

HIGH COUNTRY WORKING EQUITATION

www.highcountryworkingequitation.com



April 20th Schooling Show

To kick off the 2019 show season, the first schooling show was held April 20th at Plane View Farm. It was wonderful to see so many new HCWE members participate in the show.

Kitty McLaughlin was the judge and her encouraging words of advice were much appreciated. The Dressage and Ease of Handling phases have score sheets where the judge fills in their remarks for each section.

These score sheets are learning tools for the rider, so they know where they did well and where there needs to be improvement. Thanks to Lauren Gueswel, Plane View Farm, for hosting this show, to Kitty McLaughlin for judging, to the riders who participated, and a big shout out to the volunteers who helped in so many ways!

A schooling show provides the opportunity for members to practice the different phases with their horses in a “show” environment. During a schooling show, if a rider disqualifies (DQ’s) during a phase, the judge can allow the rider to continue or correct the error. A lot of learning takes place in the show ring, for the rider and their horse.

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A Warm Welcome to Our New Competitors



Cody Harrison



Susan Jeremy



Michele Beehner



Sean Sowa

May 4th and May 5th B-Rated Shows

We had beautiful weather for the first HCWE B-rated shows, held at Plane View Farm. It was a fun weekend, with a great bunch of competitors.

Our judge came to us all the way from the great state of Texas. Doreen Atkinson was phenomenal with her keen eye, great, meaningful comments, and a smile that would light up the state of Colorado. A big thank you to Doreen for sharing her wisdom and love of this sport.

We were so lucky to have Susan Sheldon Photography on site for our Saturday show (thanks to HCWE board member Barbara Harris!). Please visit Susan's website – her wonderful photos are available for purchase. Just follow the link here to view the available photos for purchase:



<https://photos.susansheldonphotography.com/gallery/9273644>

Please feel free to reach out to Susan to see additional photos of you and your horse and let's encourage her to come back by purchasing some of these lovely photos. In addition to having some beautiful pics, having these photos is a great way to document your progress and development as you train for Working Equitation.

We would also like to thank our generous sponsors! This show's prize sponsors include Saddle Up <https://www.saddleupcolorado.net> and Colorado Tack <http://www.coloradotackandsupplyco.com>. Please be sure to visit both awesome tack stores and thank them for their generous continued support of HCWE.

Huge kudos go out to our wonderful volunteers. Thank you all so much for your time and energy, we couldn't do it without you!

New Faces and New Horses – Familiar Faces and New Horses



Deb Freudenberg



Sharon Vadas



Pat Paul



Kate Steffes



June 22nd and 23rd B-rated Show

Working equitation riders are an intrepid bunch. Last year's June show last year took place in 90-degree weather – this year the thermometer barely hit 50! It even looked like we were going to have our very own water obstacle until it was decided to move the EOH course indoors. The indomitable judge, Jill Barron, quickly adapted the course to the new space and it was amazing to see the teamwork of the riders and volunteers as everyone pitched in to set up the course inside which was assembled in record time. All of the smiling faces captured in the photographs tell the story.



A new water obstacle perhaps?



An intrepid group of working equitation enthusiasts. Lots of smiling faces! Thanks to all of our participants. And notice all of the cold weather gear – at the end of June.



A Warm Welcome to Our New Show Participants



Sabina Gilbert



Erin Gilbert



Jessica Poe



Debbie Webster



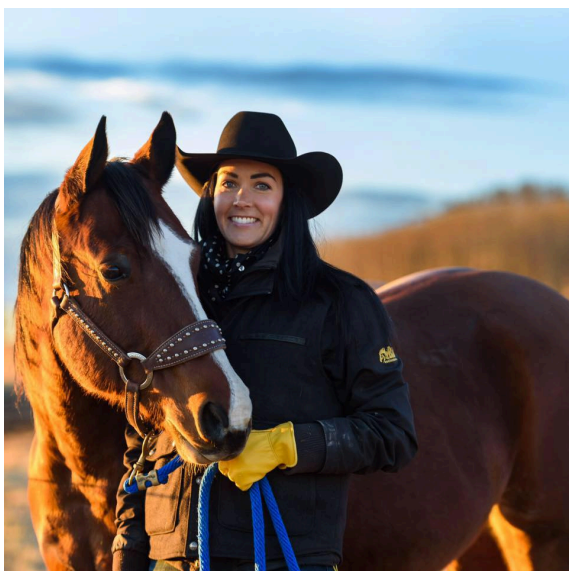
2019 Judge Bios

Doreen Atkinson – West, Texas

Doreen has been training most of her riding career in dressage and has earned her USDF bronze and silver medals. She and her horses have traveled many competitive miles winning NATRC regional and national championships; dressage AHA, IALHA, and USEF regional and national championships up to Prix St. George; High Point Texas horse in Western dressage; top three at the Western Dressage World; and the WE Masters Champion in WE United for the Confederation for Working Equitation. She earned her platinum medal in WE and has won the Haras Cup at Advanced and placed in the top three at the Master's level. Doreen is a CHA instructor, USDF L candidate, WE United Technical Delegate, and an S judge for both WE United and Confederation for Working Equitation. She has served on several club boards and is currently on the WE United LOC.



Jill Barron – The Barron Barn, Alberta, Canada



Jill has had a life-long passion for riding and education. She earned her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta before setting off to explore the world and train horses extensively in Italy and Australia. When she returned to Canada, she united her passions for horsemanship and educating riders with the Barron Barn.

Jill's expertise has won her global accolades and taken her to Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta as a clinician and as a judge. Jill's expertise is broad in dressage, obstacles, working cowhorse, barrel racing, team roping and break away roping. She has also enjoyed working on movie sets and in music videos. Some of her accolades

include: Canada's First WE "r" judge & TD (USA, WE judge for WE Canada and WE United, 2018-19 Mane Event Expo Clinician (Alberta and British Columbia), 2018 Andalusian World Cup Top 10 L5 Open).



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 in 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 has also 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.



Tarrin Warren – TNT Quarter Horses, Milano, Texas

Tarrin Warren is the owner of TNT Quarter Horses, LLC. She lives in central Texas with her husband, two boys and collection of creatures.

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 working equitation, racing, barrels, halter, showmanship, jumping, dressage, polocrosse, team penning, sorting, trail, pleasure, huntseat, poles, campdrafting, and more. Tarrin travels around 28 weekends a year teaching and judging working equitation. Tarrin's students and training horses have won multiple championships in working equitation. Tarrin currently competes through Advanced level on horses she has trained and has students competing through intermediate horses.



Tarrin currently holds and “S” judge card with the Confederation for Working Equitation and an “R” with WE United. She is a level II Working Equitation Professional with the Confederation.

The Working Equitation Handbook is Tarrin’s latest endeavor. Working with Kelli Paulson, Tarrin wrote the content for the book which has won a Whinny Award and sold hundreds of copies world wide. Tarrin is available for lessons, training, sales and clinics. She currently travels throughout the United States giving clinics and judging. You can contact her at tntfarmstqrhorses@yahoo.com. Visit her FaceBook page, TNT Quarter Horses, LLC and her website www.tntfarmstqrhorses.com.

2019 Working Equitation National Championship Show



To be eligible to compete in the National Championship Show, a horse and rider combination must have competed in at least one A-rated or one B-rated competition within the qualifying period for which the championship applies. At the qualifying competition, the combination must have competed in the level for which they are qualifying and have successfully completed all trials and scored an average minimum of 58% in the Dressage and Ease of Handling trials.

As of June 29th, the following HCWE members have qualified for the National Show:

Intro Amateur

- Stacey Ruel
- Jessica Poe

Intro Open

- Chris Stanko
- Deb Webster
- Erin Gilbert

Novice A Amateur

- Jo Bottorff

Intermediate B Amateur

- Karen Burch

Intermediate B Open

- Lauren Gueswel

Training for the Speed Phase

Overview of speed phase

You often hear people say that you shouldn't practice Working Equitation obstacles at speed because it will make your horse crazy in the Ease of Handling phase. I'm a firm believer that you need to school for your speed phase, or YOU WILL make your horse crazy. Your adrenaline gets pumping when you ride the speed phase. It just does... because it's really fun! If you school your horse correctly, plan a good course path, and ride your plan with a clear head, most horses will actually relax and thoroughly enjoy this phase of Working Equitation rather than getting "worked up".

If the rider hasn't schooled commands for speed, a very normal response from your horse can be that they may get confused, anxious, or overly excited when you ride your speed phase. As we all know, they feed off our energy and emotions. The last thing you want to do is go in, get excited, then ask them to perform in a manner with which they are unfamiliar - in other words fast.

To help our horses enjoy the speed phase, we need to be able to effectively communicate and practice what we expect in that phase. Our goal is to still have rhythm, balance, relaxation, bend, handiness, and good communication with our horse - we're just doing it faster with tidier turns. The speed phase should not be frantic and lacking rhythm. If you watch a well-ridden speed phase, you will see the horse lengthening their stride, then shortening, settling, and slowing for many of the obstacles. You will see well-planned, balanced turns and good (though shorter) approaches. You will see the horse settle and go slowly and carefully through obstacles such as the sidepass, gate, and



backing elements. Lack of practice and planning or reactive riding risks faults, DQs, and blowing your horses mind!

When is the speed phase introduced and how do I ride it initially?

The speed phase is first ridden in competition at Novice A (Level 2). So the first show that you are cantering in, you are also showing in the speed phase. I strongly recommend that you do not attempt to have the fastest time in your initial competitive rides in the speed phase. Focus on riding handier lines, continuing to ride with rhythm and balance (just like in your EOH). When you're successfully able to execute the exercises in this article, while maintaining a relaxed rhythmic horse, and you have a few speed rounds under your belt in competition ridden similarly to your EOH, then you may want to add some of what you've practiced. Otherwise, don't push it. The timeframe in which one is comfortable riding the speed phase at speed will vary from person to person and horse to horse. Use your judgment; you know your horse better than anyone else.

Training and practice exercises for riding at speed

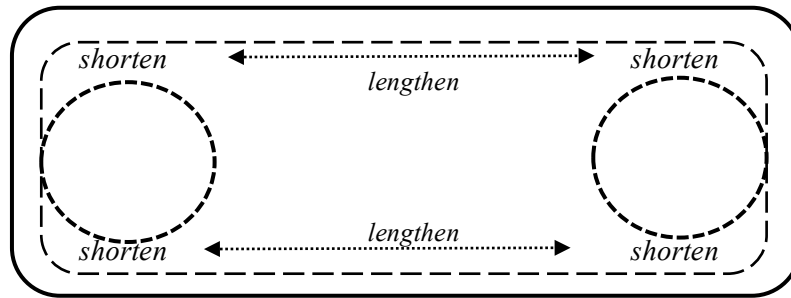
In order to maintain a relaxed, sound-minded horse in the speed phase, we need to school the lengthening and shortening of the gaits so that the horse has a cue for each and comfortably understands those cues. When training for "faster" on course, stay focused on a lengthening of the stride rather than "faster". We want to create an adjustable horse with an "accordion feel" within each gait so we can stretch that gait out or shorten it on command. This must, must, must, be practiced frequently!

As we introduce the lengthening of the trot and/or canter, no obstacles are needed. Here are some exercises that may be helpful, regardless of your level, to begin working your horse to be more adjustable within his/her gaits. One small hint: If a rider's hips and lower back are locked, the horse will resist lengthening its stride, so really feel those seat bones swing forward and back with your horse. Control it through your belly, not your back.

Exercise 1: The first exercise is very simple (and my favorite exercise!), as it can easily be added into a daily routine with little to no set-up. In a rectangular area, ask your horse to lengthen their stride step-by-step down the long side, then shorten through half-halts, 10-15 meters before you get to the corner. Ride a large circle, continuing to shorten through the circle, then lengthen down the long side again (step-by-step), repeating this at the other end. It is key not to ask for too much too soon; maintaining a relaxed rhythm is imperative. The first few passes, you may get nothing, or a slight change in your horse's length of stride. That's fine! Don't push for speed here and be patient. Your horse will give it when he trusts that it's ok. If he's used to always being worked "slow", it may take him a while to trust that you really want him to move out a bit.

We aren't looking for a quicker step, we are looking for a longer stride. Forward, straight and rhythmic with a longer stride is what we're striving for down the straight stretch. You gradually ask for more as your horse understands this concept. As your horse becomes more responsive and gains understanding of the cues of lengthening and shortening, you can change up what you're doing at the short ends within the shortened gait (i.e., ride the short side in the shorter gait without a circle then lengthen again down the long side; add a barrel and circle it; add 3 single slalom poles and ride them; add trot poles; do a walk transition over a bridge, over walk poles, or through a gate; etc.). Change up the obstacle that you put on the short side.

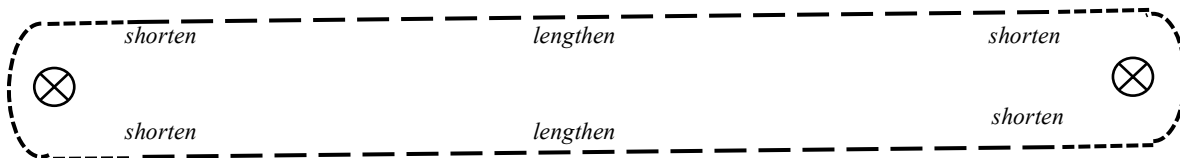




Exercise 1

Exercise 2: The second exercise (after the horse & rider are smooth and responsive to the basic expectations of Exercise 1) is to position two upright poles or barrels at opposite ends of the arena at least 30-40 meters apart (longer is fine). The rider practices riding the length of the arena between the obstacles, making their 5-7 meter turn around the barrel at their normal working gait (as they would in EOH). Keep your turns in the same direction (no changes of lead) initially. Change directions and do the same in the opposite direction. Once that is smooth, start to lengthen 4-6 strides on the straightaway. Again, don't jolt your horse into the lengthening, think about lengthening over several strides, then shortening through half-halts over several strides.

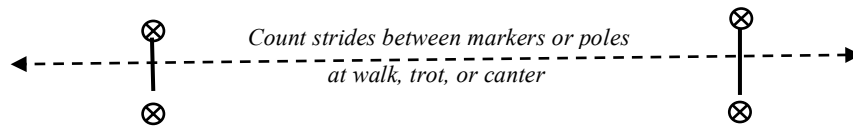
Alternate between a turn around the barrel and a full circle around the barrel. Also alternate sometimes riding the lengthened stride down the straight stretch and sometimes just a working gait. Add transitions at times to keep your horse from anticipating. Add in a diagonal with a change of rein/lead on occasion.



Exercise 2

Exercise 3: One more simple exercise used to gauge that strides are actually lengthening (not just quickening) is to mark two point on a path with cones or poles on the ground (you can even add this exercise into either of the above exercises). The distance isn't relevant, but at the canter I like to keep it at least 20 meters. Bring your horse in at his/her natural gait (walk, trot, or canter). Count the strides between markers at your horse's natural gait. Do this a few times until your count is consistent and they are at a rhythmic quality of gait. Then make it a goal to reduce the number of strides (lengthening your horse). See how few strides you can make happen in that same marked distance. Follow with shortening the stride and see how many strides you can add in that marked distance. Again, when you have your horse as short as you think you can go while staying balanced and rhythmic, repeat the exercise attempting to get a consistent number of steps with each pass. If the consistency of gait isn't there to get consistent strides, work on the quality of that shorter (or longer) gait until you are consistently nailing the same number of strides through the marked distance.





Exercise 3

Applying what you've practiced to competition.

Have a plan with your shortened handier lines, taking careful consideration of your horse's training and ability. If they are green or new to the sport, they may not be ready for handier lines. You know your horse better than anyone and know what their/your capabilities are. If there are longer lines that you feel comfortable playing with a lengthened stride, plan it into your course! But *always* plan a course that is appropriate for your horse. This sport is all about horsemanship and doing what is right by your horse - absolutely do not kick good horsemanship to the curb when planning your speed phase!

When you start to apply the adjustability that you've practiced to the speed phase in competition, school it in the warm up ring before you go in, doing exactly what you've practiced; lengthen down the long side, shorten and do an imaginary obstacle or a transition, then lengthen again. Then when you enter the ring for your speed phase, play with a little rhythmic lengthening and shortening amongst the obstacles (without riding through any obstacles, of course!). It will settle you and your horse and help you get your "game faces" on!

And most of all - have fun out there!!! The speed phase is fun, fun, fun and I hope these tips will help you and your horse to increase the strength of your partnership and your enjoyment of this fantastic phase of WE!

New Member Spotlights – Cody and Carrie Harrison

Cody's Spotlight



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

I saw it at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. I like the diversity of the sport. I like that I can show my English and Western horses in the same show.

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

Classical Dressage, Western Riding, and some jumping

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

All of the above. Having a well-rounded horse is important for his training and helps keep the horse from getting bored.

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

Riding my pony Peaches who would only canter to the gate, and gathering cattle on her that were twice her size on my grandfather's ranch.

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

I have a variety of horse breeds; QH, thoroughbred, Appendix, and Lusitanos. The one I have had the longest is my Appendix mare Razetta. We have been working on our partnership for eight years. She did not have the best start. She was bucking off her owner. She gave me a great deal on her. LOL!

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

There is a reason most people don't know! Ha, Ha!

Carrie's Spotlight



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

I saw it at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. It looked like a lot of fun. I love the obstacles.

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

Classical Dressage, Western Riding, and some jumping

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

It's fun for my horse and me. It's important to give them a variety of work and settings so they continue to enjoy work mentally. And of course to improve our abilities.

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

Riding my uncle's horse Portmore. He was a bay QH with a white sock and star. He was the BEST horse. He would do anything for me. We went swimming once. I got in big trouble for it, but it was so worth it. A memory of him I will never forget. He was sold when I was 19. I cried like someone had died. I still get choked up thinking about him.

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

We have a variety of horse breeds: QH, thoroughbred, Appendix, Lusitanos, and a pony. My heart horse is Duke. I have had him seven years. He is pretty cool guy – very affectionate. His training is pretty basic. He is currently only being worked from the ground. He has kissing spines and has some mental blocks that need to be worked through. He was pretty much crazy when I bought him, but I was in love... LOL! I have not ridden him in 3 years. Mostly just letting him be a horse while I became a mom to a little human. We will start training again soon. Super excited!

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

I have an 80 pound African Sulcata tortoise named Jack and a chameleon. I LOVE reptiles. Snakes and all.



Colorado Horse Rescue Spotlight

Our summer CHR spotlight horse is Django. Django has proved himself to be everything BUT difficult. He is sweet, sensitive, and ready for more learning! It is clear he was trained to ride in his previous home but there were some holes in his education. Django is currently going through our training program to fill in all the gaps. He is ready to find his forever person, could that person be you? Schedule an appointment to come out and see him today – www.chr.org.

HEALTH/BEHAVIORAL INFORMATION: Recommended maximum weight load (rider plus tack) = 235 pounds

AGE: ~12

BREED: Quarter Horse

GENDER: Gelding

HEIGHT: TBD

RIDER EXPERIENCE: Advanced

RIDING LIMITATIONS: None

ADOPTION FEE: \$1,500



HCWE Promotion/Marketing Booth – Spirit Heart Ranch

Spirit Heart Ranch offered the club a free booth at their May 26th Mini Equine Expo. HCWE members, Michele Beehner and Silja Knoll promoted the sport of working equitation to interested attendees. A big thank you to Spirit Heart Ranch for this marketing opportunity!



The HCWE booth at Spirit Heart Ranch



HCWE members Michele Beehner and Silja Knoll

Sponsorships/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. Please check out our Sponsorship Program – www.highcountryworkingequitation.com. Sponsorships and donations are tax deductible!

So far this year, we have the following sponsors/donators:

- Sheri Prucka – Wasatch Lusitanos
- Cameo Global
- Scott Murdock's Trailer
- Orion Networks
- Martin Baldwin
- David McNichols
- Gunbarrel Liquors
- DP's Sweet Life
- Hooked by Kati
- Barbara Harris
- Allison Mazurkiewicz
- Saddle Up
- Colorado Tack



July 27th and 28th

HCWE B-rated Show

Unfortunately, due to a very serious and ongoing outbreak of the vesicular stomatitis virus, HCWE has made the very difficult decision to cancel this much-anticipated show. Due to the length of the quarantine for horses who have been infected we will not be rescheduling in August. For those of you who have already sent in your entry form we will either return your check or apply your entry fee to a future show. For a refund please contact Chris Stanko at 1chstanko@gmail.com, or 1-970-846-6129



September 5th - 8th

Confederation Licensed Officials Seminar

Are you interested in becoming a working equitation judge or technical delegate? This four-day seminar, sponsored by High Country Working Equitation, is approved by the Confederation for Working Equitation for the licensing of working equitation judges and technical delegates.

Or maybe you are interested in deepening your knowledge of working equitation. Auditors are welcome to attend the classroom portion of the seminar.



Location: Fairfield Hotel, Longmont, CO (classroom days) and Circle Star Arena, 16191 CR 17, Platteville, CO 80651 (practical days)

Classroom days: September 5th and 6th, 9am to approximately 5pm

Practical days: September 7th and 8th. Time to be announced.

New Applicants: \$500

Currently Licensed Officials: \$300

Auditors: \$75 per day / \$150 both days

50% non-refundable deposit reserves your spot. Balance due by 8/15/2019

Participants should bring a current copy of the rulebook <https://www.confederationwe.us/rules>

For questions contact Chris Stanko at 1chstanko@gmail.com, or 1-970-846-6129

For local hotel information contact Chris Stanko at 1chstanko@gmail.com. We have a bank of rooms reserved.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1550776947285&key=GRP>

September 7th and 8th Pending Further Quarantines and VSV Outbreaks

HCWE B-rated Show – Stay Tuned!!

Here's a wonderful opportunity to get lots of feedback. Not only will Tarrin Warren be judging (see Tarrin's bio above) but you will also have the opportunity to hear from seminar participants learning to develop their eye and their skills as new judges. Please join us for a wonderful learning experience.

