

COMPLIMENTARY

Sonoma County

HORSE JOURNAL





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Sonoma County

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PARTNERS IN SO MANY WAYS

These northern California athletes and horse trainers are connected in business and in life. Their story on page 8 may change your ideas about partnerships and which ones work.

Top Row Left to Right:
Representing Ighani Sporthorses are Daniel Ighani on Coraline 6 and Susan Ighani on Liaison.

Bottom Row Left to Right:
Golden Gate Equestrian partners are Heather Monroy with Colbert and Andres Monroy jumping Colbert.

Photos Courtesy of Ighani Sporthorses and Golden Gate Equestrian

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A lifelong Sonoma County resident, **Kirstin Jorgenson, DVM** enjoys her two passions of veterinary medicine and dressage in her hometown of Healdsburg. She currently practices at Memorial Beach Veterinary Hospital, and part-time with the Mendocino County Animal Shelter. She rides her horses any chance she can get, and occasionally enters the show ring.

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Amy Stevens is a lifelong equestrienne who lives in Sebastopol. In her spare time, she teaches English at Montgomery High School, as she has for over thirty years.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! With the holidays behind us and the daylight starting to lengthen, we are easing into a new year with the promise of more normalcy in our lives. Having the big rain days back in October was not only helpful to ending fire season at what we've come to see as a critical time of year, but it also started the groundwater recharge and gave us hope for a better water year. And thank the stars that hay and grain don't have to come from overseas in shipping containers.

While many of our members have been getting back on the trails over the last several months, others are eagerly awaiting show schedules to get back into full swing. The Sonoma County Horse Council (SCHC) is instituting a new website feature that posts shows, clinics and their contacts. Show managers and clinic organizers should send the details to info@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org. We think this will serve as a valuable tool for our membership.

I would be incredibly remiss if I did not remind everyone about the Equus Awards scheduled for Saturday, April 30, at the Villa Chanticleer in Healdsburg. Besides being a fun event that honors several dedicated members of the equine community, Equus is the horse council's only major fundraiser. Our entire budget is based on what we receive in membership dues and what we raise at this biennial event. So please attend if you can and consider sending a donation if you can't. Tickets are available through the SCHC website.

We also have fabulous sponsorship opportunities. Information is available on the website by clicking on the "Equus" and "Sponsorship" tabs. If you have any questions, please contact Sahar Bartlett at vicepresident@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org. Plan to

Tell the North Bay about your horse shows and clinics.

Send us your details and the SCHC website calendar will tell all.

Send to info@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org

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put on your fancy duds and spend the evening with friends, old and new, celebrating the good life centered around horses.

As the new year ticks over, it is a reminder that we are always on the lookout for people who would be interested in serving on the SCHC Board of Directors. If you feel the urge to assist your fellow equine enthusiasts and help guide equine policy in the county, please give some thought to joining the leadership of the council. Anyone interested should reach out to me at hbeaumont@pcdinc.net.

Once again, we have a stellar issue of the *Horse Journal* for you to peruse whether online or in hand. Many thanks to our clever contributors whose collective work makes for one of the best horse magazines in the country. Bravo one and all for the great work in 2021.

And, lastly, please make sure that your dues are paid and that you are encouraging friends and business buddies to join the council and continue to grow the voice of equestrian activities in Sonoma County.

Happy Trails
Henry Beaumont



The 13th Sonoma County Horse Council

EQUUS Awards and Fundraiser

April 30, 2022
Villa Chanticleer, Healdsburg

Honoring Outstanding Members of Sonoma County's Equestrian Community

Audrey Phillips
Ted Frank
Dany Underwood
Lee & Barbara Walker
Royal Court's Backdrops

NEWS & NEWSWORTHY

Keep Northern California in the loop about your organization, nonprofit or business large or small. Send us your news at schc.pschofler@gmail.com. We'll get the word out.



Sonoma Coast Equestrian Training Center (SCEC) made a great showing this fall at the National Dressage Pony and Small Horse Championship Show West at Starr Vaughn Equestrian in Elk Grove.

From left to right: Laerke Mikkelsen with Buck (Morgan), Meghan Hill crew and support for the SCEC dressage team, Nina Koelemeijer with Sam (Quarter pony breed), Marie-Charlotte Guion-Buechley with Mimi (Connemara/Morgan), Audrey Ryan with Sweet Martine (Connemara), and Nathalie Guion-Buechley, head trainer and owner of SCEC.

GOOD FOR US

Bragging rights! The *Horse Journal* has been honored with two national awards from the American Horse Publications media awards program. Congratulations to Wendee Walker for winning second place (Fall 2020 issue) in the category "Association Publication Horse Care", and Melissa Kalember for her third place (Winter 2020 issue) in the category "News Reporting Related Feature."



SUSTAINABLE EQUINE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

As the effects of climate change become increasingly impactful each year, individuals and businesses with horse properties play a greater role in adopting principles of regenerative land management.

Where there is land there is the potential to create habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators and to filter toxins and coliform bacteria out of waterways. Further, the land can produce soil that grows better forage for grazing animals and provide a land sponge that infiltrates more rainwater, replenishes underground aquifers, and decreases runoff and erosion.

The annual Sustainable Equine Management Workshop focuses on how our backyard and commercial horse facilities take part in this type of land management. Founder and director of the award-winning environmental education program for horse owners, Horses for Clean Water, Alayne Brickle shares primarily low-cost, low-tech solutions to mud, dust, manure, fire, and overgrazed pastures and paddocks.

Kari Wester from the Sonoma Resource Conservation District

and Brooke Pippi from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will represent their organizations that provide consulting expertise and some financial assistance for projects that benefit the environment. Laurie Taul from the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Boards will offer an in-depth look at sources of contaminants in our waterways.

Depending on COVID-19, the **March 5, 2022**, Sustainable Equine Management Workshop will either be held in person or as a webinar online. Details will be posted at www.dailyacts.org and on the nonprofit Daily Acts Facebook page.

KILDARRA EQUESTRIAN CENTER IN SANTA ROSA

Sonoma County dressage trainer Jaki Hardy and her husband Joseph Klemm are the new owners of Sport-horse America, 2297 Olivet Road, Santa Rosa. The facility is renamed Kildarra Equestrian Center, and remains the residence of international dressage judge and trainer Lilo Fore, who will continue to train and host clinics at the facility.

Fore handed the reins of her facility to Hardy after wanting to devote more time to judging and clinics. She opened Sporthorse America in 1994.

"I have loved this property since I first stepped onto it 25 years ago. This opportunity is a dream come true for me," said Hardy of the facility that offers dressage training and boarding for beginners through Grand Prix.

PUTTING SYMMETRICAL SADDLES ON ASYMMETRICAL HORSES

Sixty percent of the horses in a 490-horse study had larger measurements on the left side of their withers, revealed Dr. Katrina Merkies, researcher and associate professor at the University of Guelph (UofG). The study was based on years of measurement data gathered from a saddle fitting company, which used a flexible wither tracing tool.

Pressure points from an ill-fitting saddle can lead to pain and performance issues. A symmetrical saddle used on a horse that is not symmetrical can hinder progress, explained Merkies. "It could prevent the horse from developing its muscles in a balanced way."

The subjects of the study included many breeds, from fine boned Arabs and Thoroughbreds to stocky Warmbloods and drafts, and those from several disciplines. Breed did not have an effect on wither measurements in this study. While Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods had different skeletal structures, such as longer withers than the draft breeds, it did not have an impact on the wither measurements which were based on the horse's musculature.

Laterality was also considered for its possible role in muscle development. Laterality is the preference for using one side of the

body over the other. The left hemisphere of the brain (logic and reasoning) controls the right side of body, and the right side of the brain (which processes fearful stimuli) controls the left side.

"Horses often turn to view an object they are afraid of with their left eye," said Merkies. "They often step on or off a trailer with the left front leg first." Merkies also mentioned an Australian study noting a preference for grazing with the left front leg ahead of the right.

Equine Guelph is the horse owners and caregivers center at the University of Guelph in Canada. For further information, visit www.equineguelph.ca.

NEW IDEA ABOUT THE HORSE'S ORIGIN

The following is an excerpt from a New York Times article by Sabrina Imbler, 10.20.21, entitled: "The Horse You Rode In On May Have Been Made in Southern Russia"

A comprehensive new paper tested 273 ancient horse genomes to pinpoint when and where modern horses were domesticated.

For thousands of years, the grassy plains of Europe and Asia were home to a mosaic of genetically distinct horse lineages. But a single lineage galloped ahead to overtake and replace all the other wild horses. This domesticated lineage became the horse of our modern imagination; slender legs, a muscular back, and a mane that shimmers in the wind.

For decades, scientists had tried to sleuth out when and where modern horses were first domesticated, but they had yet to find the smoking hoof they needed. Now, in a paper published in the journal *Nature*, scientists have finally solved the mystery. After collecting and sequencing 273 ancient horse genomes, a team of 162 authors concluded that modern horses were domesticated around 4,200 years ago in steppes around southern Russia, near where the Volga and Don rivers intersect.



Ludovic Orlando, a paleogeneticist and research director of the Center for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse in France and an author on the paper, has toiled over this question for a decade. In recent years, scholars investigated a Botai settlement in the Kazakh steppes that was brimming with horses' bone fragments and clay pots that were lined with what appeared to be mare's milk. This was the earliest archaeological evidence of horse domestication, and it seemed promising as the birthplace of modern horses.

But in 2018, a team of researchers including Dr. Orlando sequenced the genomes of the horse bones at Botai. To the researchers' surprise, the Botai horses did not give rise to modern

horses, but were instead the direct ancestors of the Przewalski's Horse, a stocky lineage originally thought to be the last wild horses on the planet. They revealed that these horses were not wild after all, but instead the feral descendants of domestics. So, the puzzle of the origins of modern horses remained unsolved. "Every time I was expecting something, it was wrong," Dr. Orlando said.

He said that to solve the mystery, "we decided to be exhaustive and really look everywhere."

Everywhere, in this case, meant across Eurasia. Starting in 2016, Dr. Orlando collected samples across the region from archaeological collections and new digs, essentially every ancient horse bone they could get their hands on.

To preserve the remains for the future, the researchers drilled tiny holes into the ancient horses' inner ears, teeth and other bones to retrieve tiny samples.

As the researchers gradually mapped the horse genomes across time and space, the picture became sharper. A little over a year ago, they were able to pinpoint the precise location: the Volga-Don region in what is now Russia.

With such a gargantuan data set, the researchers ended up answering additional horsey historical details. They found modern horses had two stark genetic differences from other ancient lineages—one gene linked to docility and another to a stronger backbone—which may have facilitated the animals' spread.

Domestic horses transformed human history, allowing people to travel great distances and develop new technologies of warfare. "Everyone wanted the horse," Dr. Orlando said. After taming all of this horse data, Dr. Orlando has started taking riding lessons.

NEW CENTER AT UC DAVIS

The University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine announced plans for a world class center for maintaining the health and fitness of performance and recreational horses. The Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Center will feature services from gait analysis with videography and force plate technology to advanced diagnostic tools such as the MILEPET standing equine PET scanner. Transitioning horses from diagnosis to rehabilitation will be facilitated through the availability of an equine underwater treadmill, equine vibration plate therapy, a covered Eurociser, and access to services such as regenerative and integrative medicine. For more information, visit:

vetmed.ucdavis.edu/giving/equine-performance-rehabilitation-center



PASSION, TRUST & RESPECT

KEEP BUSINESS & LIFE PARTNERS TOGETHER

By Patti Schofler

Hansel and Gretel. Simon and Garfunkel. Sears and Roebuck. Ben and Jerry. Mom and Dad.

Partnerships take on many forms, from personal to business to sports, none of which are guaranteed to succeed or fail. Married couples who team up to play doubles tennis can sometimes test the glue that keeps the pair together in daily life. Business partners might improve their business through couples' therapy. Two people so much alike on paper might find the match unworkable in real life. Two people so different from one another might find common ground.

Two couples from the North Bay have proven that mixing together jumpers and dressage professionals is not, as one might expect, like mixing oil and water. Instead, the recipe makes a business profile that benefits most horses and riders, and keeps the personal relationship in good shape. Pairs in different equestrian disciplines who run their businesses as one can put new meaning into the word teamwork.



Photo: Patti Schofler

Susan and Daniel Ighani at their Baywood Equestrian Center covered arena with their dog Gaucho and client's horse Super.

Susan (dressage) and Daniel (jumper and equitation) Ighani, and Heather (dressage) and Andres (jumper) Monroy have found formulas that suit their individual, team, personal, and business dynamics.

Headquartered at Baywood Equestrian Center in Fairfax, Ighani Sporthorses found a place for serious professional horsemanship, to feed their passion for working together, and for their six-year-old daughter to run around,

Golden Gate Equestrian is stabled at Equus Springs in Petaluma where Andres Monroy develops jumpers and their riders with serious attention to cross training in dressage with Heather Monroy.

PHILOSOPHY

Though their individual personalities are different, maybe opposite in some ways, both couples are in sync with the morals and ethics of their personal and business lives and how the horses should be treated and trained.

After the challenging move of 20 horses from Toyon Farm in Napa to Baywood in Fairfax at the start of the pandemic and updating the facility, Susan proudly pointed out that she and Daniel still like each other.

"We had the advantage of growing in the industry together," described Daniel. "We went to Germany together as an important step in our careers and that we did together. There we developed the core of how we both look at the sport and riding pretty much on the same page. Though we go and do our own thing, we are boiling with the same water."

"Maybe our way takes a little longer than the person down the road, but we're good with that," said Susan.

While Andres is the grounded, steady Eddie personality compared to high energy Heather, their core outlook on horses and life is the same. Even coming from disparate disciplines, Heather and Andres agreed that for a horse and rider team to work well together takes time. "Since we started working together," said Andres, "I have come to enjoy seeing the horses improve with their riders when there are no shortcuts."

"This is an intense business with a lot of pressure," described Heather. "Many of our horses are high octane, hot blooded, and things can get heated all around. So, you have to keep things as level as possible. We do that well. And we are careful about who stays in our community. If someone doesn't see where we're trying to go, it won't work. We don't have clients who believe that you do whatever you have to do to make the horse win."

ORGANIZATION

At Golden Gate Equestrian, all the clients train in dressage with Heather and jump with Andres in the spirit of cross training.

Often in the jumper world, the horses don't jump a day or two during the week but will participate in a group flat work lesson. Under Heather's watchful eye, however, the dressage lessons are private so that the riders can stretch their skills beyond walk, trot, canter. "We work on getting the horse in the right balance and the right feel. Then hopefully they hold on to that as they jump."



Photo Courtesy of Heather Monroy

Andres and Heather Monroy enjoy a party at the barn.

At Ighani Sporthorses the jumping-dressage mix and sharing of clients is less formalized. "A dressage horse isn't going to jump and my horses aren't going to do passage," said Daniel. "However, a dressage horse might do cavalettis, and a jumper rider is going to hear from me to ride forward and to the hand."

Susan might help a client of Daniel's with riding a turn and keeping the hind leg under to the jump. "It makes it fun for the riders and horses. Also, sometimes you hear an idea or instruction better from a person other than the one you usually ride with. There is a reason why a jumper should know how to ride a correct shoulder in. And clearly the ability to ride a line is important in jumpers, but also in dressage. I'm not going to crash into a fence, but I need that to ride a correct line of tempis."

DAY TO DAY OPERATION

Perhaps the day-to-day operations reveal the greatest differences in partner styles. Susan is a planner. Daniel goes for it. "Daniel's show season might change 10 times before the first show. I've got to map mine out for the entire year. He says, 'Let's go,' and sometimes I have to say, 'Let's half halt.' That creates a little anxiety, but two of the same wouldn't be fun."

Daniel handles the management of the facility, maintenance, supplies, employees, and the bookkeeping. Running this operation on property that they lease involves more responsibility than they had at Toyon Farm, but they enjoy the flexibility to do what they feel is best for the horses and clients. And they love being involved, especially since they live on the property.

Susan takes charge of promotion, the pony school program, and the chicken and egg business she and their daughter Luchi run. "I'm the one who takes the lead on the social part. He's behind the scenes."

It was important for Heather and Andres to have found the right place for them to work together. At one point they leased a facility in Nicasio. As lovely as it was, the expense to operate the facility and the stress of having employees was more than they wanted. "Being in a place where you are only dealing with a friend helping us with the horses is much easier," said Heather. As their business has grown since moving to Equus Springs, they recently interviewed their first employees, a process they did as a team.

"We're on the same page as to how we want people to operate and how we want them to be with us. We have a lot of similarities, but we have a lot of differences. But it works and we complement one another. This way you can help the person to be their best."

HOW OUR COUPLES MET AND MARRIED AND WENT INTO BUSINESS

SUSAN AND DANIEL IGHANI

Susan and Daniel contend that their meeting was not romantic. Some people would totally disagree.

Hailing from San Juan, Argentina, Daniel moved to Buenos Aires and later to Rancho Santa Fe, California, to ride jumpers for Guillermo Obligado. About the same time Susan had been an assistant trainer for four years at a farm one mile from Daniel's workplace. Her beginning was riding in England when her U.S. Air Force father was stationed there. She went on to ride in college at Virginia Tech and moved to California in 2005.

Despite having many mutual friends, they had not met until one night, 13 years ago, at a bar where you see a lot of people in breeches. Two years later, in 2009, they adventured together to Germany, Daniel to work as a show rider and instructor at the training and sales stable of Holger Hetzel, Susan as a rider for Olympian and former U.S. Olympic dressage team coach Klaus Balkenhol and Grand Prix trainer Arnd Erben.

The downside was that the couple were an hour and a half away from each other, a distance that grows longer in the winter. Nonetheless, they managed to see each other every weekend and concluded that if they could survive Germany, they could do anything together. They got engaged and were married in 2012 at Toyon Farm in Napa where they began their business together.

HEATHER AND ANDRES MONROY

Heather grew up in Marin County catching bareback rides until she was 18 when she took her first lesson in tack. Andres made his way to Marin from outside Bogota, Columbia, via Texas and Minnesota. Neither came from a family steeped in the horse tradition.

Andres's brother rode; Andres followed. After high school he studied English for a year and then earned a bachelor of science degree in equine industry management at the University of Minnesota. He went on to work at a jumper barn in Texas. Searching to figure out the rest of his life, he followed his brother to Marin where he secured a riding position at KMC Farm at Baywood Canyon in Fairfax. Only one problem. Heather had been cross training jumper horses with dressage. Since Andres was a jumper, Heather was moved down the ladder.

"I didn't like him and I had a chip on my shoulder about him. But then things morphed and I became in awe of his riding and what he could do and how he could turn horses around."

Eight years ago, the pair decided to put a business together, Golden Gate Equestrian, and worked out of Baywood Canyon and a private facility in Nicasio. The business was a testing ground, which after four years proved its worth, and led to marriage in 2017.



DAY TO DAY COMMUNICATION

In the beginning of their working relationship, Susan had a bit of a problem knowing when Daniel had on his trainer hat versus his business hat versus his husband hat. "For me to hear things that are constructive and for me to do better without thinking it's a personal thing, we had conversations about how we present things, whether it's about the business or our personal goals for riding. We learned early on how to turn off the business at the end of the day and be a family."

Commuting together gives Heather and Andres lots of communication time. "We talk about the business and the horses endlessly," Heather laughed. "We've gotten good at understanding each other, even when we don't agree or are irritated about an approach. We're more agreeable to each other's ways because of having gone through some really big things together. We've learned to be open to what the other person is trying to work through. We've learned when is the right time to bring up something to him or her and when is the time to leave it alone."

COMPETITION WITH EACH OTHER AND IN THE SPORT

Many riders are highly competitive types, and the question is whether these types can work well together. Both Ighanis like competing. However, instead of being competitive with each other, they like to challenge one another to be better than they think they can be.

"We are both rooting for each other, and then coming together at the end of the day," said Daniel. "We're not like one family doing things two different ways. It's in my best interest for the whole business to do well because her interest is also my interest. Her business is mine."

"We go to shows separately. It's good for our daughter to have one of us at home so she can stay in school. And not all the horses go to shows. I can ride or teach on the ones that are at home. Our business is a size that allows us to keep a pulse on all the horses."

Andres loves to compete, especially with his personal horse Colbert. While he'd like to go to more shows, "the business isn't focused that way right now."

Heather is not a competitor, but she loves coaching Andres and clients at shows. Since she also works with all the horses, she can get clients warmed up for Andres to step in and prepare them for jumping. "We both know the clients well. This way at a show he can focus more on himself and doesn't feel a ton of pressure," said Heather.

Her passion lies in developing horses and guiding people to develop their horses.

AMBITION AND THE FUTURE

Together, the Ighanis envision their business as a platform for young riders to learn the sport, learn horsemanship, and have a successful career. Daniel recognizes both jumping and dressage as amateur sports for the most part and finds their future in that direction. "We want to be as competitive as possible. We enjoy taking kids to shows when they have the talent and the resources to realize their dreams."

Personally, the pair fancy competing, especially at the international level. "I'd love to have an international horse and campaign it. But then you have to be realistic and appreciate what you have. It will come again. The sport is expensive. To have a profitable business and to have the opportunity to ride, we have to develop really good young horses and sell them. Or have a sponsor," said Susan. "We prioritize family. We want our daughter to go to college. You make sacrifices in this business, but family is not negotiable for us."

"Sometimes you have a lot of horses, sometimes a really good one and sometimes nothing. That's ok. There are passions within all that. We really enjoy teaching. Who would have known I would love teaching kids on a 12-hand pony?"

KEY TO THEIR GOOD LIFE

"We've made it work because we respect for each other, the horse and the sports we do," said Susan. "We might sometimes come at something from a slightly different angle, and we are open enough to hear that. He's this jumper giving me a suggestion for my passage. I take it in and combine it with what I know, and sometimes you can get father that way than by just staying in your own lane."

"We believe we are going to succeed and I believe he is going to continue to develop fantastic young riders and we will continue to have good horses. I put trust and belief in us."

Not so differently, Heather and Andres credit an open mind and open heart.

HORSE CARTS & HARNESSES



- HORSE CART: \$1995, OBO. Condition: Used, garaged. Solid oak with forest green trim & seat. Fold down luggage rack, 39" metal wheels, 77" shafts, perfect for carriage or road drives.
- JOG/SHOW HORSE CART: \$1995, OBO. Condition: Lightly Used, garaged. Forest green, cream trim, 27" rubber wheels, 77" shafts, full cart cover.
- HORSE HARNESS: \$500, OBO. Condition: Used, oiled. Black Leather & Patent Breast plate style, 5" bit, Girth: 73" - 81".
- SMUCKERS PONY HARNESS: \$1275, OBO. Condition: Never Used, oiled. Black Leather & Patent Breast plate style, 4" bit, Girth: 56" - 68".

For more photos or information
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Riding in Croatia

Lakes,
Waterfalls,
Mountains
and
Outstanding
Feasts

By Marie Scarpa

After a year and a half of Covid lockdown, my wanderlust was seriously in need of satisfaction. As a cure, I chose

a six-day ride in Croatia, a place I had never been to before and a two-hour flight from France where I spent the first couple of weeks of my escape.

I was met at the airport in Split by my shuttle driver Ante, a nice 20-something-year-old. As another rider would arrive in an hour, he drove me five minutes from the airport to a café on the Adriatic Sea where I met our ride guide Marko, clad only in his swim trunks as he emerged from the ocean to introduce himself.

After a drink and a chat at the seaside snack bar we returned to the airport for Evie, a lovely gal from the Netherlands who would be my roommate for the week. An hour later we arrived in Sinj, the heart of Dalmatia on the eastern coast of the Adriatic and the location of the Mustang Ranch. This all-purpose, family style vacation spot is where we would pick up our horses.

After being shown to our small but clean and modern rooms, we sat outside for snacks and libations served by a lively gal named Angela, who like many Croatians, impressed me as friendly, if not gregarious, happy, and family oriented.

RIDERS MEET UP

We also met the other two riders on our adventure, a couple from outside Munich, Germany, who had driven to Croatia. Sonja was the horse enthusiast of the pair. Her boyfriend Claudio was less experienced, but athletic and willing. After some conversation and a few friendly rounds of the card game Uno, our host and ranch owner Bosko joined us for a homemade dinner and wine, and regaled us with stories of his 15 horses and how the ranch came to be.

Located two minutes from the town of Sinj and 28 miles from Split, the ranch covers nearly five acres, and includes a corral for the horses, pasture, a sports court, and a restaurant serving local food.

In the morning, Angela treated us to a lavish breakfast before we met our horses. Bosko chose for me Colorado, a 13-year-old Pinto Thoroughbred cross who was comfortable, sure-footed, and up to the task. The saddles were either English or endurance style and the bridles were leather or synthetic endurance style. The horses were Thoroughbreds to chunkier types, crosses, and the occasional sturdy pony.

We took off up steep hills where we could survey the rural landscape dotted with terra-cotta tiled roof houses. Marko pointed out the mountain ranges surrounding us in the distance that were the border between Croatia and Bosnia. Later in the ride we would pass the Dinara and Svilaja mountains which are said to watch over riders as they pass through wide pastures and forests.

After a trot and a gallop, Sonja and Claudio took the lead as they wanted to be the fastest, and Evie and I rounded out the pack. As it was



One of the many beautiful scenes in Krka National Park.

the first day out the horses were all fresh, fast and forward.

We toured the local stables where we met broodmares and their foals along with horses who participate in the annual traditional Croatian knightly game of Sinjska, which is held every year in August. This special ceremony is played only in the city of Sinj and has been listed on the UNESCO European Intangible Cultural Heritage List since 2010.

We returned to the ranch for a lunch of vegetable soup, cabbage rolls, stuffed zucchini, and fried potatoes.

A DIP IN THE ADRIATIC

With the rest of the afternoon unscheduled, I joined Sonja and Claudio for a trip to Split and a dip in the Adriatic. Since it was Sunday, our drive back to Sinj was among the mass exodus of weekend beachgoers. I guess traffic jams are universal. Another homemade, locally sourced feast awaited us at the ranch: risotto, cucumber tomato salad, cookies, and Graševina, a white wine common in Central Europe.

Our second day of riding took us on a long walk over stone roads and included gallops as the terrain allowed. This area is predominantly agricultural with acres of vegetables (peppers, corn, tomatoes, potatoes, and cabbage -- lots and lots of potatoes and cabbage) and fruit (apples, figs, grapes, blackberries, and pears). Eventually we arrived at the third largest lake in Croatia, the beautiful Lake Peruća, where the original plan was to swim the horses, but the water level was



Marie and her horse Colorado lead the pack around Lake Peruća.

too low to do that safely. Instead, we humans swam while the horses rested. We left the horses in a secluded and secured pasture and were driven back to the ranch where another food fest awaited us: salad, grilled veggies, spaghetti with tomato-pepper sauce, and fresh fruit for dessert. Local wine flowed freely.

BREATHTAKING VIEWS

On our third day of riding, we began the point-to-point part of our itinerary. We loaded our gear into the van and returned to the pasture near the lake where we hopped on our horses. As we climbed up the mountain, the view of Lake Peruća was breathtaking. We traversed mountains and galloped in open fields. Marko pointed out Biokovo, the highest mountain peak in Dalmatia at 5780 feet.

Soon we learned the drill. When Marko turned around and looked back at us without a cigarette or orange soda in his hand, we knew what was coming: "OK, now vee go for gah-lope, aaahr yoo redday?" That meant pick up the reins, put heels down and hang on.

I quickly figured out that my mount Colorado was a lot more "go" than "whoa," and he didn't like not being the fastest of the pack. The last gallop before lunch felt like we had broken the sound barrier. After a little chat with Bosko who told me Colorado was "sired by zee fastest race horse in aaaalll of

Croatia," we made an adjustment. Enter Olympia, an 11-year-old sensible bay mare Arab Thoroughbred cross was just about as fast but not nearly as competitive. She was perfect.

By the time we got to our picnic lunch spot the wind had picked up significantly and we got rained on just a bit, but we took shelter under trees until it stopped. When the weather cleared, we were off to the town of Vrlika, the site of our evening accommodations where we were greeted by the proprietors, a lovely couple who served us homemade schnapps, grappa and other flavored liqueurs.



Claudio (left) and Bosko look forward to the scrumptious meal served at The Peace House after a full day riding in the mountains.

FROM FARM TO TABLE

All the dinners were served family style with plenty of meat (chicken, veal, sausages) for the carnivores and plenty of vegetable options for the non-carnivores. This evening's fare also included salad, fried eggplant, breaded zucchini, cabbage rolls stuffed with rice and potatoes, all from the proprietors' gardens. Homemade red and white wine from their vineyards was the perfect accompaniment. A good night's sleep was had by all.

Our fourth day of riding took us up mountains and through the village of Maovice on rocky trails, past rivers, fields, and hills. We descended the mountain to our picnic lunch spot.

Lunches on the trail were simple: sandwiches, fruit, water, and juice. There was always time for a short nap before the afternoon ride.

This afternoon there were lots of gallops in open fields and trails. The stamina of these horses is simply amazing. I'm sure any one of them could be a successful competitive endurance horse. Onwards we walked through vineyards and galloped in fields until we reached the town of Drnis. After turning out the horses in a large pasture, we were driven a few minutes away to our accommodations for the next two nights, The Peace House, another idyllic little spot surrounded by olive and fig trees. Dinner included meat, potatoes, salad, and vegetarian dishes with the red sweet peppers which factor prominently into the cuisine and are grown throughout the region. Of course, local wine was served.

My legs were thankful that the rooms were on ground level.

THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF CROATIA

Day five of riding was a long morning trail with lots of rocky terrain followed by plenty of galloping on dirt paths. Heavy rain in the forecast meant readjusting the itinerary a bit. We returned to The Peace House for lunch and then took a short trip by boat to see the island of Visovac, which is among the most important natural and prehistoric monuments of the Republic of Croatia.

Because of the ominous weather predictions, a late afternoon ride was added. I opted to rest and recharge. I had been looking forward to seafood, and our host Antonio did not disappoint. Dinner was grilled breaded trout, potatoes, and salad and, of course, the local wine.

As the daughter of a meteorologist, I knew that weather reports were more of a suggestion than cold, hard fact, and that looking out the window is sometimes more accurate. The predicted deluge became some overnight storms, and in the morning the sky was clear. Because the horses had been transported back to Mustang Ranch, our planned ride through Krka National Park became an excursion on foot. The grounds were beautiful with waterfalls and wildlife but a few thousand too many tourists.

We returned to Mustang Ranch where it had been raining. Our last dinner was served in Bosko's man cave/music room/indoor dining cabin. Angela presented another magnificent meal of salad, gnocchi with zucchini, and mushrooms in cream sauce followed by ice cream. Bosko entertained us with his impressive guitar playing and, when we knew the lyrics, we sang along. We reluctantly went back to our rooms to pack for Saturday's departure.



After a week traversing the Croatian countryside, the riders (left to right) Claudio, Sonja, Evie, and Marie enjoy their final dinner in Bosko's man cave at the Mustang Ranch.

Our final breakfast was served in the larger indoor restaurant which was decorated with paintings and photographs of Bosko and his father's champion race horses and many loving cup awards. We bid farewell to Bosko, Angela, each other, and the Mustang Ranch.

Since I had to await my Covid test results before flying home, I took the bus from the airport back to Split, a very popular vacation destination for Europeans, where I overheard many languages.

My hotel was within the walled city, a perfect location, easily accessible on foot to everything including the Adriatic and the many cruise ships and other watercraft coming and going, shops, restaurants, and hundreds of vendors selling every souvenir you can think of, a refrigerator magnet collector's paradise.

Split is as architecturally and historically relevant as any other ancient city such as Rome, Athens or Lisbon with structures dating back to the fourth century AD. On my adventure playing tourist for two days, I saw many impressive sites and logged about 12 walking miles in the process.

Knowing that there are adventures like this in little gem-like corners of the world only makes me more intent on seeking out others.

Ride itinerary can be found at: farandride.com/riding-holidays/croatia/boskos_ranch_and_croatian_culture/opin



Marie and Colorado pose before one of the many crosses found in the Croatian countryside.



Parasite Control Revisited and Updated

By Michelle Beko, DVM

Since I last tackled the topic of parasite control in *Horse Journal* (2013), I am still seeing a lot of individuals and barns deworm every two months, a procedure vets have not recommended for some time and with good reason.

With frequent deworming, parasites can become resistant to wormers, just as overuse of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistant bacteria. Since as far as we know drug companies are not researching new anthelmintics (wormers), resistant parasites would pose a substantial problem.

What parasites do our horses get?

The most common parasites that are found in adult horses are small strongyles. They are not highly pathogenic (harmful) and we shouldn't be concerned if our horses have them in low numbers. On the other hand, large strongyles are very pathogenic and once were quite prevalent. We don't want our horses to have any of these uncommon, but potentially lethal parasites.

Both large and small strongyles have eggs that pass with the horse's manure and then develop into infective larvae in the environment. This development requires adequate temperature and moisture and takes at least one week under ideal circumstances. In Sonoma County, the best times of year from the parasite's point of view are spring and fall. When these infective larvae are ingested by the horse, they develop into adult worms inside the horse's gastrointestinal tract. For large strongyles, that maturation takes at least six months.

Other parasites that may infest our horses include bots, tapeworms, pinworms and habronema.

Bots are flies that lay eggs on the horse's skin in late summer or fall. When a horse touches them with his muzzle, the larvae within the eggs move into the horse's mouth and travel on to the stomach where they stay over winter before they pass with the manure and develop into adult botflies.

Tapeworms can infest horses that live in pastures where their lifecycle requires time to develop in mites that are found in pastures. They are probably not very pathogenic in low numbers. However, in larger numbers they tend to live in the last part of the horse's small intestine (the ileum) where they attach to the cecum, and may result in colic that requires surgery.

Pinworms do not sicken a horse, but they can cause summer sores. The adult worms live in the last part of the equine digestive tract and crawl out the anus to lay their eggs in the perineal area. The sticky glue that they use to make the eggs adhere is very, very itchy for the horse.

Habronema and other species of roundworms can cause summer sores. If flies carry the larvae of these parasites to a spot near a horse's mouth, the horse will ingest it and the parasite will develop in the horse's gastrointestinal tract. They do not affect the horse's health. The problem arises when flies deposit these larvae elsewhere. If eggs are left near their eyes, ears or the end of a male horse's penis, the larvae cause sores.

Should all horses be on the same parasite control program?

Some individuals are more prone to parasitism than others and susceptibility does not seem to be age or breed-related. Also, some environments support parasites more than others. While any horse can get bots, pinworms or habronema, strongyle infestations are less common in horses housed in stalls or paddocks which tend to be too dry for the eggs to develop into infective larvae.

For those reasons we should tailor a parasite control program to each horse. We can do that by using a fecal egg count when it's been at least two months since a horse was dewormed to determine a horse's innate susceptibility to strongyles as well as knowledge of the horse's environment.

I do not, however, advocate deworming only when the horse has a positive fecal egg count. First, because fecal counts cannot differentiate between large and small strongyle eggs, we would have no way of knowing our horse has large strongyles until he colicked and had to have surgery. Additionally, there is no way to detect larval stages of parasites that are currently infecting the horse. Thirdly, fecal counts primarily detect strongyles and never bots, habronema or pinworms. And in truth, it is somewhat of a hassle to do fecal counts several times a year.

Instead, I recommend that all horses be dewormed at least twice a year. This will prevent resurgence of large strongyles since they take at least six months to mature to egg laying adults. Further, it will keep other parasites in check. Still, it's good to repeat a fecal count every year or two to make sure your program is effective.

Keeping pastures and paddocks clean is very effective for controlling strongyle burdens. Since it takes at least a week for eggs to mature to infective larvae, even removing manure just once a week will minimize pasture contamination. Using Ivermectin or Moxidectin (Quest) in spring will kill bots and a different wormer (Pyrantel, Oxibendazole) in the fall should minimize the risk of worms becoming resistant to the few anthelmintics that we have. All horses being housed together should be dewormed at the same time. A horse in a pasture should get Praziquantel (available with Ivermectin or Quest) once a year to kill tapeworms.

No horse should be dewormed more frequently than they need to be and very few need to be dewormed every two months.



Photo: Michelle Beko

Bot fly eggs attach to this horse's leg.



Michelle Beko, D.V.M.

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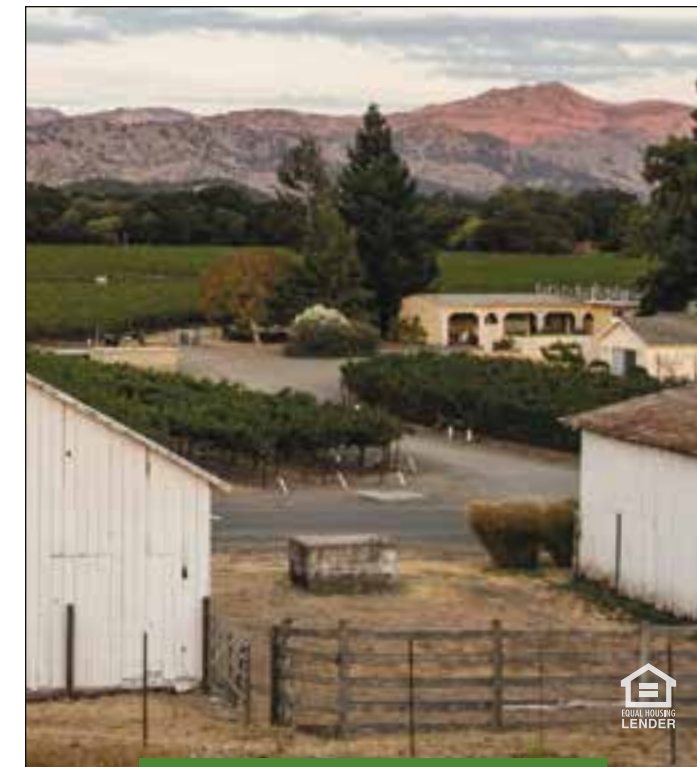
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TOUR THROUGH SCULPTURE

1. Victory by Bryan Tedrick
2018
7 tons, 25 feet tall, steel and redwood sculpture
Geyserville Sculpture Trail
20789-20355 Geyserville Ave., Geyserville



1
2
GEYSERVILLE



2



3

2. Mare and Foal by Keith Christie
Life-size bronze sculpture
Trione Winery, 19550 Geyserville Ave., Geyserville

3. Grazing Horse by Bryan Tedrick
2000 pounds, steel horse grazing as part of the Voigt Family Sculpture Trail
Foss Creek Pathway, across from Healdsburg City Hall, 401 Grove St., Healdsburg



4

3
4
HEALDSBURG

4. Rachel Alexandra by Glenn Schot
Life-size bronze sculpture of the 2009 Preakness Stakes winner and Horse of the Year
Stonestreet Estate Vineyard
7111 Highway 128, Healdsburg

5. Bucephalus by Bryan Tedrick
2006
Steel and wood horse
Santa Rosa City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa

5
6
SANTA ROSA



5

6. Rearing Horse
Bronze sculpture
Wild Oak Saddle Club, 550 Wild Oak Dr., Santa Rosa



6

7. Cline Horse
Cline Cellars Winery
24737 Arnold Dr., Sonoma



8

8. Rusty by Hossain Amjadi
Rusty in Blue by Hossain Amjadi
Steel sculpture (2005) who may be found covered in blue paint.
HA Art Forms, 23150 Arnold Dr., Sonoma

9
10
PETALUMA

9. Bronco Buster
Reproduction of a bronze sculpture by Frederic Remington, copyrighted in 1895
6614 Lakeville Hwy., Petaluma



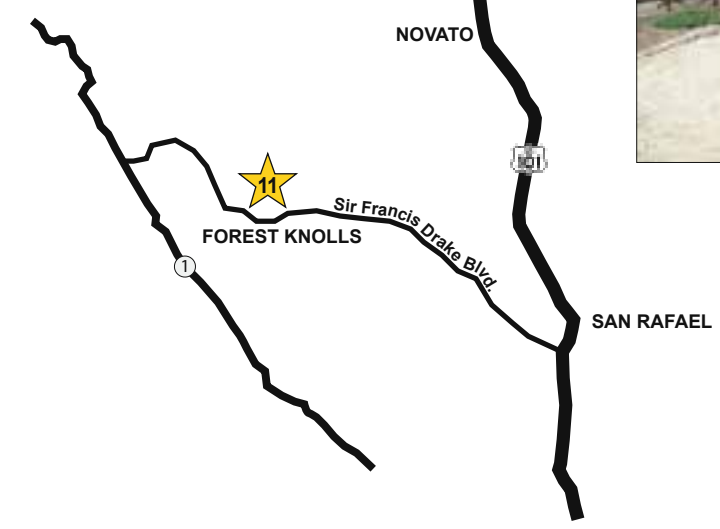
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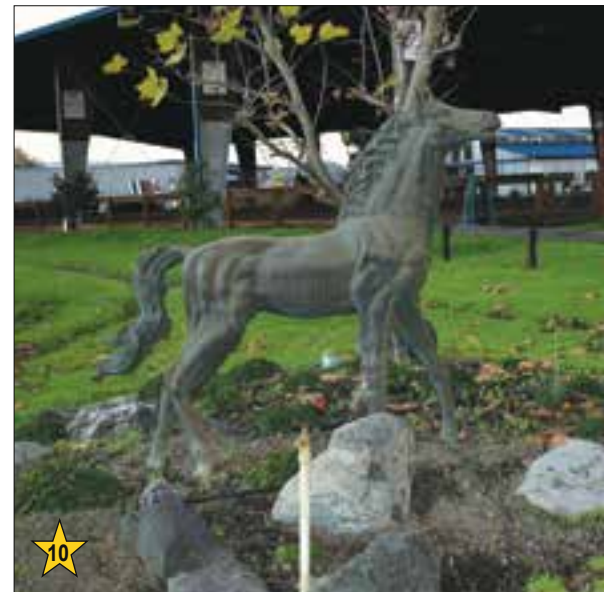
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10. Mystery by Unknown
Bronze foal sculpture
Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center
7600 Lakeville Hwy., Petaluma



11
FOREST KNOLLS

11. Out of the Wall by Peter Phibbs
Reclaimed redwood sculpture
Marin Tack and Feed
6880 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Forest Knolls



10



11

Photos:
Barbara Tomin
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Megan Cline
Keli Hendricks
Patti Schofler

FELINES PATROL YOUR BARN

By Kirstin Jorgenson, DVM

As long as there have been barns, we have had barn cats. This living arrangement has proved to be a satisfactory arrangement for both parties, feline and human. The cats have sought a weather-safe haven with buffet, and we have enjoyed their natural pest control ability and graceful companionship.

But, a successful human-feline relationship depends on a few factors.

First, what is the barn like? Kitties need the ability to come and go as they chose, in a place with limited access by larger predators. This usually entails a higher up area, that also allows them to maintain their superior standing over all the rest of us. They also hope for somewhere warm and dry in inclement weather. Fresh water and a complete diet to balance their nutritional needs will help maintain their health. Another aspect to this happy home is good neighbors. Many of us also enjoy canine companionship, which can complicate the occupation of the barn by cats.

And then there is the question of cat or cats.



Our feline friends come with a wide range of social habits. Some are content only as close companions, more suited, like most of us, to the house life with jaunts to the barn. The other extreme is the cat that seeks only a curt nod from a distance as they go about their patrol, knowing that their bowl and bed are waiting. Within this range in social natures, you have to determine what works for your setting and expectations.

Like mustangs, feral cats have in a sense lost a critical part of domestication. They are born in the wild, and miss out on socialization with humans. They are more adapted to outdoor only life and aren't particularly friendly towards humans. With time and slow introduction, some can come to enjoy humans, but many do not. These can make ideal pest controllers, and there is always a shortage of accepting situations for these cats once they have been trapped, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated. Sometimes that cute kitten adopted for its looks turns out to prefer a more outdoor lifestyle. Listen to your cat's wishes to avoid unpleasantness.

If you are looking for a barn cat, your local animal shelter or rescue group like Sonoma County's Forgotten Felines can help. Cats of every description wait for homes in these groups, so be honest with them about what cat will fit your situation. Adopting an adult cat that is a little more independent may be exactly the ticket. Another

option is for volunteers to help establish a colony of feral cats to control rodent populations and prevent intrusion of outside cats.

Once you and a feline or two have reached an agreement, what next?

Depending on your cat's level of engagement with human handling, an annual veterinary exam is recommended for vaccinations and deworming, as well as for general health assessment. This may not be possible with our more independent, feral friends, but all cats should at least be vaccinated for rabies, as these more outdoor kittles are at high risk.

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MULTITASK RIDING

Can You Walk and Chew Gum?

By Melissa Kalember

Riding, or simply life with horses, is a mental game that comes in many forms - mental toughness, training ourselves to stay calm, working with and through fears and anxieties, and in no small way, multitasking.

"Look at the next corner"

"Feel with your elbow."

"Don't you feel your horse slowing down?"

"Add leg."

"NOW squeeze the outside rein."

It is staggering how many commands, suggestions, concepts, helpful hints we trainers can spit out at our students in such a short time. When I see it written out, it blows my mind how they can absorb and comply all in the right timing. Riding well means multitasking.

In studying the ability of my students to multitask, I have observed that the human can literally only hear, understand and then immediately act upon so many suggestions before they short circuit, check out or get too into their head.

When this occurs, the rider becomes stiff, robotic and, as a result, the horse gets tense and resistant.

In my early days of teaching, I thought that to be a great



Emily Aja has many things on her mind as she considers her next move with Tyler on the jump course.

instructor I needed to spew out all the suggestions, commands, and teachings that I could. While my intention was good, I saw my disservice. Students were thinking and trying too hard, and it turned the whole horse and rider connection away from what I was trying to create.

Every rider is different and rides at their own levels. Some riders are constant worriers, some are overachievers, some get distracted by a butterfly. The personality of the rider effects how much they can multitask. I had to learn

teaching skills to impart information I know is important while not overwhelming.

I am a 'why' person and I instill this into my lessons. I want my students to know why we are doing what we are doing, not just wait for the next command from my mouth. I want them to know why we are trying to get their bodies in certain positions and how that effects the horse.

My best strategy to comply with my need to impart "why" while giving the students the 'how' is to take time at the beginning of every lesson to go over the 'whys'. After covering the 'whys', I find one or two related tasks for the rider to focus on, like 'walking and chewing gum' or 'eyes up and bending the horse'.

During their lesson those one or two tasks are all they can focus on. They have the 'why' to those 'tasks' from the talk at the beginning of our lesson, and now they get to literally feel the effects of them.

For example, a rider drops their eyes when they engage hand aids. The task is to have eyes up while bending their horse.

The 'why' part we discuss: Dropping the eyes will have a domino effect on rest of your body, and thus effect your horse in a negative way. The eyes look down, then the shoulders tip forward. The knees pinch to offset the forward shoulders and the weight in the foot and heel lighten. The horse will then have more weight on the front feet instead of a balanced push off of all four feet. The weight on the forehead will inhibit the horse's core muscles from working effectively and the hind end will not tuck under. If the horse's hind end cannot tuck under, the horse cannot lower their head and neck, and raise up the back in self-carriage. The horse's back will eventually get sore.

The tasks to remember: Eyes up or focused on something in front of them while they engage the aid of the hand to flex the horse's pole and neck. A rider who is too worried or trying too hard may have to start with just the eyes looking ahead. Once they have some progress with the eyes, then the next task is for the eyes to focus ahead while they bend their horse. At first, they might drop the eyes when they engage the hand. If so, then they go back to starring at something ahead of them, find that, feel that, then try again.

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HORSE AGE + RIDER AGE = DRESSAGE CENTURY RIDE

Two Locals Celebrate

By Wendee Walker

With only 530 horse and rider combinations nationwide having earned membership in the Dressage Foundation's Century Club, the North Bay claims two dressage riders who proudly stepped forward into the club's ranks last year.

Century Rides are reserved for horse and rider teams who have reached the combined age of 100 or more, and Sonoma County's Sue Reinecke on her gelding Grande and Marin County's Monica Brett on her mare Alouette fulfilled the Dressage Foundation's criteria for membership in the club when they each rode a dressage test at the level of their choice at a show where they were scored by a dressage judge or professional.

Sue's Century Ride was her first time showing in 10 years. Sonoma County Horse Council Equus Award recipient and owner of Renaissance Farm in Healdsburg, she was joined by her twenty-two-year-old Prema-rin-rescue gelding, believed to be a mix of Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, and Belgian draft. Sue even bought a new show jacket for her Century Ride at a Fieldstone Farm show in Santa Rosa that would be followed by a champagne celebration.

Grande is trained beyond Prix St. Georges, and Sue has competed at the Grand Prix level. She knew, however, that they both would be more comfortable showing at Third Level. Grande is known for not coming back to a collected gait after an extension or long series of flying changes. If she rode him at a higher level he likely would gallop right out of the arena. She knew that Third Level with just a single flying change in each direction would help them both stay focused and safely on the correct side of the dressage court barriers.

Ironically, judge Heidi Gaian suggested Sue work on developing more impulsion.

STARTING AT AGE FIVE

Sue caught her first ride around 75 years ago when at age five she climbed up on a giant plow horse. Her parents would enjoy adult beverages on the neighbor's porch while she sat on the big guy. She continued to ride working horses wherever the family happened to live. One of her favorite memories and a dream come true was riding an Appaloosa stallion in a pleasure class at the Cow Palace.

Dressage came into her life when she was in her mid-40s. Before that she had enjoyed formal hunter coaching by Hans Moeller at Pebble Beach, trail rides on the dunes, and cross-country jumping on the beach. Some of the rides were "hell bent for leather, over hill and dale," she recalled.

Sue also recalled her riding teacher and trainer Miss Cress at Mills College stables, in Oakland, where she rode while attending University of California at Berkeley. Without having any idea of her previous experience, they put Sue on various horses and off she went. Sue commented that Hans Moeller would get on any "dreaded horse and make it look Olympic horse. It was a real eye opener proving that one's ability and belief in the horse was everything."

In her mid-40s Sue met and started training with dressage judge Lilo Fore, now of Santa Rosa, who is today a dear friend who Sue credits with her love of riding and dressage.

"Riding and being with horses is mind and heart centered," Sue believed. Exemplary of that idea and a highlight for Sue in teaching others to ride was working with Abby Freedman, a petite woman who was paralyzed from the chest down after a car accident.

"Abby rode a sweet Appaloosa stallion named Chappy, who responded like magic to subtle weight shifts in Abby's upper body and head. Riding in a dressage saddle helped Abby stay balanced even though her torso and legs provided no support. They even went out on the trail with two side walkers and an unattached leader walking ahead," Sue described. Inspired by Abby, Sue established the first therapeutic riding center in Sonoma County.

The 2017 Kincaid fire burned down several buildings on the thriving riding facility, including Sue's and husband Tom's home. But all



Sue and Tom Reinecke celebrate with Grande the successful Century Ride.

Photo: Leslie Anderson

humans and animals reached safety, and they are determined to rebuild.

Never believe in stopping forward momentum, Sue added. "Older horses also need to keep going, and we need to never give up on them." Grande was at University of California Davis large animal hospital a few years ago with painful intestinal issues. Sue advised horse guardians to get their horses' blood tested for selenium and vitamin E, and to supplement accordingly.

In her 80 years, Sue has recovered from setbacks and illness, but the animals in her life have taught her to carry on and never give up. Today she and Tom grow their own veggies and raise beef cattle, chickens, and sheep at Renaissance Farm where the boarding facility is ongoing, though on a smaller scale after the fire. She has a daily yoga routine and regularly enjoys a wine spritzer, often with "the wonderful, sensitive people I've met through horses."

"Dressage and yoga are an ongoing learning process to me, and I'm never finished. If you are an aspiring century rider, start planning early. It's hard to find a healthy 50-year-old horse. So do your best to stay fit."

MONICA HAS THE TIME OF HER LIFE

"My Century Ride meant so much to me," Novato resident Monica Brett shared. "Quite honestly, it was one of the best days of my life. Although my Prix St. Georges ride was less than I had hoped, it was so much fun that I will never forget how it all made me feel. To be surrounded by fellow dressage riders, and so many friends, it was an emotional day for all of us."

Born in England, Monica always felt a compulsion to ride. "My older sister rode horses, so as soon as I could get my leg over a horse (or donkey) I was up and asking to trot and gallop. What always annoyed me was that the stirrup leathers were always too long for me, and winding them around the stirrups was uncomfortable."

She was mad about horses and said she "suffered through riding lessons on bored, unexciting horses for several years" before persuading her parents to buy her a Connemara pony. She loved trail riding, jumping, and fox hunting.

When Monica moved to California she fell in love with Arabian horses and successfully showed saddle seat for a number of years in the 1970s and 1980s. She had the passion to become a really good rider and knew studying the art of dressage could lead her down that path.

"I loved to watch the Spanish Riding School and some of the famous dressage riders from Germany and Italy that come to England to give demonstrations. I thought the movements were so lovely." In the mid-1990s Monica signed up for dressage lessons on her Oldenburg Thoroughbred cross and was hooked. She became fast friends with neighbor Marsha Haden who "welcomed me to ride in her arena while giving me lots of advice and support."

Monica bought her Century horse, nine-year-old Alouette, in Germany in the fall of 2009 and greatly appreciates the complicated but deep relationships she builds with her mares. Over the years, she has taken numerous clinics with Nick Wagman, Christian Garweg, Jeremy Steinberg, Brian Hafner, and Jane Weatherwax. Monica showed Alouette through Intermediaire I and retired her in 2018.

But then during the pandemic winter of 2020, she brought Alouette back to work, riding her with dressage trainer Tanya Vik. Alouette was going so well that she considered showing her again. To celebrate her return to the arena in her senior years, Monica signed up for the Century Ride with 21-year-old Alouette.

Her Century Ride at Woodbridge Farm in Petaluma was a quintessential moment, Monica recalled. She was quite nervous in the warm up, "but after the first extended trot, I got into the feel of it and started to enjoy myself because could feel that Alouette was enjoying herself. She knows Prix St. Georges very well, but she can't count. So the tempi changes were all good, but the count was all wrong.

"The extended canter was very lively and I was worried I wouldn't be able to stop and do the change before reaching the letter F. Thankfully, she made it and I didn't have to jump that funny little white fence.

"It was wonderful to have the support of lots of friends and fellow dressage riders, all of whom seemed to enjoy the purpose of the event. Yes, we drank champagne and ate cupcakes."

Monica enjoys having her horses at home with her and keeping her older partners going. She advised aspiring Century Club riders, "Remember, this test is a celebration of your partnership, so be sure you show at a level you are both comfortable with. Prix St. Georges was a bit of a reach for us after a four-year break, but we had lively trot extensions and a joyous victory lap. It all made me think that I'd love to do another Century Ride. My 19-year-old gelding might just be a good candidate!"



Monica Brett's Century Ride victory gallop on Alouette brings a smile to Monica's face.

Photo: Samantha Barbita



STEP FORWARD EQUUS AWARD WINNERS

The 13th Equus Awards Dinner, April 30, 2022, will celebrate the honorees chosen by the Sonoma County Horse Council for their outstanding contributions to the horse community. Until that date the *Horse Journal* will be introducing you to the winners: Andrea Pfeiffer, Ted Stashak DVM, Lee and Barbara Walker, Tracy Underwood and Royal Crest's Rockappella (Barbie). In this issue we applaud Lee and Barbara Walker and Ted Stashak.

2020 EQUUS AWARD WINNERS

Barbara and Lee Walker

By Patti Schofler

What a grand year it was when the Russian River Rodeo found a permanent home in Duncans Mills. At the same time, it found Barbara and Lee Walker, III to work with the rodeo to ensure that western heritage is carried on. And with their history and dedication to Sonoma County, these two also are an ideal choice as recipients of the Sonoma County Horse Council's 2020 Equus Award to be celebrated April 30 at Villa Chanticleer in Healdsburg.

Not only have the Walkers worked tirelessly for years to ensure a safe and fun rodeo, but also to help other clubs carry out their many Sonoma County events, from barrel racing events to team ropings to horse shows. Just recently Barbara served on the Sonoma County Fair Horse Show committee, which saw attendance soar from six riders in 2018 to 45 in 2019.

With strong ties to western tradition, this couple's county roots go way back.

Barbara was raised in Santa Rosa, attended the Santa Rosa Junior College, and took riding lessons at Cloverleaf Ranch. She has had a horse ever since.

Starting out as a trail rider, one day she rode Lee's roping horse and got hooked. Team penning became her event. Barbara herself taught her little grade buckskin mare Simone, who she bought for \$1200, and the mare later won Barbara a trailer. At 23, Simone did her last team penning run and set an arena record for speed at the Redwood Empire Quarter Horse Association's Pen-O-Rama event. The mare ran her last rodeo at age 31 and died at 37.

In recent years Barbara's passion has turned to barrel racing and raising barrel racing horses. If not on a horse, she is helping in the office at the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association's Winter Wednesday Night races at the fairgrounds and Sebastopol Wranglers barrel races.

Lee has rodeo in his heart from way back. At age 19 he attended rodeo school in Oklahoma, where unfortunately he came off into a fence and ended up with 32 stitches in his knee. But that didn't matter. He went on to compete in over 40 shows as a member of the California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association in bareback bronc riding, earning two belt buckles at the Russian River Rodeo in the 1980s.

"I always liked westerns. As a kid I always went to the rodeos in Santa Rosa. The high school girls were involved in rodeo, so I thought that would be cool," Lee joked. "I wanted to be a cowboy, with the hat and boots and all."

He also was bitten by the wander lust. It was in his family. His father, Lee Walker, Sr., now 90, was at one time a professional baseball player. And a family member was a scout for Kit Carson and with the group that discovered Yosemite.

The Walker family is well known for their apple orchard, which has produced for over 100 years. Today Walker Apples are made up



Barbara Walker with her retired barrel horse Fire Streken, aka Ben, and Lee Walker with his horse Running Bug, aka Bug

Photo Courtesy of Kyle Walker

of 30 plus varieties, and the Walkers' grandson is 8th generation. Lee manages the operation. Barbara is the ranch bookkeeper and works at Wright Contracting.

Married for 40 years, Barbara and Lee became a couple at ages 19 and 23, respectively. They met while working at Cloverleaf Ranch. Today they are involved as ever in the traditions of Sonoma County. Lee is the rodeo boss for the Sonoma County Trailblazers Annual Rodeo. After serving for several years on the board of the Russian River Rodeo Association, Barbara was appointed president of the board in 2021.

Covid has put a spin on the dates for the Russian River Rodeo. In its 54th year, 2020 did not see a rodeo, usually held in June. In 2021 the event date moved to October, held at Bill Parmeter Field, in Duncan's Mills. With its return, the Walkers clearly saw the fans were back, wanting to see cowboys and cowgirls and the western lifestyle.

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2020 EQUUS AWARD WINNER Ted Stashak



A 2020 Sonoma County Horse Council Equus Award recipient, Sonoma County native Ted Stashak, DVM, MS, DACVS, has practiced veterinary medicine for over 50 years and is nationally recognized for his contributions to equine surgery and veterinary education. He has published more than 130 scientific articles, edited seven textbooks, and written more than 28 book chapters.

His impact on the veterinary profession is extensive and continues through the graduate students he mentored who have gone on to advance the profession. He was recognized by the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine with a 2017 Alumni Achievement Award for his sustained commitment and efforts to advance the education and knowledge of veterinarians, farriers, and horse owners to improve the health and wellbeing of horses.

As a dedicated member of the Horse Council's board of directors, Dr. Stashak spent countless hours laying the foundation for Sonoma County's large animal disaster plan, and was integral in the sheltering of large animals during the 2017 wildfires.

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No Stone Unturned A Rare Case of Salivary Stones

By Amy Young

A routine dental exam literally left no stone unturned for University of California Davis (UCD) Center for Equine Health teaching herd horse Joe Juice. The 15-year-old Quarter Horse gelding had a firm mass on the right side of his face that turned out to be a sialolith, a stone of the salivary gland. If you've never heard of a sialolith, you're not alone. Although they can occur in horses and people, they are not very common.



These hard, moveable masses typically start small, forming around an item such as a small piece of grass that finds its way into the salivary duct, they grow as layers of calcium are added over time, a process similar to how enteroliths form. As they get larger, they can rub on the insides of the cheeks, causing ulcerations. This can in turn lead to inflammation, infection, and difficulty eating. If the stone obstructs the salivary gland and alters saliva production, digestion may be affected. Interestingly, although they have been reported in horses from ages two to 29, sialoliths appear to be most frequently observed in horses over 16 years of age.

Since these stones grow slowly over time, affected horses like Joe Juice can remain asymptomatic, showing no signs of the disease, for long periods. One study reported that the duration of clinical signs ranged from two days to seven years, with an average time of 18 months. When the stone(s) eventually get to a problematic size, owners and caretakers may notice signs such as facial swelling, losing or spitting out balls of semi-chewed food, draining tracts in the skin, bad breath, fever, difficulties eating and swallowing, weight loss, and even facial nerve paralysis.

Sialoliths can be diagnosed by imaging with x-rays or ultrasound. Treatment involves surgical removal of the stones, which can be performed under standing sedation. The prognosis is usually excellent, with most horses recovering quickly. One study reported recurrence of sialoliths after surgical removal in 24 percent of cases, with the average time to recurrence noted as just under three years.

Some reports have implicated diet in the formation of sialoliths, but more research is needed to determine the exact cause(s) of this disease. There are currently no clear measures to prevent sialoliths.

Fortunately, Joe Juice was not experiencing pain or having trouble eating or drinking. However, because the stone was likely to grow in size, his veterinarians determined that removal was the best option. The UCD Equine Surgery Service was able to perform surgery under standing sedation to remove the mass and Joe Juice recovered well.

Joe Juice is a star member of the UCD herd and one of the go-to horses when it comes to teaching veterinary students. His kindness and patience help them learn about everything from lameness exams to cardiology. We are hopeful that he will not experience a recurrence of this disease, and we will continue to monitor him closely. This case presented a unique opportunity for residents and students at the Center to learn from Equine Health's teaching herd horses.



Joe Juice (top) and one half of the salivary stone (sialolith) that was surgically removed from his cheek (bottom).



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Horse Journal is a quarterly magazine covering North Bay equine and equestrian news and entertainment as well as the activities of the Sonoma County Horse Council (SCHC). Our goal is to provide resources to foster a successful journey with horses. We seek to reach an estimated 30,000 equestrians through direct mail to individuals, organizations, 35 local horse clubs, and with distribution to local feed stores and equestrian businesses. The magazine also appears on the SCHC website: www.sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org

We welcome your participation in generating *Horse Journal* written content and photography. We encourage you to send a query email before writing a complete article, describing the article idea and your background. Send queries and submissions to the managing editor, Patti Schofler, at schc.pschofler@gmail.com.

Please format your submissions as a Word document, one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. Include the author's name and phone number/email. Spell check your content. We work off of two style guides: *The Associated Press Stylebook* and the *Horse Journal Manual of Style*.

Articles may be rejected if they are overly promotional of products, services, businesses and/or organizations. All articles are edited before appearing in print. Authors retain copyright for their work and grant the Sonoma County Horse Council and the Sonoma County Horse Journal permission to print submissions without remuneration.

Let us know what topics you'd like us to cover. Send us news of your club or barn.

Feature articles:

We are always interested in well-written articles that are educational, substantive and of interest to a broad range of equine fans. You are welcome to send the complete article for review, though we recommend that you first send a query letter, so we can determine the appropriate word count and how the article fits with an upcoming issue.

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For this section of the magazine, we welcome new items and announcements. Include a photo. Examples are show results, rescue organization/nonprofit updates and facility openings. Content should be 150 words or less.

Photographs:

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter Issue - Submission deadline November 15 - Publication January 1

Spring Issue - Submission deadline February 15 - Publication April 1

Summer Issue - Submission deadline May 15 - Publication July 1

Fall Issue - Submission deadline August 15 - Publication October 1

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The Fast-Growing Sport of Ranch Horse Riding

By Amy Stevens

The riders gather near the gate. They hear their numbers called and then, "Class number 15 ranch horse on the rail. The judge would like you to enter the arena at a working trot." Ready for anything, a good ranch horse moves effortlessly into the arena and goes to work. Horse and rider are on alert for any changes. The plus movers stand out. The tone for the class is set.



Photo: Partti Schaffer

Gillian Galligan waits for her ranch riding class at Sebastopol Wranglers.

The best show horses move with the grace and ease of their models, working ranch horses whose lives are about trotting from one end of the ranch to another, searching through sagebrush for stray calves, moving through the woods with fallen trees across the trail, opening and closing gates with ease, and standing patiently. With a natural headset and looking ahead, these horses move smoothly, cover ground effectively, and use their bodies in a balanced and fluid manner. No matter the task, the good ranch horses are obedient, maneuverable and forward moving.

Launched in 2002 as part of the versatility ranch horse division at the Open World AQHA show, ranch horse riding made its official

debut at the AQHA World Show in 2012. At the time, no one could predict how popular it would become as a show discipline.

Today, judges, trainers, and competitors of all levels agree that the popularity of the ranch horse division stems from a return to the true natural versatility of a working horse that can go from trail riding, to covering ground on the ranch or gathering cattle, to the show pen, but without all the fussiness of show horse turnout.

The various classes of ranch on the rail, ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch reining, and ranch horsemanship have one thing in common: a return to the natural roots of western riding. Like traditional western pleasure, these classes showcase the talents and abilities of the horse.

Though each ranch horse class has its own specifications, they all simulate a horse working outside the confines of the arena, to show the attitude of the horse, its manners, maneuverability, and athleticism. A ranch horse should maintain a natural head set, forward moving, and working under control.

There are 15 patterns available for the ranch riding classes with each including walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot, lope, lead change, extended lope and backing up. The judge is looking for horses to complete the maneuvers in the pattern correctly and in a relaxed, responsive manner.

Ranch reining classes are similar, but with spins, stops, and in some classes slides.

Ranch trail classes feature a series of standard obstacles for horse and rider to navigate including bridges, gates, tarps, boxes, poles, and cones. Each obstacle calls for the navigation to be fluid

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and controlled, for the horse to stand still when asked, to feel the rider as it moves to open a gate, and to understand where the rider is so that the movement of latching and unlatching is natural and does not require the rider to lean or reach. The horse should move through the obstacles patiently with natural cadence and bend, placing the feet carefully when moving over poles, side passing, and backing.

Ranch horse riding favors a natural looking horse. As braided or banded manes and set tails are not permitted, leave the lovely locks and clippers at home and concentrate on the connection and partnership with your horse. Since emphasis on a horse's turnout is not necessary, there is no need to clip inside the ears or trim fetlocks and bridle paths. Tack should be clean and simple, and there is no need to acquire new tack. A breast collar and back cinch are suggested, but not required. If silver show tack is what you have, use it. Riders should be clean and neat with a hat or helmet, Western style shirt, and jeans. Some riders add chinks, scarves, simple belts, and vests, but no bling is necessary.

On the local scene, Sebastopol Wranglers has ranch riding and ranch reining practice nights led by trainer Melissa Zanetti, who has coached multiple AQHA World and Congress champions. During the practice, Melissa explains the fundamentals of each of the classes and discusses what the judges look for. As practice for a show, she critiques riders in a simulated ranch on the rail class.

Sebastopol Wranglers expect to return this spring and summer with classes for this popular sport.



Photo: Partti Schaffer

Cindy Roberts side passes with Mercedes before the ranch riding judge.

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