

October 2009

All Breeds,  
All Disciplines,  
All the Time



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

# The Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper

## MEN OF MEDORA



**Shopping for Your  
Gaited Horse**  
By Liz Graves

**Swedish Warmblood  
Inspection**  
By Margo Brady

**See more TRNP  
Wild Horses**  
Auctioned Oct. 23

**Managing Your  
Equine Business:**  
By Bob Valentine, Ph.D.

Vol. 3 No. 10  
The Valley Equestrian

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The Valley Equestrian is published monthly.

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About the Cover

Embers, left, stands with his offspring colts on the rangeland of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, N.D. Ember's two-year-old colt Benny and yearling colt, Little Boy Blue. Photography by Eileen Norton. See story on page



"Oliver," a 7-year-old Bachelor stallion is seen in the photo care-taking three young bachelors who had literally just gotten booted from their herds. It is just another example of what awesome care takers the bachelors are even when they haven't yet achieved the status of "Herd Stallion," says Eileen Norton, who has spent many years photographing the TRNP Wild Horses. See the story on Pages 10-11.

What's Inside This Issue?

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Errors: The Valley Equestrian newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement only to the extent of the space covered by the error.



Right top and middle: Spirit of the West Festival characters (Sioux Falls, SD) - some reenactors and others that live the life for real. See more images of the fest on page 12.



Right: Mask, one of the TRNP horses that may be culled and auctioned Oct. 23. More on Pages 10-11.



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THE NATURALLY GAITED TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

The National Walking Horse Association an advocate for the Naturally Gaited Tennessee Walking Horse is headquartered at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. The National Walking Horse Association (NWHHA) established in 1998 is a non-profit organization. NWHHA's mission is to preserve and promote the general welfare, unique qualities, natural abilities and versatility of the Walking Horse



Tom Tween rides his Tennessee Walking Horse at the Fall Festival for Equestrians, the MN EquiFest, Oct. 11, 2008. See more about MN EquiFest on page 3.

The Tennessee Walking Horse has been an official registered breed since 1935. The first horse acknowledged as performing the characteristic running walk was Bald Stockings, foaled in Kentucky in 1837. It would take over a century to establish this trait in the breed. By the early 1900's, a strain of horse had been developed that combined a gentle, calm disposition with a smooth, gliding gait recognized as the Tennessee Walking Horse. The Tennessee Walking Horse is primarily characterized by its gait - a four beat lateral gait, with each hoof striking the ground separately in a 1,2,3,4 rhythm that has equal time intervals between each beat. The hind legs reach up underneath the horse's body with such long, rhythmic strides that the imprint of the hind feet extends beyond that of the forefeet. This particular gait is extremely smooth for the rider. The Walking horse has three distinct gaits: the flat walk, the running walk, and the canter. The flat walk is

of the gait.

The Walking Horse breed was originally developed by farmers who were seeking a smooth-gaited mount for use on their plantations. Many stories are told regarding the farmers' using their horses in the fields all week then riding them into town on Saturday night to compete at the local fair. Speed without breaking gait was the original denominator. Since that time gait has evolved as the essential ingredient,

the four-beat lateral gait described previously; the running walk is a faster version of the same gait. During both of these gaits the walking horse displays a deep nodding of the head with each step. The canter, which is a slow, controlled gallop, is often referred to as a "rocking chair" canter because of the slow, rhythmic motion

with speed being secondary. From the horse's agricultural beginnings, it grew into a great show horse, but that is only one place where the walking horse will excel. Today the Tennessee Walking Horse is a very versatile breed. Many have showing careers in both English and Western classes, as well as Driving and Versatility classes which include Dressage, Jumping, Competitive Trail Riding and Field Trials. The Walking Horse has become extremely popular as a trail horse due to the smooth seat, level headiness, ground covering and surefootness of the breed.

The Tennessee Walking Horse comes in a verity of colors. The horse is usually 15 to 16 hands high with a high headset and strong chest and legs. The breed has an even temperament, is docile and friendly and is well known for being a horse "with a lot of heart". The Walking Horse is a beautiful animal whose natural gaits are smooth and poetic to watch as well as ride. It is a horse that has gained in popularity, over the last decade in particular, and is conducive to a wide variety of uses and disciplines. "Ride one today and you'll own one tomorrow", is an advertising slogan for the Walking Horse, and it is richly deserved.

For more information on the National Walking Horse Association: Executive Director: Vanessa D. Crowe, National Horse Center

TOURISM PROMOTION BILL PASSES SENATE

The American Horse Council is pleased the U.S. Senate yesterday passed the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (S.1023) introduced by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND). This bill could benefit tourism involving the horse industry.

"Equine tourism is a growing and diverse segment of the horse industry. Because it encompasses many parts of the industry including recreation, showing and racing its continued growth is beneficial to the entire horse industry," Said AHC

President Jay Hickey. "If equine tourism in the U.S. is to expand, it is important that we promote it abroad as well as at home. We believe this bill has the potential to increase the number of international visitors to the U.S. who participate in equestrian events and activities, either as participants or spectators."

The purpose of the bill is to market the U.S. as a tourist destination to people around the world. It would create a non-profit Corporation for

Travel Promotion, which would be responsible for correcting misperceptions regarding U.S entry policies, and providing useful information to foreign tourists and others interested in traveling to the United States.

Notably, the bill requires the Corporation for Travel Promotion to "identify opportunities and strategies to promote tourism to rural and urban areas equally." A travel promotion fund requiring non-federal matching funds would also be

Purina Horse Feed Donates to Two Deserving Families Featured on "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition"

Purina has donated horse feed to two deserving families featured on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Episodes featuring the Hamptons of Springfield, Mo., and the Marshalls of Dallas, Texas, will air this fall on ABC.

"Purina loved teaming up with Extreme Makeover: Home Edition to assist these families in need," said Marketing Manager, Land O'Lakes Purina Feed, Chris Goodwin. "We take great pride in the equine industry and always look for ways to give back and help horses and their owners."

Purina donated five tons of horse feed to the Hampton family of Springfield, Mo., in hopes to help offset feed costs for their six rescued horses that live on their farm. Making ends meet had been a struggle for the Hamptons. With two children of their own, Chris and wife Niki Hampton recently doubled the size of their family after a fateful phone call from a social services agency. They were told that they had just one hour to decide whether to take their four nieces and nephews or let them go into foster care. Without hesitation, Chris and Niki moved the four children into their 716 square-foot, one-bedroom and one bath farmhouse. "They are the type of people who will be there anytime anyone needs anything," said Chris' mother, Cathie Hampton. "When they decided to take in the four kids, they were already cramped and crowded. They still took

them in."

During the western-themed show, viewers will see the Hampton's family home and barn completely torn down and rebuilt. The new barn will house their six rescued horses and will include six stalls, an equine facility, a tack room, a feed room and a green house.

"It is obvious the horses are much loved members of the family, and since the family got a new home, we wanted to give the horses a new home too," said Project Lead for the extreme builder, Millstone Homes, Julie Vanvig-Burnell. "We also decided to partner with Purina to provide the horses with a level of security and a premium horse feed for these much loved animals."

Purina also donated a one year supply of Strategy® Horse Feed to the Marshall family of Dallas, Texas. Carlton Marshall, who serves on the Dallas police force, has two children with his wife Susan. He recently spent nine months in the hospital after a bullet pierced his neck during a drug raid, damaging his spinal cord. He suffered a severe stroke, contracted meningitis, and is now in a wheelchair and uses cochlear implants in order to hear.

The Emmy award winning reality program "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," now entering its 7th season, is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. It is executive-produced by Anthony Dominici. David Goldberg is Chairman, Endemol North America. The show airs Sundays from 8:00-9:00 p.m., EST on ABC.

ABOUT LAND O'LAKES PURINA FEED'S HORSE BUSINESS

Founded in 1894, Purina, now part of Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC is recognized as the world leader in animal nutrition. Purina feeds over one million horses every day as well as a host of other animals ranging from domestic livestock to wild birds and deer to zoological animals. For more information on Purina Horse Feed visit www.purinadifference.com or www.horse.purinamills.com.

What Do You Want To See in the VE? Email or Call: theVENews@gmail.com 701.361.8648

Editor's Notebook



According to Bloodhorse.com, "The marathon Keeneland September yearling sale drew to a close Sept. 28 with some of the biggest declines in key statistical categories in recent history as the gross receipts fell 41.5 percent, the average was down 33.2 percent, and the median was off 40.5 percent for the 14 sessions."

Don't most of us wish we could earn a price like this for our equines? "An Unbridled's Song colt brought \$185,000 to top the ninth session of the struggling Keeneland September yearling sale. While the number of horses sold Sept. 23 in Lexington rose 5.6 percent from a year ago, the gross revenue declined 26.2 percent. The average price dropped 30.1 percent, and the median price plunged 40 percent. The buy-back rate fell from 24.6 percent in 2008 to 19.3 percent this year," according to Bloodhorse.com.

Paul Zentgraf, barn manager at HKL Stables in Cambridge, Minn., said: "I think PETA has hurt us badly." He expressed his belief that the elimination of the slaughter plants in the U.S. has caused a glut of horses in the U.S. and the prices of all horses to decline. He said the hybrids and all the back yard breeders are a problem. "My personal belief is that working cow and ranch horses will go up in value in the market. It's easy to see if you look at the old stud books. Stud fees used to be higher. "I would rather a horse go to the slaughter house than starve in a pasture. People being so humane have caused horses to starve to death."

In a recent press release from the Unwanted Horse Coalition, their published study results indicate, "More than 90 percent of those who took the on-line survey believe the number of unwanted horses, as well as those neglected and abused, is increasing. Almost all participants (87 percent) indicate that in the past year, the issue of unwanted horses has become "a big problem," compared with only 22 percent who said the problem was important three years ago.

Participants believe the economy to be a top contributor to the problem of unwanted horses today. The closing of our nation's processing facilities, change in breed demand/indiscriminate breeding, and the high cost of euthanasia and carcass disposal are also mentioned as major contributors.

Regarding placement options for unwanted horses, 63 percent of equine rescue/retirement facilities that participated reported that they are at near or full capacity and, on average, turn away 38 percent of the horses brought to them.

Letter to the Editor "Picked up last 2 month's papers - Great! I enjoy all the "feelings" articles about horses you have in them, Ley, you and your crew do such a great job! Carol Lindeman, Princeton, Minn.

Survey respondents listed the most appealing solutions for solving the problem of unwanted horses as horse ownership education, increasing the ability of private rescue and retirement facilities to care for unwanted horses, reopening U.S. processing facilities, and increasing resources for humane euthanasia and carcass disposal."

Brad Thelen buys and sells horses all over the country and puts on horse sales at Winger, Long Prairie and Hutchinson, Minn. every month. Horses are his "weekend hobby." During the week he deals in cattle and implements. Thelen attributes the decline in horse prices to the absence of slaughter plants in the U.S. "With no slaughter plants in the states the cost to transport the right horses to the kill market is too much. Prices are low because the government shut the slaughter plants down. It's just like anything else: coyotes kill the old deer to keep the population down, hawks kill rabbits to keep the population down, there is nothing to keep the horse population down." Thelen has been buying and selling horses for 14 years and says, "The horse market is the cheapest it's ever been. I probably get 1-5 calls a day from people looking to buy or sell horses."

The Valley Equestrian is starting a discussion about the horse market on its Facebook page. We will be talking to people in the region who buy and sell horses for a living. If you want us to ask a question or make a comment, email, call or post a comment on The Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook page. The contact information is: theVENews@gmail.com or 701.361.8648. It's not a popular topic of discussion in some circles, but it's a necessary topic. You have something to say and your voice should be heard.

Ley Bouchard Publisher

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## THE ROYAL RED: THE CANADIAN NATIONALS

By Rachel Spry

2009 marked the 52nd year for the "Royal Red" show held at the Evraz Center in Regina, Saskatchewan Aug. 17-22.

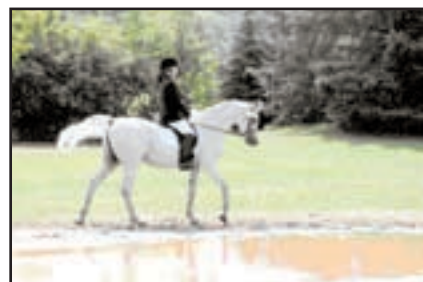
Although, the entries were down (1643 in 2009 as compared to 1,941 in 2008) due to the problems with Vesicular Stomatitis, the competition and number of classes were up.

The 2009 entry roster listed 478 owners from 50 different states and provinces.

The show boasted a whopping 174 classes to delight the crowd of 12,000.

Though it was mid-August, the weather felt more like mid-September. The show boasted the grounds much more comfortable for the horses, but the owners were bundled up and keeping warm with layers of clothes, hot chocolate and coffee. The weather may have been chilly, but the friendliness and camaraderie of the exhibitors was warm, as they are always known to be at this show.

Qualifying must take place prior to showing at the Canadian National Show. To do this, one earns



Above: Ayla Spry competes on Jemfire at the Canadian National Show in Regina, Saskatchewan Aug. 17-22.

Below: Trainer Carol Lindeman, Princeton, Minn. rewards Jemfire with a well-deserved kiss.



points at Regional Championship shows or Arabian Horse Association (AHA) recognized shows.

The classes offered run the gamut from Halter to Cutting and Reining to Dressage.

With much of Regina under road construction, the city was hard to navigate, but the staff at Evraz Place more than made up for the inconvenience. Early morning owners attending to their horses were treated with complimentary coffee, donuts and juice, so that you did not have to navigate the city. While the after hour's parties in the barns allowed you to stay on site for entertainment and libation.

My daughter Ayla, went to the Canadian Nationals to show in Dressage. Her original plan was to show at the Youth Nationals and Sport Horse Nationals, but with all the health restrictions and quarantines due to the

health issues at the US Youth Nationals, we decided that Canada was a safer show for her horse.

The trip was delightful, smooth driving (OK- lots of road construction, but it is summer in the Northern Climate!) no large cities to

navigate, and the border patrol was great.

We were lucky enough to have Ayla's trainer, Carol Lindeman, offer to organize her vacation to include being at the Nationals to coach Ayla. It paid off because Carol, as always, kept the day running smooth and paid attention to detail, as her years of experience has taught her.

Although Ayla was the only Youth in the Open and Amateur class, she did very well obtaining a Top Ten ride and ribbon.

Her horse, loving it at the show grounds, didn't want to load to go home, and many, many other exhibitors offered their help. It was a great group of people.

The owners and trainers at this show were definitely horse lovers who put their horses first and showed plenty of affection to their equine friends. A great show and a great atmosphere ... definitely worth the trip to Canada!

GOT A NICE STORY? Share it with VE Readers! Email: theVENews@gmail.com or call 701-361-8648

**Read All About It!** The November issue of the VE is featuring Scandinavian breeds. See Page 4 for contact information to submit information or buy an ad today!

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## SWEDISH WARBLOOD INSPECTION AT OAK HILL FARM

By Margo Brady

On September 17, 2009, Oak Hill Farm in River Falls, Wisconsin hosted the judges from the Avelsföreningen för Svenska Varmblodiga Hästen (ASVH) or the Swedish Warmblood Association in Sweden. This year the judges were Jan-Ove Olsson and Lars Berglund. This event is scheduled annually by the Swedish Warmblood Association of North America (SWANA) and results in ten sites visited across the USA.

The categories for evaluation are:  
 • Young horse inspection which is open to foals, yearlings, and two-year olds  
 • Three-Four year old test  
 • Older horse inspection (open to animals five years of age and older)  
 • Stallion evaluation  
 • Broodmare evaluation  
 Horses are judged in six areas with a maximum score of ten possible in each area: Type; Head/neck/body; Legs; Walk (in hand); Trot (in hand); Free Canter.

For the Three-Four Year old test, the horses must also complete a free jumping phase which judges both technique and jumping temperament. There is a voluntary riding test to evaluate the horse under saddle. (The riding test is mandatory for horses seeking a Diploma in either Dressage Talent or Jumping Talent.)

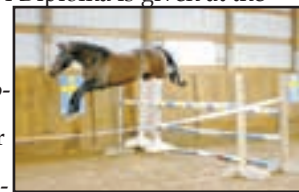
The older horse inspection evaluates all the above areas except for the free canter. Broodmare evaluation is only done after at least one registered foal has been inspected with its scores recorded. Only five of the above areas are judged (all but free canter).

The stallion evaluation is more complicated. The stallion must have an approved pedigree with his dam's sire line consisting of four generations of evaluated breeding stallions. The exterior inspection includes measurement of height and cannon bone circumference, veterinary inspection, and then the following five categories are rated: Type; Head/neck; Body; Legs; Walk; Trot

Judging is in dressage or jumping or both and the stallions participate in a test of gaits under saddle or jumping under saddle with a test rider. The stallion's offspring are then evaluated when a sufficient number of progeny are tested. Stallions approved for breeding in the USA have two years to complete their performance test requirements. It is possible for a stallion to lose his breeding license if his offspring do not meet the

required standards.

After the judging, horses are graded from Class I (highest) to Class IV (lowest scores). Only horses with Class III and higher are eligible for branding. (Branding is optional and is no longer done in Sweden.) A Diploma is given at the



An example of free jumping taken at the 2008 Swedish Inspection: Godiva was awarded a Class I in jumping talent.

Three-Four year old test to horses that possess exceptional talent in dressage or jumping. A Double Diploma, which is rarely awarded, is given to a horse who exhibits outstanding potential in both jumping and dressage. Broodmares are given a Premium B or AB rating after the evaluation of themselves and their offspring. They can be upgraded to Premium A or Elite statuses as more of their offspring are evaluated with high scores.

At the Oak Hill Farm Inspection, eight horses were presented for evaluation: three foals, one 2-year-old, three 3-4-year-olds, and one broodmare. Happily, all of the horses evaluated received a Class I rating! This is often not the case as the judging is very strict; this is a compliment to the breeders in this region for the quality of their horses.

The judges explained their comments to the participants and the audience. They gave recommendations about which types of stallions should be bred to the young mares in order to complement the evaluated filly's conformation and qualities.

Finally, branding was offered to those who wanted. Here, a hot iron was placed against the horse's thigh until he/she moved away. The horses were not restrained. This brand only affects the hairs and is not a brand of the skin. Interestingly, none of the horses seemed adversely affected by this method.

All together, the day was very successful with both judges and participants pleased with the outcome of the inspection. The Oak Hill Farm location was the third place visited in the USA. Jan-Ove Olsson and Lars Berglund will continue judging throughout the USA until September 26, 2009, when they will return to Sweden to prepare for the Swedish judging of the Breeder's Trophy Sport Horse Championship in October!

Margo Brady is a regular contributor to The VE with her monthly column, "Dressage Defined" which features Warmbloods in the October issue -- see it on Page 9. Brady breeds Swedish Warmbloods and stand Bayron 855 which she imported the summer of 2008.



Aquaria: Diploma Dressage Talent, Class I broodmare, Premium AB Studbook mare, with her foal, Björling by Bayron 885 who was rated Class I.



Lisbeth Bengtsson riding Bayard, a gelding by a son of Briar out of a Master mare, and Larry Vetos on Gracious Elegance, a filly by Galapard out of a Pando mare. Both horses received Class I for jumping and dressage at the 3-4 Year Old Test.

## MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS:

### THINK - PLAN - ORGANIZE - EXECUTE - MAKE/SAVE MONEY

By Bob Valentine, Ph.D.

Before we continue setting up a measurable and manageable Chart of Accounts, I would like to discuss Current Assets in a little more depth. If you haven't read the column in the September issue of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper (pg.7, online at www.theveonline.com) or need to refresh your memory, I suggest you do a quick read as this column is a continuation of the September column.

Current Assets play a major role in two important financial measurements: the Current Ratio and the Quick Ratio. The Current Ratio is one of the best known measures of a business's financial strength.

The Quick Ratio is sometimes called the "acid-test" ratio, because it is one of the best known measures of a business's liquidity (available cash). In both ratios Current Assets are in the Numerator. The Numerator is the part of a ratio (common

fraction) appearing above the line and representing the parts of the whole that are being considered. The difference between Current and Quick ratios is the Current Assets that are included in the respective Numerators. Current assets are a category of assets on the Balance Sheet (future column) that represent cash and assets that are expected to be converted into all cash within the next 12 months.

In the September column we identified Current Asset as Cash Accounts, Investment Accounts, Accounts Receivable and Inventory. I classify them in three categories by a measure of their liquidity; Cash is Water, Investments and Receivables are Ketchup, and Inventory is Molasses. Because the Current Ratio is a measure of a business's financial strength, all Current Assets are included in the Numerator of the Current Ratio. However, since the Quick Ratio is a measure of a business's liquidity, only liquid Assets like Cash, Investments and Receivables are included in the Numerator of the Quick Ratio. The reason inventory is not included is it is difficult to turn inventory into cash in a short period of time, i.e., slow moving molasses. Sometimes even Receivables are questionable if you have too many slow paying customers. But, before we can do any analysis or reach any conclusions related to the Current Ratio and the Quick Ratio we need to discuss Current Liabilities and what they represent.

Current liabilities are what a business currently owes to its vendors and creditors. Current Liabilities are short-term debts, all due in less than a year. Paying them off normally requires the business to convert some of its Current Assets into cash. Beyond simply being bills to pay, liabilities (confusing as this might sound) are also a source of assets. Any

money that a company pulls from a line of credit, or postpones paying from its accounts payable, is an asset that can be used to grow the business. For example, delaying your payables to your vendors from 30 days to 60 days can increase your Cash by the amount owed over the next 30 days. This is only viable if your use that cash to improve your business. As the expression goes; "Don't rob Peter to pay Paul."

#### There are five main categories of Current Liabilities.

- Accounts payable: This is the money the business currently owes to its vendors, partners, and employees -- the basic costs of doing business that the business hasn't yet paid.
- Accrued expenses: Unpaid payroll expenses, unpaid interest on notes, and taxes incurred but not yet paid
- Income tax payable: This is a specific type of accrued expense -- the income tax a business

accrues over the year, but does not have to pay yet, according to various federal, state and local tax schedules.

• Short-term notes payable: Notes a business has that need to be repaid within the next 12 months.

• Portion of long-term debt: The portion of a business's longer-term obligations that need to be repaid within the next 12 months.

Setting up a measurable and manageable Chart of Accounts in the Accounts Payable category can have a significant operating and financial impact on a business. Although Accounts Payable is a primary category under Current Liabilities, a business should use a system that allows it to define multiple vendor subaccounts for the same products and services. Defining a separate subaccount for each vendor lets a business measure that vendor's impact on the business's use of cash, the vendor's product and service quality and the vendor's deliv-

ery performance. A late load of hay is trumped by a late load of bad hay. The right system that is setup correctly will only allow this to happen once. However, the proper vendor selection will prevent it from ever happening (another future column). Remember, the items you select should help you optimize your work flow, have a positive influence on your profitability and, last but not least, conserve cash. Measuring your vendors and what they supply is a major component in this objective -- price, terms, quality and delivery.

Another category under Current Liabilities that deserves attention is Short Term Notes Payable. This is particularly true if a business has multiple short term notes -- and many do. The Chart of

Accounts in this area should allow measurement and management of each note. The correct Chart of Accounts associated with a note will enable the business to minimize a note's impact on the business's profitability and cash. The business will be able to make the correct management decisions on each note and the notes in total -- which ones to pay off, which ones to renegotiate, which ones to discount and sell.

Now we have a better idea of what makes up a business's Current Liabilities, we can use our Current and Quick Ratios to make our first financial analysis of a business. In both ratios the Total Current Liabilities are in the Denominator. The Numerator is the number below the line in a ratio (simple fraction), which indicates the number of parts making up the whole.

The Current Ratio formula is:

$$\text{Current Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Current Assets}}{\text{Total Current Liabilities}}$$

The main question the Current Ratio addresses is: Does your business have enough Current Assets to meet the pay-

ment schedule of its current debts with a margin of safety for possible losses in Current Assets, such as inventory shrinkage or uncollectable accounts? A generally acceptable current ratio is 2:1. But whether or not a specific ratio is satisfactory depends on the nature of the business and the characteristics of its Current Assets and Current Liabilities. The minimum acceptable current ratio is obviously 1:1, but that relationship is usually playing it too close for comfort.

If you feel your business's current ratio is too low, you may be able to improve it by:

- Paying off some debts. (Yes)
- Increasing your Current Assets from loans or other borrowings with a maturity of more than one year. (Hum -- most likely delaying the problem)
- Converting non-current assets into Current Assets. (September column, Asset Management)
- Increasing your Current Assets from new equity contributions. (Yes -- Grow the business)
- Putting profits back into the business. (Yes -- It all starts with selling something)

The Quick Ratio is computed as shown:  
 Quick Ratio =  $\frac{\text{Cash} + \text{Investments} + \text{Receivables}}{\text{Total Current Liabilities}}$

The Quick Ratio is a much more exacting measure than the Current Ratio. By excluding inventories, it concentrates on the really liquid assets, with value that is fairly certain. It helps answer the question: If all sales revenues should disappear, could my business meet its current obligations with the readily convertible "Quick" funds on hand? An acid-test of 1:1 is considered satisfactory unless the majority of your "Quick Assets" are in accounts receivable, and the pattern of accounts receivable collection lags behind the schedule for paying Current Liabilities.

I suggest you do a Current Ratio and Quick Ratio on your business even if you don't operate as a business. Remember, spending your money wisely may provide the opportunity to attend another horse show or event or do something special with your horse. Think -- plan -- organize -- execute -- make/save money.

Next month we will conclude setting up our Chart of Accounts. Then we will use the system we have defined to make more financial performance measurements and discuss what they tell us and how they can help us.

Bob Valentine, Ph.D., is the President of GenieCo, Inc. and Professor of Equine Business at Colorado State University. He may be reached at 1.888.678.4364 or via email at: bob@genieatwork.com. Get more information and see the products available at www.equinegenie.com.

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# SMART GAITED HORSE SHOPPING

Whether you're looking for that first gaited horse or a new one, using common sense, wisdom and simply listening to one's gut instincts, will certainly bring rewards in having a good experience in obtaining the horse one truly desires.

The market being what we term as "soft" right now can also bring about some very good buys, but one needs to be price savvy also. The price ranges for some time have been huge and a more expensive horse does not mean it's a better horse than one in a lower range. Right now there really is no base line in horse prices, it's just what one is willing to pay.

The value of a horse, in my opinion, is in the temperament and completeness of training, over pedigree. Having papers on a horse may be necessary if one is going to show breed specific shows, or looking at a horse for future reproduction purposes. Even on the papered horse temperament, amount of handling and quality of training is first priority. The color of a horse should not be a first priority.

I often advise people to ride a variety of gaited breeds first to determine which breed suits them best.

Although they are all termed smooth-gaited compared to their non-gaited counterparts, the gaits can feel very different and your own body will tell you which feels the best. Also the same breeds doing the same gait can have slight variations in feel.

Another consideration is that some are "wired" differently in temperament. This can be individual in nature and not always breed specific.

Being an educated consumer will protect one from possibly purchasing the wrong horse for your situation. If one does not have the knowledge base, then find a very experienced equestrian to help in your search.

It's long been said the cost of the horse is the least expensive part of the investment and acquiring the wrong horse, an unsound or unhealthy horse can end up being a rather large unexpected investment.

A good base of knowledge is in knowing what is good conformation in any horse, as many structural weaknesses, although accepted in the breeds, does not always mean an individual will hold up to long term reasonable use. Know what the gaits are, but just because it's a Tennessee walking horse does not mean it does the signature gait of

running walk or the proper gait has been developed. The whole range of varying gaits can be seen in all the gaited breeds on specific individuals. In my experience, a large number of trainers and breeders also do not know how to correctly identify or develop the gaits in the gaited horses they sell or represent, no matter how long they have been working with in the gaited breeds. So determine if the seller has quantity of limited experience but more important quality of knowledge.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

My advice to any consumer is to answer this question: What is your first impression of the seller when inquiring about a horse? Sometimes it's not what they say in providing information, but what they don't say or how they word the information. I feel it is wise to let them tell you about the horse without saying what you are specifically looking for first. Give as little personal information about yourself to the seller other than what you have to offer in care of the horse and your experience as a rider, to determine if this will be a good match.

Sellers do have the right to refuse a sale if they don't feel the horse will receive proper housing, care, treatment or a good match with a potential buyer. Remember a horse's current owner may have a considerable amount of emotional attachment, proper training and time invested in a horse.

Don't tell them your price range or what your profession is as a seller may price according to what they feel they can get from a certain buyer.

Don't get in a hurry when buying a horse, often this can be a huge error in judgment and also it's not uncommon for a seller to put pressure on by telling you they have someone else interested, when in fact they don't. This is a very common ploy to get a horse sold. This is not always the case as there may very well be other interested parties, but this is when your gut instincts as to the true character of a seller come into consideration.

When an appointment is made to see the horse in person, that first impression is also very important.

Mental notes to make are cleanliness, safety of the facility, is the horse friendly and mannerly, are the hooves in proper condition, does it look healthy

By Liz Graves

in weight and quality of hair coat. A horse for sale should be ready for sale and presented by a seller in a proper manner and condition. Take a camera for photos and/or filming as a lot can be missed or overlooked in the process of evaluating a potential horse. This is a good tool to evaluate a horse later with no distractions.

If a potential buyer is unable to see a horse in person then a complete video should be made available to potential buyers.

## LOTS OF MYTHS

There are a lot of gaited horse myths floating about now and for many years. Knowing what these are and possibly hearing them from a seller can also clue one into their horsemanship skills and the information imparted to a potential buyer as accurate. Some of these myths are: you have to use a gaited horse bit, use a gaited horse saddle, lean back while throwing your legs forward to ride, lift the head and hold up, gaited horses can't canter, gaited horses don't back. Always remember a gaited horse is a horse first and foremost before a breed and good horsemanship with completeness of training is the same on all breeds of horses, it's just that gaited horses have a different intermediate gait other than trot.

## WHAT TO ASK

When asking for specific information, be direct and again listen for what is said, not said or how it is said by the seller.

## •Registration papers

Is the horse registered and if so, papers should be present at showing. Be sure the papers match the horse. When a horse is purchased, the papers and transfer of ownership should be current and with the horse upon pick-up of the horse. Check if the current seller is also the owner listed on the papers.

## •Health

A vet check by a vet you know or has no vested interest in the sale of the horse or the seller as a client is a good practice. Vet exams can vary in completeness by what a potential buyer is

willing to pay for them. Pulling blood for evidence of sedatives is also a recommended practice since they seem to be commonly used by some selling horses and can give a buyer a false sense of mental, behavior traits, training soundness and safety of a horse. X-rays may be a good investment: check the legs and back as it is a current trend to start many horses too young. Check the horse yourself for any body soreness. Have the teeth checked to ensure the age of the horse is being represented correctly.

If purchasing for reproduction, get a reproduction exam done on mares and stallions. Ask if a gelding is a cryptorchid. Inquire about these items as well: Vaccinations, currency of dental work, parasite control, hoof care, has the horse coliced, has the horse had any surgeries, is the horse sound of mind and body, is the coggins current, has the horse had any illnesses, has the horse had past injuries, get an explanation for any scars, are the eyes clean and clear, is the breathing normal with no nasal discharges, standing and when ridden, has the horse ever been lame, what is the horse's current diet?

## •Vices

Ask if a horse has any bad habits or vices in general, and then ask specifically of the list below: does the horse bite or nip, kick or strike, rear, bolt, buck, crib, wind suck, stall walk, weave,

## •Training, Handling, General manners

What age started under saddle, any professional training and how long, level of rider needed, stall well, fence well, get along with other horses when ridden and on free time turn out, ride away from other horses, ride

alone, barn sour, ring sour, trail ridden and how much, accept a bath well, accepts clipping well, does the horse tie, does the horse pull back when tied, does the horse load in a trailer willingly, cross water willingly, accept a saddle well, accept a bit well, pick up hooves willingly, has the horse ever been shown?

## •Some extras

It is a good practice with a riding horse to ask the seller to ride the horse first and ask that they show all the skills they have represented. Wear a helmet if you choose to ride after the seller.

Observe the horse in its pasture situation and/or stall behaviors. Observe if the horse can be caught and haltered willingly. You never have to buy the horse after one visit; a couple of visits with the horse is a good practice.

Don't expect a seller to allow you take a horse home on trial. If they offer that's fine but certainly get paper work in order as to liability and responsibilities of each party. Accidents can happen easily and a new owner can misuse a horse rather quickly and devalue it from its original value.

There is no such thing as a bomb-proof horse, be reasonable in your expectations of what a horse is and should be. Be curious to the seller and respectful while on their property as well.

In some instances, politics, competition, and rumor may keep a buyer away from a good prospect; go see the horse for yourself and don't fall victim to some of these human traits that can get in the way of finding the right horse.

## Closing Statements

I know many of us may add much more to the lists above

Continued on Page 18

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# Living the Dream: Hall's Hackney Haven

By Ley Bouchard

Tucked into the rural beet and grain fields of rural Moorhead, Minn., Carol Hall found her haven. Or actually, her kids found it. Hall was in New York when her son called to tell her about the north Moorhead property which she later purchased sight unseen.

It is here that she showers love, affection and a million smiles on her Hackney horses, one of which is a five times Pony of the Century "Precious Moments." Others have official names like "Dun Haven Radiant Spirit," and "Mom's Day," a 3-month foal out of "Oh!Oh!"

"The gait is inbred with the Hackney and is why we do the breeding we do," Hall said. The farrier pads and shoes the horses to complement the show gait with the length, angle and shoe weight they need to carry and keep their balance."

"All my mink coats are out here," Hall said referring to her

breeding stock Hackney horses, her babies. "They speak louder than we do. It's like a baby, they will tell you if they're taken care of or not."

"If you can be around Hackney ponies, you can be around anything. They adapt to your personality. They follow your temperament," Hall says. "If you want to learn something about yourself, own a Hackney. They will definitely teach you a lot about your personality. That's why I'm doing this after the age of 70. They keep me alive and active."

Moorhead, Minn. is a long way from Syracuse, N.Y. and Hall's first show pony and from where she showed all over the United States. With

her husband of nearly 50 years, Ted, she trailered the country and raised five children. Two of her boys now live in the Fargo-Moorhead area another lives in Sioux City, Iowa and one in Nebraska.

"Charm's Playboy brought me back to life after the death of my daughter," Hall told me. "Foolish" took care of her after her husband's passing. Nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild makes her family life complete.

Hall grew up in Green Bay, Wisc. where her family lived

near an amusement park. "If I got there early enough I could ride the ponies to the ring and help the kids on the ponies ... that was my Sundays. At fairs, I would always be around the ponies," Hall said.

Hall has shown horses since she was 40-years-old. "Life begins at 40." She tells about a favorite memory showing her

Continued on Page 12



Carol Hall with her horses. Above, she drives "Spirit" when winning the UPHA American Royal championship. Below, Carol, left, and trainer, Ashley Vry.



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THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK WILD HORSE HERD TO BE CULLED AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OCT. 23 AT STOCKMAN'S LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE IN DICKINSON, N.D.

By Ley Bouchard

The roar of the helicopter propeller disturbs the silence of the buttes and grassy knolls on which the horses graze. The older ones have seen this before; they are familiar with the sound. The mares and stallions try to notify their young with whinnies, calls and body language. It is that

time again, time for the roundup.

The stallions know life will never be the same. Their herd will be altered. They know not which ones will be culled, just that some of their friends, mates and young will be taken, snatched from the herd like a giant hand from the sky swooping down to move them into the containment area where they are handled, some for the first time,

and readied for the sale.

It's a management issue and the onus falls to Mike Oehler, wildlife biologist for the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, No. Dak. It is a management and issue based on how many animals the land will support - and we're not just talking horses. Oehler has to consider all the critters: elk, bison, mountain lion, coyote, prairie dogs and more.

"How many are culled is based on a forage allocation

model the park completed. How much the animals eat at a certain time of the year and how much the land will support; we use a conservative estimate. The elk go through the same model - it was completed by researchers at Montana State University in 1993. A lot is based on what we want the range to look like - we have a lot of things we're trying to balance - vegetation is important - we're not a rancher that has to maximize production," says Oehler. The number of horses culled is based on a "population objective and when it surpasses the high end, when it's going to exceed the 90, the sky isn't

falling or anything, but it gives us an idea of what triggers a roundup. Which ones are culled comes from our office: how often do I want to deal with this population? If I want to extend the interval between culls I take more females and fiddle with the number either way. I don't want to have culls each year as it's too expensive and the animals don't like it; it is very disruptive."

Oehler says TRNP culls the wild horse herd every three to five years depending upon how well the population is doing. "These populations don't show the effect of dry years; they still produce at the same rate and

mortality isn't increased with the loss of vegetation due to drought."

The average roundup costs the Park more than \$50,000 to rent the helicopters, provide the veterinarian services, transportation of the horses to the sale barn, sales commissions, branding inspection fee, etc. The helicopter (which is the largest expense) costs the same whether they cull one horse or 50 horses, according to Oehler.

"A staff of 30 to 40 individuals help with the roundup. Some folks are manning gates, there are folks with vet services and people who work with the media," says Oehler.

"We will start on the 19th bringing animals in with helicopter, during the 20th, too, and hope to finish processing the 20th or 21st early in the day and truck animals to Dickinson in time for them to settle in the sale barn. The number of helicop-

ters depends upon availability; we are using two this year. We're getting mares in for the research study I'm doing. Helicopters are certified by the Department of Interior - the contracting branch under the NBC (National Business Center). They do all the contracting for the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and the NPS (National Park Service). We have to use contracted services. They have

to go through the rigorous training required. Only a very few do it in the USA and the same folks are doing the same work. They either fly or trailer the helicopters depending on the distance. The cost is \$1400 an hour to run them. It is the expensive part of the operation but makes it highly efficient, it increases your effect 100-fold.

We used to do it on horseback and they'd get few horses."

This is not the first time the horses have been handled by humans. "Most of the animals have been handled, especially the older ones, as they've been in before if they're younger than 6 years old," said Oehler. "We use a low stress handling method; quiet, slow paced, restricted to NPS staff only.

roundups. We drive them into a winged fence that extends out a ways into the park and then gets them into a larger holding area which brings them into a shoot system. They get a general health check; then we might draw blood if we're doing a disease screening. Those animals are in a padded shoot and restrained a little bit with a rope around their neck. We do a very low stress method; we don't use hot shots or paddles, there's no whooping or hollering; we don't have bus loads of school kids and the public is not invited to watch."

Continued on Page 12

THE HEART OF A STALLION

By Eileen Norton

STALLION ... What comes to mind when you think of this word? Nostrils flared and snorting? Legs striking? Body rearing? It's true a Stallion can exhibit all these behaviors, but it is also true a Stallion can be a loving and extraordinary care taker of his herd.

Although the main purpose of a stallion is that of protection and procreation of his herd, I have observed and studied the wild horse band that runs in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Western North Dakota and witnessed and photographed many of these gentle and loving behaviors by the many Herd Stallions in the

ONE WILD HORSE: CLAIRE'S STORY

Editor's Note: The following story is about a horse from the TRNP wild horse herd submitted to the VE by Marylue Weber to illustrate the versatility of the horses and how they are able to be trained and become part of your family.

By Adena Ray

Claire was purchased as a companion pony for an upper level dressage horse. The owner discovered that Claire was far too smart to be standing around a pasture and put her up for sale. She wisely waited

for the right combination (Claire is not a children's horse - she's athletic, smart and needs a confident handler). I wanted a driving pony of a specific height and went to look at Claire. There was just magic between us from the start. Claire came to our farm, having never known a job. Within three weeks she was hitched to



a carriage, within six months she did her first competition. She's nothing

short of amazing. When the winter came and I couldn't drive, I decided to see if Claire was strong enough to carry me under saddle. Yes! We did dressage lessons all winter, which we'll go back to when we cannot drive.

I've attached some recent photos of her schooling dressage. I think she's impressive! She is (no doubt it) the most intelligent horse I've ever met. She learns quickly and well. She's smart, sassy and self-assured. She is my perfect partner!



Photos by Eileen Norton



PHOTOS BY EILEEN NORTON



Left: The photo is of 7 year old Bachelor stallion "Oliver." He is seen in the photo care taking three young bachelors who had literally just gotten booted from their herds. It is just another example of what awesome care takers the bachelors are even when they haven't yet achieved the status of "Herd Stallion."

Photo and caption by Eileen Norton

SPIRIT OF THE WEST FEST PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Paula and Brian Bausch are among the performers at the Spirit of the West Festival Sept. 21-22 in Sioux Falls, S.D. Other old west characters included Buffalo Bill, gunslingers, whipcrackers and re-enactors. See more images on the VE Facebook page and website.

Hall's Hackney Haven (Continued from Page 9)

Hackney, "Spirit." "At the warm-up for the UPHA American Royal Nationals in Ada, Iowa, there were four or five professional trainers and I said to my trainer, Mike Harren, 'What are you doing? Look who's in the warm-up ring.' Two of the professionals bowed out, one came back, and a professional came in. Mike told me, 'You just go out there and show your pony!' A three-judge system gave me the championship in an unanimous decision. It was time for me to retire. This lady had hit the epitome! I'm pretty happy about

it. This is one thing they can't take away from me. You want to talk about getting high on life? This is what you want to tell kids. Get high on life this way!" Hall added trainer Ashley Vry, an NDSU equine studies student from Sebeka, Minn., to her staff. "I can teach her; I love being involved with kids and ponies," Hall says as she talks about a new venture of her business giving carriage and pony rides. She wants a place where "kids can come out and enjoy what a pony is and parents can come to a country setting, sit at a picnic table and enjoy life." It's clear seeing the smile on her face that Carol Hall has found her (Hackney) Haven.

TRNP WILD HORSES (Continued from Page 11)

Oehler said the horses they cull from the herd sell every year. "I've never had them not sell ... there were 76 horses in the last sale. We had a lot of buyers as there's a lot of interest in feral horses. I won't sell a mare and foal if the foal is younger than three months."

TRNP does not screen the buyers. Oehler earned his wildlife and fisheries degree at South Dakota State University and later his masters in wildlife biology at Fairbanks, Alaska. Originally from North Dakota, Oehler spent a lot of time in the Badlands before working at the park. He is doing a birth control/behavioral study. "We're testing a new contraceptive vaccine that has not been used much. It's a pilot project

extending to a herd study. We hope to see how it will work on the park horses. If we can do this instead of a roundup it would be an easier, kinder, management tool," says Oehler. "GNRH, gonadorelin hydrochloride, is the registered trade name. It has been used in elk and other deer species and on a limited number of horses. It has a 3-4 year effective rate diminishing each year then a full return to reproductive status after that. It can be used on an already bred mare and does not affect the fetus. This study is concurrent with behavioral studies on the ground; baseline studies to see if there is significant differences in behaviors as a result of the mares not being bred. We started this year with behav-

ior work with the treatment and control group so you have something to compare the results. Colorado State University and veterinarians that have used the drugs have received a lot of interest from other groups, like the BLM. There is nothing inhibiting us from using the drugs as they now are available. We hope in four years we would have a good idea of how it is working and can have a few foals each year. In five to six years we hope to have a tool we can use. We need public input so that takes a little time. Hopefully in four or five years we could implement something." Come to the Wild Horse Sale at 2 p.m. Oct. 23, 2009 at Stockman's Livestock Exchange in Dickinson, N.D.

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**HALLOWEEN PRANKS AND TRICK OR TREAT HOLIDAY**

By Orv Alveshere

Halloween has always been eagerly awaited By gals and guys. Costumes and masks have been sought Wanting to be a master of disguise. Meals inhaled, rooms briskly cleaned, New speed records for finishing chores. They traipsed around the block, Also knocking on friends and relative's doors. A ghostly Holiday with orange and black, Specters, spooks, candy and sweets. Cities and villages and countryside Decorated for trick or treats. An annual warning from the past, Comes to mind and floods our mem'ry banks Of aggravation and inconvenience From Halloween pranks and cranks.

**TIPTOE THROUGH THE TOILETS**

Since our Nation's birth, Until recent decades, there was consternation. Scheming rowdy rascals upended The upright sanitation station!! There may be some remaining relics In villages or on the prairie. Scuttlebutt tales of whistling frigid breezes Are legendary. We're privy to reports of 50-yard dashes To the outhouse doors. Imagine tiptoed sprints in desperation For compulsory chores. Trips were made through odoriferous Steamy summer heat and chilled snow banks. Outhouses have been replaced, There are fewer targets for Halloween pranks.

**I DIG COMFORT STATIONS (NO SPEED RECORD)**

In my 12th year I was assigned To dig a new pit for the shack. Rain loosened the earth. I dug for weeks At the site for the shack out back. Maximum deposits had been made. A barrier of board fence Protected the downloads, and our feet. That seemed to make a lot of scents, er sense. We moved the Sears catalogs also, But much to our consternation. The cobwebs soon followed, And there was a tilt to our comfort station. Outgoing as a child, we installed Indoor plumbing. We also gave thanks. Far from town, it was not on their route For those spooky Halloween pranks.

**CRANKS REVILLE: GET YOUR BUTT OUT (OF) THERE**

Pranksters anonymous harnessed or tied cows Inside schools. Charades that left a mess. Honest youth impersonated By wearing other's clothes to make them guess. Anguished cries were heard throughout the land! Prone outhouses thought unattended Held nervously 'hurrying' 'insiders' Trapped as two cans were upended. Such language, you've never heard From inside those stinking situations. Clandestine, sneaky tipsters thought It was howling fun to tip those stations. Ev'ry year they tried their 'level' best To tip HIS toilet that stunk...er, stank. One man tried to think a 'head' because Thrones were thrown to the ground, as pranks.

**BEWARE: FAINTHEARTED READERS STOP HERE**

Valiant (k)nights didn't put their best foot forward. It was not levitation. They found new meanings for 'stepstools.' They needed fumigation. Leaving no stone or can unattended,

**The Nation's Best Equine Endurance Athletes Race in Stillwater**

For the first time ever, the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) will combine the National Endurance Ride and National Competitive Trail Ride into one week of exciting competition for the National Distance Championship set for October 27-31 at Lake Carl Blackwell in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Competition begins Tuesday, October 27, with the AHA National Championship 100-Mile Endurance Ride, coupled with three coinciding American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) sanctioned rides. The AHA National Championship competitive trail ride (CTR) spans two days, October 28-29. The last two days of competition will feature the AHA National Championship 50-Mile Endurance Ride on October 30 with Open rides on October 31. The Ozark Country Endurance Riders (OCER) will host a Halloween special, Witch Way Ride, on October 31. For more information visit ArabianHorses.org/competitions or call (303) 696-4500.

**MORE THAN \$50,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO YOUNG REINERS**

Oklahoma City, OK - The National Reining Horse Association is proud to award top National Reining Horse Youth Association (NRHyA) reiners each year with college scholarships provided through NRHyA and Reining Horse Sports Foundation. More than \$50,000 is awarded annually to young reiners to help with their future careers and competitions. Read below to learn the various scholarship opportunities available for young reiners. **Youth Team Tournament -**

Shenanigans had ghastly repercussions. We'll 'pit' their tale against Your 'hold your nose' Halloween discussions.

**PRANKSTERS: A BUBBLE OFF 'LEVEL'** A Rock Lake man had a plan For those sneaky guys who made those stealthy rounds To upend all those tall thunder houses In those villages and towns. Using a plan so iffy, He wanted to catch them red-handed. He picked 'up' and moved 'back' his target biffy. Apologies demanded, Those pranksters wish we hadn't reported them... Or their messy news. In time they hope to forget, As they never, ever again wore those shoes Comfort stations were relics from the past. Don't call THAT MAN a crank. MORAL: It's a haunting lesson. He was... Just...one step...ahead...of a Halloween prank!!!

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**Iowa Pinto Association**  
**2nd Annual Jubilee**  
**October 24-25th, 2009**  
**Iowa Equestrian Center**  
**Cedar Rapids**

**Judges: Burton Butler, Kathy Miller, Gary Miller**  
**Stalls: \$60/\$50 pre-paid/no refunds, shavings: \$7.**  
*(Bedding must be purchased from Iowa Equestrian Center.)*

**Contact Phil or Chris Madden @ 563-886-6444 or Myra Holley @ 319-360-6370**  
**For show bill/registration forms**  
**Check out the Iowa Pinto website**

**ptha.org**  
 click on links / click on charters / click on Iowa

NRHyA members also can participate in the Youth Team Tournament Programs that are held at each NRHA Regional Affiliate Finals. The NRHA awards over \$40,000 annually in scholarship and other prizes. RHSE - The Reining Horse Sports Foundation (RHSE) is a separate, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to promoting the education of our youth members. It offers five annual \$1,500 scholarships to individuals based on financial need, academic achievement, career choice, and both NRHA and NRHyA involvement. **NRHyA Paul Horn Memorial Scholarship - At the NRHA Futurity & Adequan® North American Affiliate**

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# OCTOBER EVENTS

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

Oct. 2: JJ Arena Fun Show and UBRA Race at 6:30 p.m. at Balsam Lake, WI; contact Julie at (715) 857-5505 or visit www.jjarena.com

Oct. 2: Hi Circle Vee Ranch Team Penning at Isanti, MN; contact (612) 803-5950

Oct. 2-3, 2009 -- MN Rodeo Association Finals, Red Horse Ranch Arena, Fergus Falls, Minn. call 218-736-3000, or email: rhra@prtel.com or visit: www.Red-HorseRanchArena.com

Oct. 3: Silver Buckle Arena Horse Show at 8:30 p.m. a.m. in Plymouth, Minn. - contact Roy Johnson at (763) 557-2920

Oct. 3: MN Circuit Riders Gaming Show at 10 a.m. at LeSueur, Minn. Saddle Club Arena; all proceeds benefit horse rescue; contact (612) 810-5772

Oct. 2-4 - Minnesota Saddlebred Futurity & Show at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. contact Sally Snyder Tesch, 763-559-4896 or sstesch@juno.com

Oct. 3: Regional Horse Owner Program at the Leatherdale Equine Center in St. Paul, Minn. to focus on Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Genetics; register online: https://www.regonline.com/StPaul-Horse

Oct. 3-4: Draw-A-Rama Endurance Rides at Palmyra, WI; contact Nicole Herrmann at (920) 726-4313

Oct. 8 - 11: Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado for the CHA International Conference. Open to all horse enthusiasts!

Oct. 9: Miss Rodeo North Dakota Pageant at 6:30 p.m. at Minot, N.D.

Oct. 9-10: "Fall Festival" Incentive Fund Futurity at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Contact Dava Scribner Phone: 651-462-1803 for more information.

Oct. 10: Hollywood Riders Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Carver County Fairgrounds in Waconia, Minn. contact Dick Ochs at (612) 701-2658

Oct. 10 Buffalo Stars 'N Stirrups Saddle Club Game Show at 8 a.m. at the Buffalo, Minn. Rodeo Grounds; contact Allan Spidahl at (763) 682-5158

Oct. 10: Some Day Ranch Game Show at 9 a.m. at Sauk Rapids, Minn. - contact Ken Shaw at (320) 248-1712

Oct. 10: Northwest Wisconsin Equine Club Game Show at 9 a.m. near Hayward, Wisc. - contact Kim Ziegler at (715) 635-3095

Oct. 10: Multi Clubs Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Sandstone, Minn. Club Arena; contact Bonnie Peterson at (651) 436-5638

Oct 9-11: UBRA World Finale at R & J Arena in Verndale, MN. It is held in conjunction with the JJ Classic Futurity & Derby. The weekend will have \$23,000 in Added money and over \$20,000 in awards. See http://www.ubra.org/2009/worldfinale/eventflyer.html for more info

Oct. 10: WDMS meeting, Westfield Village Hall/Fire Dept., 124 3rd St., Westfield, WI 53964. Potluck 11:00 AM, meeting follows. See www.widonkeymule.org for more information

Oct. 16-18: North Central Reining Horse Association "Spookfest" at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn., Contact - Al Gadola, 763-420-3956, AGadola@aol.com

Oct. 17: Kimball, Minn. Saddle Club Horse Show at the Willow Creek Arena; contact Ruby Kennedy at (320) 398-2655

Oct. 17: Northwoods Saddle Club Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, Minn.

Oct. 23 - 31: U.S. National and Half-Arabian National Championship Horse Show at Expo Square in Tulsa, OK see web site for more info: http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions

Oct. 23: One day clinic with Jana Wagner, 4th Level USDF Certified Instructor at Willard, MO. Some spots open. Private lessons \$75. For more info see: www.dressageandmore.com

Oct. 23: Susan Norman "Riding in Lightness Clinic" at the LindaRosa Farm in Stillwater, Minn. contact Trudy Midas (612) 210-4489 or email: midastr@msn.com

Oct. 24: Regional Horse Owner Program Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Register online: https://www.regonline.com/FergusFallsHorse

Oct. 24: Hi Circle Vee Ranch Horse Show at 10 a.m. at Isanti, Minn. Contact Kari Murrell at (612) 803-5950

Oct. 30: Hi Circle Vee Ranch Team Penning at 6:30 p.m. at Isanti, Minn. contact (612) 803-5950

Oct. 30-31: Dakota 50/50 Sale Futurity at the NDSU Horse Park in Fargo, N.D. contact Nikki@medalenranch.com or visit: www.dakota50-50.com

Oct. 31 and Nov. 1: MN Ponies of America Club "Halloween POA Spooktacular at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. contact Joan Lewis at 763-421-6028 or jlewis@comcast.net

Nov. 14: Regional Horse Owner Program at the Middle School in Howard Lake, Minn. Register online: https://www.regonline.com/HowardLakeHorse

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST at The Carriage Association of America's Mid-Winter Conference at the 125th Anniversary of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, January 27 - 30, 2011.

The 2010 sleighing season is just around the corner. So, start planning now to get your entries in by January 7, 2011.

The theme will be Winter Equine Transportation and the scene should include snow, equines, and vehicles. Heavy coats, furs, sleigh robes, bells and the like are all encouraged.

Vehicles can be on runners or wheels and must be pulled by any equine: mini, pony, horse, draft, mule or donkey. There will be four classes: **Historic** - Taken before January 1, 1961. **Modern/Professional** - Taken after December 31, 1960. **Modern/Amateur** - Taken after December 31, 1960. **Collection** - A group of pictures in a single frame or a single collage.

There will be ribbons and cash awards in each class. For more information contact:

Bob Matthews  
Phone: 507-824-3333  
Or go to: www.stcroixhorse-andcarriagesociety.org

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# SPANISH MUSTANG REGISTRY

The Spanish Mustang Registry Inc. was founded in 1957 to preserve the bloodlines of the descendants of the horses brought to the New World in the 1400's. The remnants of those original horses were gathered by Robert Brislaw and others in the early 1900's to become the foundation stock for the SMR. Having survived in the Americas essentially on their own for 500 years, these extremely smart and hardy horses are known as "easy keepers". The breed can be found in a wide variety of colors including grulla, appaloosa, paint, dun, buckskin, and etc., with many displaying the primitive markings of leg barring and wither stripes.

Native Americans used these horses to help improve their way of life. The Spanish Mustang provided greater mobility and helped to expand their hunting grounds.



The breed was used by the Pony Express riders to carry mail great distances across the West.

Most of these horses are between 13.2 and 14.2 hh and some display gaiting, especially when young. The Spanish Mustang is especially qualified for endurance rides and have been used in all disciplines including dressage, jumping,



trial rides, team penning and all around ranch work. They live up to the SMR slogan "Gentle enough to carry a child, strong enough to help build a nation". Additional information can be found at www.spanishmustang.org

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# SADDLING THE GAITED HORSE

Cordia Pearson

Society of Master Saddlers Qualified Saddle Fitter

Looking for a horse who won't turn your back into a corkscrew? You are not alone. The demand for the smooth traveling gaited horse continues to grow as America's riders get older or make their first forays into riding.

The secret behind the gaited horse's smooth ride is the four beat (amble) or two beat lateral pattern (pace.) Within the gaited breeds, each has a special name for their special footfall. One of the big issues gaited horse riders face is non-gaiting or incorrect gait. While training plays a large part when this occurs, so does saddling. A large hurdle to saddling these horses is a mythology which has grown up around them, suggesting that the Gaited Horse must have a saddle built in their country of origin or a saddle that is built for that breed alone.



Gloria Verrechio, DVM on Aradis in a Laser 747 Dressage saddle. For more info: www.penridgeicelandics.com or to see the saddle in action: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq1H2FQRkQ

I have trained/shown Paso Finos, ridden Icelandics and the least favorite ride in my life—a pacing Morgan. (This individual should have harness raced—not been a saddle horse!) I have saddled every gaited breed and can say with confidence that there is only one constant—no matter brand or label, correct fit is still the first and most important element. (Please refer to my earlier articles in The Valley Equestrian, available online at http: http://www.theonline.com/ or on my website: www.saddlefitter.com

Generalizations are both a comfort and a hole to fall into. Saying all Gaited Horses need a saddle that is more "A" shaped than "O" shaped is a generalization, not a fact. I have saddled gaited horses with Quarter Horse bars and Quarter Horses with Gaited bars. The only generalization I am comfortable with is that each horse is an individual and should be approached with an open mind and a multitude of possible solutions.

First up, we meet the six year old Icelandic mare Aradis and her breeder, Gloria Verrechio, DVM. Gloria and her husband, Vince, have a beautiful Icelandic Breeding Farm in the Stillwater, MN area. I first met Gloria when she and her marvelous (beautiful, sweet, smart, sane) stallion, Fonix fra Sydsta-Osi were having problems with a German made "Icelandic" saddle. Inspection found a saddle with two completely different panels and a broken pommel rivet (heartily denied by the maker—talk about not standing behind your product.) Because Gloria

rides a varied age group of Icelandics, the saddle that proved heaven-sent was a Laser 747.

Laser Equestrian is the only "adjustable" saddle that I personally own and turn to when conditions warrant. Designed by Major Jeremy Beale, a British Olympic rider, these are among the few saddles on the market designed by a rider, rather than just rider endorsed. (Trust me, it makes a difference!)

Gloria's "747" is an older model with the mechanism built into the pommel head and capable of being adjusted by tiniest increments. My own "747" has started eight horses! What I love about this saddle is that if (let's be realistic, when) your horse withdraws their back for whatever reason—sore feet, playing too hard in the pasture, overwork—with a tweak, the panels (made of ProLite gel which takes the mold of the horse's back in about three rides) can be lowered to encourage the horse to round up and meet them. Gloria is able to go from horse to horse and have each one correctly fit.

Jeanine is a dear friend whom I have watched with fascination as her herd of Peruvians has grown, along with a collection of authentic Peruvian tack. Beautiful as it is, it has proven a challenge for Jeanine to keep her show horses comfortable through in the Peruvian gear. Together, we explored the "EQUImeasure," a heat in the oven saddling "tool." When she told me she'd invested in one of these, I was delighted to help. We molded the "EQUImeasure" to her mare's back and while it hardened, I did drawings of the back with a flexible curve. When I compared the two, my best advice was send



Cordia Pearson on Pantera Negra La Estancia, 6 year old Paso Fino mare at The Paso Regional in Perry, GA.

the tracings. If the Peruvian Saddler worked from the EQUImeasure the desired adjustment wouldn't have occurred. (As the form cooled, it spread!) In order to keep her horses comfortable,

we used ThinLine shims, (www.thinlineinc.com) under her Traditional tack. Training rides? A Meleta Brown Freedom Trail saddle with round skirts for Jeanine's short-backed horses. Even her finer built babies have been going happily in the Freedom saddle and without soreness. Notice in the photo the angled Wall's Stirrup Irons. In them, Jeanine's feet remain parallel to the ground. Other western stirrups make the rider angle their legs away from the horse in order to maintain the stirrup and as a result can create foot, ankle, knee or leg pain. A tip of the hat to S.A. Walls, inventor of this

stirrup! I "inherited" the ride on Pantera after she washed out with another trainer. By the time I got her, Pantera was a "Flying Mount," either the rider had wings or didn't make it up in the saddle. She was prepared for pain and wanted no part of it. Thankfully, her owner brought her to me after learning I had had success with one of her neighbor's Pasos

Pantera was mostly a training problem, but I had to fly in the face of the Paso Class A tradition in that I refused to "hook" up with either a saddle made in the breed's country of origin or the then trendy, Ortho-Flex. I held my ground and saddled her with a Blue Ribbon Dressage saddle (sadly, no longer made.) It took weeks before we didn't have to box her for mounting, but when Pantera learned to trust me, we were unstoppable. Her hooves sounded like a machine gun on the sounding boards. Her shining moment was winning her Performance class at the Paso Regionals.

The lesson with Pantera is simple—correct saddling, patience and kindness made her a winner, not some marketing genius's "magic bullet" saddle.

Gait is bred into these horses and they will do their best when they are comfortable and feel safe. Each horse's back and conformation is as individual as yours is. Approach saddling with the same care as you do "shoing" your feet, and you both will be happy.

A tip of the hat to all the Tennessee Walking Horses, Rocky Mountain Horses, and other Gaited Horses not featured in this article—if only there'd been room for you all. If I can be any help saddling your Gaited Horse, you can reach me at 651-462-5654 or at www.saddlefitter.com. Ride happy!

Cordia Pearson is one of fifteen Society of Master Saddlers Qualified Saddle Fitters in the United States. She brings the Society's highest standards to her work with both English and Western saddles. She is a rider and has bred Morgan horses for more than thirty years. She trained and taught all breeds and many seats. "In a marketplace filled with way too many gimmicks and less than stellar products, it is vital that all riders have a working knowledge of saddle fitting. Every moment you spend with your horse is precious and none of it should be wasted struggling with painful or crippling tack." You can find her on the web at www.Saddlefitter.com



Jeanine Vigen on Reina, five year old Peruvian Paso mare wearing a Meleta Brown Freedom Saddle and a ThinLine Western pad.



## ARABIAN HORSE ENTHUSIAST PATRICK SWAYZE DIES AT 57

Patrick Swayze, a passionate and valued member of the Arabian horse community died from pancreatic cancer complications at the age of 57.

Swayze was known to most as a dancer and actor in films such as "Dirty Dancing," "Roadhouse" and "Ghost." To the Arabian horse community he was an accomplished and giving horseman. An active participant at Arabian shows throughout the late 80s and early 90s, Swayze's star power helped bring attention to the Arabian breed. Swayze's true passion for the horse earned him utmost respect in the horse community.

Although Swayze's bond with horses started as a child, he claimed he did not fully realize the potential relationship with a horse until later. "When you get a bond happening with a horse, it's interesting. I was raised a cowboy and did some rodeo and stuff and thought I was a horseman. Found out I knew nothing. As I have gotten into these horses, [Arabians] I have realized how far you can go with them," said Swayze in a 1994 video interview.

In 1991, the same year Swayze was named People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive, he bought the stallion Tammen from Tom McNair and during the next year the stallion was honored with several halter championships. "Over the years it's happened — people gradually started seeing that I am serious about this and I care more about the horses than my little image. I am accepted now so going grand champion there was like a big event for me," said Swayze.

Swayze owned more than a dozen purebred Arabians and became an active breeder. Tammen, Swayze's 1982 Champion stallion, sired 175 foals. A photograph of Swayze with Tammen was made into a poster and established as a youth fundraiser during the early 90s. The poster, now in limited supply, continues to help fund AHA Youth Programs.

"We at the Arabian Horse Association and our some 35,000 members mourn the loss of a great American icon, Patrick Swayze. He was an ardent lover of the Arabian horse and his passion for the

breed would always spill over into the audience when he showed his beautiful horses — particularly with young people. His close friends called him 'Buddy' and that sentiment seemed to define his character, as I always found him to be a man of significant humility and grace. The Arabian horse has lost a dear friend

and our prayers go out to his wife Lisa and family, and everyone who loved him. His significant contributions to the Arabian horse will not be forgotten," said Lance Walters, Arabian Horse Association president.

Swayze is said to have passed away peacefully after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months.

Photo by Javan Schaller



### GREAT PRAIRIE TRAIL RIDE

Come on out for the "Great Prairie Trail Ride" sponsored by the MN Horse Council Sunday, November 8 at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) in Arden Hills, Minn. The ride provides the opportunity for all equestrian enthusiasts and especially those involved in the discipline of eventing to preview an area that could potentially be utilized as a 6000 meter eventing course. They will also view land for a future horse park.

The purpose of the event is:

1. To build community within the Minnesota Horse Council;
2. To reach out to equine enthusiasts who are not members of the Minnesota Horse Council;
3. To ride the land that could become a 6000m Eventing Course;
4. To view potential sites that could be developed into a Horse Park.

As the ride is sponsored by the Minnesota Horse Council, there is no fee to ride. However, you will still need to provide your own transportation.

Please arrive on schedule starting at 11 a.m. as the gates to AHATS will be promptly closed at noon.

Organizers need to know the number of riders participating. Please register by Tuesday, November 3 by emailing: darrellmead@comcast.net with the following information:

1. Name(s) of participant(s);
2. Cell phone number;
3. Email address

If the response to ride is overwhelming, we will establish a second ride on Sunday, November 22. If for some reason the Minnesota National Guard needs exclusive use of the property on Sunday, November 8 or if weather conditions create the need to cancel or reschedule, an email will be sent to those who have registered to ride.

Become a fan of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook page and receive updates during the month!

## Talking Horses

By Kathy Grimes

It was a beautiful fall night. There were five of us sitting around a campfire waiting for our supper to get done. We had just finished a nice trail ride. Our horses were eating not too far from us. We began talking about our horses and how cool it was to be out on the trails today.

One thing we all were feeling was a sense of freedom. It had been a playful day. As we rode, we laughed, sang songs and made up stories of what type of people had ridden the trails before us. We had appreciated the speed and agility that our horses had shown during our ride. I know for myself, I had done something that made my soul sing and I had done it with delight.

But what about our horses, how were they feeling? Did they feel the freedom, enjoyment and satisfaction of the ride like we did? I decided to ask them.

First there was Jack the leader of the pack. Jack said: "It would have been a whole lot easier if she would know how to keep balanced on me. I could tell that she was carrying a heavy load of sadness." Jack then asked, "Why are so many humans that come riding sad?" "Well Jack," I responded, "I think it is that we have never been taught to choose to be happy."

Then Puppetry came over to see what we were doing and if I had treats for him. This was one of Puppetry's first trail rides. "How was the riding for you today?" He gave me a feeling of great power and he began to dance around in a playful fashion. Finally, he said "I am happy!" "Did you notice, I kept up with the big horses?" "Yes, I did Puppetry and I am so proud of you" I said. "Why don't people do trail rides every day?" "We don't have time" I said. "Humans do too much." "Some days that is very true."

Most of the horses that I talked to enjoyed the day. When I asked Billy about the day he said: "The singing could have been better, we could have stopped for treats and rested more at the lake."

Spring Flower wanted to go in different directions and her human had to keep bringing her back on to the trail. When I asked her how she enjoyed the

## MN EquiFest: The Fall Festival of Horses

The Minnesota EquiFest is being held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, October 24-25, at Warner coliseum, judging arena and the horse barn.

Plan on attending the great Minnesota Fall Festival of Horses with more entertainment, shopping and training sessions than ever!

A Colt Starting Competition is new this year with trainers, Dennis Auslam, T. J. Clibborn, Steve Smith and Dave Robart. They will work with unbroken colts both days and a winner will be determined Sunday afternoon.

The daily Extreme Cowboy Race will challenge riders and their horses with an amazing obstacle course!


The Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation will again hold their tack sale. Look for great buys.

Werner Thiedemann is presenting lessons to individual horse owners where the public is also invited to attend and gain tips from the presentations. Check out vendors, farrier demonstrations, lectures, saddle fitting and do some Christmas shopping. There'll be horses offered for sale and a presentation of breeds. Save the date!

ride she said: "There were so many things to see I just did not understand why my human didn't want to go see them. At times my human was so happy - she felt light to carry."

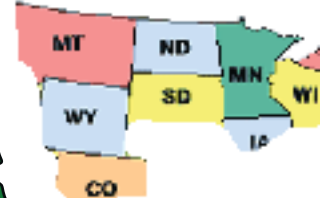
Finally, I went over to Keynote. "How was your day?" I asked. "Great, I am tired. No one told me that I was going to have to work so hard. I am tired. I feel good. My human and I are friends." (The last time I saw Keynote, he was worried that he and human would ever become friends and it took a long ride for him to come to realize that they were friends.) "Keynote, I am so happy for you" I said.

Before, we turned in for the night, we went to our horse and spent some time saying thank you for the wonderful day. Once again, our horse experience allowed us to feel caring, loving, powerful and free. May you have many wonderful horse experiences in your life!



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## USDF Announces 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

Lexington, KY (August 26, 2009) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) will induct Linda Zang and Brentina into the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame (HOF) at the Salute Gala and Annual Awards Banquet, on December 4, 2009, during the Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in Austin, TX. Induction into the HOF is an honor bestowed on horses and individuals that have made outstanding contributions to the sport of dressage in the US.

Linda Zang has played a critical role in the growth of dressage in the United States and has helped US dressage gain prominence in the international arena. Her career has spanned over 30 years and has made a significant impact on many facets of the sport. As an international rider, Linda competed with her horse, Fellow Traveller, at the 1978 World Championships and the 1979 Pan American Games, the latter in which the US dressage team won the gold medal. As one of the top judges in the world, USEF "S" and FEI "O," she has officiated at over 32 World Cup Qualifiers, numerous World Cup League Finals, and the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. Linda has been one of the top leaders and promoters of US dressage in the international arena. She is also a highly-respected clinician, instructor, show organizer, and FEI Technical Delegate. She has played a leadership role on many committees of USDF, USEF, and the FEI.

Brentina, an 18-year-old, chestnut, Hanoverian mare, has been one of the most outstanding horses in international competition in US history with rider, Debbie McDonald. Purchased by Parry and Peggy Thomas at the 1994 October Elite Auction in Verden, Germany, Brentina quickly progressed through the levels stacking up awards and amassing a huge fan club. In the 1999 Pan American Games, Brentina and Debbie were the individual gold medal winners, as well as members of the gold medal US team. At the 2003 FEI World Cup Dressage Final, they were the first American pair to win the World Cup Championship. In 2003, Brentina became a Breyer Limited Edition model and in 2005 she was named the Farnam/Platform USEF Horse of the Year. Brentina, with Debbie, also represented the US during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, where the US team brought home a bronze medal, and the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong.

For more information about the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame, visit the USDF Web site or contact the USDF office at halloffame@usdf.org. Founded in 1973, the United States Dressage Federation is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit www.usdf.org, e-mail usdressage@usdf.org, or call (859) 971-2277.

The Oldenburg, however, is named for the founder of the breed, Count Anton von Oldenburg, and is considered one of the oldest of the warmblood breeds. Another very old breed, the Trakehner, originated in East Prussia (now Poland) and is considered a breed of quality. It has been used extensively in the improvement of almost all of today's warmblood breeds. The Hanoverian is too credited

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## DRESSAGE DEFINED: WARMBLOODS

By Margo Brady

What is a Warmblood? Well, theoretically it is a cross between a "hotblood" and a "coldblood!" These terms actually refer to characteristics found in certain types or breeds of horses. The hotbloods, such as Thoroughbreds and Arabians, are often high spirited, light in bone, with long legs in relation to their body

size. The other extreme, the coldbloods, is represented by the draft breeds and ponies with their stocky build, calm temperament, and heavy bone. The warmbloods fall somewhere in between. They have a solid bone structure, but not heavy, energetic temperament, but level headed, and are powerful but not cumbersome. Typically the warmblood

breeds are influenced by regular infusion of Thoroughbred blood into their registries. It has been stated that the best Swedish Warmbloods possess Thoroughbred blood three generations back in their pedigree. In Europe, Thoroughbreds are referred to a "fullbloods" and the warmblood breeds are considered "halfbloods."

Almost every country has their version of a warmblood. The American Warmblood can be simply a cross between a Percheron and a Thoroughbred. Or, it can be a traditional warmblood breed crossed with a nontraditional breed with emphasis on the resulting "warmblood" type and characteristics. The traditional warmblood breeds come from central Europe i.e. Germany, Holland, France, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and Poland, and Scandinavia i.e. Denmark and Sweden.

Many of the German Warmblood breeds are regional breeds such as the Holsteiner from Holstein, the Hanoverian from Hanover, the Rhineland and Westphalian from their respective areas, etc. In fact, there was a point in time where if two "Hanoverians" were transported to Westphalia, for example, their resulting offspring would be considered a "Westphalian." The regions were separate enough and transport of horses was not so easy so certain types developed in these regions evolving their own characteristics.

The Oldenburg, however, is named for the founder of the breed, Count Anton von Oldenburg, and is considered one of the oldest of the warmblood breeds. Another very old breed, the Trakehner, originated in East Prussia (now Poland) and is considered a breed of quality. It has been used extensively in the improvement of almost all of today's warmblood breeds. The Hanoverian is too credited

with leaving his mark on many of the European warmblood breeds. However, the Danish Warmblood is unique in that it is the only warmblood breed lacking Hanoverian blood.

The Swedish Warmblood is the only warmblood breed that has always been bred strictly as a riding horse and was



Deb Klamen on Swedish Warmblood gelding, "Boss" shows off a medium trot on her maiden voyage at Prix St. Georges.

not used for carriage or light draft work. The origin of this breed began in the 17th century with the goal of developing an outstanding calvary horse using native Swedish farm mares crossed with imported Spanish and Friesian blood. The breed was then refined with the use of Trakehner, Hanoverian, Thoroughbred, and Arab blood.

The national stud at Flyinge was started in 1661 and is still breeding and standing top Swedish stallions to this day.

The different registries and societies for the warmblood breeds have yearly inspections where approved judges rate the animals according to how close they approach the ideal for their breed. Most of the warmblood breeds have "open" registries, meaning that if an animal possesses the characteristics sought after by a certain breed registry, he may be approved and branded as an accepted specimen of that breed. For example, there are stallions of pure German heritage who have met the conformation, temperament, and performance requirements of the Swedish Warmblood Association. In this case, these stallions will be "approved Swedish" and their progeny will be accepted into the Swedish studbook. As simple as this sounds, the stallion committees for the different warmblood registries set forth very rigorous tests and requirements for stallion approval. (Read more about inspections on page 6.)

Regardless of his origin, the warmblood has proven himself as an outstanding sporthorse. In April of 2007, the Hanoverian topped the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) list with the Swedish Warmblood ranking second. Interestingly, there are 30,000 mares bred in Germany as opposed to the 3,000 mares covered in Sweden! This is evidence of success of the breeding and inspection program in Sweden.

Professional Illinois trainer, Kate Fleming-Kuhn states, "The benefit of using a warmblood for dressage is their natural athleticism and their power. Many of them have big, elastic movement that makes for a beautiful horse to watch and a joy to ride." She is seen here riding her Gran Prix Hanoverian stallion, "Royal Flash." Royal Flash qualified

for the Brentina Cup ranking 5th in the country in 2008! Kate is a USDF Certified Instructor through 4th Level and USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist. Most of her experience has been with German and Dutch horses and only recently has she been working with Swedish horses as she prepares to campaign the imported Premium A Swedish stallion Bayron 885.

The other photo is that of Deb Klamen, an Adult Amateur rider who has been studying under Kate Fleming-Kuhn. Here she is riding her imported Gran Prix Swedish Warmblood gelding, Boss (a son of Bayron 885) on her maiden voyage at Prix St. George. After importing Boss just in January, Deb has enjoyed a fantastic ride. In September this team made a clean sweep and won every class entered at the Region 4 Championships. This included the Midwest 4th Level Adult Amateur Championship, Midwest Prix St. George Adult Amateur Championship, and the Regional Prix St. Georges Adult Amateur Championship!

In conclusion, the warmbloods are fascinating due to the variety in breeds and types. Individually, there are some bred for sport and some bred for the amateur rider. Overall, they tend to be healthy, long lived, and versatile.



Kate Fleming-Kuhn and Hanoverian stallion "Royal Flash" competing in 2008 in a Brentina Cup Qualifier at Tempel Farms at Intermediare-2.

Margo Brady began studying dressage in 1986 with Anne Mowen-Stahl, Grand Prix rider and Apprentice to Carole Grant (double Gold Medalist 1983 Pan Am Games) and Jan Macafee from Australia.

She has ridden with Bo Jenä, Head Riding Master and Director of the dressage program at Flyinge, the National Stud for the Swedish Warmblood in Sweden, and also with Denis Robet, Head Trainer at the Volte-Face Equestrian Center in the French Alps.

She currently studies with Lisbeth Bengtsson of Sweden, now in Wisconsin, and clinics with International Gran Prix competitor and 'R' dressage judge, Ulf Waideborn, formerly from the Stromsholm Riding Academy of Sweden.

Margo is the owner of the Brady Equestrian Center in Downer, MN, where she breeds Swedish Warmbloods and stands the Swedish import stallion Bayron 885. She has upper level dressage schoolmasters available for lessons and lease. Call (218) 789-7704 for more information.

MR. MILLER: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

got rid of them!"

When Jeannie arrived, she asked if she could walk into Mr. Miller's paddock. I said, "Sure," Michelle remembers, "and she walked in. Miller's head went up. He put his ears forward and walked right up to Jeannie. Kis-met!"

The rest is history. Jeannie hadn't planned to ride him that first day; but before she knew it, trainer Stan Reese was summoned from his nearby training center, and she was being boosted into the saddle.

"He was a perfect angel," she recalls. "After just a short ride I could already feel my back and hip start to loosen up. He was unbelievably smooth, but there was a little swaying motion that did wonders for my aching bones." Jeannie bought the horse then and there. Anxious for the match to be a long and successful one, the Wilsons insisted on paying to have Stan Reese take the horse to his training center for some "fine tuning."

"I'm the one that needs the fine tuning," Jeannie laughed.

"Well then, you come over as often as you want," Stan grinned. "I won't have him all that long. It's just that he's been a show horse all his life, and I'd like to retrain him for the trail." Mr. Miller was trailed to the Reeses' to begin a new life at twelve years of age. "From the show ring out into the beautiful Arizona desert he went, Jeannie remembers, "Getting used to things he'd never seen in an arena." Stan re-trained him from Peruvian to western tack; and twice a day - at dawn and dusk - Miller went out, gaiting among the cactus and turning his ears to pick up the sound of scurrying cottontail rabbits."

Stan and Shirley took Jeannie "under their wing", and she came to their place almost every day for the month Miller was there. "They graciously answered my endless questions and gave me the reassurance I needed," Jeannie says, thinking back.

Michele still remembers that Jeannie's visits with

the Reeses often lasted until well after dark. "There she'd be," Michelle says, "sometimes in the dark of night, finishing Miller's third or forth grooming by wiping his face with a black wash cloth she'd brought from home."

The Arizona Peruvian Paso Club, Ltd. encourages its members to buy a membership for people who purchase horses from them, and the Wilsons did as recommended. "The other members of the club warmly welcomed me," Jeannie remembers, "and I found their activities very enjoyable." A month later, Stan Reese and Michele Wilson delivered Mr. Miller to Jeannie's home in Peoria. When they arrived, Jeannie welcomed them with champagne, and toasts were made to everyone there, including Mr. Miller.

At Jeannie's, Mr. Miller wasn't lonely for a second. His new friends included a kitten that sleeps in his feeder, a rooster he permits to roost on his back and an owner who treats him like royalty. "I visit him at least six times a day," Jeannie grins. "He nickers every time he sees me, but I think his favorite visit is the one when he gets groomed. He seems to like it best when I finish the job with his black face cloth." Jeannie also put Mr. Miller on a diet. "Even after he'd lost a fair bit of weight, he still had a long way to go," Jeannie reports. "He was such an easy keeper that I considered looking for a way for him to cart away his own manure, but that probably wouldn't have been a very good idea. With the exercise, my muscles and bones are gaining strength and flexibility. The doctors tell me I'm doing better every day. They can't believe I can mount by myself and ride for hours with virtually no discomfort." Jeannie was pleased to discover that her insurance agent, Ruth Jacobi, who wrote the insurance on Mr. Miller, was a big fan of Peruvian horses. Ruth was an official for the well-known A to Z Horse Show and holds a place of honor in the history of the Peruvian breed in Arizona. Back in the days when Peruvians didn't have much of a following, she used

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Shopping for Gaited Horses  
(Cont'd from page 8)

through our personal or friends' experiences. Shopping for gaited horses can be fun and educational. The gaited horse industry has so many wonderful breeds from which to choose in all shapes, sizes and colors. There is something for everyone.

Happy shopping!  
*Elizabeth Graves grew up in the horse industry; her mother was a successful trainer. Graves has over 27 years of experience and is a multi-licensed judge throughout the United States and Canada. Graves spends much of her time conducting clinics nationwide completing over 38 per year. She specializes in the biomechanics of all breeds of horses, teaching natural development with out gimmicks. Elizabeth's mission statement: "Teaching horses and people humanely and peacefully." For Elizabeth it is all about sharing and bringing a higher standard of horsemanship to all with the desire.*

*Elizabeth owns Elizabeth Graves Productions, a video production company producing well-known videos such as "A Gathering Of Gaits," "Icelandic Horse Gathering," and more. She owns and resides at Shades Of Oak Ranch LLC in Spring Valley, Minn. where she still teaches horses and riders, conducts workshops and spends her relaxation time writing articles and painting.*

"Evening brings the end of another happy day," she reports, a contented look on her face. "Even with the cancer, I feel unrestricted freedom. Mr. Miller gives me the ability to go where I want and to do what I most love. I call him my non-doctor-assisted therapy. He's the best possible thing for my heart, my soul and my will to survive. Without him, I know I wouldn't still be alive."



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patd in the MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO for many years, and we support the FIESTA DEL NORTE PERUVIAN PASO HORSE SHOW of which will be the 11th annual show Aug. 14 & 15, 2010 at Winona, Minnesota.

Club members enjoy each other's company and share a common bond and love for these wonderful horses.

Come check us out at www.northernlightsperuvian club.com

Crookston, Minn.- University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian rider Paige Marek (Fr, St. Croix Falls, Wis.) is leaving for the American Polocrosse Association (APA) National Tournament in Illinois on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Polocrosse is a mixture of lacrosse and polo. It has the same general rules of polo but the racket and play work of lacrosse. "It is a huge deal especially this year because you not only have to qualify for it, but it is now open to the entire world," says Marek.

Marek will compete against athletes from South Africa, Australia and Canada. She played on the United States Junior team for two years prior and competed all over the world. Marek is also the only athlete on the team from the north and her family is only one of three families in the area that play polocrosse. She plays the number three position which is a defending position.

The honors do not stop here for Paige Marek. This summer she will prepare with the official world cup team, which is made up of the top seven players in the world either male or female, for the 2011 World Cup which will be hosted by the United Kingdom. For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/.

MR. MILLER AND JEAN SULLIVAN: A LOVE STORY

Most of us have wondered what it would feel like to be told we have cancer. Jean Sullivan already knows. In August of 1996, at 57 years of age, she was diagnosed with a serious form of breast cancer. Within two years, the metastasizing cancer had invaded the bones of her spine and left hip.

For many years, Jean had been an avid rider of hunter/jumpers, but she got to the point where she was in constant pain, and the doctors declared that her horseback riding days were over.

"My reaction was to ask the doctors what they knew about horses," Jean reports, "and they answered, honestly, that they knew nothing. So I told them that they were the wrong people to be taking care of someone who couldn't live without horses."

Jean set out to find a new doctor, and her inquiries led her to Dr. C. H. Mc Junkin, a chiropractor skilled at handling the kind of hip and spine problems she had. That satisfied only half of her requirements. The other necessary qualifications were revealed when Dr. Mc Junkin told her that continued riding would be beneficial, if she'd just change breeds.

Dr. Mc Junkin's parents had been deeply involved with Peruvian Paso horses.

"The gentle motion of the Peruvian's natural, four-beat gait can be extremely therapeutic for people who suffer from hip and spine ailments," he explained.

The doctor's statement triggered something in Jean's memory. Many years earlier she'd briefly ridden several Peruvians, and their smooth ride had left a very positive impression.

"Housed in the back of my mind was a half-thought/half-dream of someday owning a Peruvian," Jean remembers. "I didn't consciously think about it, but it was there. This dream horse even had a color: black."

Jean was obsessed with the need to continue riding, and she put out the word that she was looking for a black Peruvian gelding. Her loyal "horse friends" looked high and low, but trained geldings were in high demand and short supply. Moreover, there weren't many Peruvians in Arizona, and very few were black. "I couldn't think about anything except finding my dream horse and riding him for as long as God would grant me," Jean says with a smile. "There didn't seem to be a very good chance of that, but I never gave up." One afternoon the phone rang.

"The date will never leave my memory," Jean promises. "It was June 9, 1998." The caller was a stranger named Michele Wilson, who had heard of Jean's search. Michele said that she had a gelding she was willing to sell. However, she was attached to the horse. He'd been her first Peruvian. She'd owned him for eight years and

would only let him go to a good home. No problem there. If Arizona's Peruvians Pasos knew how well "Jeannie" treats her horses, they'd have all been standing at her corral gate, begging to get in.

"What's his name?" Jeannie asked. "El Pirata Negro," Michele answered. Then she unknowingly dropped a bomb. "That translates as 'The Black Pirate.'" Black!

"I got goose bumps, and that's the truth," Jeannie remembers. "His nickname," Michele continued, "is Mr. Miller. He was born in Texas, and his dam died giving birth. There was no other mare to put him with, and the vet said there wasn't much to be done except to 'hope for the best.' However, his life was saved by a resourceful ranch manager who decided he had to do more than that. He coaxed milk and colostrum from the dead mare into two Miller Beer bottles. Then he capped one bottle for the next morning, attached a nipple to the other and sat with the colt until the little guy had slurped every drop. Being raised that way, he's more human than horse. If he likes you, a strong bond will develop. That's the way he is." Jeannie gathered all the information she could and then made an appointment to meet Mr. Miller.

"I was as nervous as a cat-on-a-hot-tin-roof," is how Jeannie tells it. "Would Mr. Miller like me? I went to our first meeting armed with apples and carrots. I didn't intend to bribe him; but if we hit it off, I planned to cement the relationship right then and there!" "It seemed like Miller knew we were offering him for sale," Michele explains. "Every time someone came to look at him, he'd turn his back, pin his ears flat against his head and act generally disagreeable. Soon the potential buyers would walk away without even asking to ride, and he'd perk up his ears and -- in his way -- grin as if to say: "Well, I

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Top left: Mike Moszer escorts Danielle Austin riding ladies sidesaddle demonstration.

Top right: These Northern Lights Peruvian Horse Club (NLPHC) members are riding stallions, mares, and geldings performing a "Barrida" - a celebration of the breed. From left: Gail Benson, Mike Moszer, Julie Johnson, Gordon Simon, Danielle Austin, Chris Austin, Jodie Sammon, and Harlon Wienke.

### About the Peruvian Horse Breed

The Peruvian horses are known for their fantastic gait, wonderful disposition and extremely smooth ride. With their "Cadillac ride" the Peruvian Horse is suitable for any rider young or old, whether in the show ring for competition or out on the trail. Both their 4 beat lateral gait, and the flashy leg action called "termino" are completely natural.

The Peruvian horses descend from the blended bloods of the Andalusian, Barb, Spanish Jennet, and Friesians.

Thanks to over 450 years of careful breeding practices the Peruvians have maintained the desirable characteristics of smoothness, excellent temperament, strength and gait. While docile, quiet, and gentle in hand, they are spirited, energetic and arrogant yet easy to handle under saddle. One of the showiest of horses, they travel with a style and carriage as if always "on Parade".

### About the Northern Lights Peruvian Horse Club (NLPHC)

The purpose of the Northern Lights Peruvian Club is to assist its members in the enjoyment, education, and promotion of the Peruvian Horse in the Upper Midwest. Membership is open to all people whether they own a Peruvian Horse or not. It is a nondiscriminatory club; open to all races, genders and creeds. The North American Peruvian Horse Association (NAPHA) recognizes The Northern Lights Peruvian Horse Club as a Regional Club for the promotion of the Peruvian Horse. NAPHA is our National Breed Registry and Association.

The Northern Lights Peruvian Club which was founded in 1989, plans

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events such as a our trail ride, seminars or clinics, and demos at our business meeting each October. We have partici-

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**Bruno:** Swedish Warmblood gelding, age 26 (and still going strong), 16.3 hands; schooled through 3rd level dressage and jumping; great for beginners and for working on position, balance, and rhythm!  
Ridden by Megan Donaldson



**Tucker:** Swedish Warmblood gelding by Galapard; age 13; 17.2 hands; schooled through 4th level and PSG; both the beginner and advanced rider will appreciate this horse!  
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