

November 2008

Free

Where there are rivers,
There are valleys,
There are horses,
And the ...



Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Feats of Fire



**"Out with the
Outfitters"
in Colorful
Colorado:
Introducing
Dawn Bolstad**

**Centerfold:
MN EquiFest
Photo Recap**

**ND
RoughRider
Rodeo
Recap of-
Championship
Finals**

**Horses in
History:
Fire House
Horses**

**Mares
Under
Lights
by
Dan
Drewlow**

Tracy Porter Leaps through Fire on 'Holy Socks', her 3 - year-old black Mustang mare at MN EquiFest

The Valley Equestrian

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Tracy Porter demonstrates her training skills with 'Holy Socks,' a black Mustang mare she picked up to compete in an Extreme Mustang Makeover. More of Tracy Porter on Page 10 in this issue. Photograph and article by Ley Bouchard

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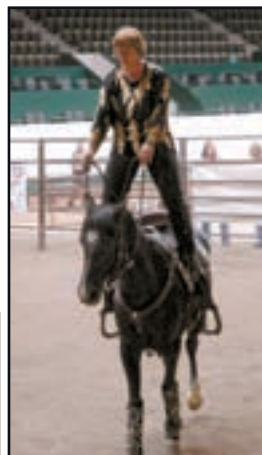
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Finals - Page 5



OUT WITH THE OUTFITTERS

By Dawn Bolstad

A golden path leads us up the trail into the Aspens. My guides call them the "quaky trees." I can hear why. A rustling of leaves reminds me of proms past with girls twirling in their skirts of tulle and organza. At the dance I felt twitters and excited. Here on a white-blazed grulla horse on the last Sunday morning of September, all I want to do is sigh and breathe and ride. The trees stand in their best golds and russets, greens and reds. This is a "Color Sunday" weekend ride, a gift, and I am the happiest woman on the planet.

I haven't been on a horse in twenty years or more. I am quite sure that I will do something stupid — stick my leg through a stirrup or put my head through a stirrup — which will convince my companions that I am, not only a greenie, but an idiot as well. My childhood was spent on stubborn Shetlands that my grandpas bought for a dollar at the Wishek, (No. Dak.) Livestock Auction and saved from a glue factory fate. Those misfit ponies were always quick to stand on the ligaments that attached my toes to my feet, and always eager to lean more deeply into my bare foot the more I tried to shove them off. This horse is nothing like that.

Maverick is some Quarter, but mostly Peruvian Mountain horse. A maverick is usually an unbranded animal that is somewhere that it isn't supposed to be. This Maverick is no maverick. He is exactly where he belongs — on the largest flat-topped mountain in the world — the Grand Mesa. Not too far from Delta, Colorado, and about twenty hours from North Dakota, I was glad to be with him, and the mules, and guys from Bryce Outfitters who knew every scrub oak and quaky tree better than I know my relatives.

The owner is Jim Bryce, who is a unique blend of John Wayne and George Burns. He's been on this mountain for twenty years, I'll leave you to learn for yourself who he is most and when. He breeds his horses to blend the durability of the Quarter, and the surety of foot that sets the Peruvians apart. Maverick is one of his best.

His right hand and lead guide is Jeff Barnes, a veteran of anything that moves in Alaska and Colorado. He holds a profound respect for the deer and elk and bears that walk these mountains. These animals have shared scents with him, and nodded — he going his way; they going theirs. To honor the prey his hunters seek, he follows many of the tradition of the tribes who came before him.

Two others, guides-in-training, follow with strings of pack mules, each sure-foot balancing panyards carefully loaded with everything from a coffee pot to propane to toilet paper. The horses and the mules and the men live this mountain even when they are away from it.

The sky grumbles with an approaching rain and we gather our weather gear from saddlebags and backpacks. They pull brown canvas dusters and I grab my Kmart blue poncho from a pouch. Barely a mile on the trail, and I had already clinched the greenhorn prophecy.

The path winds through the aspens, and brings us to a stream thick with current. The rocks impede its progress, but only in a never-you-mind kind of way. As Jim and Jeff snag the pack strings to lead them through the water, I see the bellies of the horses and mules skirt the flow. I let Maverick have his lead, and he joins his friends in

the crossing. He's done this many times before, and needs me to just shut up and sit tight. I can do that.

It is odd to see this equine group so efficiently select their stepping places in these rushing water rocks. They form a grade school line, effectively choosing the hidden places in the stream bed where their hooves will find the best foot. It is just one of many instances where I realize the knowledge of my horse on this mountain is more valuable to me than any diploma or degree.

After too short a time, Jim calls me to the front. And as we curl around a jut in the

to let my lacking experience show in their faces. We settle on grilled cheese sandwiches to keep the task simple.

We spend an hour or two warming ourselves in the propane heat, and the men's conversation moves from upcoming hunts to the horses and mules that make all of this possible. The mules are like aunts and uncles who live next door. There's black Pedro Sanchez, the much loved. He handles the most difficult loads without complaint. Pest, a sorrel, isn't really a pest. He's no Pedro, but he's still good, they say. Stonewall looks exactly like a stone wall. He's white with bricks of brown and black chunked into his sturdy legs and sides.



From Left - Right: Jeff Barnes, Cody Bryce and Jim Bryce, owner of Bryce Outfitters, crossing a stream in the Grand Mesa

mountain, he points downward to a quiet place. There in the elbow of this mammoth lies base camp—a collection of creamy tented Quonsets, a corral of solar fence and a canvas biffy—all connected by stump circles and patio lights. The rain makes me glad of the shelter, but sorry to see our destination reached just the same.

My gift is the top of mountain, but I'll be helping to set the drop camps further along the trail. Drop camps are sites where hunters who wish to seek their prey unguided can use the outfitter's equipment and efforts. There are two; one about an hour's ride from here, and the other, another hour or so from there. A mist has settled on the mountain, so the rides to the next vista will wait the rain until tomorrow.

We're tired and I step into the dining tent to think about supper. While they don't ask, I make coffee as the men put away the pack mules and the horses. To be honest, it was horrible. I don't drink coffee, and have never made it without an automatic drip. This business of watching the brown liquid bang itself against the top of the pot is a long ago memory, and nothing else. The men sip it gratefully, and are too kind

He, too, is sturdy and dependable. These three form the transport core for every item brought onto the mountain. I've never really known mules, and there are only three, so they capture my attention more than the horses. They are larger than the horses with their backs easily surpassing my five-foot, seven-inch frame. The mountain horses don't need the height as much as they require strength and agility. The paints are beautiful, but to me, it's like keeping identical twins straight. I'm never really sure who is who.

The next day shines brighter, and I can see the aspens proud in their Sunday best. Today, however, we are leaving the quaky trees behind for thick brush. While I cannot see the path for the branches that beat upon the bellies of our bridled guides, I am enchanted by the chandeliers of acorns that hang from the arms of the scrub oak. There are no motors here. No one can pass without the assistance of the animals. The only sound is the occasional snort of the horses' labored breaths as they bring us further up the mountain.

As the day progresses, we place the middle camp in a meadow where the scrub oak meets the tree line. While the pines stand more

sparsely than the aspens, their reach keeps me from seeing anything but them. We rush to set tents and leave cots. Other trips will be made to further stock it, regrettably without me, and we head to leave the last of the camping gear on the highest points yet to be seen.

The final stop on our trek is the camp that sits just below the Grand Mesa, the great table itself. When we reach the knoll, it is the first chance I have to search the landscape for the purpose of this ride. I pull my leg across Maverick's back and slide myself to the ground. I turn, and the view grabs my breath and holds it softly in its hands.

The tops of aspens lie in the distance. The scrub oaks create a closer layer, and the grasses that clothe the tables for this banquet are the nearest to me. The clouds of gold create a fairy ring of flames that never burn. I think of words like "majestic," "regal," and "stately," and am glad that God decided to share this with me, and anyone else who took the time to ride on a day like today.

I wonder how I can gather all of this glory into my memory, but don't bother with my camera. There is little point. It is simply too much to expect from a click of a pixel. It seems almost disrespectful to even think such a thing. Then I capture my breath once again, and think that this scene will lie in the places my mind reserves for the best of my hopes and dreams. And on those days when I am convinced that there is no good in the world, I will pull out this moment, allowing it to defy my pessimism.

When it is time to go, I have to admit that I am not the first to grab my reins. Like he has every time before, Jeff holds Maverick's far stirrup so I can mount, and holds my backpack like a coat as I slide my arms into it. I am suddenly transported back to my prom night. I remember my date holding the door of his father's Cadillac open for me, and the way it felt to be cherished into my mother's silk shawl. Then I remember I have a five-hour drive back to my job and apartment, and other now ridiculous commitments that insist I leave. Quietly, I give Maverick his head, wave goodbye to Jim and Jeff, and follow the young guides back to the trailhead.

I know you probably expected some great adventure with comedic overtones. Sorry, it didn't happen. I just thought I would take you with me on a trip, a time when horses and mules gave me the forever gift of a mountain alight with all the good intentions of a creation well done. Thank you, young guides. Thank you, Jim and Jeff. More importantly, thank you, Maverick, for taking me places I've never been or imagined. Just so you know, I'll be back. And maybe next time—I won't leave.

Dawn Bolstad teaches English for Moffat County Schools in Craig, Colo.

Bryce Outfitters offer guide services for wildlife photography or hunting. A wide array of wildlife is found on the Grand Mesa including elk, deer, bear, and small game. Bryce Outfitters may be found online at: www.bryceoutfitters.com. Contact Jim Bryce at (970) 874-4134 or email: brycehunts@yahoo.com.

TO SUPPLEMENT OR NOT TO SUPPLEMENT?

By Erika Berg, Ph.D.

Horse owners today are faced with an overwhelming selection of supplements advertised to improve anything from hoof growth to joint health to temperament to hair coat. Before deciding whether or not your horse should receive a supplement, you need to evaluate your current feeding and exercise program as well as grooming and health care regimens.

To begin, you should determine an accurate assessment of your horse's body weight and body condition score to determine how much your horse should be fed (see "Feeding Foals" from the September issue of Valley Equestrian). The quality of the feedstuffs (hay, pasture grass, and grain) should also be evaluated to determine whether your horse is receiving the correct balance of nutrients in their diet. A properly balanced diet fed in the right amount often proves to be the solution to a wide range of problems your horse may be having. Your county extension agent can give you instructions on sampling techniques for feedstuffs as well as where to submit the samples for analysis. The cost of general analysis ranges from \$15 to \$80.

Your horse's housing and exercise program needs to be realistically evaluated as well. Is your horse primarily out on pasture or are they kept stalled with limited turn out? How often and how long is your horse ridden or worked each day? The amount of exercise your horse gets and the type of housing that they are kept in not only affects their fitness but also the attitude of your horse. Both over- and under-working your horse can be a source of stress so it is important to establish an exercise program that meets the needs of your horse.

Finally the grooming and health care regimens of your horse should be examined. A horse with a dull hair coat because he is full of parasites or because he hasn't been groomed in months is not going to improve in appearance with a supplement - the underlying health issue must first be addressed. Similarly, all of the weight gaining supplements in the world will not help to put pounds on a horse whose teeth haven't been floated in years and as a result cannot properly chew and digest feed.

If, after assessing your horse's feeding, exercise and health regimen, you still feel that adding a supplement to your horse's diet would be beneficial, it is important to be able to sort through what claims made by the manufacturer are valid and what claims are unfounded. Request a copy of scientific studies conducted for that particular supplement on horses. Because the horse's digestive system is unique compared to other domestic livestock, it is important that the product was tested in horses to determine its efficacy in equine. If no studies are available and no research has been done with a particular supplement, you should be extremely wary of any claims made touting the success of the product. Similarly, if the company does have published research it is important to check the source of publication. For example, if it is simply data that the company is sending from trials they did themselves, I would approach the results with caution. However, if the research results are published in a scientific, peer-reviewed journal (e.g. The Journal of Animal Science), the results have a great deal more merit. You can search articles from these types of journals by going to the PubMed website (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) and typing in the supplement ingredient plus "horse" to see if studies have been done in equine. You will have access to shortened versions of the article which will include the results of the study.

There are hundreds of products on the market, each claiming to improve one thing or another, so the decision to add supplements to your horse's diet should be approached with caution and common sense. And remember that just like a get-rich-quick scheme, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Erika Berg is an assistant professor of Equine Studies at NDSU and has her Ph.D. in Animal Science with an emphasis on equine physiology from the University of Missouri where she managed the Horse Teaching and Research Farm for 8 years. She may be reached at erika.berg@ndsu.edu.



The OutHouse: Life on the Farm with Emily Don't Fence Me In

I was informed we would be fencing the next weekend and sooo looking forward to it - about as much as a root canal! This particular fencing project was for cattle, so it needed to be built tall, strong, made of bull-proof wire and straight as an arrow. Ed would do the instructing, as he was the professional fence architect and my title was "runner" because we all know, girls don't know a thing about putting up a proper fence. I wouldn't hold the tape correctly so a post or two would be off by an inch and we would have to re-do it. The wood ties would get me, so a hissy fit or two would take place. The wire I unwrap and not hold tight enough will turn into the worlds largest slinky and the posts I counted the day before will come up short by ten or twenty. He-he-he! I will then be instructed with nasty verbiage and flailing arms to run into town for more posts, sneaking a little pre-planned side trip to the Dairy Queen and Herbergers with the previous day's clipped coupons in my back pocket, getting home way too late to finish the project by dark.

What ever happened to the single wire electric fence with sheets tore up in little strips and tied between each post to make it visible? Speaking of posts, I miss the skinny little electric fence posts that you can push into the ground with a tennis shoe or rubber boot and pull back out with one hand tied behind your back. The whole fence could be picked up, wrapped up and moved in a matter of a few minutes for fresh grazing.

I suppose the 'flags' are too expensive now days, having to cut up 700 thread count pure Egyptian cotton sheets, or maybe our modern bred animals don't see as well as they used to. Heck, in the good old days we would picket our horses out to graze by tying the end of a long rope to a cement block. The horse would munch a little bit, then pull a little bit and never wander too far away; the smaller ones making precise little crop circles, as they weren't strong enough to pull the block more than a few feet.

One time we had three or four horses staked out in this incredible uncomplicated way when a neighbor's plastic kiddie pool was blown by the wind and rolled down the road straight toward our farm. Cement blocks can bounce pretty dang high when being drug forty miles an hour behind a

terrified horse through a plowed field.

The selection of fencing materials is absurd now days; cattle panels, horse panels, hog panels, sheep panels, but I think they still call chicken wire "wire." When did we get so specialized with our fencing? Then of course, we must pick the thickness gauge of our new animal enclosure. Let's see, if I have a thousand pound horse, does it require a five, ten or fifteen gauge wire?

We tried using electric fence for the hogs one time. The problem is, hogs root in the dirt and don't look up to smell the wire (yes, animals can smell the electricity, wish I could but that's a whole other story) and electric wire cannot be strung close to the ground or it'll short out. By the time the pig's shoulders touch the fence to get a shock they are long gone. "The pigs are out" is one of those calls that really, absolutely, wrecks your day.

I did assemble a cute little decorative wood fence along our sidewalk one summer. Casting off all help offers from Ed, this building project was close to the house and in "my territory." I had no clue how hard it was to dig with a hand post-hole digger, measuring down for post depth with a yard stick every few turns waiting for the dang oil to start gushing out! Receiving the 'I told you so look every morning when Ed walked out of the house while I was tweaking my pile of lumber, there was no way I was going to let him touch one teeny tiny nail or board.

One very fortunate day the 'Schawns' man pulled in for a delivery as I was sitting on the edge of a post hole looking down and waiting for a fellow from China to crawl up and help me out. Negotiating ice cream pops for labor, the jolly fellow dug right in and in no time at all we had each post hole measured to perfect specifications.

Later that afternoon the UPS attendant arrived with a package from great Aunt Ida. In a whirlwind of trading, half of Aunt Ida's home made peanut butter cookies left with the big brown truck and my fence boards were nailed on straight as an arrow.

Coming off the school bus, the kids jumped for joy as I handed each a paintbrush with instructions to have a war with one child placed on either side of the rails.

Humph, who was it that said girls couldn't build a perfect fence in no time at all. Emilysouthouse@aol.com

NDSU Hosts Successful 'Wish I Had A Horse' Camp

The NDSU Equine Club hosted another successful "Wish I Had a Horse Camp" on October 11 at the NDSU Equine Center in Fargo, No.Dak. The Camp is designed to introduce kids to horses in a safe and fun environment. This is the third year of the event and forty children between

the ages of 5 and 12 participated. The morning lessons were for beginners and included grooming, horse breeds, colors, leading, and Western riding. The afternoon lessons were for more advanced equestrians and included

horse anatomy, in-hand trail, Western riding, and English riding. To receive information about this and other NDSU events, please send an e-mail to Tara.Swanson@ndsu.edu to be added to the NDSU Listserve.

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ROUGH RIDER RODEO JAM-PACKED WITH RIP-ROARING ACTION

The 25th Annual Roughrider Rodeo Championship Finals Sept. 26 - 28 at the Burdick Arena in Devils Lake, No. Dak. provided fast-paced excitement for each contestant, participant and spectator.

Lake Region Rodeo Association has hosted the finals event for 25 years. According to Carol McLaurin, treasurer of the Devils Lake rodeo committee, "John and Penny Knudson along with the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce organized a group in 1983 to produce an outdoor rodeo." Through the years many people have contributed their time and efforts to continue this statewide event that includes a wide array of events, many of which are not seen at other rodeo venues.

The top three championship finalists in each category are listed below:

Bareback: 1st go
1 Lee Dunford, Menoken
2 Brien Wieser, Walcott
3 Sam Nordick, Mohall

Bareback: 2nd go
1 Sam Nordick, Mohall
2 Brien Wieser, Walcott
3 Lee Dunford, Menoken

Bareback: 3rd go
1.5 Brien Wieser, Walcott
1.5 Reed Kramer, Tolwner
3 Lee Dunford, Menoken

RRA Year End Champion: Reed Kramer
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Austin Martin
RRA Finals Winner: Brien Wieser

Jr. Bareback: 1st go
1 Casey Breuer, Mandan
2 Cody Breuer, Mandan

Jr. Bareback: 2nd go
1 Casey Breuer, Mandan
2 Nick Rheault, Fargo

RRA Year End Champion: Casey Breuer
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Cody Breuer
RRA Finals Winner: Casey Breuer

Calf Roping: 1st go
1 John Pfaff, Jamestown
2 Joe Schmidt, Jamestown
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer

Calf Roping: 2nd go
1 Joe Schmidt, Jamestown
2 John Pfaff, Jamestown
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer

Calf Roping: 3rd go
1 John Pfaff, Jamestown
2 Jason Lawrence, Washburn
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer

RRA Year End Champion: John Pfaff
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Joe Schmidt and Blake Egg
RRA Finals Winner: John Pfaff

Breakaway: 1st go
1 Michelle Oyløe, Williston
2 Carmen Cain, Bismarck
3 Jamie Mortenson, Souris

Breakaway: 2nd go
1 Jackie Whitecalfe, Garrison
2 Jamie Mortenson, Souris
3 Brandi Guttormson, Sawyer

Breakaway: 3rd go
1/2 Kalsey Wenger, Granville
1/2 Jackie Whitecalfe, Garrison
3 Kelli Jensen, Kenmare

RRA Year End Champion: Jodi Bohmbach
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Brandi Guttormson
RRA Finals Winner:

Jr. Bareback: 1st go
1 Casey Breuer, Mandan
2 Cody Breuer, Mandan

Jr. Bareback: 2nd go
1 Casey Breuer, Mandan
2 Nick Rheault, Fargo

RRA Year End Champion: Casey Breuer
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Cody Breuer
RRA Finals Winner: Casey Breuer

Calf Roping: 1st go
1 John Pfaff, Jamestown
2 Joe Schmidt, Jamestown
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer

Calf Roping: 2nd go
1 Joe Schmidt, Jamestown
2 John Pfaff, Jamestown
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer

Calf Roping: 3rd go
1 John Pfaff, Jamestown
2 Jason Lawrence, Washburn
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer

RRA Year End Champion: John Pfaff
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Joe Schmidt and Blake Egg
RRA Finals Winner: John Pfaff

Breakaway: 1st go
1 Michelle Oyløe, Williston
2 Carmen Cain, Bismarck
3 Jamie Mortenson, Souris

Breakaway: 2nd go
1 Jackie Whitecalfe, Garrison
2 Jamie Mortenson, Souris
3 Brandi Guttormson, Sawyer

Breakaway: 3rd go
1/2 Kalsey Wenger, Granville
1/2 Jackie Whitecalfe, Garrison
3 Kelli Jensen, Kenmare

RRA Year End Champion: Jodi Bohmbach
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Brandi Guttormson
RRA Finals Winner:

Jackie Whitecalfe

Saddle Bronc: 1st go
1 Clay Schaeffer, Dickinson
2 Kane Gjermundson Marshall
3 Robert Mohagen, Towner

Saddle Bronc: 2nd go
1 Clay Schaeffer, Dickinson
2 Kane Gjermundson, Marshall
3 Wes Jensen, Dickinson

Saddle Bronc: 3rd go
1 Robert Mohagen, Towner
2 Clay Schaeffer, Dickinson
3 Brent Vigen, Adams

RRA Year End Champion: Robert Mohagen
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Wes Jensen
RRA Finals Winner: Clay Schaeffer

Jr. Saddle Bronc: 1st go, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Go
1 Trell Shypkoski, Belfield

RRA Year End Co-Champions: Jake Tescher, Matt Gleich and Wyatt Gifford
RRA Finals Winner: Trell Shypkoski

More results on Page 15



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The American Horse Council Wants You!

Join the Congressionally Calvary and make sure the voice of the horse community is heard in Washington!

The American Horse Council continues to expand its grassroots program, the Congressionally Cavalry, but it needs you! In January a new Congress will take office and now is the time to get ready.

The horse community is very diverse and has agricultural, sporting, gaming, entertainment and recreation components. Some national issues affect the entire community and some just a particular segment or discipline. However, it is true that taken as a whole the horse community is a much larger and more powerful constituency than any one of its individual parts. When the horse community speaks with one voice, its diversity is a strength, not a weakness and it is a force to be reckoned with. All segments of the community enjoy the benefits this bring in federal legislation and regulation that keep opportunities open to expand our businesses and enjoy our horses.

All individual horse owners, breeders, veterinarians, trainers, competitors, recreational riders, service providers, or anyone who desires to join the grassroots efforts of the horse community in Washington are encouraged to join the Congressional Cavalry Program.

The Congressional Cavalry is composed of individuals who will contact their federal elected

officials when national issues that impact the horse community arise. It works simply. Cavalry members are placed on an email or fax list so they can be contacted and activated quickly. When action is needed the AHC provides each cavalry member with whatever is necessary to productively lobby their elected official including background information, talking points, and sample letters. It is AHC's goal to eventually have members of the Congressional Cavalry Program from all segments of the horse industry and in every Congressional district. This will guarantee the horse community will be heard loud and clear in Washington.

If you care about the issues that impact the horse community join the Congressional Cavalry! Let's put more "Horse Power" in Congress!

If you want to sign up, please contact the American Horse Council via mail, email or fax. If you have any additional questions about the program, please contact Ben Pendergrass of the American Horse Council at 202-296-4031 or bpendergrass@horsecouncil.org.

American Horse Council, 1616 H Street NW 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006
202-296-4031 (o), 202-296-1970 (f),

The American Horse Council reports on the Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in Colorado and Wyoming

- The Colorado horse industry produces goods and services valued at \$956 million.
- The national industry has a \$1.6 billion impact on the Colorado economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account. Accounting for off-site spending of spectators would result in an even higher figure.
- 102,400 Coloradans are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees, and volunteers. Even more participate as spectators.
- The Colorado horse industry directly provides 5,800 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Spending by suppliers and employees (in Colorado and other states) generates additional jobs in Colorado for a total employment impact of 21,300.
- There are 256,000 horses in Colorado, over 70 percent of which are involved in showing and recreation.
- The Wyoming horse industry produces goods and services valued at \$191 million.
- The national industry has a \$286 million impact on the Wyoming economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account. Accounting for off-site spending of spectators would result in an even higher figure.
- 33,100 Wyomingites are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees, and volunteers. Even more participate as spectators.
- The Wyoming horse industry directly provides 1,400 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Spending by suppliers and employees (in Wyoming and other states) generates additional jobs in Wyoming for a total employment impact of 4,900.
- There are 99,000 horses in Wyoming, over 60 percent of which are involved in showing and recreation.

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Horses in History: Fire House Duty

When the Moorhead, Minn. fire department formed in 1872 it was an all volunteer force. In fact, local farmers would listen for the fire bell and race to hook up their team of draft horses as the first on the scene of the fire would be paid to fight the fire. By 1882, a fire station was built with the city hall on the second floor.

The Moorhead Fire Brigade, Key City Hook and Ladder Company and Eagle Hose Company would hold friendly competitions during fires;

each had different equipment that complemented the other. One would have a hook and ladder used to scale the walls, another had a hose cart which got the water to the fire. By the 1870s Moorhead had a rudimentary water system and hydrants.

It is said that the draft teams would stand a shift in position under a harness that would be pulled down in the event of a fire.

Research courtesy of Mark Piehl at the Clay County Historical Society.



The harness used by the fire halls of the early 1900s were suspended from the ceiling and pulled on a wire down onto the backs of the draft teams that would pull the fire wagons. Having the harness at ready and the horses standing in place ready for the fire bell saved a great deal of time for the firemen of the day. The exhibit right is on display at Bonanzaville in West Fargo, No. Dak. and was shown during the recent Harvest Fest held in September; photo courtesy of All Event Photography. The photo above left is courtesy the Clay County Historical Society and shows the harness from another angle.



Above photo courtesy of the Clay County Historical Society

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By Carl Aabye


My Dad John Aabye (big John) became a Fargo Fireman in 1946. I remember well walking up to headquarters with my brother, Frank, for funding for movie theaters (for mom's relief). Dad likely gave us fifty cents - enough for the flick plus popcorn and candy. I also remember with gratitude Assistant Chief Ivan saying, "Come on, John, give the kids a dollar." Damn near a ten spot in today's money.

We also enjoyed the old station's brass slide-down pole and an old aerial truck with rear-tiller manned steering for getting the long wheel-base truck around corners. In '48 an interesting calendar featuring a young gal named Marilyn was published that remained hanging on the walls of the south side station (916 Front Street or Main Avenue) long after the year ended. Boy, those were the days. The harness hung from overhead; the firemen pulled a rope and the gear dropped onto the horses.

Aabye is an author whose books may be found at Zambroz on Broadway in Fargo, No. Dak. or through Barnes & Noble online. Photograph above furnished by Carl Aabye.

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MARES UNDER LIGHTS

By Dan Drewlow, North Star Stables

Mares breeding cycles are controlled by the increasing length of daylight. Their normal breeding cycle peaks in May and June. To move that peak breeding time forward to get the mare cycling and hopefully in foal in February or March is the use of Artificial Lighting.

The use of artificial lights is used to increase the length of light (daylight) to 14 -16 hours. I have enclosed a copy of the lighting schedule that we use at North Star Stables.

It's important that you start out with the normal decreasing length of daylight and increase it to get to the 14 - 16 hours of daylight. This lighting schedule is not set in stone and can be adjusted to fit your farm management style. If you normally start your day in the barn at 6 a.m., then start your lighting schedule at that time. I do recommend that you do not start the lighting schedule before 4:30 a.m. as the earliest start time of the schedule.

The previous plan is the preferred plan of having mares under lights to induce early cycling. The other most commonly used plan is to have the mare under a two hour pulse of artificial light that starts 9 hours after dark. Both of these plans are most easily achieved placing your lights on a timer.

The intensity of the light is critical, as is the length of exposure to the light. Also remember that there is a difference in the intensity of the light between a dark stall and one with lighter stall walls. In general a 200 watt bulb will give adequate light for a 10x10 box stall, if the bulb is within 7-8 feet of the mare. If the bulb is any higher, then the wattage needs to be increased also. I believe the light should be bright enough for you to read a newspaper anywhere in the stall. The lighting source should

be placed so that there are no shadows anywhere in the stall.

Important facts to remember for the timed lighting schedule to work:

- A dark period should not interrupt the transition of daylight and artificial light.
- The lighting schedule needs to be consistently followed each day.
- Several (three) missed days in a row will have a negative effect.

- Leaving the lights on for 24 hours will have a major negative effect.

If the lighting schedule is working, the mare's hair coat will begin to shed within 30-60 days and the mare will start her transitional period within 60 -90 days.

How long do you need to continue the lighting schedule after the mare has been bred? I keep all mares on the lighting schedule until they are confirmed at least 35 days in foal; longer for mares that are or could be problem breeders.

Some professionals also recommend that the stallion be placed under the same or very similar lighting program as mares. Yup, stallions are also affected by the lengthening of daylight. I personally do not agree with this. A fertile stallion will remain fertile all year. The libido and sperm concentrations are commonly lower in the fall and winter months, and increase in spring to slightly higher levels. They peak at the time of the natural breeding season - May and June.

I recommend caution be used when putting a stallion under lights if he usually has a long breeding season. It has been noted that if a stallion is under a timed lighting schedule, he may be more likely to show a major decrease in libido and sperm concentrations a lot earlier in the breeding season than if he was allowed to follow a natural daylight

Timed Lighting Schedule Table for Mares		
Starting Nov 1st	Lights On P.M.	Lights Off A.M.
November 1st - 7th	7:00	6:00
November 8th - 14th	6:45	6:00
November 15th - 21st	6:45	6:15
November 22nd - 28th	6:30	6:15
November 29th-Dec. 5th	6:30	6:30
December 6th - 12th	6:15	6:30
December 13th - 19th	6:15	6:45
December 20th - 26th	6:00	6:45
December 27th - Jan. 2nd	6:00	7:00
January 3rd - 9th	5:45	7:00
January 10th - 16th	5:30	7:15
January 17th - 23rd	5:30	7:15
January 24th - 30th	5:30	7:30
January 31st - February 6th	5:30	7:45
February 7th - 13th	5:30	8:00
February 14th - 20th	5:30	8:15
February 21st - 27th	5:30	8:30

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AEER SHOW AT NDHP



Top: Rider 38, Above: Elizabeth Oster riding Boo.; Below: Andrea Larson riding Austin's Hot Shot



The final 2008 show of the Alpha Equus English Riders, held Sept. 27 at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, No. Dak. brought out 30 riders on this nice fall day.

The club whose mission is to promote English horseback riding disciplines, enjoyed a good season with growth in membership to 78 riders and had their first season of eventing on the new cross country course at the North Dakota Horse Park that the club helped design and build. This was a very popular addition to their season of dressage and hunter/jumper shows.

AEER invites participation in the upcoming Dressage Clinic Oct. 26 - 27 with Ulf Wadenborn, Gran Prix rider, international competitor, 'R' judge, formerly of the Stromsholm Riding Academy in Sweden. The clinic is sponsored and held at the Brady Equestrian Center in Downer, Minn.

The Annual Alpha Equus English Riders Club Banquet and meeting is scheduled for November 15 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, No. Dak.

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MN EQUIFEST WOWED PATRONS WITH WIDE ARRAY OF CLINICIANS, PERFORMERS, HORSES, AND ALL THINGS EQUINE

Richard Shrake brought his "Resistance Free" training techniques to the spectators of the MN EquiFest held Oct. 11 and 12 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul.

Richard Shrake Internationally acclaimed for his gentle train-

ing philosophy, Shrake explained how he was raised on a horse ranch in Oregon that brought wild horses to sale using whatever method was expeditious. As a young lad he "fell in love with the beauty of the horse running in the open..." He grew up watching the horses loaded into trucks, not fed or watered so as to make them more complacent and willing to cooperate with the harsh training techniques used. "When you see this it goes right down to your soul," Shrake shared.

At 14, he started working as a groom for Jimmy Williams and watched the horses do incredible things that he never saw on the ranch. He watched Williams pick up the reins and

bend his knees to lope or canter; he shifted his weight to accomplish a lead change. Shrake went home and tried the training methods on the ranch horses and soon learned they were "desensitized to the point of being traumatized. I tried to do a lead change on every horse on the ranch but it didn't work," he said.

Shrake provided analogies of horses in the wild that lead the herd with the flick of an ear. He learned by watching wild horses, how people gain respect and mental control of a horse. "If you do it correctly, they'll give you a respect like a mare and colt... do it with resistance free training and you move the training up the stairs - you go to a higher level," Shrake said.

Shrake employs two powerful tools: The horses desire to belong and the horse wanting to have leadership. "A horse will stay on an island and starve before leaving the leader," said Shrake, "so if you get your horse to follow your leadership, you'll have a great relationship."

Shrake led the audience through several clinics during MN EquiFest including: Learn Natural Movements Without Unnatural Aids, Creating the

Flawless Western Pleasure Ride and Western Horsemanship Patterns, PreSignals, The Next Step in Refining Your Riding Skills, and Measurements and Tests to Determine Your Horse's Athletic Ability.

Learn more about Richard Shrake at his web site: www.richardshrake.com

Tracy Porter and TJ Clibborn Tracy Porter and TJ Clibborn team up with their training. TJ provides the comic relief with his Aussie accent and humorous body movements; both are very knowledgeable with different methods to

Right top and bottom: Richard Shrake teaches Kelli and her Quarter Horse palomino "Resistance Free" training techniques.

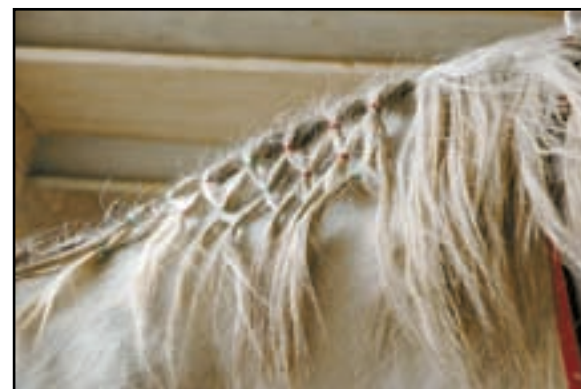
Left above: TJ Clibborn turns the horse with a rope during a colt starting demonstration at the MN EquiFest in St. Paul



Above: Tracy Porter standing while riding on her Paso Fino stallion, Caz. Right: Porter plants a kiss on Holy Socks after he lays down on her command. Below: Bobbie Scheffler, shows young cowboys and cowgirls how to rope a straw cow at the MN EquiFest in the Coliseum of the State Fairgrounds.



Below: Ginny Pomije provided a clinic on braiding techniques at the MN EquiFest.



accomplish a full range of training.

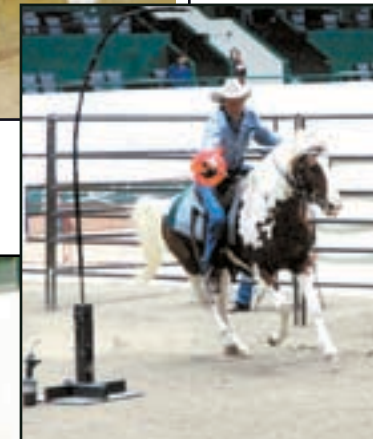
Porter competed in the Bureau of Land Management's Extreme Mustang Make-over Challenge in January with the black stallion 'Holy Socks' that she rode around the arena.

Contestants are given three months to train the wild mustangs. The 3-year-old Mustang came from the Twin Peaks Reserve in Nevada. Porter said it was a most rewarding experience. "You don't pick your horse for the challenge; I wound up with her and she was just great! She ran through fire on the eighth day... but she likes treats."

The horse contracted Lyme disease for which they are still treating. Porter and Holy Socks performed a flag routine to "Born in the USA" as well as a stand up riding routine to "I Can Only Imagine" which brought tears to the eyes of many watching as she cued the horse to lay down then laid down next to him and kissed his cheek.



Above: Mounted Police Officers simulate an arrest on horseback at the MN EquiFest in St. Paul.



Above Left: TJ Clibborn demonstrates Tent Pegging, an event in Australia which originates from removing tent pegs while in the saddle.

Above Center: Portia Bradway rides a Gypsy Vanner from Creek Side Gypsy Farm in Elk River.

Above Right: Nero's Mystic Knight, a Friesian-Percheron Sport Horse, owned by Lord of the Reins, bows and performs other tricks during the MN EquiFest Oct. 11 - 12 at the St. Paul Fairgrounds Coliseum.

Left: Gracie rides a unicorn, a white Quarter horse owned by Drama Queenz.

Photography By Ley Bouchard

St. Paul Mounted Police Members of the Mounted Police demonstrated techniques and answered audience questions about the work they perform in downtown St. Paul as well as other metropolitan cities including Minneapolis. Minnesota is one of few states to have Mounted Police patrol in downtown areas.

Angela Dodge explained how police officers are trained in six weeks to ride their mounts. Most officers are not trained horsemen when they apply and receive this beat. Some officers have never ridden a horse in their life.

The St. Paul Mounted Police consist of eight horses

and eight full-time officers plus 20 part-time officers. The officers work the downtown unit after the bars close after 2 a.m. Dodge advised that the officers are trained to stay in the saddle at all times. If they pursue a perpetrator, they stay in the saddle for the pursuit, apprehension, search and arrest. Officers ride in pairs. They walk their horses - a canter is an emergency gait because the asphalt is slippery and dangerous.

All of the horses in the program have been donated. When the horses are ready to be retired, the donator is given first option. If they aren't able to take the horse, the officer is

given the option to keep the horse they have ridden. Donated horses must be geldings.

Other presenters included Mari Monda Zdunic, Dale Froyum, Julie Christie, Blair Rains from the MN Farriers Association, Mary Stoffel, Tom Tweeten, Bryan Bach, Cordia Pearson, Dennis Auslam, The Mounted Police of St. Paul, with two of their horses, Betsy Weiland, Carrie Brummer, Werner Thiedemann and Carrie Brummer from Drama Queenz.



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WATCHING RODEOS AT 'HALF-PAST' SUNDAY

by Orv Alvshere

MY FAVORITE RODEOS

Decades ago we had the pleasure of attending nearby rodeos. I can still watch those summer rodeos in my mind. At mid-century, they were near mid-America Rugby, ND.

For country lads, those rodeos were the conversation pieces, the daydreams and the source of imitations. At half-past Sunday we'd grab our hats, bridle our horses and feel the wind in our faces at full gallop.

Daybreak brought hard physical work. Times had become 'somewhat' profitable in the cattle and grain raising business. But we had three delicious and nutritious daily meals and seemingly more importantly, we had our own riding ponies. Long before 'alphabet-soup' distractions were invented (TV, VCR, and PC), entertainment and pleasures were self-supplied.

RODEO TIME: SUNDAY AFTERNOON

My favorite rodeos were produced by a high school teacher from nearby Maddock, ND. Some were held in a pasture between Maddock and my hometown of Harlow. We could have ridden horseback to the events, but were too young to participate. Those ranch related activities gave contestants a chance to display skills, go for the big challenge, compete against the best and vie for dollars. To win purse money they must pay entry fees, complete an eight-second ride and abide by the judge's decisions.

I had a personal connection to the horse that won each five-lap horse race. Gordon's horse could lean into turns and extend his lead at every turn. I had the privilege of riding that horse at Gordon's ranch and experience the full capability of his 'lean.' Gordon was also the pickup man that provided safety to the riders.

COMPETITION OF SKILLED RIDERS

We watched Harold hone his skills and later became ND's bronc riding champ. A crowd-pleasing rancher from Grahams Island (now nearly covered by high water of Devils Lake) rode in many events. Wilson would dismount a bull ride off the back end (with essential timing, of course).

His teenage relative, Duane Howard, would steal the show. That lad who ironically wore number 00 on his basketball uniform, would take riding to the highest competitive level, earning number two National All-Around Cowboy. Our privilege was to watch him develop, wowing the crowds. They challenged the ancient adage: No cowboy so good he couldn't be thrown and no bronc so ornery he couldn't be rode!

Perhaps the wild cow milking contest or the wild horse ride rank as the most exciting events, with multiple teams riding and roping simultaneously. The Howard's skill and teamwork usually put the lariat around the cow's back legs and the winners brought milk in a coke bottle to the judge's stand. They usually had a saddle and rider aboard before the other teams.

TRICK ROPING AND RIDING

We were spellbound by the showmanship and daring of Bob Rindt, alias talent. That local teacher organized rodeos and performed so flawlessly. We saw an indication of the professional level of Bob's talent. A professional trick roper at the ND State Horse Show performed only two-thirds of Bob's tricks.

I wish a VCR could copy the video in my mind of Bob crisscrossing the rodeo grounds at full gallop on his faithful twenty-one year old horse. That trick rider was turning in the saddle, doing shoulder stands, leaning backwards over the horse's patoot and standing in the saddle. He swung down to one side and bounced over the horse to the other side, using an extended saddle horn to perform those dangerous and riveting tricks.

We attempted to imitate his dropping his hat and retrieving it on the next galloping pass. My horse

became unnerved at that shenanigan, having more 'horse sense' than me. Bob used a leather boot strap on his saddle horn, so he could lean down.

JUMPING THROUGH THE HOOPS (BOB RINDT'S RODEOS)

Rope spinning tricks are difficult to describe and assuredly more difficult to perform. Bob could spin a lariat around his shoulders, extending its circumference around his moving mount. He amazed us by relaxing his fast spinning rope in front of his horse so they could ride through it. Everyone in the stands (or sitting on car hoods) was on the edge of their seats listening to the whistling sound of and extremely fast twirling riata.

MRS RINDT RIDES

His wife made high speed passes around the fence line carrying a flag. The whipping motions

of the exiting horse by the tail. The couple used code numbers to coordinate their tricks. One additional tricky trick that seemed tame by comparison, was five short ropes spun simultaneously by mouth, two hands and a harness on each hip.

BLACKSNAKE WHIP TRICKS

While she rode the perimeter dressed like Dale Evans, Bob dressed like Roy Rogers, warmed up a blacksnake whip with quick staccato pops. He could 'crack' it clockwise, counterclockwise and continuously without the flesh nicks that we'd later inflict on ourselves.

As his wife walked past him, Bob carefully wrapped the whip around her. She would spin four times to unwind out of it. Unflinching, Mrs. Rindt held a playing card in her hand while the blacksnake split it. An unlit cigarette in her mouth was exploded by the whip. We breathlessly

WHEELS IN A RODEO?

In that horse and rider show known as a rodeo, an occasional mind-bending addition would make more noise than the crowd. Two-wheeled chariots pulled by a team of horses and the chuckwagon races gave more purse money, provided the equipment survived.

IMITATION

My brothers and I would discuss those tricks in detail. We'd question the precise timing and teamwork needed from cowboy and horse. I succeeded at spinning my thirty-foot lasso around myself but made myself sore with blacksnakes. Our horses pulled disappearing tricks when we tried roping tricks. We tried riding young heeves, but it usually earned verbal consequences from parents after a display of critter litter on our knees. We were the opposite of Bob's great performances.

ADMIRATION (BOB RINDT'S RODEOS)

My purpose is to pass on to younger generations events of the past and to remind seniors of those special days and experiences. We saw what could be accomplished on limited budgets, long before the indoor arenas, needing truckloads of dirt. Today's livestock contractors take financial risks and are well paid.

If Mr. Rindt made a nickel it was well earned. He probably bought the chute lumber and fence. He and volunteers sunk posts, strung multiple rolls of heavy sheep wire on tall poles, put up posters and talked cattlemen into hauling in some 'unfriendly' livestock. We'll never know who hauled the feed and water. They were unsung heroes, as they had to successfully load and deliver uncooperative renegades in time for the MAIN EVENTS. Returning those critters was less strenuous. We can't forget there were chores awaiting the tired and sore cowboys.

APPRECIATION

We imitated and admired and appreciated those daring rodeo performers. They did something else for us. While our conversations centered on those rodeo tricks, the days of pitching hay seemed to go much faster.

Bob Rindt rode tall in the saddle. After two knee replacements he did less jumping through ropes. At over eighty, he kicked up a loop with his boot to catch a moving horse. Bob didn't use the word "can't."

In our community Bob Rindt was the MAIN EVENT! One person could make a difference. We hope Bob gets more standing ovations in the great roundup in the sky.

We tip our cowboy hats with thanks to Bob.

© Copyright 1993, Orv Alvshere



North Dakota 6 Pack (L-R): Tom Tescher, Duane Howard, Dean Armstrong, Joe Chase, Jim Tescher, and Alvin Nelson - Photo courtesy of Orv Alvshere

of the flag further excited the onlookers. Dropping the flag, her horse would bolt down the middle of the rodeo grounds and directly through a perfectly spun rope. Just to show it wasn't a fluke, they did repeats. While she was turning, Bob pulled the ultra-fast swirling rope toward him, athletically jumping through, pulling it right to left to right. Amazingly completing a dozen jumps of approximately two seconds each, the rider did another leap through the rope. Bob brought a vertical spin to his feet, jumping in and pulling it above his head. The applause of the crowd showed they loved the show.

MYRIAD REVOLVING ROPE TRICKS

Eventually we had to blink. No one spoke beyond oohs and aahs, for fear of missing a micro-moment of that wizardry as Bob jumped one boot in and out of the rotation.

Galloping slowly Bob lassoed his wife. The horse immediately stopped on cue as the announcer's mouth engaged into cutesy ad-lib remarks about his 'catch'. We appreciated the mind-bending show and their humor, through the finale, as she again rode through a gyrating rope, pulled tight at the precise moment to catch

watched as she held a card near her posterior. Bob's steady hand disintegrated the card with a noisy blacksnake.

MORE HORSING AROUND

Bob rode two horses, standing with one leg on each. Sharing center stage was the aging horse doing dance steps and answering the announcer's questions with head nods or headshakes. Not to be outdone by Trigger or (Hi Ho) Silver, he'd walk on his hind legs. Only at rodeos, we'd allow a horse to steal hats with his teeth and consider it humorous.



NOVEMBER EVENTS AND MORE

Call before you haul -- The Valley Equestrian is not responsible for changes to scheduled events

Oct. 25-26: Barrel Bash at the I-90 Expo Center in Sherburn, Minn.; call (507) 764-4025 or email codi@190expo_center.com

Oct. 25: Twin Cities Quarter Horse Sale at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; call (507)-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com

Oct. 25: JJ Arena barrel, game show in Balsam Lake, Wis.; contact Julie@JJArena.com or call (715) 857-5505

Oct. 25: Oct. 4: Fall Regional Horse Owner Program 1-4 p.m. at the Minnehaha Elementary School at Two Harbors, Minn. contact www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Oct. 25-26: UMECRA: Point Chaser. (Crow Hasen Park, MN) Fri. 2-Day 100/50 End., 30 LD, 30 Comp, Sat., 50 End., 30 LD, 30 Comp, Sun., 30 LD, 30 Comp., 15 Novice. Holly & Bob Egerer at 320-558-6820. Camping reservations must be made in advance.

Oct. 26: Twin Cities Paint Horse Sale at the Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; call (507) 263-4200 or visit: www.simonhorsecompany.com

Oct. 26-27: Back by Popular Demand The Brady Equestrian Center presents: Dressage Clinic with Gran Prix rider, international competitor, 'R' judge, Ulf Wadeborn, formerly of the Stromsholm Riding Academy in Sweden. \$150/ride. Auditing is free. Located one mile off of I-94 in Downer, MN. Contact Margo Brady 218 789-7704

Oct. 27: Red Horse Ranch Arena Fall Clinic presented by Andrew Hinrichs and the topic will be confirmation. Contact Andrew at 218.736.3000 ext. 213 or email: boardingsupervisor@redhorserancharena.com

Oct. 30: Barrel racing at the Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, Minn. Email oasisequine@frontiernet.net or call (612) 205-2256

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 and Nov. 6-9: 2008 PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals, Las Vegas, Nevada, Watch on Versus and NBC Sports Buy tickets at www.UNLVtickets.com

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2: Northern Region Futurity Tour at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN. Contact Jessica at 715-857-6343 or info@ubra.org

Nov. 1&2: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Featuring George Williams at Pine Hill Farm, 8000 NW Mace Road Kansas City, MO 64152 (816) 695-3305; register by Oct. 21 for the USDF FEI/YR Clinic Series - Region 4

Nov. 1-4: Pinto Congress in Tulsa, OK. Judges: Richard Gahimer, Patty Meek, Lita Hottel, Butch Carse, Lori Gingrich, John Aipperspach, Jim Sossamon

Nov. 2-7: United States Team Penning Association National Finals, Amarillo, Texas; www.ustpa.com/

Nov. 5-9: Pinto Congress and Futurity Horse Show, Tulsa, Oklahoma; www.pintocongress.com/

Nov. 6-15: APHA Fall Championship Show, Fort Worth, Texas; www.aphafallchampionship.com/schedule.aspx

Nov. 6-8: Cochran Morgan Auction at Tattersall's in Lexington, KY; contact Penny Cochran at (724) 528-0248

Nov. 14-15: National Finals Steer Roping, Hobbs, New Mexico; www.nationalfinalssteer-roping.com/ Tickets and information: 800-952-2210

Nov. 14-16: Last Chance to Dance Cutting event at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN. See the website for more details: www.redhorserancharena.com

Nov. 14-16: Extreme Cowboy Race™ Finals; Kansas City, Missouri; www.craigcameron.com/extreme.shtml; Purchase tickets at the gate

Nov. 17: Red Horse Ranch Arena Fall Clinic presented by Andrew Hinrichs and the topic will be bits. Contact Andrew at 218.736.3000 ext. 213 or email: boardingsupervisor@redhorserancharena.com

Nov. 15-22: Fed Ex Open World Championship Show, Oklahoma City, OK' www.aqha.com/showing/shows/worldshow/index.html; RFDTV, Live feed at www.horseauctions.com

Nov. 18-22: Women's Professional Rodeo Association; Tulsa, Oklahoma; www.wpra.com/rodeohome.htm

Nov. 21: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

Nov. 22: Fall Regional Horse Owner Program 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cambridge-Isanti High School at Cambridge, Minn. contact www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

Nov. 23: The NDSU Western Equestrian Team will be hosting an Intercollegiate Horse Show at the NDSU Equine Center. Eight teams with over 130 riders from ND, SD, WI, and MN will be participating. The event is free and open to the public. For more information please e-mail Tara Swanson at tara.swanson@ndsu.edu.

Nov. 7-14: Bank of America Amateur AQHA World Championship Show, Oklahoma City, OK, www.aqha.com/showing/shows/worldshow/index.html, RFDTV, Live feed: www.horseauctions.com

Nov. 8: Bank Of America Challenge Championships, Evangeline Downs, Opelousas, Louisiana, http://racing.aqha.com/racing/challenge/index.aspx

Nov. 13-16: Working Ranch Cowboys Association World Championship Ranch Rodeo, Amarillo, Texas; www.wrca.org/pages/ChampionshipRanchRodeo.php Tickets at www.panhandletickets.com

Nov. 29-Dec. 6: Miss Rodeo America Pageant, Las Vegas, Nevada, Tickets: www.missrodeo.com

Nov. 29-30: "Holiday Special Catalog Sale" featuring PERFORMANCE horses and Production offerings at the Billings Livestock Commission, Billings, MT. Call 406-245-4151 or email: info@billingslivestock.com

Dec. 1: Bonanzaville, West Fargo, ND; Christmas Memories - public rides, contact Diane Byrum - call (701) 799-9423

Dec. 4-13: 50th Annual Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Las Vegas, Nevada, www.pro-rodeo.com/series_home.aspx ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Classic; Tickets: www.nfexperience.com/home/ticket_info

Dec. 5: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

Dec. 8: Red Horse Ranch Arena Fall Clinic presented by Andrew Hinrichs and the topic will be tack. Contact Andrew at 218.736.3000 ext. 213 or email: boardingsupervisor@redhorserancharena.com

Dec. 8: West Fargo Parks Christmas Ride - Elmwood Park - 5 p.m. to 8pm - public rides, contact Clayton Brennen (701) 799-1114

Dec. 8-13: Barrel Futurities of America, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Webcast: www.barrelhorses.com

Dec. 13: Champion of Champions, Los Alamitos Racetrack, Cypress, CA, http://racing.aqha.com/racing/events/index.aspx

Dec. 19: BLM Auction at Canon City, CO; contact the Royal Gorge Field Office at (866) 4MUSTANGS

NICKERNETWORK AND PRODUCTIONS EAST DELIVERS THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL HORSE SHOW LIVE THROUGH PAY-PER-VIEW WEBCASTING

Dallas, TX - NickerNetwork.com, the on-demand equestrian television destination on the Internet, announced today that it was providing promotional and technical resources for world-wide online access to the Kentucky National Horse Show live from the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

NickerNetwork and Productions East, a pioneer in the web streaming of live competitions since 2002 and a leading provider of video services for many of the top hunter/jumper shows in the U.S., have joined together to bring this very special competition to a world-wide audience.

Nicker and Productions East are also collaborating to bring many more of the top horse shows in the country to an online audience. Next on the immediate schedule is the 63rd Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, featuring the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical ride and the \$75,000 Budweiser Grand Prix de Penn National, the Syracuse Invitational with the 125th National Horse Show, and the ten day long Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

Viewers are invited to learn more about subscribing to the Kentucky National Horse Show by visiting The Kentucky National Horse Show Live Webcast sign-up page. Upcoming schedules and more information about new and upcoming webcasts will soon be available on the NickerNetwork.com website.

Organizers of competitions and clinics of all kinds are invited to contact NickerNetwork to learn more about how their events can be included in the 2009 webcast schedule, and are encouraged to email info@nickernetwork.com for more information.

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Email or call any VE Staff member listed on Page 2 of this month's issue.

Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds

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Stallion services at Creek Side Gypsy Farms in Elk River, MN. Also for sale are two of our yearlings: one is a Registered Gypsy Drum she is 1 1/2 years old, black with four white socks and white blaze; she should mature around 16.2hh (she is out of our 18hh black shire mare and Rock Ranch Gypsy stallion Tomboy 15.3hh) currently stands approx 14.2hh. Offering at this time to serious buyers only a yearling colt (red and white) out of champion bloodlines, Rock Ranch Master X Rock Ranch Queen. He is going to be tested for the silver and cream genes as he is showing signs of frosted silver hair in his mane only, no other signs of black on him. Contact for more info and photos: pambtrhl@aol.com visit our website: www.creeksidegypsy.com or call us at 763-274-2488

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Off Track Thoroughbreds for sale on the hrnd.org website. We now have listings of area retired racehorses looking for new careers. Visit www.hrnd.org and click on the link for "Retired Racehorses" or call 701-277-8027.

TACK FOR SALE

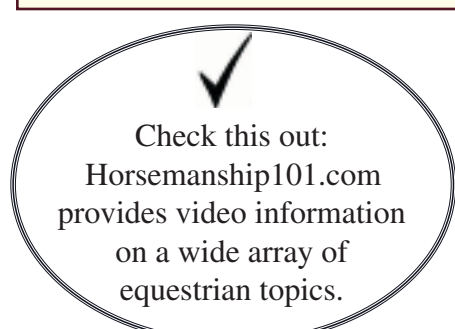
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ND PINTO ASSOCIATION SHOWCASE



Copucubanna (Lola), 3-year-old Miniature B Pinto Mare owned by Cathy Jostad, Kindred No. Dak. is being driven by Dan Drevlow

Abbi Gujer, 10, of Deerwood, Minn. riding Peppers Blueeyessimon, a 6 year-old gelding, at the ND Pinto Horse Association Show at NDSU Equine Center



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Roughrider Rodeo Results Continued

Barrel Race: 1st go
1 Bobbi Grann, Sheyenne
2 Whitney Sprunk, Wheatland
3 Katelyn Fitzgerald, Granville

Barrel Race: 2nd go
1 Whitney Sprunk, Wheatland
2 Kim Johnson, Cavalier
3 Tasha Thompson, Sherwood

Barrel Race: 3rd go
1 Whitney Sprunk, Wheatland
2 Tasha Thompson, Sherwood
3 Hali Gjermundson, Marshall

RRA Year End Champion: Whitney Sprunk
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Barb Waagen
RRA Finals Winner: Whiteny Sprunk

Steer Wrestling: 1st go
1 Jason Lawrence, Washburn
2 Preston Olyoe, Williston
3 Kris Mortenson, Souris

Steer Wrestling: 2nd go
1 Jason Lawrence, Washburn
2 Devin Hall, Killdeer
3 Dylan Hennessy, Berthold

Steer Wrestling: 3rd go
1 Jason Lawrence, Washburn
2 Justin Barhite, Dahlen
3 Kris Mortenson, Souris

RRA Year End Champion: Todd Nelson
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Jason Lawrence
RRA Finals Winner: Jason Lawrence

Jr. Breakaway - 1st go
1 Jordyn Schaefer, DesLacs
2 Sadie Gjermundson, Halliday
3 Jori Gjermundson, Marshall

Jr. Breakaway - 2nd go
1 Sadie Gjermundson, Halliday
2 Tyler Thorson, Towner
3 Whitney Eckroth, Flasher

Jr. Breakaway - 3rd go
1 Tyler Thorson, Towner
2 Sadie Gjermundson, Halliday
3 Teddi Schwagler, Mandan

RRA Year End Champion: Tyler Thorson
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Whitney Eckroth
RRA Finals Winner: Sadie Gjermundson

Jr. Bull Riding: 2nd go
1 Tate Smith, Litchville
2 Tyler Thorson, Towner

Jr. Bull Riding: 3rd go
1 Tyler Thorson, Towner
2 Matt Bower, Souris

RRA Year End Champion: Tyler Thorson
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Tate Smith
RRA Finals Winner: Tyler Thorson

Goat Tying: 1st go
1 Stacy Gaston, Hazen
2 Whitney Eckroth, Flasher
3 Trish Glass, Fargo

Goat Tying: 2nd go
1/2 Stacy Gaston, Hazen
1/2 Bobbi Grann, Sheyenne
1/2 Courtney Sletten, Hatton

Goat Tying: 3rd go
1 Courtney Sletten, Hatton
2 Whitney Eckroth, Flasher
3 Stacy Gaston, Hazen

RRA Year End Champion: Whitney Eckroth
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Courtney Sletten
RRA Finals Winner: Stacy Gaston

Team Roping: 1st go
1/2 Turner Harris, Killdeer
1/2 Jesse Fredrickson, Upham
1/2 Shawn Knight, Beulah
1/2 Aaron Enervold, Bismarck
3 Jason Hill, Tioga
3 Cotey Hanson, Berthold

Team Roping: 2nd go
1 Shawn Knight, Beulah
1 Aaron Enervold, Bismarck
2 Turner Harris, Killdeer
2 Jesse Fredrickson, Upham
3 Jeff Schaefer, DesLacs
3 Mike Peterson, DesLacs

Team Roping: 3rd go
1 Brandon Knutson, Marion
1 Nate Ziemann, New Rockford
2 Shawn Knight, Beulah
2 Aaron Enervold, Bismarck
3 Turner Harris, Killdeer
3 Jesse Fredrickson, Upham

RRA Year End Champion Header: Shawn Knight
RRA Year End Reserve Champion Header: Greg Carlson
RRA Year End Co-Champion Heelers: Jesse Fredrickson and Aaron Enervold
RRA Finals Winners: Shawn Knight and Aaron Enervold

Bull Riding: 1st go
1 Nathan Schaper, Grassy Butte
2 Dan Pahl, Edgeley

Bull Riding: 2nd go
1 Zac Peterson, Velva

Bull Riding: 3rd go
1 Nathan Schaper, Grassy Butte
2 Dustin Bischof, Kathryn
3 Dan Pahl, Edgeley

RRA Year End Champion: Zac Peterson
RRA Year End Reserve Champion: Waylon Delzer
RRA Finals Winner: Nathan Schaper

Men's All Around Champion: Robert Mohagen
Finals Men's All Around Champion: Turner Harris
Women's All Around Champion: Brandi Guttormson
Finals Women's All Around Champion: Bobbi Grann
Jr. Boys' All Around Champion: Tyler Thorson
Finals Jr. Boys' All Around Champion: Tyler Thorson
Jr. Girl's All Around Champion: Brookelle Christman



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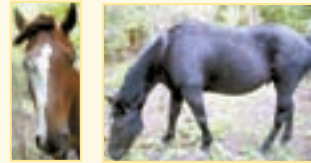


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BACK TO BASICS, PART TWO: "FLIGHT" TO "INVESTIGATE"

By Lisa Houle

In my last article, I wrote about getting back to basics. Taking a step back and having your horse gain confidence on the ground is where we need to start as riders. Begin with exercises that the horse is familiar and comfortable with, such as walking over and around obstacles, then moving into more controlled exercises, such as side-reins. In this article, I will be writing on how to get back to the basics in our riding.

Once your horse has gained more confidence on the ground, we can begin changing things while riding. Do not start or continue training your horse on its back until there has been a change of confidence on the ground. Remember, horses are prey animals, which means that they will spook or "flight" from anything that, in their minds, could potentially harm them. I am always amazed at how some people think that pulling and pushing a horse into a horse trailer is really teaching him/her anything worthwhile. Think about it: a human "predator" and sometimes many humans (predators) behind the horse pulling and pushing the horse into this tiny metal box on wheels! Similarly, when we ride with countless gadgets from bits with ports to tie-downs, tight nosebands, (and anything else that we collect from the tack store) while we (predators) are on the horse's (prey animal) back and become frustrated when the horse is being "naughty" or "is not listening."

Let me make something very clear: nosebands do not solve emotional problems, tie-downs do not heal pulling, a stronger bit will not cure the multiple "problems" you think your horse has. Ninety percent of how a horse behaves under saddle is caused by the rider. I am not advocating you ride your horse bareback with a halter right after you read this article. What I am saying is just as horses are claustrophobic on the ground, they are going to be claustrophobic when you ride. This is the root of a lot of problems with impulsive, unresponsive, or "naughty" horse behavior problems.

If your veterinarian has ruled out any problems with the horse's teeth or body and your horse has a problem with accepting and giving to collection it is because he/she is claustrophobic. If I were to ask for collection in a small and enclosed arena, from a claustrophobic horse, I would have a horse that would fight me.

Redirecting Exercise 1: Change Your Thinking

Here is the first step in solving, or as I like to say redirecting the behavior. Change your thinking. The more relaxed you are, the more relaxed the horse is going to be. If you are always angry and "fighting" with the horse, you are throwing fuel

on the fire. Stop thinking your horse is stupid, unresponsive, or naughty. Verbally, out loud, tell yourself and your horse that you are a winner, even if every ounce of you says otherwise: "We are winners, Winney, you are a winner."

Redirecting Exercise 2: Change Your Equipment

Second, ride in the mildest bit that is safest for you and your horse. Evaluate the equipment you are using and use the mildest tack possible, preferably a snaffle when it comes to bits. Check your saddle, does it fit or is it pinching the horse's back. A lot of problems are solved quickly and behavior is easily redirected when you ride the horse in equipment that fits. If you are having a hard time fitting a bit to the horse or do not know the proper way a saddle should fit, ask a knowledgeable horseman who (this is important) does not think of your horse as stupid, unresponsive, or naughty. This makes a big difference in how you and your horse will be treated, then move forward.

Redirecting Exercise 3: Flight to Investigate

Third, get back to basics. This means that you ride your horse on and around obstacles at a walk to gain his/her confidence. Ride with someone else if you need to. Remember, we need to meet the horse at their level of confidence, not ours. If you feel yourself starting to get angry or fighting with your horse, get off, cool down, and then come back to your exercises. The key to building confidence in a horse is to always go back to where they are familiar and confident and then introduce new things in their comfort zone. Take at least five or six riding sessions and ride around, on (be safe when walking on things with your horse, such as a tarp) or near obstacles at a walk. Do not make it a race, each horse has their own timeline. If your horse spooks, in a relaxed manner, just allow them to look at the obstacle but not bolt around or away from it. This changes how they direct their behavior. Eventually, once the flight response diminishes, encourage them to investigate the obstacle but do not force. Sometimes, this takes a couple of sessions for their behavior to be redirected from "flight" to "investigate." Once the horse is even thinking about investigating the obstacle, reward them!

So, you have some homework for the month. In my next article, I will explain some riding exercises that can be started at the trot and canter. Remember to keep it safe; nobody knows your horse better than you do. If you get a fearful feeling, know that it takes a smarter person to stop, get off, and ask an experienced horseman for help than one who allows their pride to get in the way.

Horse Industry News

Big Brown Retired

Triple Crown hopeful Big Brown sustained an injury that tore "the bulb off his foot," said Michael Iavarone, co-owner of IEAH Stables. 2008 Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes winner and Triple Crown hopeful, was pulled by jockey Kent Desormeaux during the Belmont Stakes. Big Brown owner's were readying for a much anticipated showdown between the 3-year-old colt and reigning horse Champion of the Year Curlin at the Breeder's Cup. "We are disappointed that Big Brown will not be able to compete in this year's Breeders' Cup Classic but are glad to hear that he is expected to make a full recovery from the injury he sustained earlier today," said Greg Avioli, president and CEO of the Breeder's Cup. A three-inch patch of skin was torn off Big Brown's foot during his workout at Aqueduct the morning of Oct. 13.

Hind shoes with calks, stickers, blocks, raised toes or turndowns will not be allowed on the turf courses. This includes quarter horse shoes or any shoe with a toe grab of more than one-quarter inch.

"Our change in policy is another positive step toward improving the welfare and safety of our equine and human athletes, and it's consistent with the recommendations of The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee, TOBA's Thoroughbred Action Committee and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission to address safety in horse racing," said Donnie Richardson, senior vice president of racing for Churchill Downs Incorporated.

NTRA Proposes Reforms

National Thoroughbred Racing Association President and CEO Alex Waldrop and Thoroughbred racing industry leaders outlined a series of industry-wide safety and integrity reforms at a press conference in New York on Wednesday, Oct. 15. The NTRA also announced the creation of a new Safety and Integrity Alliance, comprised of the largest tracks and horsemen's groups in the U.S. and Canada, which will be responsible for implementing the reforms. The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson, former four-term Governor of Wisconsin and Secretary of Health and Human Services, will serve as independent counsel for the new NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance. Governor Thompson will conduct an ongoing review and provide an annual independent and public assessment to the Alliance.

The reform initiatives are the broadest and most comprehensive in the sport's history, including:

- * Uniform medication rules for each racing state;
- * Ban of steroids from racing competition;
- * Out-of-competition testing for blood and gene doping agents and pre-race testing;
- * Uniform penalties for all medication infractions;
- * Mandatory on-track and non-racing injury reporting;
- * Mandatory installation of protective inner safety rail;
- * Mandatory pre- and post-race security; and
- * Adoption of a placement program for Thoroughbreds no longer competing

The reforms were approved by the NTRA Board of Directors, representing North America's leading racetracks, owners, breeders and horsemen, at a special Board Meeting in September and communicated via e-mail to fans just prior to the press conference. Waldrop, joined by NTRA Executive Chairman Robert Elliston, Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Chairman Alan Foreman and Governor Thompson, unveiled an ambitious timetable for implementing reforms, calling on NTRA Alliance member organizations to adopt house rules to enforce the measures until individual states and regulatory agencies can catch up via statute and regulations.

"Our industry is taking strong, positive steps to ensure the safety and integrity of our sport," said Waldrop. "Despite challenges and significant short-term and long-term costs, there is an unprecedented level of commitment among Thoroughbred racing's leadership to see these measures through."



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A WILD RIDE AT NIRA RODEO!



If you missed the Intercollegiate Rodeo at the North Dakota Horse Park this weekend, you missed something very interesting - The Wild Ride! The Wild Ride consisted of five college rodeo students dressed up in various costumes, including a chicken, a man dressed as a woman, and a male model complete with his own paparazzi! All of whom got up on saddle broncs and tried to impress



Top: Rachel Tiedeman from South Dakota State University participates in barrel racing

Left: Amy Holmes of Black Hills State University breakaway roping

Below: Travis Hart of Nebraska College Tech

By Jessica Sell Photography by All Event Photography



the judges. It was a completely voluntary ride with no points for riders but a good time for riders and spectators.

All fun aside, it was truly a good weekend for Dickinson State University as they brought home all four titles for the weekend: Top Men's All Around (Justin Miller), Top Women's All Around (Halley Treeby), Women's Team, and tied Black Hills State for Men's Team! Congratulations to all participants.

Rocking R Farms Hosts Open Dressage Show

Rocking R Farm hosted an open dressage schooling show, the last of the year, on a rainy Sunday, Oct. 5, at Foley, Minn. Fifty-eight riders performed their best in less than ideal outdoor conditions until moving inside to the dry arena. Judges attending were Jim Hatch and Ginger Kawell.

Bev Roth, owner of Rocking R Farm, said "The weather for the shows this fall has not cooperated but Dressage people are coming anyhow, and we always find a way to "Go On With The Show." Rocking R hosts 3 shows per year, this year there was one extra when Rocking R hosted a show to benefit Lori Nelson who is conquering breast cancer.

Roth hosts clinics for dressage and event riders, including one Sat. Oct. 18th, by Ann Cizaldo.



Carol Lindeman riding dressage with her 23-year-old gelding, Harley..

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- Check here monthly for new information and more places to love!

How Much Rent Do You Pay Over the Years?

Monthly Rent	One Year	Three Years	Five Years
\$500	\$6,000	\$18,000	\$30,000
\$550	\$6,600	\$19,800	\$33,000
\$600	\$7,200	\$21,600	\$36,000
\$650	\$7,800	\$23,400	\$39,000
\$700	\$8,400	\$25,200	\$42,000
\$750	\$9,000	\$27,000	\$45,000
\$800	\$9,600	\$28,800	\$48,000

Why Would You Sign Another Rent Check?



George Wyum
Real Estate
West Fargo, ND

HORSE PROPERTY AWAITS YOU

160 Acres west of Kindred, ND. Ideal for horse lovers: Unique terrain with trees, creek, good elevation and sandy soil. 110 acres in pasture, 50 acres currently tillable. \$4,500.00 per acre for the complete 160 acres. David L. Wyum, GRI, CRS, ABR, George Wyum Real Estate, 96 Fifth St E West Fargo ND 58078 (701) 282-3473 • wyum-realestate.com • dwyum@ideaone.net



Advertise Your Property for Sale in the Living Wildly Section of the Valley Equestrian.

Enjoy an eighth-page full color process ad - 2.5" x 5.5" - for only \$70. monthly.



Happy Trails!

See You Next Month!

Providing "wings" for individuals with disabilities



For more information on making a donation or volunteer opportunities contact us at: (218) 359-0007

ExecdirectorROAW@aol.com
www.ridingonangelswings.org



Own Responsibly

For more information, visit unwantedhorsecoalition.org



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The Brady Equestrian Center

"Ride Swedish"

**The Brady Equestrian Center comprises 86 acres
in Downer, Minn. offering the following:**

- Dressage lessons from beginner to advanced on upper level schoolmasters
- Horses available for lease/shows/clinics: 60' by 200' indoor arena, dressage training available
- Stallion collection facility; live cover stallion handling; semen collection, freezing and storage
- Conveniently located 1 mile off the I-94 interchange on County 10

Musical Chairs



Black Type Racing Thoroughbred Stallion
Born 1998

Pedigree: Woodman - Lyphard - Alleged
Sire of 2-year-old stakes winning filly Musical Sharon
40 starts: incredible athletic ability
Kentucky bred
Stakes Placed
Infallible Temperament
Stud fee: \$1500. LFG

"This is the best bred stallion standing in Minnesota."
-- Keith Nations, professional Thoroughbred trainer.

Standing at Stud

Contact:

Margo Brady

(218) 789-7704



Swedish Warmbloods

Norwegian Fjords

Racing Thoroughbreds

Bayron 885



Imported Premium A Swedish Warmblood Stallion –
Born 1990

Pedigree: Bernstein - Utrillo - Gaspari
Rated top ten in BLUP Index (out of 37,000 European stallions)
First place Gaits 1994 Stallion Test in Sweden;
Double Breeder Trophy Finalist;
Competed through Prix St. Georges and Intermediare 1
Stud fee: \$1500. LFG

*"How did you get Sweden to let that horse go?" -- Ulf Wadeborn,
International Gran Prix competitor, dressage 'R' judge, formerly
of the Stromsholm Riding Academy in Sweden.*