

March 2014



The Valley  
Equestrian  
Newspaper

**Breaking  
Sleigh  
Trails**

*By Phillip  
Odden*

**Ski Joring**

*By Kari  
Hagstrom*

**Is Horse  
Slaughter  
History in  
the USA?**

*Sue  
Schank  
2012*



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\*\*Cleary, K., K. Martinson, J. Wilson, W. Lazarus, W. Thomas, and M. Hathaway. 2011. Round-Bale Feeder Design Affects Hay Wasteland Economics During Horse Feeding. *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science*. 31, 292-293.

# BREAKING SLEIGH TRAILS

WITH PHILLIP ODDEN

This message is from Phillip Odden in northwestern Wisconsin where we are experiencing an old fashion winter with all the trimmings.

The talk around here, in our rural neighborhood, is about winter. It hasn't let up. If it's not snowing it's cold. We have a weather pattern referred to as Alberta clippers. The wind blows hard from the east and then south, it warms up a bit, snows and the wind turns to the west and north-west and it gets down right cold.



Then again the wind blows from the east to the south and more snow drifting and then cold.

My two-and-a-half-mile sleigh trails were in pretty good shape before Christmas. Over the past couple weeks they have been drifting over. My personal cutoff for comfortable sleighing is 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Well today at 3:00 p.m. it was 12. So I decided to give my pair of grays a go at grooming the sleigh trails. Odden's Idar is a 6-year-old gelding and Odden's Josephine is a 5-year-old mare. Both are in good shape. They are a matched pair in color, stride and size. In summertime they are a dark steel gray but in their winter coats are a ghostly silver gray with dark black points. They stand about 14.1, are well muscled, calm and have adequate experience so one can feel fairly relaxed handling them.

I hitched them to my light red bob sled with metal runners and gear. Behind the sleigh I drag two 4x4s and an oak 2x6

chained together. These are to drag and groom the trail. As we left the farm yard I knew the going would be heavy. There were sizable drifts from the Alberta clippers on the trail. We left home at a walk and only once went to a trot to make the steepest hill. They worked with their heads down low and not much contact on the bits. On the way over the edge

of the fields the snow drifts almost reached their bellies. Here it was most important that they work together both leaning

into the collars on their draft harness. The sleigh runners didn't have much float in them with the soft snow and the three-gang drag picked up a lot of snow. It was work in every step making the sleigh lurch with each forward impulsion from their hind quarters. I was thinking how good this exercise would be for building muscle in those hind quarters. Not sure what they were thinking, other than it seemed like hard work.

Penny, my red Irish setter, was riding the sleigh with me, sniffing the cold crisp breeze

as her partner, Tia the tricolored English setter, was our forward scout, as usual. I had so many layers of shirts, underwear, over-wear, over-shoes, mittens, hats and other assorted clothing that it was hard to bend. Sitting on the sleigh like the Michelin man is much less work than pulling it.

I stopped the horses after the first long pull, once we reached the woods. They were panting hard; the gelding panting harder than the mare. I always keep an eye on this. It may be from my CDE experience. I want to make sure they are able to recover in a few minutes rest. After the second pull of about a half mile I could see that the gelding was quivering a bit at his shoulders, a sign that we should take it a little easier. So after their respirations caught up we stopped a little sooner for the next rest. One thing about heavy work is that they learn to stand and catch their breath when they have an opportunity. This pair has always been willing to stand but the gelding would be the first to try to move, though the mare is the more forward thinker of the two. After about an hour and a half we made it back home. The hill coming into the yard on the field's edge was easier because they had already groomed it going out. The snow had already set up with the falling temps and the sleigh runners rode on top rather than under the snow and



the drags had less snow to move.

On the last rest stop, clouds of vapor drifted from their sweating bodies into the fresh crisp winter air. Their neck yoke frosted over from their heavy moisture-laden breath. The rich deep smell of healthy horse everywhere filtered through our soft, fluffy, but oh-so-cold snowy woods.

The woods were quiet with few fresh tracks. The hard winter's deep snow and cold has already limited the movement of the deer. The squirrels are holed up and sleeping, I suspect, as are many of the other animals in the woods, living off last fall's well placed fat. Not a bad strategy for those who can. For us it was nice to get the sleigh trails

open and groomed again. Next time I will take another pair out for exercise and one day it will start to melt and the trails will get icy fast. What fun that will be. Then we will trot and clumps of snow will be flying from their hooves.

It was good to get the trails opened again and I think the horses felt a measure of accomplishment getting it done. Meaningful work is one of life's greatest pleasures even if it is cold. Now it's 6 degrees and falling.

All the best,

Phil Odden





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## The March Cover

Foaling time! Many new horses come into the world in the spring! We rejoice the new birth with *Jazzy & Angus* by Sara Jean. Enjoy the fine art of Sara Jean Schank (illustrated right with her horse, Harley), in this issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper on the cover and pages 12-13 where she gives us insight into her talent, technique, and love of horses.



*Above: Clinician Dominique Barbier working with student Carol and her horse Nelson - Barbier clinic Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd.*

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*Photography By Else Bigton*



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## Editorial Information

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**High Tail Horse Ranch & Rescue**  
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 Ranch: 701-526-3734  
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Zia is a 13 year old grade quarter Arabian mix mare. She stands 14.2 hands tall. She is well trained under saddle and has competed in 25 mile distance racing. Zia needs a rider with a bit of confidence as she can be forward, but she is very honest and well behaved other than needing an occasional half halt to check her pace. She

## Zia

is shown here on a competitive trail ride with one of our Junior riders. She loads, travels, and camps wonderfully. She has excellent ground manners, and is very friendly.



For more info please contact the  
**Triple H Miniature Rescue**  
 4747 22nd Avenue, Mandan, ND 58554  
 701-223-7305 -- 701-220-4449  
 hhhmhr@mac.com

## Angie

This is Angie, a coming on 5 year old spotted miniature Jenny. She is not bred and a very nice girl. She has good feet and is healthy. She needs a home where she can be loved and doted on. She has a timid side but genuinely loves people and scratches. Adoption fee is \$200.00. Angie will come with a contract

from Triple H Miniature Horse Rescue that states she will not be used for breeding. Please contact hhhmhr@mac.com for more photos or information on Angie.



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Jabari is a handsome 7 1/2 year old bay gelding. He is a former PMU colt. Jabari has been trained to ride in both English and Western disciplines. He stands well for vaccines and deworming. He is sweet, affectionate and gets along well with other horses. Jabari needs to find a home with an experienced horse person. Adoption fee is \$1,000. Contact: Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary at 520-398-2814 or info@equinevoices.org



Jabari

For more info please contact the  
**Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue**  
 PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398  
 (763) 856-3119 or info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Thor is a handsome 2004 16hh paint gelding who has had 90 plus days of professional training at Mississippi View Farm. We think he could go any direction at this point but is an especially nice eventing prospect. Visit our website at www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org for a link to a video of Thor in action. For more information on adopting this impressive gelding call (763)856-3119 or email info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org.



Thor

# Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

**F**oundation training for a young horse is some of the most important training we can give. I feel good about the foundation training program I completed with my 3-year-old, Jaz. I worked with her two or three days a week and during this time she learned a lot: acceptance of a halter, leading, line work, tying, de-spooking and beginning saddle work. In addition, I introduced Jaz to many new objects such as a tarp, a leaf blower, and a waving flag. I have taken her to new places and let her experience new environments, crowds of people and different horses. The combination of her willing nature and the de-spooking training have molded Jaz into a horse who is calm, relaxed, and willing to accept the adventure of our trips. This is our goal with foundation training.

Many times people tell me that they can't work with their horses as much as they would like and think they should, since a trainer may work with a horse five or six days a week. My response to this concern is—Do not worry about it and don't try to rush the training process. A young horse should not be worked like you would work a fully mature horse because a young horse is developing physical structure. A young horse, say a 3-year-old reining horse, that is overworked may suffer physical damage and later require hock injections; the horse may also suffer mental fatigue. A training sched-

ule that is less intense is better for a developing horse.

Through the early days of training Jaz, I did not ride her a lot because of the stage of her physical development. Toward the end of the seventh month Jaz really started to develop quickly — she just grew up — from about 13 hands to more than 14 hands at the withers and more than 15 hands at the hindquarters. This up and down type of growth process is normal on every baby. Eventually, the withers catch up and then the hindquarters grow again, and then the withers. When the horse is going through these growth spurts, your training should be slow and easy.

So, how long will it take you to train your horse if you can work with her two or three days per week? In theory, if I had worked Jaz five days a week, it would have accelerated the training. For example, if I worked with a 2-year-old horse five days a week, by the time she was three years old, she would have good basic foundation training on her, meaning she would have left and right lateral flexion, vertical flexion, soft and responsive shoulder and hip control; she would be able to do leg yields and she could side pass, stop, and back up. The horse would also be able to perform all three gaits in a relaxed manner, do upward and downward transitions and be comfortable on the trail and crossing objects. If the

same training was completed working the same horse only two or three days per week, and if the horse had a good mind, it might take four years to finish the foundation training. Or, if the horse was not as complacent and trainable, she might be five or six years old by the time the foundation training was finished. The same training needs to happen but it may just take a little longer. Also, if you are training only a couple of days a week, you may need to repeat lessons more often to re-enforce the learning. This is normal and is fine. With horses, we always may need to go back and retrain a lesson. Don't think of this as a negative, but as a training opportunity.

*Internationally known and respected horse trainer Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training which combines the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship. This method is applicable to every riding discipline. Charles is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating with and motivating people as well as horses.*



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# Charles Wilhelm

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## Cowboy Poetry with Orv

CAR-A-BUNGA; (SUSPECTING HIS I. D. NEEDS PROTECTING)

SUNDAY NOON: HE DIDN'T WAIT FOR THE SNOWPLOW  
It was a week-end. Let's call him Joe. He was looking out the window.  
His street, his yard and his neighbor's yard had a three-inch new-fallen snow.  
He'd put off a pharmacy trip. The view was cleaner and whiter.  
Snow crystals reflected the uncluttered sun, making the world brighter.  
We won't tell where or when...or divulge Joe Blow's real identity,  
Or specifics of his vehicle. Chrysler had made his amenity.  
Forgoing shoveling, he backed out, indicating he must go,  
And drove ultra-careful and ultra-slow, through three inches of new snow.

HALF THE USA HAS SNOW; (TRY BINARY SEARCH?)  
Chrysler manufactured cars from '23 to the present.  
We know excellent construction made their ride quite pleasant.  
The North Country snowplows had NOT left the city garage...not yet;  
So traversing the hilly and snowy streets was an unsure bet.  
Joe was wearing dark sunglasses to cut down on the sun's bright glare.  
The parking lot seemed to be an acre in size, with one car parked there.  
I'm sworn to secrecy, the for this sad story...it's Joe that I owe.  
Yes, eyes and brains and common sense and cars are affected by the snow.

THE EXPLANATION OF SMASHED PRIDE HURTS  
Why not park next to the only car parked on that forlorn parking lot?  
It would be most convenient...next to the Drug Store door...he thought.  
Slowly approaching that lonesome car, he applied the brake,  
And slid into the only car. His trip was a smashing success...a mistake!  
In retrospect it cracks me up. No...strike that. Joe had a lump in his throat.  
He wished he'd missed the boat. We sugarcoat that anecdote.  
We feel his pain, while we laugh. As uncomfortable predicaments go...  
A questionable choice ...his crash cost him cash...sliding in the snow.

THE MORAL: Watch self-talk, convenience is NOT what it's cracked up to be!!

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## HSUS on Horse Slaughter

Congress Blocks Domestic Horse Slaughter  
WASHINGTON — The Farm Bill that passed Congress includes a provision that halts any efforts to resume slaughtering horses for human consumption on U.S. soil. The legislation, which President Obama signed forbids spending by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on inspections at U.S. horse slaughter plants, reinstating a ban on domestic horse slaughter for the fiscal year and saving taxpayers an estimated expense of \$5 million. The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund now call on Congress to pass a permanent ban on domestic horse slaughter with the Safeguard American Food Exports Act, H.R. 1094 / S. 541, which would also end the export of American horses for slaughter abroad.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, said: "We Americans care for horses, we ride horses, and we even put them to work. But we don't eat horses in the United States. And we shouldn't be gathering them up and slaughtering them for people to eat in far-off places."

"We stopped slaughtering horses on U.S. soil

in 2007, and it's the right policy to continue that prohibition. We hope that all parties associated with this issue can agree to stop the inhumane export of live horses to Canada and Mexico, and protect all American horses from a disreputable, predatory industry." The HSUS also thanks the sponsors of the amendment addressing horse slaughter, Reps. Jim Moran, D-Va., and the late Bill Young, R-Fla., and Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Background:

- A similar spending prohibition had been put in place in 2005, however it was not renewed in 2011, opening the door for horse slaughter plants to reopen on U.S. soil. Efforts underway in to open horse slaughterhouses in New Mexico, Missouri and Iowa have been met with strong public opposition.

- The Humane Society of the United States joined with several animal protection organizations and individuals to file suit against USDA to block those facilities from opening.

- American horses are raised to be companions, athletes and work horses. They are often treated with drugs, both legal and illegal, that can endanger the food supply. There is currently

no system in the U.S. to track medications and veterinary treatments given to horses throughout their lives to ensure that their meat is safe for human consumption.

- The methods used to kill horses rarely result in quick, painless deaths, as horses often endure repeated blows to render them unconscious and can remain conscious during the slaughtering process. When horse slaughter plants previously operated in the U.S., the USDA documented severe injuries to horses, including broken bones and eyeballs hanging from a thread of skin.

- The Safeguard American Food Exports Act, H.R. 1094 / S. 541, introduced this year by U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Reps. Patrick Meehan, R-Pa., and Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., is a bipartisan measure that would outlaw horse slaughter operations in the U.S., end the current export of American horses for slaughter abroad, and protect the public from consuming toxic horse meat.

- Polling from 2012 shows that 80 percent of the American public opposes the slaughter of horses for human consumption, and this opposition spans across all partisan, regional, and gender lines.

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# MN Horse Expo presents Ma'Ceo

Edina, Minnesota – Cavallo Equestrian Arts, LLC announces six performances of the hit show Ma'Ceo scheduled for April 25-27 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds during the Minnesota Horse Expo.

Generations of skill and grace have come together to create Ma'Ceo, an equestrian extravaganza featuring daredevil stunt work and unparalleled beauty. Combining traditional dressage, aerial performance,

Cossack riding and vaulting, performed by world-class acrobats and riders, Ma'Ceo is truly an exciting addition to the Minnesota Horse Expo schedule of events.

"It is our dream to show the world the relationship we share with our horses, and the sheer excitement that they bring to all the lives they touch," explained Olissio Zoppe, Ma'Ceo Show Director and Cavallo Equestrian Arts Owner.

Ma'Ceo presents rich acoustic music in a gypsy ring that sets the scene for an action packed performance. An unrivaled cast of artists from around the world attempt death defying stunts, display dexterous feats and creates breathtaking images alongside their equestrian brothers. As a break from today's age of frills and technology, the world of Ma'Ceo takes people back to the roots of gypsy heritage. The amazing artists from Ma'Ceo have also performed in well renowned shows such as Cavalia, Cirque Du Soleil, Arabian Nights, and Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey.

Nearly ten different breeds of horse perform the most classic of riding styles from dressage to gypsy bareback in a high-energy, fully choreographed, multi-cultural experience that keeps the audience on the edge of their seats. For more information visit [www.cavalloeqarts.com](http://www.cavalloeqarts.com).

Tickets for Ma'Ceo will be in addition to Expo daily admission and be available both online starting March 1 and at the Expo. Ma'Ceo performances are scheduled for 1pm and 5pm Friday; and 1pm, 3pm and 5pm Saturday; 1pm on Sunday. For more information about Ma'Ceo and the full schedule of speakers, clinicians, PRCA rodeos, free horse, pony and wagon rides and more at the Minnesota Horse Expo, visit [www.mnhorseexpo.org](http://www.mnhorseexpo.org) or call 877-462-8758.



## Minnesota Horse Expo 2014

Largest equine trade show and breed exhibition in Minnesota

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Expo is sponsored by the Minnesota Horse Council

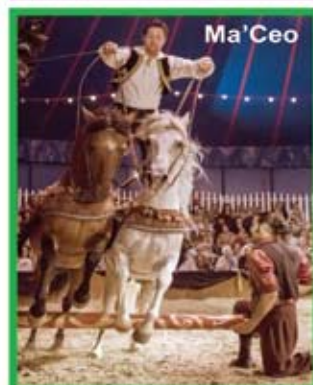
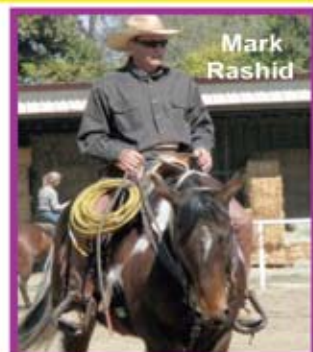
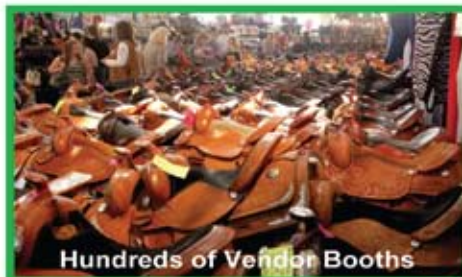
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- ★ Don't miss Ma'Ceo - the high-energy acrobatic equestrian stunt show in the big top tent. Additional ticket required.
- ★ Consign or buy at the huge used tack and clothing sale managed by the Minnesota Youth Horse Association
- ★ Listen to *The Farmer's Daughters* band playing Friday and Saturday 7:30pm-10:30pm near Coasters & the Horse Barn
- ★ So much to see and do, it may take more than one day!

**INFO: [www.mnhorseexpo.org](http://www.mnhorseexpo.org) or 877-462-8758**

**Horse Expo Hours: Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26: 8:30am-9:30pm; Sunday, April 27: 8:30am-5:00pm**  
**Cattle Barn, Poultry Barn, Dairy Building and CHS Building close at 7:00pm - Free Parking in State Fair lots.**

**Daily Expo Admission: FREE for ages 5 and under; \$10 Adults (13-61); \$6 Seniors (62+) and Youth (6-12)**

**PRCA Rodeo Admission from \$4 to \$12 depending on seating section plus daily Horse Expo Admission**



50+ Breeds

# Life Lessons from a Dressage Master

By Staci Grattan

**A**s the owner of a barn that does boarding, training and lessons with a strong emphasis on good solid basics and dressage, I hear the

following phrases or a variation thereof on a regular basis:

- "Oh, that fancy dressage stuff! I don't do that! I just want to get on and ride!"

- "All dressage people do is ride in circles. I don't want to ride in circles, that's boring and I don't see the point." When I hear these things I have to smile a little

on the inside. I smile for a variety of reasons including the fact that I agree; I say, YES get on and ride your horse, ENJOY yourself and your partner! Mostly I smile

to myself because I am of the opinion that properly done classical dressage, specifically the method taught by Dominique Barbier and his equally talented and skilled wife, Debra, has absolutely nothing to do with being "fancy" or riding in circles, and everything to do with a solid foundation in the basics, proper physical body mechanics, relaxation by the partners and a strong mental connection. To be clear: I have seen Mestre Barbier ride beautifully executed high school dressage maneuvers seemingly without effort on horses so relaxed and happy it seemed like a Sunday afternoon on the couch. I have also seen him teach these movements to students. My point here is that the foundation for these beautiful "dressagey" movements is something every horseman and horsewoman is looking for: a partnership with a physically and mentally relaxed and sound partner. No matter what your horse goals or disciplines are, there are very valuable offerings in Barbier's style and methodology from a horsemanship perspective.

Barbier is many things, a dressage master, a successfully published author many times over, an incredibly intuitive and gifted horseman with decades of experience, including an amazing and vast array of training, most notably with classical Master Nuno Oliveira (1925-1989). To say he is highly skilled and trained would be an understatement. All achievements

and education aside, as an instructor and trainer I believe the most valuable offerings Mestre Barbier provides are life lessons. The kind of life lessons that not only make us better with the horses but also make us better people!

The old horseman's adage "you ride as you are" is very true, and I believe the "change of consciousness" that Barbier encourages each of his students to explore holds the key to not only better riding, and partnership with horses but also a better quality of life! It's not about riding in circles, or what pretty movements you can do (although that is very fun!) or the tack you use or any of the aesthetics. It is all about simplicity, partnership, joy and a change in the way we look at our horses and the world.

Barbier asks us as students to:

- Think of our horses as "dance partners," always remembering there is a "number one partner and a number two partner." Number one leads the dance; however, both partners must be willing and relaxed.
- Always be thinking in lightness and gentleness. Always ask, "How can I do less?"
- Ask for what you want. Be clear! Don't cope with what is given: Ask!
- If things are not going well, stop! Start over. Think "new horse, new rider."
- Always approach your horse in relaxation. Nothing is ever a big deal.



*# 1. Joey and owner Sharon discover the importance of correct mindful lunging. Barbier clinic Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd.*

*# 2. Barbier works with students on proper body mechanics and relaxation while lunging.*

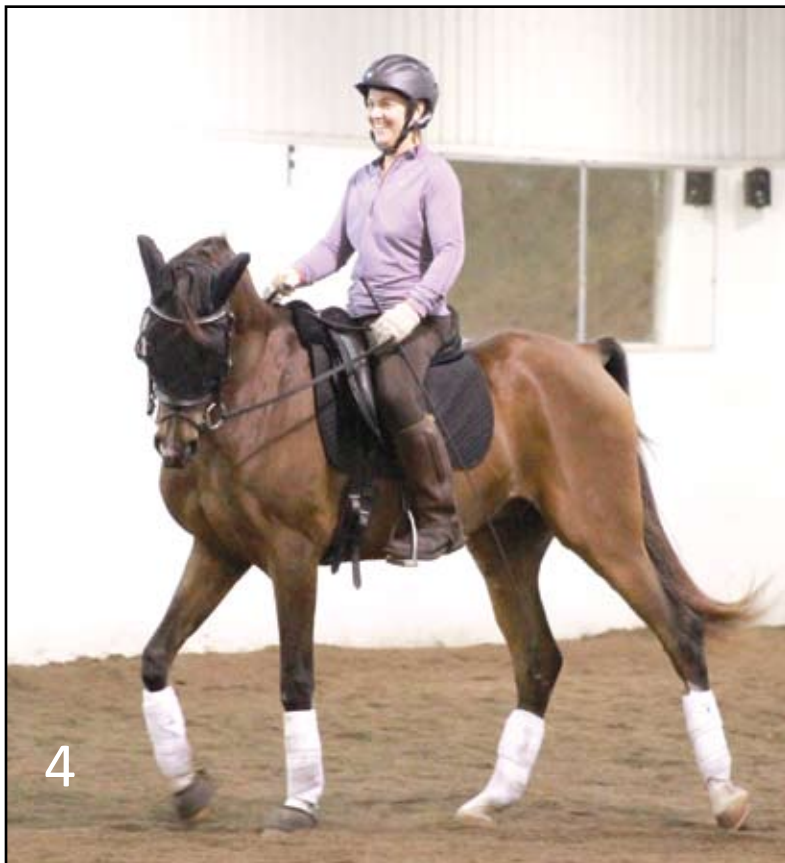
*# 3. Carol and Nelson work on "shoulder in" Barbier Clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd.*

*# 4. Shelly Fehn grins in delight as she masters a movement - Barbier clinic Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd.*



# Dressage with Dominique Barbier

By Staci Grattan



- Keep things simple. Don't overcomplicate!
- Remember that everything starts from the ground and your basics. If there are holes or trouble on the ground it WILL show up in the saddle. Proper mindful lunging and "in hand" work are key!
- "Sit there and stay with it!" Understand that effective and productive horsemanship/training should look a little like paint drying. Day by day we make steady, quality progress by having clear goals and a solid program.
- Be present! Always!
- Anything you do, do it with joy!

If we change a few words here and there, couldn't

most of these philosophies be translated into our day-to-day lives?

In closing, I offer a few favorite quotes I have gathered from Mestre Barbier during my attendance at various symposiums and clinics for your consideration for your own journey to a "change of consciousness."

"Beauty is rarely in the way of spectacles. If you want to see beauty you need to sit still and look for it."

"The world doesn't change, but you can change the way you look at it!"

*Dominique Barbier is an internationally recog-*

*nized dressage master and author of several books. More info at [www.dominiquebarbier.com](http://www.dominiquebarbier.com).*

*Staci Grattan is the owner of Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minn., offering a variety of equine events and services. For more information go to [www.spirit-horsecenterinc.com](http://www.spirit-horsecenterinc.com).*



Photography by  
Mallory Bourn  
of Bourn  
Photography

# VEN Fine Art Feature: Art by Sara Jean

**VEN:** When did you first start drawing?

**Sara Jean:** Honestly, I can't remember ever not having a pencil in my hands. I was always sketching something out whether I was sitting in school sketching horses in my notebooks or on the road to a rodeo or horse show.

**VEN:** Have you been taught or attended art school? Educational background.

**Sara Jean:** I'm mostly self taught but while in college for Graphic Design I took classes in art where I worked in a lot of different mediums as well as photography. While I now mostly focus on working in pencil what

I learned in the other mediums still comes into play.

**VEN:** What other work have you done?

**Sara Jean:** Currently I'm a horse trainer by summer / artist by winter, as well as helping my husband with the farm & ranch work. Before moving out here I lived in Bismarck where I worked as a graphic designer at a print shop.

**VEN:** Tell us about your family life and whatever background you feel like sharing?

**Sara Jean:** I've spent most of my life training and competing with my horses. Growing up I competed in 4-H



and open horse shows, playdays, barrel racing jackpots, team roping jackpots and high school rodeo. I spent the better part of the last 10 years starting colts and then taking them into

the show arena as all around horses who competed in English, western and speed events. Two years ago now I was introduced to cowboy mounted shooting and that is what I'm doing now. Currently

I'm a CMSA women's level 3 shooter. I've got two wonderful horses that we've trained for shooting, Cash and Ollie, (pictured above) and hope to have a couple more going by fall. There is something about the rush of mounted shooting that I haven't found in any other discipline I've competed in. I live in south western ND with my husband of almost 4 years on his family's ranch. We farm and have cattle. I also raise a few

horses. I train both for myself and customers, usually riding 8-10 horses a day during the summer.

**VEN:** What inspires your art?

**Sara Jean:** I mostly do commissioned work so with that I'm driven to create a piece of work that my customer will cherish for life. I want to capture that special memory perfectly for them.

When it comes to the pieces I do for myself it's the photography that starts it. I'll know as soon as I "see" something and pick my camera up to shoot it that that particular photo is going to be a drawing. The lighting is everything to me, I love strong contrast and when I capture that in a photo I can't wait to pick my pencils up and start working on it.

**VEN:** Why horses? Do you own them? Are the images your horses?

**Sara Jean:** My life pretty much revolves around

horses. I currently own 15 of them ranging in age from 6 months to 24 years old. When I'm not riding or drawing, I'm out photographing my herd & they frequently make it into my drawings. I also work on dogs, cats and on occasion a piece focusing on a person but the majority of my work is horses.

**VEN:** What mediums do you use? What is your favorite?

**Sara Jean:** I pretty much strictly work in pencil; will do an occasional piece of scratchboard work as well.

**VEN:** Why do you think they are so important to you?

**Sara Jean:** I honestly don't know, but I know I can't imagine my life without them. There is nothing that comes close to the feeling of just being out in the pasture with them and watching their muscles ripple as they run and play. Or sitting quietly as a favorite

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Art by  
Sara Jean

Continued from page 12

mare puts her head against your chest and just wants to be close to you. Being there when a foal is born and a few years down the road the anticipation of getting on that baby for his first ride. The struggle of helping a horse who had a rough past come around and turn into a great and trusting partner. Even the heartbreak of losing a foal or having to make the decision to let one of the good old horses go...it's all part of me, I wouldn't want it any other way.

**VEN:** Did you have horses as a child?

**Sara Jean:** Yep, I basically grew up on the back of a horse. I have pictures of myself on Brandy, the mare that I literally grew up with, when I was a baby and she was two (we shared the same birthday of April 15, she was just 2 years older than me). She later carried me through 4-H, playdays and then on to high school rodeo where my senior year she carried me to the national high school finals rodeo and the ND reserve state championship. I've had a lot of great horses but she is the one that truly made me love compet-



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ing and the rush that comes from making a great run. She's a horse that I will never forget and I still compare the young ones I get on to her.

**VEN:** How do you use photographs in your artwork?

**Sara Jean:** The photos are the basis for everything in my work. My customers send me their photos and I use them to set up the exact layout that I will sketch their drawing from. That way they have a visual idea of what the finished piece will look like before we even start. I love to have great photos to work from as they allow me to see every little detail

down to the tiny veins in the horse's face and that all helps in making the drawing real.

**VEN:** What is scratchboard art?

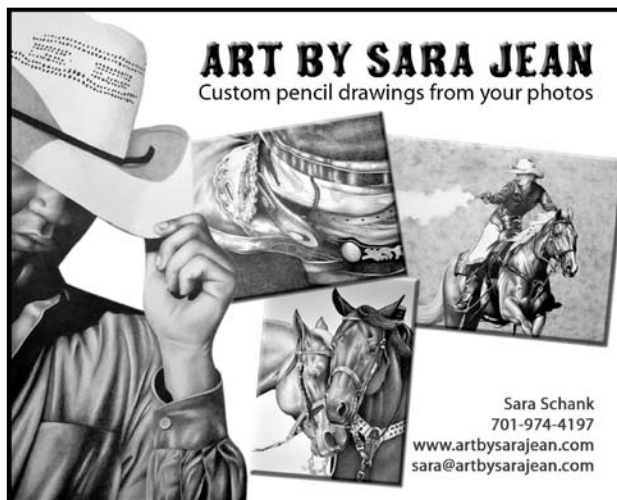
**Sara Jean:** Scratchboard is a white chalk covered board that has been airbrushed black. You use xacto knives and other tools to remove the black creating the highlights of the image and leaving the black for the shadows.

**VEN:** Why do you not use color in your artwork?

**Sara Jean:** Color has never really interested me, I absolutely love the work of great painters like Tim Cox, but the simplicity of black and white is my style. Even in photography, I prefer black and white images

over color almost all the time. My mind thinks in black and white, I see the lines and the contrast of an image long before I do the color. Some people are drawn to bright vibrant colors, where it's dark shadows and bright highlights that capture my eye.

Sara may be contacted at: [www.artbysara-jean.com](http://www.artbysara-jean.com) where you may also see more of her art.



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# Feeding Straw to the Insulin Resistant Horse May be a Mistake

by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

Your horse is a grazing animal; he needs access to grass or hay all the time, all day and all night. Left with an empty stomach, the horse may develop ulcers, be prone to colic, experience laminitis or its relapse, and exhibit sensitive, irritable behavior. If you have an overweight horse, the hormonal stress response to forage restriction will actually keep him from losing weight. The solution? In short, provide low starch/low sugar forage and get your horse moving.

Straw is often touted as a low NSC (non-structural carbohydrates) feed source for insulin resistant horses because, while not terribly nutritious, it can "keep them busy" in between hay feedings. After all, straw is just empty calories, right? The answer may surprise you.

What is straw?

Straw is the dried stalks of cereal plants such as wheat or oats, but it generally contains no grain kernels (as we often see with oat hay, for example). After the grain is harvested, the stalks are left standing to dry. They are then cut and baled. Typically, straw is used for animal bedding or industrial usages. It is not a worthwhile food source mainly because it is very high in lignin, a fibrous substance that binds nutrients and cannot be digested by the microbial population in the

horse's hindgut. The NDF (neutral detergent fiber) value of straw tends to be high, meaning it is not digestible, and hence, provides few calories. But, before it reaches the horse's hindgut, the carbohydrates, fats, and protein are extracted and digested inside the small intestine. Non-structural carbohydrates (NSC), which include sugars, fructans, and starch, are

a concern when feeding the insulin resistant horse. So the questions become: "Is straw low enough in NSC?" and "How does it compare to other commonly fed forages?"

Every forage is unique; its nutritional content will vary depending on the soil, amount of rainfall, exposure to sunlight, and degree of stress. Consequently, testing

is the only true way to know what is in your hay, or what is in straw. Some straw will test low enough in sugar and starch to best be [sic] safe to feed to an insulin resistant horse, but oftentimes this is not the case. Most farms (unless they use it as bedding) do not have enough straw on hand to warrant testing it, so feeding it may not be worth the risk.

Ideal values for the insulin resistant horse

To determine whether a forage is safe to feed free-choice to an insulin resistant horse, pay attention to three key indicators:

- 1) NSC: Ideally, the NSC value of your forage should be less than 12% on an as-sampled basis.
- 2) ESC + Starch: This represents the simple sugars plus starch. It should be less than 10% on an as-sampled basis. Since NSC includes fructans (which do not significantly contribute to blood insulin levels), this second indicator is worth evaluating, especially if the NSC value of your forage is slightly above 12%.
- 3) DE: For the overweight horse, it is important to reduce calories. Ideally, the DE (caloric) content should not exceed 0.88 Mcals/lb (1.94 Mcals/kg).

Over the past 12 years, Equi-Analytical Labs has compiled normal ranges of key nutrients in forages. The chart below compares straw to various types of hay.

The table above offers several significant points

Evaluating NSC levels:

- The NSC range of straw may be generally low, but it can be as high as 17.1%, which is unacceptable for the insulin resistant horse.
- Alfalfa, often

touted as high in sugar, has an NSC range that is reasonable and predictable.

- The NSC range of grass hays (both cool and warm season) is broad, highlighting the need for testing.

- Grain hays (from oats, as shown above, but which can also include barley, wheat, rye and millet) tend to be quite high in NSC.

ESC + Starch values parallel the NSC levels of each forage type. Forage safety cannot be assumed; testing is the only way to take the guesswork out of feeding.

DE variations exist. The DE of straw tends to be low. Alfalfa's caloric content is higher due to its protein content. Many grass hays have a low enough DE to be suitable for the overweight horse, but this is not always the case.

The NDF percentage in straw is high, even at its lowest range level. If the NDF value is greater than 60%, the forage contains a large amount of indigestible fiber, making it lower in feed value for your horse. With straw, the concern is not feed value; the high NDF appears to be a good thing. But its coarseness makes it difficult to chew and swallow, and more significantly, can lead to impaction colic.

Summary

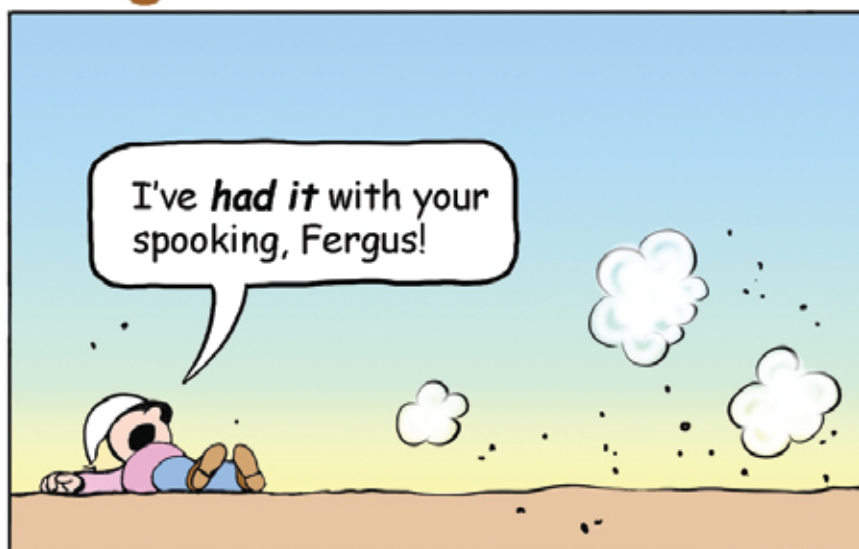
Straw may seem like the ideal way to fill in the time between hay feedings for the insulin

**Normal Ranges of Key Nutritional Indicators of Straw Compared to Other Forages<sup>1</sup>**  
(on an as-sampled basis)

	Straw	Alfalfa hay	Grass hay (cool season)	Bermuda grass hay (warm season)	Oat hay
<b>DE Mcals/lb (Digestible Energy)</b>	0.7-0.8	1.1-1.3	0.9-1.0	0.9-1.0	0.9-1.0
<b>%NDF (Neutral Detergent Fiber)</b>	65.6-81.3	33.5-44.0	55.7-70.1	62.0-71.7	53.1-65.5
<b>%WSC (Water Soluble Carbohydrates)</b>	1.7-12.0	7.4-11.1	6.8-15.8	5.8-9.5	9.0-24.1
<b>%ESC (Ethanol Soluble Carbohydrates)</b>	0.6-7.0	5.9-8.9	4.7-10.2	4.7-9.2	5.2-15.5
<b>%Starch</b>	0.0-5.1	0.9-2.8	0.7-3.5	2.2-8.4	1.5-8.1
<b>NSC (WSC + Starch)</b>	1.7-17.1	8.3-13.9	7.5-19.3	8.0-17.9	10.5-32.2
<b>ESC + Starch</b>	0.6-12.1	6.8-11.7	5.4-13.5	6.9-17.6	6.7-23.6

# Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY

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## Feeding Straw to the Insulin Resistant Horse

Continued from page 12

resistant horse, but it is not likely worth the risk. It can be as high or even higher in sugar/starch as grass hay. And because it is extremely dry and coarse, feeding it increases the risk of the horse developing colic. A better way is to test your grass hay to confirm that it is suitable to feed free-choice, thereby feeding your horse the way his predecessors remained healthy for millions of years. Respect his need to be what he is – a horse.

1Source: [www.Equi-Analytical.com](http://www.Equi-Analytical.com) forage analyses ranges over last 12 years.

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Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally

respected, independent equine nutritionist who believes that optimizing horse health comes from understanding how the horse's physiology and instincts determine the correct feeding and nutrition practices. She is the Contributing Nutrition Editor for the *Horse Journal*, and is available for private consultations and speaking engagements.

Buy Dr. Getty's comprehensive resource book *Feed Your Horse Like a Horse* at Dr. Getty's website, [www.gettyequinenutrition.com](http://www.gettyequinenutrition.com), and have it inscribed by the author. Or buy it at Amazon ([www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)), Barnes and Noble ([www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)) or Books A Million ([www.booksamillion.com](http://www.booksamillion.com)). The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty's topic-centered *Spotlight on Equine Nutrition* series are available at her website, where Dr. Getty offers special package pricing, and also at Amazon in print and Kindle versions.

Dr. Getty provides a world of useful information for the horseperson at [www.gettyequinenutrition.com](http://www.gettyequinenutrition.com). Sign up for her informative, free monthly newsletter, *Forage for Thought*; browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum; and purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars. And for the growing community of horse owners and managers who allow their horses free choice forage feeding, Dr. Getty has set up a special forum as a place for support, celebrations, congratulations, and idea sharing. Share your experiences at [jmgetty.blogspot.com](http://jmgetty.blogspot.com). Reach Dr. Getty directly at [gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com](mailto:gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com).

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# EDUCATIONAL STAGES OF TRAINING

By Janice M. Ladendorf

**B**oth humans and horses progress through a series of educational stages. At each one, they need to acquire the knowledge and skills that allow them to progress to the next stage. If any attempt is made to skip through a stage, then any further progress could be hindered and physical, emotional, or mental problems may appear.

Before a horse is useful to humans and safe for them to handle, he normally goes through four basic stages of training. Before the days of automobiles, breaking usually included both driving and riding. Horse breakers and tamers focused on turning the horse into a useful servant as quickly as possible. The same approach continues to be used today by many trainers and clinicians, but it will not build a partnership with the horse. These four stages are compared to human stages in the list below. Since horses mature more quickly and do not live as long as humans, they will need less time at each stage of training.

#### Human

- 1) Parenting
- 2) Kindergarten
- 3) Grade School 1-3
- 4) Grade School 4-6

#### Horse

- 1) Imprinting
- 2) Halter Training
- 3) Ground Work
- 4) Backing (Breaking)

When a foal is running with his dam, he can learn a great deal from her if she is calm and well behaved around humans. If she trusts and respects them, then he will be inclined to feel the same way. In the first ten days of life, he is the

most open to learning. He should be allowed to watch humans handle and groom his dam. When he is willing to approach them, then he can be encouraged to let them handle and groom him. In recent years, establishing such a basic relationship with a foal has often been described as imprinting, but it does not necessarily include forcing a young foal to accept to accept extreme desensitization.

Formal halter training normally begins with weanlings and may continue until the young horse is old enough for the next stage in training. Traditional halter breaking is often limited to taking a few days to teach a horse to accept a halter, lead, and tie. Rough handling at this point may lead to permanent damage to the horse's long term relationship with humans. Halter training can also include teaching good manners and introducing the colt to the world. Western and natural horsemanship both place great emphasis on teaching manners.

So far, the focus has been on educating the horse so humans can take care of him easily and safely. The safety issues apply to both horses and the humans who must handle them. This training may include teaching the horse to leave his herd, his equine friends, and familiar territory. These lessons may begin in this stage of training or either of the next two stages. If the horse is to live with humans, then he must learn them.

The third stage of training prepares a horse to carry a rider. Ground work may include lunging, round penning or free schooling, and ground driving or long lining. It may also include driving. Whatever techniques are used, they should teach the horse to go where you want him to go and at whatever speed or gait you desire.

Horsemen generally agree that some ground training should precede mounted work. What they disagree on is how much training should be done and at what age. One extreme is breaking yearlings so they can be raced as two year olds. This approach is physically stressful and often leads to soundness problems. The other extreme is letting a range colt run wild until he is four or five years old. This approach misses the growing years when the young horse is emotionally and mentally the most open to learning. The ideal point is probably somewhere between these two extremes, as it was for my mustang; but it can vary with the individual horse. Some breeds or individuals do mature more slowly than others.

In the fourth stage of training, the horse can be taught to accept a saddle, bridle, and a rider on his back. He needs to be given enough time to find his balance under a rider at all three gaits and on different types of terrain. The horse can now be safely handled and ridden. Sadly, all too many horses are rushed

through this basic training and all too often gaps have been left in what they should know. If this has happened, the owner may live with the resulting problems or obtain professional help.

Four stages of training have now been described. Like a child who has completed grade school, the horse should be prepared to function in our world. By this time, he should have matured and be in good condition. Ideally, he should have a relationship with humans built on mutual trust and respect. He should also understand and be willing to obey simple signals or cues. If the horse's owner decides his horse now knows enough, then his training can stop at this point. Many horses never get beyond it.

Unlike people, horses cannot choose their own careers, but their behavior can tell us where their talents lie or what they really want to do. For example, one of my horses got easily bored with ring work. When he did, he would run through jumps instead of going over them. When I introduced him to fox hunting, he soon began to fidget when he was waiting for the hunt to start.

If more is desired from the horse, the trainer now has three basic choices. The first one is to improve the horse's education by teaching him to back, pivot, sidestep, neck rein, and pick up correct leads at a canter. Mastering these exercises will make him more pleasant to ride.

The second choice may include these exercises, but the horse will be taught to play a specific game or execute a specific task. In both of these choices, the emphasis is often placed on what the horse does, not on how he does it. In the third choice, the emphasis changes. It will gradually shift to focus on the quality of his work.

When humans have finished their basic education, they can make similar choices. They may drop out of school or turn to vocational education. They may also continue and acquire a liberal education. Before dressage becomes a specialty, it can be the equivalent of such an education. Classical dressage is one of the disciplines that has been designed to improve the beauty of the horse's movements, as well as his responsiveness to his rider. It is based on the cultivation of related qualities, such as straightness and suppleness. Its educational stages as compared to human learning are shown below.

#### Human

- 5) Middle School
- 6) High School
- 7) College
- 8) Graduate School

#### Horse

- 5) Elementary
- 6) Intermediate
- 7) Advanced
- 8) Airs Above the Ground

The exercises used in elementary dressage are relatively simple, but they are used to establish the qualities that will serve as the foundation

for all further work. This type of training can be done with any sound horse. If the horse is physically able to collect, then he or she can usually be taught intermediate work. It should improve the horse's physical, mental, and emotional ability to excel at any game or task. After this stage, dressage becomes a specialty that may be beyond an ordinary horse or rider.

At every step of the way, the trainer must make crucial decisions as to what he wants to achieve with every horse. The higher the quality of work and the deeper the desired relationship, the more time is usually required to take the horse through every stage of training. The amount of time can also vary with the individual horse. The younger and more talented the horse, the more care needs to be taken to avoid rushing him into advanced training before he is physically, mentally, and emotionally ready for it. Sadly, far too many horses are broken down before they are even mature.

#### Information Resources:

Ladendorf, Janice M.  
*A Marvelous Mustang: Tales from the Life of a Spanish Horse*, 2010.

"Stages, Goals, Objectives, and Relationship Levels," Chapter 18, *Human Views and Equine Behavior*, 2013, pp. 171-181.



## IRS Chief Counsel Memo Highlights Form 1099

**B J A C**

The IRS Office of Chief Counsel recently issued a memorandum concerning the use of IRS Form 1099 (also known as "information returns"). This form is important to taxpayers especially if you are audited in connection with horse activities, ranching or farming. Farmers, ranchers, owners and breeders regularly pay for services performed by vendors, veterinarians, and other nonemployees or independent contractors. These payments typically include wages. When payments are made, you are responsible for issuing a 1099 form to the extent the sum of the payments made to the payee amounts to \$600 or more in the year. These forms are required to be sent to each payee by January 31 for the previous calendar year. The forms are designed

to help the IRS keep track of income paid to self-employed workers and contractors. You must also send the forms to the IRS by March 28 of each year. According to Terry Miller, CPA with Miller & Miller Associates of Fresno, California, IRS auditors will invariably fault taxpayers who fail to file 1099 forms. Failure to prepare and file these forms, he says, could work against you in an audit because it may suggest you are not keeping accurate and businesslike records. The 1099 forms pertain only to payments made for business or trade purposes. So, for example, payments for veterinary services for horses used in the activity are subject to reporting on the form, but veterinary services to pet dogs or cats are not. A 1099 form is required for payments to land

**A**

ranching or horse activity in question. The recent IRS memo referred to above indicates that 1099 forms are required whether the veterinary service is rendered by a sole proprietor or an incorporated entity that provides veterinary services. Some nonemployee income payments do not require issuance of the 1099 form. Generally, payments to corporations – except for veterinary or legal services – do not require a 1099. Payments for hauling livestock or grain do not require issuance of a 1099. Other farm or ranch-related costs, such as for feed, fertilizer, chemicals, fuel or other non-service items, do not require a 1099 form. There seems to be an enhanced level of scrutiny in the IRS of taxpayers with a significant history of losses and deductions against other sources of income. Thus, it is more important than ever to keep appropriate records to monitor the progress of your business, to show whether it is improving, which items are selling, or what changes you need to make. Good records can help you make better decisions as well as help support your position in the event of an IRS examination.

*John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, farming and ranching industries since 1981. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, by e-mail at johnalancohan@aol.com, or you can see more at his website: www.johnalancohan.com.*

## U of MN to Hold Unwanted Horse Summit

**L**

The problem of unwanted horses in Minnesota and across the U.S. has increased significantly over the past six years. In 2012, the University of Minnesota was awarded a grant from Morris Animal Foundation to investigate the reasons, costs and solutions for unwanted horses in the upper Midwest and Texas. Results from the research, and additional solutions to the unwanted horse issue identified by cooperating organizations, will be discussed at the Unwanted Horse Summit on Saturday, March 8, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Leatherdale Equine Center in St. Paul, MN.

Speakers and topics at the Unwanted Horse Summit include:

- Julie Wilson, DVM, MN Board of Veterinary Medicine - Investigating the Unwanted Horse Problem in MN, WI, and TX
- Dennis Sigler, PhD, Texas A & M - Horse Prices and Seller Reasons from Sale Barns in MN, WI, and TX
- Becky Bott, PhD, South Dakota State University - Working with Underserved Equines in South Dakota
- Julie Wilson, DVM, MN Board of Veterinary Medicine - International Efforts in Horse Welfare
- Jennifer Williams, PhD, Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society - Best Practices for Equine Rescues
- Tracy Turner, DVM, Anoka Equine – MN Horse Council, American Horse Council and American Association of Equine Practitioners Efforts to Improve Horse Welfare
- Katy Bloomquist, Esq., Bloomquist Law Firm

- Engaging Law Enforcement in Horse Welfare Cases

- Barb Colombo, Esq., Hamline University School of Law - Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition: Gains and Growing Pains
- Stacy Bettison, Esq., Bettison Consulting LLC. - Media Relations: Pitfalls and Opportunities

A number of organizations involved with addressing the unwanted horse problems will also be in attendance, including the Animal Humane Society, Equine Law Committee of the Minnesota State Bar Association Animal Law Section, Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation, Minnesota Horse Council, Minnesota Horse Welfare

Coalition, Refuge Farms, Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, Sundown Horse Shelter, This Old Horse, and Tru-haven Ranch.

Program registration is required by Wednesday, March 5, 2014. The registration fee is \$25/person, and includes a program proceedings, lunch and refreshments. Registration is available online at <https://www.regonline.com/UnwantedHorseSummit> and additional information can be found at [www.extension.umn.edu/horse/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse/). Funding for the Unwanted Horse Summit is provided through a grant from Morris Animal Foundation.

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# WILD AND ROWDY FUN: SKI JORING IN THE USA AND THE WHITEFISH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Kari Hagstrom

Imagine this: Standing at the starting gate, your boots and downhill skis ready, thick tow-rope trailing through your hands, snow being kicked into the air as your horse-and-rider tow team sprint past you as you tighten your grip on the rope and shoot forward at 35+ mph through an 800-foot long course



"Fifty years ago, it was wild, out of control and

of slalom gates and jumps, the horse cruising along before you, pulling you through the course. Imagine doing this competitively, where the rule is that you must finish the course in an upright position, holding the rope, getting at least one ski and both boots across the finish line. Oh, and you have to do it all as fast as you can, because it's a race. Welcome to competitive equestrian ski joring.

Over the course of the winter, equestrian ski joring events sanctioned by the North American Ski Joring Association (NASJA, [www.nasja.com](http://www.nasja.com)) occur in several western states, and some eastern states, including Quebec, Canada. The World Ski Joring Championships are

held in January as part of the Whitefish, Mont. Winter Carnival.

A skier being towed by a horse, or a horse and rider, isn't a new idea. Equestrian ski joring (pronounced with a hard "j," as in "Jordan," in the western states) originated in the 1400s in the Netherlands, where plow horses were used to pull ski-wearing farmers as a

mode of transportation. As in the Netherlands, in the eastern states ski joring is pronounced ski "yoring." For centuries in northern Scandinavian countries, Laplanders were pulled on skis behind reindeer. Ski joring derives from the Norwegian for "ski driving," and can also comprise being pulled by a dog or dogs, mules, snowmobiles, or even a truck or car.

People on skis have been towed around by their horses for ages, and it has often been a fun featured local event at winter festivals. In the U.S. it became a cowboy sport, where a rider on a horse would wrap a tow-rope around the saddle horn, and take off at high speed down a straight-away with a skier in tow.

In the 1928 Olympics at San Moritz, equestrian ski joring was a demonstration event.

Organized ski joring has been a part of the Leadville, Colo. Crystal Carnival since 1949. In 1959, in Whitefish, Mont., three businessmen, Norm Kurtz, Martin Hale and Roy Duff, were talking at the Pastimes Bar, comparing notes on the best horse rider, the best skier, and the best drinker in the area, and came up with the idea of the Whitefish Winter Carnival, including combining horses, riding and skiing.

an absolute blast! The event was held downtown on Central Avenue in the early years[,] but after local businessman Russ Street was nearly thrown through the window of the Toggery clothing store[,] and a crowd of spectators was parted by a couple of runaway horses, the event was moved to the fenced Mountain Trails Saddle Club... Reckless abandon and great fun continued every year until the mid-1970s when, due to injuries, the Whitefish Winter Carnival organizing committee could no longer place insurance [on the event]," says the Whitefish Skijoring Website ([www.whitefishskijoring.com](http://www.whitefishskijoring.com)).

Equestrian ski joring became a sanctioned sport in 1999, when NASJA

was formed to create a forum for competitors at existing races to earn points toward a national championship on an organized race circuit. NASJA's function is to ensure the growth, safety and integrity of the sport, and maintain consistencies within the sport, while preserving the uniqueness of each race association's objectives. Says Scott Ping, NASJA president and Northern Rocky Mountain Region representative, "We don't sanction events, we sponsor them. We make sure [the event] is safe. We oversee and help organizers set up events. We advise and suggest guidelines... We feel that there are three heartbeats involved in each race: the horse, the rider, and the skier."

There are currently three regional associations in the U.S.: the Northern Rocky Mountain Region (Mont., Idaho, Wyo.), the Southern Rocky Mountain Region (Colo., Utah, N.M., and hopefully soon Ariz.), and the North East United States Region and Canada (Maine, the states from N. H. to N. Y., and Quebec). With well over one thousand active North American memberships, competitive equestrian ski joring is now catching on in Croatia. NASJA offers health insurance to its members.

In 2003, Ping and Dale Duff of Whitefish helped to reinstitute ski joring at the Whitefish Winter

Carnival as a sanctioned event. Since then, the event has continually improved, becoming the home of the World Ski Joring Championships in 2009. Now held at the Whitefish airport, the purse for the 2014 event, held in January, topped \$20,000. Seventy-six teams participated, with over 3,500 spectators.

There are three divisions of competition: open, sport, and novice. There is also a mule class, and a long jump event is separate and open to any skill level combination of skier, rider and horse. Participants must be at least 18 years old by the date of the championships, and may be male or female. A team consists of a skier, a rider, and a horse. Both the open and sport classes are NASJA sanctioned.



The open class is for the most highly skilled riders and skiers with the fastest horses. Sport class is considered to be an intermediate skill level, and for those teams which may have horses that are not fast enough to race in the open class. Novice class teams are at a beginning skill level, with horses which may not be fast enough to compete in the sport or open classes. Mules competing in the mule class must stay in

the mule class. "We are actively looking for the fastest ass in the U.S.," say the Whitefish competition rules.

The novice, sport and open divisions are two-day cumulative point events. Races may include slalom gates, three five-foot jumps, and/or rings, over a distance of 750 to 800 feet. The care and safety of the horses is paramount. Horses are allowed to participate in only one division, and may not race more than twice a day, with the exception of the long jump event, in which a horse may race twice both days. However, riders may compete up to four times a day, may compete in more than one division, but are required to ride a different horse for each division that is entered. The long jump class has jumps eight-to-ten-feet high, with distances reaching 30 to 60 feet. In the open division, the fastest horses have been clocked at 35 to 40 mph—Secretariat was clocked at 32 mph, by comparison. Good sportsmanship and a spirit of "friendly competition" is also highly emphasized in this sport, with disqualification of a team, or in the extreme, banishment from the sport, as the result of unsportsmanlike behavior. These folks take rowdy good fun, friendly competition, wild action, good manners, good, caring horsemanship, and speed, seriously: a good role-model in these days of daily headline-making poor sportsmanship and bad behavior from would-be sports heroes.

Here are the results for the 2014 World Ski Joring

## WILD AND ROWDY FUN Continued from page 18

Championships. Novice class: The team of skier Jason Naigl, rider Barton Slaney, and horse Belle, placed first with a cumulative time of 0:34:52. Skier Emily Lewis, rider Melissa Proctor, and horse Coco place second, with a time of 0:35:26, and skier Ryan Ferrigan, rider Barton Slaney, and horse Woody place third at 0:35:86. Mule class: Skier Will MacDonald, rider Ray Woodside, and mule Willie, first place, 0:40:43. Skier Evan Kreps, rider Dale Duff, mule Bert, second place, 0:41:30. Skier Andrew Flaschenriena, rider Ray Woodside, mule Willie, third place, 0:41:39. Sport class: Skier Lance Nelson, rider Kristi Bruyer, horse Hobo, first place, 0:33:90. Skier Billy Marcial, rider Tree Burling, horse Charlie, second place, 0:34:30. Skier Barton Slaney, rider Kristen House, horse Roxi, third place, 0:34:53. Open class: Skier Cody

Smith, rider Dana Stiles, horse Merlin, first place, 0:30:67. Skier Toby McIntosh, rider Dana Stiles, horse Merlin, second place, 0:30:83. Skier Toby McIntosh, rider Tim Guest, horse Cougar,

organize new races in your area. For more information, see the NASJA website, or contact Scott Ping at [scott@mtranchland.com](mailto:scott@mtranchland.com). Noted among "National Geographic's" Best Winter Trips for



Above: Ron Olson demonstrated ski joring during the Sleigh and Cutter Festival at Island Park in Fargo, ND. Photo by Ley Bouchard



third place, 0:31:15. (From Competitive Timing, [www.competitivetimes.com](http://www.competitivetimes.com).)

For a thrilling and rowdy time for spectators and participants alike, try competitive equestrian ski joring. A fast-growing sport in the U.S., Canada, and around the world, NASJA is pleased to help

2014, the Whitefish Winter Carnival World Ski Joring Championships is a wild ride for all.

Photos courtesy the NASJA Facebook page: [/www.facebook.com/whitefishskijoring](http://www.facebook.com/whitefishskijoring).

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