

# HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

[WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYWORKINGEQUITATION.COM](http://WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYWORKINGEQUITATION.COM)

## Welcome Friends and Fans of Working Equitation!



## Welcome Letter from the Board of Directors

We're looking forward to 2016!!

For those of you who were members of HCWE last year, we THANK YOU!!! We thank you for your participation, enthusiasm and support in our inaugural year as High Country Working Equitation. HCWE had a successful year hosting play days, practice days, clinics and our first show because of YOU!! Again, thank you so much for being members.

HCWE has a number of exciting new activities and programs in store for you in 2016. One of our guiding goals is to offer clinics and show opportunities in the new discipline of Working Equitation. Working Equitation is fun for both horse and rider when presented properly and in a confidence-building atmosphere.

Although the sport is new and there are few "top of the game" clinicians in the US, HCWE will host clinics/shows with at least two: Tarrin Warren and Rebecca Algar. Both of these clinicians have competed in Working Equitation at the largest US shows, have trained under top international riders and have undergone judges training for Working Equitation. These attributes are important for our riders.

... continued on Page 9

## What's Inside

### HCWE Kick Off

HCWE Kick Off Party at Circle Star Arena  
pg 2

### WEIAUSA

Information and Updates from Working  
Equitation International Association USA.  
pg 3

### Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

Information on the Rocky Mountain Horse  
Expo 2016 and the Tarrin Warren Clinic and  
Show  
pg 3

### Tarrin Warren Bio

Come meet Tarrin Warren – Clinician, Trainer  
and Judge  
pg 4

### HCWE Cattle Clinic

Information on HCWE Members Only Cattle  
Clinics at Circle Star Arena  
pg 5

### Rider Spotlight

Meet Stacey Ruel, one of High Country  
Working Equitation's members  
pg 6

### Obstacle Overview: The Gate

An overview of an obstacle from the Ease  
of Handling Test  
pg 7

### Upcoming Events

pg 8

## High Country Working Equitation Kick's Off the New Year



High Country Working Equitation would like to thank Kitty and Gary McLaughlin for allowing us to use Circle Star Arena to host our Working Equitation Party. Despite the brisk weather a group of Working Equitation enthusiasts spent several hours together meeting like-minded equestrians. Riders new to Working Equitation had the opportunity to walk an obstacle course with more experienced riders and instructors, who shared valuable insight learned from last year's clinics and shows. Several HCWE instructors were on hand to answer questions, clarify rules and demonstrate the obstacles.

There was a slideshow, created by Kitty, that highlighted various horse and rider teams, door prizes were awarded to various attendees, and there was a lot of hot food to take off a bit of the chill.

We would like to thank all of our new and renewing members. It is because of you that High Country Working Equitation continues to be an active and successful club. We are excited to welcome back last year's members and looking forward to providing our new members with plenty of opportunities to see what this sport is all about.

We will keep you up-to-date with our newsletter, on Facebook and on our website:

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

### HCWE needs volunteers for the following positions at EXPO:

Back up Scribe for the show (3/10)

Ring Steward for the show (3/10)

Test Callers for Intro, Novice and Intermediate dressage tests for the show (3/10)

Scorer – for the show - needs to familiarize themselves with the program (3/10)

Runners for the show (3/10)

Volunteers to help at the HCWE Booth during Expo (3/11 – 3/13)



**High Country Working  
Equitation has become a  
club affiliate with the United  
States Federation of  
Working Equitation**

## Thank You to Working Equitation International Association USA

High Country Working Equitation would like to thank WEIAUSA for the funds they contributed to expand High Country Working Equitation's booth at the Rocky Mountain Expo. The extra space will certainly expand our advertising ability and should draw more people to this exciting sport.

High Country Working Equitation would also like to thank WEIAUSA for the funds they contributed to our celebrate-last-year-kick-off-this-year party on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Our food is on them!!

On January 15, 2016, WEIAUSA released the approved amendments to the WEIAUSA rules.

Briefly, the structure of the shows has been changed to B-Rated (think schooling show), A-Rated and Championship shows. There have been some changes to the structure of the levels: Children, Junior, Introductory, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Masters.

Riders from Introductory through Advanced can compete in either the Adult Amateur or Open Divisions.

Introductory Dressage test does not include canter and riders can compete in this level for longer than one year.

The summary of changes can be found on their website at <http://www.weiausa.com/#!rulesandshows/c6gz>.



***Tarrin Warren Clinic  
March 9<sup>th</sup> (Full)***

***Working Equitation Show  
March 10<sup>th</sup>***

***Ride with the Experts  
March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>***

***National Western Complex  
4655 Humbolt Street,  
Denver, CO 80216***

## Rocky Mountain Horse Expo 2016

In 2015, Working Equitation made its debut at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. It was the first year for Working Equitation to be demonstrated via clinics and the first time there was a booth with information and obstacles. Under the Ride with an Expert program, TJ Sommerfield taught twice a day clinics, covering a multitude of different obstacles, and highlighted the difference between training for an obstacle and riding one in a show. In the evening, the beautiful Dance of the Garroucha with Chris Stanko, Allison Mazurkiewicz, and TJ Sommerfield spotlighted the elegance and beauty of the Spanish horse during their performance at The Mane Event. This was also the point where HCWE formed as a club and began accepting members. Overall, for HCWE and Working Equitation, the Expo was a huge success.

This year is going to be even better. Tarrin Warrin is holding a clinic on Wednesday (3/9), and there will be a show on Thursday (3/10). These are both taking place prior to the official start of the Expo. Space is limited in the clinic, so sign up early if you are interested. The show will offer Intro, Novice and Intermediate classes in both the Amateur and Open categories.

Tarrin will top off the week with her Ride With the Experts classes twice daily

... continued on Page 9

# 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 have earned more than 10k in cash and prizes. In addition, horses she trained have earned over 10k in cash and prizes. In September 2014, Tarrin earned her judging certificate with WEIAUSA taking a course from WAVE judge trainer Claudia Elsner Matos. She has had the privilege of shadow judging with WAVE President Joao Ralao Duarte in Las Vegas for two years. In 2015 Tarrin spent a week training with Nuno Matos, Portugal's 2006 Working Equitation Reserve Champion.

Tarrin is available for lessons, training and clinics. You can contact her at [tntfarmstqrhorses@yahoo.com](mailto:tntfarmstqrhorses@yahoo.com). Visit her FB page, TNT Quarter Horses, LLC.

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

## Scheduled Dates in 2016

### Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

Clinic: March 9<sup>th</sup>  
Show: March 10<sup>th</sup>

Ride with the Expert:  
March 11th – 13th

### High Country Working Equitation

Tarrin is scheduled to be at Circle Star Arena for a clinic/show on

July 15th – 17<sup>th</sup>

Details in a future newsletter



## Cattle Working Clinics for HCWE Members



The sport of Working Equitation was originally intended to demonstrate the horsemanship skills and the experience of ranching, European style. We bring this to the attention of our club members, because thus far, in the US, the subject of cattle work has largely been ignored. Yet, on the international level, the cattle trials count for one fourth of a team's total score! While High Country Working Equitation is a local club, our sights are set much higher. If the US does aspire to have International Level riders, competing on the world stage, our riders will need to understand horsemanship and cowmanship, and how they are interrelated.

We are extremely fortunate to have a club with access to cattle at Circle Star Arena. We want our members and their horses to become familiar with working cattle so that sometime in the future a rider from Colorado might be representing the club, state and nation in an international competition! Beyond that, cattle handling is really fun!

HCWE is offering a series of clinics this year that will give our members and their horses an opportunity to be introduced to cattle in a safe, quiet, confidence-building and fun environment at a very affordable price! Typically cattle working clinics cost \$125 to \$150 per rider. Our riders are being given the opportunity to get an introduction to cattle for only \$60.

Using a mentoring method of introduction we have had nearly 100% success with horses becoming calm and confident when introduced to cattle. That doesn't always happen on the first day, but it nearly always does with time. When mentoring, Keith Jacobson will ride along side of an inexperienced rider on the initial exposure to the cattle on his calm and confident horse. With his horse actually moving the cattle the inexperienced horse will begin to gain confidence. The work will be primarily herd work, in a larger arena. This will allow all the clinic participants to be involved nearly all the time. Horses and riders with more experience and greater confidence will be given tasks to perform that will develop the riders' skills at reading the cattle and directing them as desired.

When horses are confident working cattle it becomes a great joy for them. Horses have improved self-esteem,

. . . . continued on Page 10

## Spotlight on: Stacey Ruel



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

I saw my first Working Equitation competition when I was living and working in the United Kingdom. One year, I was also fortunate to be able to attend the Golega Horse Fair in Portugal where I was able to see the top Portuguese riders compete in Working Equitation. However, Working Equitation training opportunities and competitions were really not that accessible in the part of England where I was living so my focus remained on dressage and showing. It wasn't until I relocated to Colorado that I was able to actually give it a try. I think what I really like about Working Equitation is that it gives purpose to dressage work, it means that the horse and rider have to not only be able to execute a nice 20 meter circle in a well groomed dressage arena, but they also have to be able to apply that work to obstacles. It is not enough for a horse and rider combo to be dressage superstars just as it is not enough for a horse and rider combo to just be able to fly over obstacles at top speed. The horse has to show discipline and precision in the dressage and ease of handling phases but have a little bit of gymkhana in him to complete the speed phase. It is a really interesting sport because as a team, the horse and rider have to be good all-around in order to successfully complete all three (or four) phases and do well.

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

I didn't grow up on a ranch or a farm or a in a horsey family but I grew up wanting to be a jockey. I started galloping racehorses when I was fourteen years old. I think I was licensed for every job on the backside of the track before I finally earned my exercise rider's license. I was a groom, hot walker and pony girl. It's a long story, but I also groomed for a trainer in Texas, galloped racehorses in Germany and kind of by accident landed a job with the number one steeplechase trainer in France as a stable lass.

In the end, I earned my degree and along with it a commission in the Air Force, which opened up opportunities to travel around the world. I was lucky enough to always find horses to ride and eventually to have horses of my own. Throughout my life, I have had opportunities to ride and train with horsemen from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, which led me to all kinds of adventures.

. . . . continued on Page 11

# Obstacle Overview: The Gate



One of the goals of Working Equitation is to test the ability of horse and rider teams to perform obstacles, in a competitive situation, that they might encounter in the field. The various obstacles presented during a Working Equitation competition provide a way to test the rider's skills, and the agility, obedience, training and courage of the horse.

Gates are an obstacle frequently encountered by riders in the field or on the trail. During a Working Equitation competition the rider is expected to approach the gate, open it, ride through and close it without dismounting. Following is a description of how the gate should be constructed for competition, how to execute the obstacle and judging considerations. More details are available in the WEIAUSA Rule Book ([www.weiausa.com/#!/rulesandshows/c6qz](http://www.weiausa.com/#!/rulesandshows/c6qz)). Other Working Equitation organizations have slightly different rules. Two of the most common can be found at United States Working Equitation Association ([www.usawea.com/pate-1849755](http://www.usawea.com/pate-1849755)) or World Association for Working Equitation ([www.wawe-official.com](http://www.wawe-official.com)) or the USEF rules (<https://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2016/04-AL.pdf> )

## The Gate

Preferably, the gate should provide a visual barrier when approached by the horse and rider team. When possible, it should be solidly constructed and swing on hinges from gate posts no less than 6 ½ feet apart. The top of the gate must be at least 4'3" above the

ground. The gate can swing either to the right or left depending on the layout of the rest of the course but it must close with a latch.

At B-rated competitions, when a constructed gate is unavailable, a rope with a loop on the opening end of the gate may be used instead.

This obstacle presents a number of challenges for both the horse and rider. The team is expected to approach perpendicular to the center of the gate and transition to the walk several feet in front of the gate. They should then move laterally and stand parallel to the gate before opening it.

With the horse standing quietly at a square halt, the rider lifts the gate latch or rope loop; the team then walks through the gate posts and opens the gate. If necessary the team may back up in order to open the gate. Once through the gate, the team should be positioned parallel to the gate. The horse should stand quietly, at a square halt while the rider closes the latch or replaces the loop on the pole. If necessary, the team may back up in order to come into position to close the gate.

As long as control of the gate is maintained, the rider may release their hold momentarily on the solid gate in order to change their position. The rider must not let go of a rope gate until the loop is replaced on the post.

The horse is judged on its confidence in approaching and negotiating the obstacle. Inattention or disobedience will result in a lower score. The movements of the horse and rider should be fluid and confident and the rider must maintain control of the gate throughout the exercise.



## Up Coming Events

---

### High Country Working Equitation

Practice Days at  
Circle Star Arena on February 6<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
Start at 10:30 am  
\$15 haul in fee  
Email Chris to RSVP



### Precise Flatwork and WE Ease of Handling Obstacles Clinics

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
Fees are \$60 per day – haul in fee included  
Send payment to Kitty McLaughlin to hold your spot

February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>

February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>

Clinic starts at 10:30 am

Clinic starts at 10:30 am

Introductory level flatwork in the morning  
Introduction to the Obstacles in the afternoon  
Lunch is provided – bring chair and drink

Novice level flatwork in the morning  
Perfecting the Obstacles in the afternoon  
Lunch is provided – bring chair and drink

### Cattle Working Clinics

At Circle Star Arena  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Fees are \$60 per half day – haul in fee included  
Send payment and application to HCWE  
Application available on our website:  
[www.highcountryworkingequitation.com](http://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com)

### Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

Tarrin Warren  
Clinic: March 9<sup>th</sup> (Clinic is Full)  
Show: March 10<sup>th</sup> (Show still has spots open)  
Ride with the Expert: March 11th – 13th

### Working Equitation Clinic

At Evenstar Farms  
23193 CR 15/21, Elbert Colorado  
Offered by Allison Mazurkiewicz of  
Tall Grass Horsemanship

Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am – 5 pm  
\$65 per Adult rider  
\$45 per Junior rider  
\$10 to Audit

... continued (Welcome Letter)

HCWE has chosen to bring in clinicians who are training, competing and judging within the discipline of Working Equitation to provide the insight and guidance for our members who are interested in competing in WE. Without input from experienced competition riders and accredited judges it would be very difficult for our members to fully understand what is being looked for and evaluated in the show ring. One of HCWE's goals is for Colorado riders to be among the top US competitors. Quality clinicians are a step in this direction.

However, HCWE understands that competing and showing is not for everyone. That is why one of HCWE's goals is to provide training, recreation and social outings for our members. With that in mind, HCWE will be offering introductory and advancing clinics for riders of all levels who may be interested in the discipline. WE is a great training opportunity for any horse, plus a great social event for the riders as well. The local trainers hosting these events have been through the "Train the Trainers" programs for Working Equitation and have years of training experience in other disciplines. HCWE is committed to providing opportunities for all levels of rider from the serious competitor to the newest convert to WE.

HCWE is also committed to providing the best clinicians and training opportunities available. Part of the costs involved in putting on a clinic, training day or show includes facility and insurance fees, travel costs, local transportation, lodging and meals for our clinician. HCWE strives to find a balance between the cost of an event and the number of people riding in the event. Obviously, the more people who ride, the lower the cost, however, the quality and quantity of one-on-one time with the trainer are compromised. One of our goals is to offer many different levels of training and activities at a reasonable cost without compromising the quality.

There are rewards for membership and participation in HCWE. The plan for 2016 includes free events, where the club will pay facility fees and other expenses. We hope all of our members get involved in our activities, and help us grow a solid, rewarding organization through participation.

Here's to a great 2016!!!

continued (Rocky Mountain Expo)

during the Expo. This is a great opportunity to audit a class if you are unable to ride.

The Working Equitation package, with five nights, the clinic (full), show, and Ride with the Experts, two stalls, parking and entry into the Expo and The Mane Event is a great deal. It includes everything you need to have a great time at the Expo with your horse and the price for the five days is \$350. This offer can't be beat even for the show and RWTE!!

The entry forms for the Expo are on the website for the Colorado Horse Council, <https://www.coloradohorsecouncil.com/> under the horse expo tab. Select Exhibitor Forms and Info. Under the Individual Event Entry Forms is the Working Equitation – Tarrin Warren – Entry Form 2016.

Once registered, a Rider can add additional Ride with the Experts clinicians by completing the RWTE Participation Contract 2016 (not yet available) noting at the top their previous registration under the WE package deal.



. . . . continued (Cattle Clinics)

and improved carriage and impulsion when working with cattle. All breeds seem to enjoy cattle work when properly introduced.

Because HCWE plans to offer a variation of the Working Equitation Cattle Trial at our shows this year, we feel these low cost clinics are a great way for our members to get an introduction to cattle and have a great deal of fun too!

HCWE will be offering three dates this year **for our members** to come and get an initial introduction to cattle handling, or, if you already have a confident horse and understand cattle work, to improve your skills on cattle. Each date will offer twelve riders the opportunity to participate. There will be six riders in a morning session and six riders in an afternoon session. This will keep each session very small in number so every horse and rider will have an opportunity to work with the cattle several times. The introduction will be done slowly, in order to develop your horse's confidence working with the cattle. **This will not be high speed cattle chasing.** Safety is our top priority for riders, horses and cattle. The goal is to develop quality horsemanship in every respect.

The goal is for each club member to have an opportunity to participate in our Cattle Working Clinics, so the reservation system will be based on first time riders getting spots first. Then, if there is an opening, a rider that has already participated can return and help fill the following clinic to a maximum of six riders. We encourage you to make your reservation early to secure your riding spot.

If you are a new or renewing member, your 2016 application form, Waiver and Consent form and annual dues must either be on file with the club, or accompany your Cattle Clinic reservation form. You may apply for more than one session with the understanding that another rider, who has not participated, will have priority over a rider who has already participated. Your initial payment will be deposited upon receipt. Your additional session checks will not be deposited until you are a confirmed rider, about ten days prior to those clinics.

### Clinic dates:

- April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>

The clinics are held at Circle Star Arena, 16191 County Road 17, Platteville, CO 80651, located a few miles Northeast of I25 & Hwy 66. If you need directions or need to talk to Keith Jacobson about our Cattle Clinics please email [KeithJacobson335@yahoo.com](mailto:KeithJacobson335@yahoo.com) or call 970-391-1838.

Circle Star is a working cattle ranch; **NO OUTSIDE DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE PROPERTY!**

### Structure of the Clinics:

#### Morning Clinics –

- 8:00 riders arrive at Circle Star Arena
- 8:30 tacked and warming up in the arena
- 9:00 clinic Starts
- 11:30 clinic concludes
- 12:15 all morning trailers should be out of the parking area.

#### Afternoon Clinics –

- 12:45 riders arrive at Circle Star Arena
- 1:15 tacked and warming up in the arena
- 1:45 clinic starts
- 4:15 clinic concludes

The number of clinic openings is limited so please sign up soon to reserve your spot!

For more information and the application form please visit <http://www.highcountryworkingequitation.com>



. . . . continued (Stacey Ruel)

Along the way I have done a little bit of everything; I have competed in dressage, showing, and western riding in both Australia and the UK; volunteered at a few therapeutic riding facilities; been a backstepper in a few carriage driving trials; groomed for a British event rider, and worked with wild brumbies in Australia. My most recent adventure was spending time up in Wyoming this past May with my cowboy friend learning how he breaks in horses and mules for packing packing up into the mountains.

### **What are your goals with Working Equitation?**

Mostly to have fun and develop my horse to his full potential.

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

I had a Shetland pony called Queenie when I was seven years old. I won my first ribbon on her at a local show. It was a Walk-Trot class and we rode western. We placed fourth.

### **Tell us about your horse.**

When I moved to Colorado I had told my husband that I was going to take a break from horses. Three weeks after I arrived in Denver I found myself at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo and that's where I found Amante; a little bay Andalusian. I walked into the stable area at the National Western Complex, saw the ad for him and tracked down the owner. Initially, I couldn't even ride him to try him out as I was recovering from knee surgery. I arranged to lease him first and had intended to go out looking at other horses just to see what was out there, but I never did. I haven't looked at another horse and I've had him for a little over two years now.

### **Tell us something about yourself most people might not know.**

I once arranged to have a western saddle shipped to the Commander of the Polish Army.



Stacey riding Queenie

## **TOP OF THE ROCKIES EDUCATIONAL CLINIC**

### **“FROM THE JUDGE’S PERSPECTIVE”**

**At The Ranch Events Complex  
Ranch Way Feeds Indoor Arena**

**February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 4 PM**

**Clinic is open to all youth participants  
(4-H, FFA, RMQHA, or IEA all are welcome)**

**Clinic will be instructed with demonstration  
horses provided, registrants to come on foot.**

**For Questions, please contact Abby Powell  
(970)619-4003**

**BBQ Dinner provided for all participants at 6  
PM**

# Board of Directors



Keith Jacobson  
keithjacobson335@yahoo.com



Kitty McLaughlin  
garrowk@aol.com



Chris Stanko  
1chstanko@gmail.com



Stacey Ruel  
Stacey.ruel@gmail.com



Leslie Martien  
Lesliemartien34@gmail.com



Karen Burch  
crickest413@gmail.com