

HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



Letter from the Board

As you may be aware, in 2016 the national Working Equitation Organizations have made rule changes to improve the structure of Working Equitation shows. WE shows will now offer Adult Amateur and Open Class divisions, enabling amateur riders to compete against each other, rather than against professional riders and trainers, unless they choose to do so. However, this has resulted in an unintended potential consequence, due to the possibility of a smaller number of riders in each class. The smaller class size, combined with riders of similar capability or experience, increases the opportunity for a tied score when trying to determine the overall champion of a class.

The method detailed in the rule books for the national organizations for determining the overall Champion in a class is to reward the rider with the higher Dressage score with the Championship. This becomes problematic when there are only two riders in a class at Intro level, and they each win one phase of the show. The rider who won the Dressage phase wins the Championship, regardless of the scores in both the Dressage and EOH phase. This happened at a recent show where the two riders were separated by one point in the Dressage phase, but the rider who placed second in the Dressage phase won the EOH by 15 points. Because they each won one phase and were tied in class points, the tie breaker went to the Dressage rider, although the rider who won the EOH did better overall.

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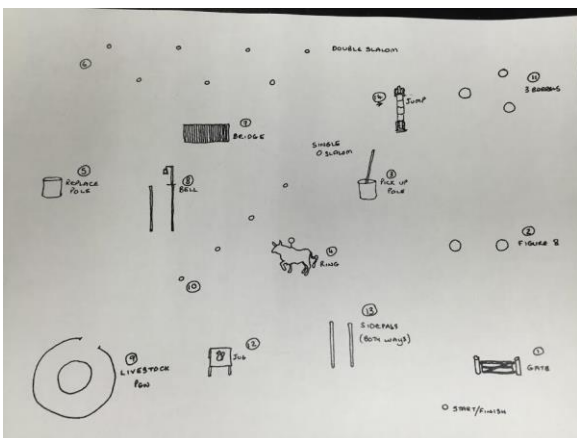
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HCWE Spring Show

Rebecca Algar sent HCWE the course map for the show prior to the weekend. The Board met on Friday night and set up the course. It consisted of 14 obstacles and would be set up in the outdoor arena of Circle Star Arena.



The start gate was at the northern end of the arena and the obstacles were as follows:

1. Gate
2. Figure 8
3. Garrocha Pole Pickup
4. Ring
5. Garrocha Pole Drop off
6. Double Slalom
7. Bridge
8. Corridor with Bell
9. Livestock Pen
10. Single Slalom
11. 3 Barrels
12. Jug
13. Sidepass Poles
14. Jump

For the Intro level riders, their course ended at the Jug (12 Obstacles total). Novice and Intermediate did all fourteen obstacles.

Friday night, Rebecca Algar walked the course, sighting lines and distances in between the obstacles. A few adjustments were made to allow for a better ride and utilization of space. All was ready for Saturday.

Intro Amateur Riders

- Barbara Harris/Dazee
- Allison Palmer/Kota
- Claire Gosnell/Bitta
- Mary Sadler/Heart
- Queta Smith/AAS Shaki
- Philip Himanka/DH Aref

Intro Open Riders

- Lyndsey Fitch/Sabio
- Chris Stanko/Prince

Novice Amateur Riders

- Pat Paul/Bailey
- Netti Zillman/Aragon
- Kim Speek/Califa

Novice Open Riders

- Keith Jacobson/Cody
- Britney Johnstone/Chance
- Lauren Gueswell/Uno

Intermediate Open Riders

- Chris Stanko/CO
- Allison Mazurkiewicz/Rosa



HCWE Spring Show

The show started right about eight am, although there were horses warming up in the outdoor dressage arena by a little after seven.



Chris Stanko on Prince, Intro Open

The dressage tests went smoothly, with all the riders doing a great job showcasing their horses for the judge. Kitty McLaughlin was the reader for those who wanted the test read for them. Olga Hendrickson was the gate keeper and did a great job having the next rider up and ready to enter the arena on time.



Netti Zillman on Aragon
Novice Amateur



Keith Jacobson on Cody
Intro Open

By the time the dressage test had been ridden by the Intermediate Open riders, the sun had burned off the fog, leaving bright skies and the brilliant sun shining down on the EOH course. The judge called for a brief break, while the runners took the final tests to the score keepers.



Lauren Gueswell on Uno
Intro Open

HCWE SPRING SHOW

MAY 21ST, 2016

After a brief break, the riders entered the arena with Rebecca Algar and walked the EOH course with the riders. The Intro course was twelve obstacles, with the Novice and the Intermediate riders going through fourteen.



Barbara Harris on Dazee; Double Slalom
Intro Amateur

After the walk-through, there was a break for lunch. HCWE offered lunch, sandwiches, chips and cookies, for \$5. As lunch started, the placings for the dressage phase were announced and ribbons were awarded.



Claire Gosnell on Bitta; Gate
Intro Amateur

After lunch, the EOH phase started. The Intro class was the biggest of the day, with six Intro Amateur riders and two Intro Open riders. The course was twelve obstacles, starting with the gate and finishing with the jug.



Allison Palmer on Kota, On Course
Intro Amateur

Intro EOH completed and the Novice riders began. They rode fourteen obstacles, adding the jump and the sidepass poles to the earlier twelve obstacles.



Britney Johnstone on Chance
Livestock Pen
Novice Open

HCWE SPRING SHOW

MAY 21ST, 2016



Lyndsey Fitch on Sabio
Corridor with the Bell
Intro Open

There was one DQ on course for the EOH phase, as a rider missed the three barrel obstacle, moving directly to the jug. All of the riders did very well and came away with stuff to work on. Scores were tallied and ribbons awarded to the different classes. The Intro riders were finished with their part of the show, so the Champion and Reserve Ribbons were awarded.



Chris Stanko on CO
Jump during the EOH phase
Intermediate Open

The remaining riders walked the Speed course with Rebecca Algar. There were three changes, with the jug being removed and the jump taking place directly after the three barrel obstacle, with one sidepass pole the final obstacle on the course. After walking the course, the riders got ready to ride.



Mary Sadler on Heart; Gate
Intro Amateur



Philip Haminka on DH Aref
Garrocha and Bull
Intro Amateur

HCWE SPRING SHOW

MAY 21ST, 2016



Allison Mazurkiewicz on Rosa
Garrocha and Ring
Speed Phase
Intermediate Open



Chris Stanko on CO
Intermediate Open

Again, there were two DQ's in the speed course. Otherwise, the riders were bold and focused, while the horses were swift and fearless. The seven riders made quick work of the speed phase, with the fastest overall time going to Chris Stanko on CO, with a time of 2:43.12.



Netti Zillman on Aragon
Bridge
Novice Amateur



Pat Paul on Bailey
Garrocha with Ring
Speed Phase



Queta Smith on AAS Shaki
Bridge – EOH Phase
Intro Amateur

HCWE SHOW RESULTS

May 21st, 2016

Intro Amateur Riders	Dressage	EOH	Speed
Barbara Harris/Dazee	Score: 71.429	92.5	NA
Allison Palmer/Kota	Score: 56.19	77.5	NA
Claire Gosnell/Bitta	Score: 55.238	67.5	NA
Mary Sadler/Heart	Score: 51.905	62.5	NA
Queta Smith/AAS Shaki	Score: 51.429	60	NA
Philip Himanka/DH Aref	Score: 46.19	60.833	NA
Intro Open Riders			
Lyndsey Fitch/Sabio	Score: 62.857	89.167	NA
Chris Stanko/Prince	Score: 51.905	64.167	NA
Novice Amateur Riders			
Pat Paul/Bailey	Score: 50	70	03:06.81
Netti Zillman/Aragon	Score: 53.667	DQ	DQ
Kim Speek/Califa	Scratched		
Novice Open Riders			
Lauren Gueswell/Uno	Score: 77.667	75.714	02:52.94
Britney Johnstone/Chance	Score: 71	67.857	DQ
Keith Jacobson/Cody	Score: 51	90	02:49.11
Intermediate Open Riders			
Allison Mazurkiewicz/Rosa	Score: 55.185	67.143	02:58.29
Chris Stanko/CO	Score: 50.74	80	02:43.12

Champions



Barbara Harris/Dazee
Allison Palmer/Kota

Intro Amateur Champion
Intro Amateur Reserve



Lyndsey Fitch/Sabio
Chris Stanko/Prince

Intro Open Champion
Intro Open Reserve



Pat Paul/Bailey
Netti Zillman/Aragon

Novice Amateur Champion
Novice Amateur Reserve



Keith Jacobson/Cody
Lauren Gueswell/Uno

Novice Open Champion
Novice Open Reserve



Chris Stanko/ CO
Allison Mazurkiewicz/Rosa

Intermediate Open Champion
Intermediate Open Reserve



Many thanks to our judge, Rebecca Algar, for her participation in our event on Saturday. And for the opportunity to chat about horses, Working Equitation and her amazing history. It was an outstanding weekend all the way around.

A huge shout out to the Show Manager, Chris Stanko, who did a fantastic job of putting our show together. Thank you for all of the hard work and long hours!!



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

Rachel Cohen

Jenn Hutchinson

Olga Henderson

Maree McAteer

Karen Burch

Tristan Burch

CJ Jacoby

Allison Palmer

HCWE HIGH POINT STANDINGS

INTRO AMATEUR

Rider/Horse	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total	YTD
Barbara Harris/Dazee	71.429	92.5	NA	163.929	163.929
Allison Palmer/Kota	56.19	77.5	NA	133.69	133.69
Claire Gosnell/Bitta	55.238	67.5	NA	122.738	122.738
Mary Sadler/Heart	51.905	62.5	NA	114.405	114.405

INTRO OPEN

Rider/Horse	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total	YTD
Lyndsey Fitch/Sabio	62.857	89.167	NA	152.024	152.024
Chris Stanko/Prince	51.905	64.167	NA	116.072	116.072

NOVICE AMATEUR

Rider/Horse	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total	YTD
Pat Paul/Bailey	50	70	66.819	186.819	186.819
Netti Zillman/Aragon	53.667	40	40	133.667	133.667

NOVICE OPEN

Rider/Horse	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total	YTD
Lauren Gueswell/Uno	77.667	75.714	67.036	220.417	220.417
Keith Jacobson/Cody	50	90	67.169	207.169	207.169

INTERMEDIATE OPEN

Rider/Horse	Dressage	EOH	Speed	Total	YTD
Chris Stanko/CO	52.74	80	67.268	200.008	200.008
Allison Mazurkiewicz/Rosa	55.185	67.143	67.011	189.329	189.329

Rebecca Algar Clinic

MAY 22ST, 2016



Kim Speek on Califa

The Rebecca Algar Clinic started bright and early on Sunday morning. Riders worked in the indoor arena to begin, tackling technique and skills to improve the dressage phase of Working Equitation.



Pat Paul on ET

It was hard work riding the correct way, but it seemed that the riders learned a lot, the horses responded and everyone had a great time!

The individual ride sessions lasted about 30 minutes, with the rider working with Rebecca on whatever issues needed to be addressed.



And then the groups moved outside to the outdoor arena to work on obstacles.



Rebecca set them to working on the garrocha pole, since that seemed to be a common issue in the show.



Rebecca Algar Clinic

MAY 22ST, 2016



Rebecca worked with the riders on approaching the garrocha without their horses shying or balking at the pole. There was also discussion about setting the horse up for the approach to showcase the horse.



Carrying the pole properly and not hooking your hand to the pole with the ring was also addressed. The garrocha obstacle seems to offer a unique challenge to our riders to do well; whether in the approach or execution of the obstacle. Extra practice is always useful.

After working with the garrocha, Rebecca had the riders working on their sidepass skills. Getting the horse to move properly over the raised poles is a challenge, but one our riders were willing to conquer.



Not a picture of the sidepass poles.



The two hours for the EOH part of the clinic went quickly. Riders improved skills and learned a lot.

Much thanks to Rebecca for sharing her knowledge and skills with HCWE.

History of Working Equitation

Working Equitation was founded in the countries of Portugal, Spain, Italy and France. It was developed after the American sport of reining was recognized at the FEI level, and was intended to develop a wider, working horse based sport that would appeal to all countries with a tradition of working cattle on horseback. Working Equitation preserves and honors the European traditional country riding historically used at farms and in fieldwork. As WE has gained International appeal, it has been expanded to any country with a tradition of working cattle.

According to Joao Ralao Duarte, Secretary of the Lusitano Breeders Association, Working Equitation was a way to bring into the competition arena the skills and abilities of riders who use the horse daily in their work with cattle. It showcases the training and maneuverability needed to work cattle from horseback, while dressed in traditional field attire. In this way, WE honors the different cattle working cultures around the world.

Working Equitation (WE) is based on a four-phase concept allowing the horse and rider to demonstrate their ability to work together while performing tasks typically required in the field. WE promotes good horsemanship, functional dressage and the ability of horse and rider to move through a combination of natural obstacles to test the quality of training, obedience of the horse and the collaboration and trust between horse and rider. This discipline is open to all breeds and styles of rider, with the focus on the quality and functional application of training through the four phases.

Part of the unique structure of WE is that all

phases must be performed in the same tack and attire throughout the show. This is different from other multi-phase events, such as Eventing. Additionally, this sport is a **working** discipline and plain working attire that would be seen in the fields is expected. Embellishments such as silver trim, sequins, garish colors and wild patterns are discouraged. Higher points will be awarded to those riders whose tack and attire better reflects defined or generally accepted standards consistent within a specific tradition.

The dressage test for WE focuses on maneuverability and the gaits necessary for effective fieldwork. At the lower levels the tests can be ridden with two hands, but as the rider advances, they are required to ride with one hand (typically the left) only, leaving the other empty. The upper levels consist of the working gaits, walk and canter, with no trot in the test. The movements include pirouettes, half pass, and flying change, but only one at a time, not a sequence of them. In other words, the gaits and movements a horse would expect to use naturally when working in a field with cattle.

To perform correctly, the horse needs to be supple, obedient and relaxed while still being forward. The horse needs to work from its haunches, with impulsion being much more desired than suspension. Lateral work is necessary because the horse should be able to move smoothly in any direction without hesitation. A quick and nimble response is necessary when working the fighting bulls of Spain. It is this movement that Working Equitation riders should strive for: forward, powerful, controlled.

The Garrocha

It is not difficult, when looking at Working Equitation, to see the foundation of Doma Vaquera. Doma Vaquera is referred to as the dressage of the stockman, also known as the vaquero. It is a discipline that requires the rider to perform a series of movements at the walk, canter and full gallop while using only one hand on the reins, so that the dominant hand is free to carry the garrocha. In Doma Vaquera, the horse and rider must move with harmony and rhythm while performing pirouettes, passes, turns, change of pace between halt, walk, canter and gallop without hesitation. The horse must be obedient and willing, never showing resistance and the rider should never use force.

The reason for riding in this manner was to facilitate the safety of horse and rider when working with the Iberian Fighting Bulls of Spain. These bulls, also known as Toro Bravo, are selectively bred for a certain combination of aggression, energy, strength, stamina and intelligence. They are primarily bred free-range on extensive estates in Southern Spain and Portugal for organized bullfighting. Bullfighting has existed in one form or another for 4000 years, but it has been in the Iberian Peninsula that Rejoneo, or mounted bullfighting, has developed into an artistic skill. When working with such aggressive bulls, the garrocha is used to maintain space and distance between the horse and the cattle, since putting a rope on one of them could be disastrous.

The rider uses a garrocha, an 11' to 14' wooden pole that is tapered on one end and fitted with a metal point, to work cattle in the fields. The garrocha is held in the right hand and the rider coordinates the movements of his horse with his left. This garrocha work is used

cattle from field to field, to handle the bulls in the field and to test the temperament of the young cows and bulls being raised to fight. The testing, or Acoso y Derribo, is Doma Vaquero work with the two year old animals, where the garrochista rides among the cattle, testing both the bulls and the cows for courage, tenacity and ferocity. The horse and rider using the garrocha should move in harmony, forward, backward, pirouetting and dancing around the pole, which has developed into an art form on its own.

Working Equitation, or Doma de Trabajo, combines elements from Doma Vaquera and Acoso y Derribo, in the four phases of the sport. The garrocha is at the heart of this discipline and is the element that changes the Ease of Handling phase from a normal trail class into Working Equitation. The garrocha obstacle requires the rider to lift the pole from a barrel, spear a ring or knock down a ball, and then deposit the garrocha, butt down, into a second barrel. Each of those movements is considered an element of the Ease of Handling test and scored accordingly. Additionally, it is not uncommon for the rider to be expected to complete other elements of the test while carrying the garrocha pole, such as the bridge or livestock pen.



Obstacle Overview: Garrocha, Ring, Drum



Removal of a Pole from a Drum

In Working Equitation competitions the garrocha is a wooden pole measuring 8 to 11.5 feet. The butt end of the pole is typically placed in the same position in an open drum for all riders although the rider may request permission from the judge to adjust the placement of the drum. Failing to request permission will result in a disqualification.

At the Introductory level the horse and rider pair may approach the drum at a walk or a trot. At the Novice level the drum can be approached at the trot or canter and at the Intermediate level and above the drum must be approached at the canter. The judge will take into consideration the difficulty of the gait when scoring the obstacle. The rider may circle the drum on the approach if necessary to facilitate removing the pole although doing so may lower the marks for the obstacle as it reduces the difficulty. The horse should approach the obstacle in a calm, smooth manner without any indication of stress or reaction to the garrocha pole.

The Removal of a Pole from a Drum is the first in a sequence of three obstacles that include Skewering a Ring with a Pole and Placing a Pole in a Drum although Skewering a Ring with a Pole is not required. When these three obstacles are ridden in a series

they are scored as one obstacle. The rider may be expected to perform other obstacles using the pole either before skewering the ring or before placing the pole in the drum. In the first instance the Removal of a Pole from a Drum is scored separately and the Skewering a Ring with a Pole and Placing a Pole in a Drum would be considered one obstacle. In the second instance the Removal of a Pole from a Drum would be scored with Skewering a Ring and Placing a Pole in a Drum would be scored separately. Go to

<http://www.weiausa.com/#!/rulesandshows/c6gz> for more details.

Skewering a Ring with a Pole

This obstacle is placed between Removal of a Pole from a Drum and Placing a Pole in a Drum however, as explained above, other obstacles may be ridden in between. Traditionally, metal rings, with an inside diameter of six inches, are mounted on a base in the shape of a bull. There can be one to three supports and rings placed at heights varying between 12 and 60 inches. The ring is skewered with the pointed end of the garrocha pole. This rider should maintain the same gait as Removal of a Pole from a Drum.

A rider who skewers the ring will receive a slightly higher mark than one who does not but more importantly is the fluidity and confidence with which the horse and rider pair approach the obstacle.

Placing a Pole in a Drum

The drum for this obstacle should be similar in nature to Removal of a Pole

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Spotlight on: Jo Bottorff



Jo and Uno

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

I moved from Indiana to Colorado seven years ago to be near my daughters, and grandkids, Cooper and Gemma. In Indiana I retired as a nutrition educator and began my 2nd career in Colorado with the American Cancer Society, as a Screening Systems Specialist. As a sixteen-year breast cancer survivor and recent uterine cancer survivor, I am passionate about educating people about the importance of cancer screenings and early detection. My cancers were found through routine cancer screenings, which is why I am alive today!

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

As a child growing up, I asked for a horse from Santa every Christmas but I never got one, imagine that!! My Dad would take me to a pony farm where I would ride around and around for one dollar an hour. I loved those ornery ponies even though they would try to

bolt back to the barn! When my daughter started getting interested in horses, I was so excited and supported her as she competed in 4-H and the Indiana Paint Horse circuit. When she left for college, I decided it was time for me to buy my own horse, which I did, and I started taking riding lessons. Oh it was much harder to learn to ride at age 45, but it was a dream come true, and I started to compete in the Indiana Paint Horse Circuit. Then my life came to a screeching halt on my 49th birthday. Instead of celebrating my birthday, I was sitting in my surgeon's office, discussing my options to remove my breast cancer. After a bilateral mastectomy with reconstruction, I was cancer free. During my cancer journey, I re-evaluated the priorities in my life, and decided to sell my show horse and get a trail horse. So the next chapter in my horse life was with Buddy, a very special bay Quarter horse, who took care of me as I spent the next 9 years camping and riding the trails in Indiana with a group of friends. In the fall I would ride Buddy, decorated with pink ribbons in his mane and tail, all around the campground, to ask for donations for breast cancer research. One weekend I counted the money, which included a huge pile of one dollar bills, and I was pleasantly surprised to find out that I had collected \$1000! Buddy was such a good sport every year as he assisted me in raising donations to help find a cure for this disease.

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

When Nuno Matos came to Plane View Farms for a WE clinic, Lauren Gueswel and I participated, and that was my first introduction to WE. I was drawn to WE because it looked challenging, fun, and validated the partnership between the rider and horse. Another reason why I love WE is because I really enjoy being around such an enthusiastic, friendly, group of people! That year I attended some WE Play Days and started taking Dressage lessons. The following spring I tore my groin muscle while riding and had to take time off. When I started riding again, I had some trouble riding Uno and felt that he was too young of a horse for my riding abilities. I vacillated back and forth as to whether to sell Uno or keep him. I knew he was a "once in a life time horse" and would excel in the arena, but I was not confident of my riding abilities and felt he needed a more experienced rider to take him to a high level of performance. Then I found out that I had uterine cancer and had to have a hysterectomy, so I was off from riding for 3 months.

During that time of reflection, I decided to keep Uno and Lauren continued to train him. We decided to take him to the CO Horse Expo to participate in the WE clinics and this was a new experience for Uno since he had only been to one Dressage show. Lauren rode him and I audited the clinic and I learned so much, taking copious notes. That weekend, all of the WE folks were so supportive and helped Lauren and me. I knew then that I wanted to continue with this horse discipline and learn more. With Lauren's

guidance, I have started to ride Uno again, after 6 long months, and my future plans are to ride him in WE clinics and eventually participate in WE shows. Lauren will be riding him in WE clinics and shows this summer and also take him to some Dressage shows, riding him in both Western and Traditional Dressage classes.

Tell us about your horse.

My horse, Uno, is a seven- year- old buckskin Quarter horse with reining bloodlines. I found him through the Dream Horse website and I flew to Montana to see him. Of course once I saw him I knew he had to be mine and I have had him 2 years. Once he arrived at Plane View Farms (PVF), Lauren Gueswel, my trainer, rode him and realized that because of his athleticism, he could do about any riding discipline. So he has done WE, Reining, Traditional Dressage, Western Dressage, and trails. He has a huge heart and gives it his all when learning something new. Also, he is a very handsome fellow!



Tarrin Warren Bio



Tarrin Warren is the owner of TNT Quarter Horses, LLC. She lives in Central Texas with her husband, two boys and a collection of creatures. They breed, train and show their Quarter Horses. Tarrin also trains and competes on outside horses. In addition to breeding, training and competing, Tarrin enjoys giving lessons and clinics to help others reach their goals with their horses. Tarrin has been judging, teaching and training for over 20 years. She has competed and trained horses for multiple disciplines including racing, barrels, halter, showmanship, jumping, dressage, polocrosse, team penning, sorting, trail, pleasure, hunt seat, poles, campdrafting and more.

For the last several years Tarrin's focus has been on Working Equitation. Tarrin has earned multiple Championships, reserve Championships, top five and ten finishes at the National, Regional and Local level on horses she has raised and trained, or trained and competed on for clients. Her students and horses she has trained have also earned Championships and top five and ten finishes at National, Regional and Local levels. She has trained and coached the Haras Cup Youth Champion two years in a row. Tarrin and her students and horses she has trained have earned more than 20k in cash and prizes.

Tarrin was the coach and trainer for the following horse and rider combinations: 2015 Haras Cup Reserve Novice Champion, the 2014/2015 Junior Champion, the 2014 3rd place Youth and 2015

Youth Champion. She, herself, has earned multiple Championships through Intermediate Level in Working Equitation.

Tarrin's background in as an instructor in Working Equitation includes training with Nuno Matos, Portugal's 2006 Working Equitation Reserve Champion, and Carlos Carneiro, a world renown trainer and instructor from Portugal.

Tarrin is a carded judge with WEIAUSA, USFWE and WE United. She took a course from WAVE judge trainer Claudia Elsner Matos and has had the privilege of shadow judging with WAVE President Joao Ralao Duarte in Las Vegas for two years. She has judged WE competitions all over the USA.



Tarrin Warren

HCWE Show July 16st

Cost \$125 Member/\$150 Non-Member

HCWE Clinic May 17th

Cost \$150 Member/\$175 Non-Member



Learning to Work the Garrocha

Perhaps more than any other obstacle, the garrocha epitomizes the sport of Working Equitation. But perhaps more than any other obstacle, using the garrocha can be intimidating for both horse and rider. While not heavy, the length of the pole can make it feel unwieldy and requires considerable practice to carry comfortably while maneuvering your horse with the reins in one hand. Care must also be taken to avoid hitting your horse with the pole.

Most riders can benefit a great deal from spending some time handling the pole unmounted. Learning to lift the pole straight up, tuck it under their free arm (typically the right arm), move it away from the body as if to skewer the ring and place the pole butt end down are skills the rider can practice on the ground.



Once the rider becomes comfortable with the garrocha pole it can be introduced to the horse. Although some horses show little reaction to the pole, others may react very strongly. There are several methods of introducing a horse to the pole; some may benefit from seeing their rider handle it on the ground while others do better if they walk along side another horse and

rider carrying the pole. Most horses become comfortable with the garrocha given enough time and patience.

Eventually it will be beneficial to train your horse to get used to being touched by the pole. In the event that the pole is dropped or bounces out of the barrel, the rider must dismount, remount, and continue the obstacle with the pole. Riders frequently lean the pole against their horse while they remount so it is helpful to train your horse to stand quietly.



Another challenging aspect of riding with the garrocha is that your horse must be ridden with the reins in one hand. This may be particularly challenging for English riders accustomed to riding in a snaffle bit with two hands. If the drums and the skewer are placed in a straight line, riding with one hand may not be too hard, but if the rider has to maneuver additional obstacles in between it can present some difficulty. It quickly becomes apparent who uses their reins to "steer" their horse and who has trained their horse to work off of their seat and legs.

This is the obstacle that, perhaps more than any other, highlights the importance of dressage training. We will discuss dressage in more detail in our next newsletter.

UpComing Events

HCWE Summer Show

Judge: Tarrin Warren
Date: July 16th. 2016
Location: Circle Star Arena
Cost: \$125/ Member
\$150/Non-Member

HCWE Tarrin Warren Clinic

Date: July 17th, 2016
Location: Circle Star Arena
Cost: \$150/Members
\$175/Non-Members
Auditing: \$50/Non-Members
Members Audit for Free

RMIHC Show

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

HCWE Fall Show

Date: Sept 24th & 25th, 2016
Location: Circle Star Arena
Cost: \$125/Members
\$150/Non-Members

HCWE Members Only Cattle Working Clinics

June 18th
\$60 per half day

Application available on our website:
www.highcountryworkingequitation.com

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

[Home](#)

UPCOMING WE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cattle Working Clinics

July 2, 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 Customized Lessons

\$50 for 1 rider up to 90 minutes
\$45 ea for 2 riders up to 90 mins
\$40 each for 3 – 4 riders up to 2 hr
@ Silver Whip Acres

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 Practice & Play Days

March 19, April 9, May 7, June 4
\$45 per Horse/Rider
1 – 4 pm
@ Silver Whip Acres

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

Letter from the Board continued

The rider who lost the Championship pointed out that there was no incentive in that situation to ride the EOH phase, since even if she won, she had already lost the Championship. This potential situation can occur in all levels of WE.

This is known as the Dressage Bias and comes from the original system used in Portugal when Working Equitation was first being developed as a discipline. At the higher levels and in larger classes, this bias does not have such a significant impact on the class Championships, but in the classes being offered in the US, it can. The national organizations have followed the World Association of Working Equitation lead in this by keeping the US rules as close to the WAVE rules as possible. However, the US national organizations have five class levels and AA and Open divisions, to foster a more competitive environment, which means we need a new, more equitable way to break a tie for Champion.

The board of HCWE has discussed this at length, talked to individuals involved in the national organizations, received feedback from João Ralão, President of WAVE, and have concluded a better way to determine a tie-breaker. **For all of the HCWE shows this year, we will use the average of the Dressage score and the EOH score to determine the tie-breaker for the overall Class Championship.** We believe this method of determining a winner in the case of a tie embraces the idea of all phases being equally important and will resolve the Dressage bias. We hope all of our competitors understand that this has been decided to be in the best interest of our riders and to provide an equitable and competitive experience.

The Board of HCWE

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Spotlight on the Garrocha continued

from a Drum: open topped, well-balanced, and lightly weighted. The rider should approach the drum in the same gait and cadence as for the preceding two obstacles and deposit the butt end of the pole in the drum. As with Removal of the Pole the rider may circle the barrel before depositing the pole, however doing so lowers the degree of difficulty and may reduce the rider's score.

During the execution of the obstacle(s) the judge is looking for a steady cadence, relaxation of the rider and a calm approach to all parts of the obstacle by the horse. At the Introductory level a higher score will be given to a rider who executes the obstacle at the trot rather than the walk. At the Novice level a higher score will be given to a rider who execute(s) the obstacle at the canter rather than the trot. At the Intermediate Level and above the obstacle(s) must be executed at the canter.

If, at any time during the execution of an obstacle or obstacles with the garrocha pole the rider drops the pole, the rider must dismount and remount with the pole. If the pole bounces or falls out of the drum the rider must also dismount and remount with the pole. **Failure to do so will result in disqualification.** Exception: Introductory level riders should not dismount. Someone from the ground crew should hand them the pole. If the drum falls over but the pole remains in the drum the rider does not need to dismount however, all of these errors will result in significantly lower scores. Placing the pole tip end down will also lower the rider's score.

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