home to home, always a bit too wild and a bit too frightened to fully accept a domestic life. Thankfully she landed in good hands at just the right time in her life and eventually ended up at the Colorado Horse Rescue.

When Ruah first arrived, it was clear this was a mare that had suffered at the hands of humans and was wary to trust. With some hard-won time and patience, Ruah is now well on her way to finding her perfect person.

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Wild horses often get labeled as being unreliable and incapable of accepting the human world. For some this may be true but for this incredible mare the opposite is true. She simply was denied opportunities to have a voice and in self-preservation used the only skills she knew how. Today Ruah proves herself to be an incredible equine student with a heart that won't quit. She thrives in a positive environment where she has the choice to problem solve her way through an obstacle rather than be forced into it. Ruah wants a partner not a master. She will never be a lesson horse or a horse you can loan to friends on the weekends,

but she will be a very special horse for one very special person.

Schedule an appointment to come out and see her today – www.chr.org.

- AGE: 11
- BREED: Mustang
- GENDER: Mare
- HEIGHT: TBD
- RIDER EXPERIENCE: Trainer
- RIDING LIMITATIONS: None
- TRAINING STATUS: Carrying a rider; suitable for someone with previous Mustang training experience
- WEIGHT LIMIT (Rider + Tack): 240
- ADOPTION FEE: \$800



2020 HCWE Kick-Off Party – Save the Date!



Annual Kickoff Party!!!

Join us for our Annual Kickoff Party and membership drive! Test your skills in the obstacle course during our stick horse race. Watch demos and learn about the different levels. Help us raise funds and win awesome prizes with our raffle. Eat yummy food. Come one and all and bring a friend!

Date: 01/25/2020

Time: 1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Plane View Farm

4738 Weld County Road 5

Erie, CO 80516

Contact person: Barbara Harris

Phone: 720-933-5615

Email: ponierdr@yahoo.com

Please join us – as a competitor, a volunteer, a spectator or to learn more about the wonderful sport of Working Equitation!

There’s something for everyone and we’d love to see each and every one of our members this year.

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



Save the Date!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following 2020 HCWE Events:

1/25	Annual Kickoff Party – Plane View Farm, Erie
2/15	Rules Day – Location TBD (Classroom only. No horses)
2/28 – 3/1	Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, Denver - Clinics and Vendor Booth
4/18	PVF Schooling Show – Erie, CO - Judge TBD
5/3	Clinic with Tarrin Warren - Circle Star Arena
5/16 – 5/17	HCWE Show (B-rated w/ Opportunity classes) Plane View Farm, Erie—2 separate 1-day shows Judge: Barbara Price
6/5 – 6/7	HCWE Show & Clinic (B-rated w/ Opportunity classes) Boulder County Fairgrounds— Clinic & 2 day show Judge: Doreen Atkinson
6/27 – 6/28	HCWE Show (B-rated w/ Opportunity classes) Circle Star Arena—2 separate 1day shows Judge: Rebecca Algar
7/19	Circle Star Schooling Show – Judge TBD
8/21 – 8/23	HCWE Show (B-rated w/ Opportunity classes) - Venue TBD Judge: Jill Baron
10/31	Halloween Games & Party!
TBD	Colorado Horse Rescue Volunteer Day
TBD Nov	End of Year Celebration and Awards Night

All dates and locations are subject to change.
Questions? Contact hcweinfo@gmail.com

Our gate is always open!