Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.

SOUND ADVOCATE

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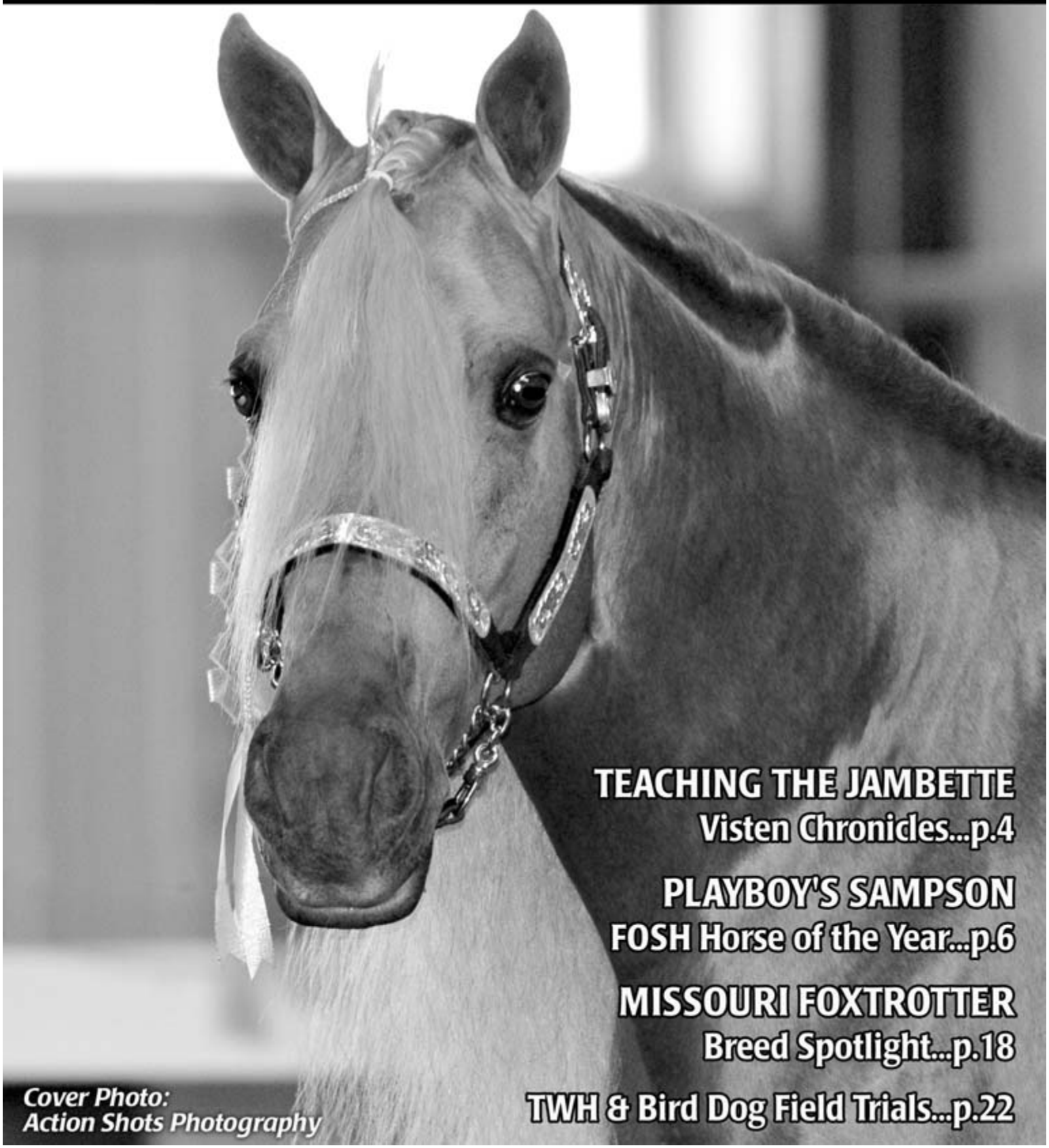

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Our Mission Statement

The mission of FOSH, Friends of Sound Horses, Inc:
To promote ***all*** *"sound," naturally gaited horses, with a specific emphasis on Tennessee Walking Horses. ("Sound" means not "sored")*

Importance is placed on education regarding the humane care ***for the emotional, mental and physical well being,*** *training, and treatment of all gaited horses. FOSH will only support flat shod or barefoot horses, and will never endorse any event that uses stacks and/or chains as action devices, nor any mechanical, chemical or artificial means to modify the natural gaits of the horse.*

FOSH Focuses on three areas for gaited horses:
1. Educating people on sound training principles
2. Supporting sound shows, events & activities
3. Working to end soring

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lori Northrup, FOSH President, joins Ashley Schictel (from left), Holly Zendarski and April Zendarski as they are honored at the Girl Scouts Gold Award banquet in June, 2009, for their production of a documentary video about soring.

I just returned from a 2-day meeting of the HIO Working Group in Nashville, Tennessee. Most of the HIOs were represented around the table. We reviewed the AAEP's recent pressure shoeing protocol, which includes a recommendation that horses extreme-shod with "packages" or with such width of flat-shoes that hoof tester use would be compromised, should have the shoes pulled post-show for further inspection. We also spent over 8 hours reviewing the changes that all groups would like for the 2010 – 2012 Operating Plan. We hope to complete the Operating Plan draft late in 2009 for consideration by all the HIO boards.

The Sunday before, my husband, Bill, and I were invited to attend the Girl Scouts' Gold Awards banquet for Western New York State, where April Zendarski, Holly Zendarski, and Ashley Schitel were honored for their video production on the abuses of soring. It was a great event, and a delight to see the number of young women accomplishing projects for the good of their community and country.

We have chosen the dates for the next Sound Horse Conference: November 5 & 6 in 2010. (That's not this fall, but the following year.) The venue will be in Louisville, Kentucky. If you have any suggestions for the program and speakers, please contact me.

We had two gaited mules born this spring, a molly and a john, and I'm getting my harnesses adjusted and sorted out for a summer of driving training with various youngsters. What a wonderful time of year.

– Lori

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

One of our FOSH members ran across this photo and needs your assistance in identifying the women in the photo.

Here's Betty Sain in the middle, and on her left, Maggie Macallister with Cristine Holt on the end...

Who are the other two ladies?

Does anyone know? If anyone can identify the women in this photo, please contact Julie Tarnawski: julie_t@earthlink.net

The Visten Chronicles
Teaching the Jambette

Part two in a series by
Suzanne De Laurentis, Imagine A Horse

Visten is growing into a handsome adolescent horse. His eyes shine with affection and a love of life that all horses are created to enjoy. He still faces physical challenges as manifested in his lack of coordination but his mind is fresh and well adjusted. He gallops at high-speed with his buddies Boullet and Hasan and engages in normal horse play and posturing.

Pedestal training has done wonders for his confidence and so he works very hard to do as I ask. He is not always able to make his front feet go where he directs him and often he slips entirely off of the pedestal. He will persistently get right back up or in other words, correct himself which is a great demonstration of his desire to learn and to please. He is learning a can-do attitude that will develop into a want-to-do work ethic.

In addition to pedestal training and small space liberty training we introduced the Jambette in an effort to improve his coordination. The Jambette is also called a leg extension or a salute.

In teaching the Jambette to Visten my goals were to help him increase his coordination and build range of motion and strength in his shoulders and front legs. Having him learn the Jambette while on a pedestal helped to increase his concentration also as he was linking two moves together in a simple Behavior Chain-"Step Up" or mount the pedestal and then continue with the Jambette. Using a pedestal in association with teaching the Jambette helps to ensure that the horse will offer the move only on cue and not unexpectedly, especially in the initial stages of training. Precise cues are very important as a finished exhibition horse may know multiple moves each that begin with a different cue on his front legs.

Visten's training in the Jambette followed the regular IAH method with extra encouragement to keep him from becoming discouraged with his own lack of coordination.

Visten masters the cleat board

Here's how you can teach the Jambette

Equipment-A Pedestal and a dressage length whip. *If the Spanish Walk is the goal, the handler may want to use a cleat board in addition to the pedestal.* A kick board with cleats is easy to build and will certainly help a horse to develop an exceptionally long reach with his front leg.

Benefits —Helps to develop strengthen and range of motion in a horse's shoulder. This is a good exercise to help teach correct responses and keep him from getting discouraged.

Cues—

Verbal Cue could be "Salute", "Hello", or whatever you like best. If you plan on teaching the Spanish Walk, consider cadence cues such as "One" for the left leg and "Two" for the right front leg.

Proximity Cue is usually (to stand) to the side of the horse's left shoulder, facing him.

Physical Cue is a touch on the horse's leg, usually behind the knee or point of the shoulder. The handler will have to discover the touch that each horse responds to best.

Steps — Ask the horse to Step Up on the pedestal with his front feet. Stand on the near or left side of the horse, facing him with the lead in your left hand. With a dressage or guider whip in the right hand, tap the horse lightly just behind the knee until he offers even a slight movement of the leg. Keep the touch light as a harder touch will not be any easier for the horse to understand and may actually frighten him and hinder his response. Praise him and give him a few seconds to understand that he has offered the correct response. Reward each try with praise ("Good" or "Yes") and

a stroke on the neck. Give a few seconds of dwell time between each repetition. Food treats can be used if desired. Teach the move on both sides of the horse (both legs).

Because this is usually a move that is fun for the horse, he will easily understand praise for offering the correct response.

In the initial stages of teaching the Jambette on the second or off leg, he will often respond with the "wrong" leg. This is a great time to introduce him to the concept of "No" or "Try Again". When he offers the incorrect leg, look down and say "No" or "Try Again" as you cue him. Do this until he gets it right and then praise him and make a big deal of his correct response. This teaches a horse to keep trying without becoming discouraged.

As time goes on, he will begin to understand that "One" means to raise the left leg and "Two" means to raise the right leg. (Use "Right" and "Left" as the cues if you prefer). This will be especially important later on in teaching him the Spanish Walk. As the horse becomes confirmed in the exercise, ask for bigger lifts and progressively longer hold periods.

At this point, adding the cleat board can be a huge help as it will allow the horse a target to help him extend his reach and also a balance point as he gains strength and coordination.

If you would like to receive weekly updates on Visten's progress please email the author at suesmonet@aol.com

For help with teaching the Jambette or any other move, please feel free to contact the authors at www.imagineahorse.com.

Boullet on the cleat board and Visten on the pedestal

FOSH to Offer New Sportsmanship Award

Luther Hughes Gentility Award

Many FOSH members wish to honor a great horseman by contributing to the "Luther Hughes Gentility Award."

Luther's show behavior always went above and beyond sportsmanship to making everyone in his presence glad to be with him at a horse show. He exemplified the old time show gentility by always removing his hat to the judge to back his horse. Luther never failed to shake the hand of his competitor, whether he won or lost. He accepted the judges' placing graciously and with dignity.

Luther Hughes with his colt out of Sheeza Sensation and Generator's Mac Attack, barn name "Peanuts". Photo by Cheyenne Dunham.

Luther will not be showing at the NAC in October in his home state of Missouri. However, we want to honor his spirit by asking exhibitors and spectators to cast one ballot each for the person they feel comes closest to the outstanding behavior of this marvelous man.

A ballot box will be kept in the NAC show office. Exhibitors will receive a ballot in their show packets. Spectators may request a ballot at the show office. Votes will be counted and the most exceptional exhibitor announced before the English Championships at the NAC. We hope this can be a perpetual trophy passed at NACs through the years to celebrate the spirit of Luther Hughes and the gentility he brought to each event he attended.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the award may send donations of any size to Nya Bates, 12763 Trail Drive Road, Melba, ID. 83641. All contributors, but not the amount sent, will be named in an upcoming Sound Advocate.

Playboy's Sampson

Our story of the FOSH Horse of the Year, Missouri FoxTrotter, Playboy's Sampson, is written by husband and wife, Bud and Tori Blankenship.

Bud Blankenship

The first time I saw Sampson was late one night in the practice pen at the MFTHBA World Celebration Show. He was this big tall skinny colt, dark palomino, short mane and tail, not especially attractive, but I could not take my eyes off him. He had a big long stretchy Foxtrot and he shook from his ears to his tail. There were a lot of good horses in the practice ring that night; it was Wednesday and the Open horses qualified on Thursday night. I watched some of the other horses but kept coming back to him; I just couldn't keep my eyes off of him. I knew he must be a 2 year old because I had never seen him before, and he wasn't in any of the earlier shows that year. The trainer who was riding was a friend of mine, but I didn't bother him that night with my questions.

I returned to the motel and told my wife, Tori, about this big ol' ugly colt I had seen. She wasn't carried away about a 2 year old stud. "What are you going to do with that?" she said . I told her she would see tomorrow night when he qualified.

Sure enough, he came in with about twenty more 2 year olds studs and geldings. Nothing was said for about two rounds, then she said "Oh my…he is something!". You just couldn't take your eyes off him. Don't get me wrong, he wasn't pretty - he was just good. When they called out the winners, Sampson was second, beaten by a very pretty horse - but I've got to admit, I didn't even see the other horse. The only horse I saw in that class was Sampson. The 1st and 2nd place horses had their pictures taken and when I saw his owner start to Center Ring, it was a friend of mine who I had traded horses with many times in the past. I had purchased his last three or four, Three Year Old Futurity winners; they were good horses. After the ceremonies were over in Center Ring, Tori and I went down to the stalls. First, I went to the trainer to get the story on the horse. I asked him if this horse was as good as he looked. The trainer said "Bud, he is one of the best if he lives". I asked what the problem was, he said he didn't know but they had him on a lot of drugs just to keep him going and he was getting worse all the time. Sampson's owner asked me if I was interested, I told him I might be if the horse got well, but not now.

As that was the last show of the year, I lost track of the horse all winter. The next time I saw Sampson was in March of the next year at a show in Ocala, FL. He had been sold to a man in Arkansas. I learned that he had been licking an old battery in his paddock area and had almost died before they found out what was wrong, but now he was healthy, fat and pretty. Sampson's new owner was showing him in Ocala and was having some trouble with him. Sampson reared straight up in the show ring and tried to run off. I tried to buy him then, but his owner did not want to sell.

The next time I saw Sampson was at the World Celebration show again and he had a new trainer, another friend of mine. Sampson again came in Reserve World Grand Champion 3 Year Old. Beaten by the same horse as the year before. Again, I tried to buy him - no deal. Next time I saw him was at the next World show as a 4 year old. They had to put a canter on Sampson for the 4 year old classes, and he didn't put on as good of a show as he had in the past. Sampson came in Second Reserve that year. I spoke to the trainer about him and he said Sampson was breeding mares all summer and had not much time to work with him to try to put a solid canter on him.

Now… you have to have some idea what it takes to make a winning horse in the Professional classes at the MFTHBA World Championship Show, it can wear on a horse over time. Sampson had been getting this treatment since he was 18 months old and now he was a coming 5 year old. He had been in training for so long and was so big and strong that now they couldn't hold him in gait. They had to resort to other methods. He had never been shown any down time in barns. He was in a stall at least 22 hours a day and the 2 hours out of the stall were most likely misery for him. This is about the time many show horses just rebel, become un-rideable, are not able to be handled, then they just disappear, and you never see them again.

Sampson was at that place, and he was so big that he could be intimidating . Around December 2005, I received a call from the man that owned him. He had bought some property and reluctantly, was willing to sell Sampson. A deal was made. Our Florida State Championship show was in January so I had his owner deliver him to a trainer friend of ours in Arkansas who would work with him kindly to prepare him for that show. He won the Florida State Championship in January 2006. We took him to our home and the second chance for Sampson's life started when he met my wife Tori.

Tori Blankenship

When Bud told me that he had bought Sampson, I was totally against it. I was nervous at the thought of being responsible for the care and housing of a stallion first of all - and then the reputation of Sam was of this big, powerful outlaw. Did he expect me to actually ride this horse?

Bud and I and drove north with the truck and trailer to pick Sampson up for the FL Championship Show. The trainer was to work with me for two days to help me get a feel for the horse that I would soon be riding and caring for in our own barn.

The trainer rode Sam first. Years of riders getting on his back and spurring him on had taught him that he was supposed to bolt the second he felt weight in the saddle. There was no convincing him any other way would work. He would get mad if you held the bridle to try to make him wait and that just made it worse. There all 3 of us stood in the arena and it was time for me to hop on - understandably, it took a few minutes for me to get up my nerve. I will always remember this trainer saying "just because he is Sampson, it is no different." Sampson was a whole lot different that any other horse I had ever seen or been around, but I trusted him and leaped on the saddle…eventually.

I hopped on and we took off; he gave me a really great ride. Later that day I clipped, bathed and got him ready for the ride home to FL and the show. I was still so nervous around him. Bud and the trainer were gone—I felt like I might as well be clipping a rattlesnake. I honestly did not know how he was going to react to any of this, but he was patient and very respectful. We then loaded our new stallion in the trailer and headed towards Jacksonville for the Championship show

Sampson won the State Championship, with a trainer on-board. During the travel time and show, Sam began to show the softer side of his disposition to me. He started to relax and so did I.

He moved into our barn in Sarasota at the end of January 2006. The first time we turned him out in the pasture was an event. Many of our boarders were there to witness it—I was not sure if I would ever be able to catch him again. Luckily, after a couple of hours he did not move when I went to put the lead rope on him, and he walked quietly to his stall.

A few days later after getting to know this new place and people, it was time for me to ride him. Bud and I were standing in our small paddock with Sam all tacked up and ready to ride for fifteen minutes probably. That was about how much time it took for me to get the nerve to put my foot in the stirrup. Bud kept telling me not to hesitate, just get up there and get on him, sure… Honestly, it was like mounting a speeding bullet.

Time went by and Sampson must have realized things were pretty good. He started to relax a little when the mounting process took place, thankfully. Eventually he was as easy to be around and work with as were the rest of the horses. January through April I had a great time riding Sampson in our arena and caring for him.

It was close to April when Bud and I decided we wanted to show him at the MFTHBA Breeder's Cup in August and then their Celebration in September. We sent him to a training barn around May to prepare him to be at the top of his game. I had never had a horse in formal training, and this was one of the best Champion producing barns so I was excited.

I consider myself a decent rider, but the longer Sampson was in training, the harder it became to ride him. I blamed myself not being the caliber of rider it took to have Sampson perform his best. We traveled to the Breeder's Cup and then to the Celebration in August and September of 2006 and were not able to show at either one of the events as Sam was not gaiting properly. I thought it was my not being able to ride the way the trainers did; however, when the trainers rode after me, he still would not perform. Sampson was just done with it all and mad at the world. Discouraged, at the end of the Celebration in 2006, we moved Sampson to our stalls on the Celebration grounds, loved on him, fed him carrots (much to my husband's disgust) and made the trip home to Florida.

After some much needed time off, I began to ride Sampson "softly". The next month we took him to SC for their Championship show and won the Reserve Open Championship competing against men trainers. Many who knew the past year's show record finally could see what this horse and I were capable of all natural and absolutely no anger.

We had competed at some of the FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses) shows within our state in the years past. Initially, I never fully understood the whole picture of their Mission Statement, with importance placed on education about the humane care, training, and treatment of all gaited horses. However, having witnessed some of what that organization is trying to prevent - I became a FOSH member, supporter and voice for their mission to everyone who would listen.

continued pg 8

Playboy's Sampson

from pg 7

The re-training of Sam for the FL Cowboy Challenge in the beginning of 2007 was a turning point for Sampson and I. So much trust and feel were developed during that time.

Bending his body. After years of powerful forward motion and collection on the bit, he really did not understand this one. When he did finally figure out what it in the world it was that I wanted him to do, he became over-flexible! He was so happy he had finally figured it out, he became like an over achieving student and would overflex to every little pressure … I felt like I was riding an overcooked noodle. It was actually hard to get him to walk in a straight line again.

Learning to yield from leg pressure. Sampson loves to canter, he has an amazingly high elevated performance canter which he really likes to do…every chance he thinks the cue is given. He was sure that this new leg yielding thing was an enhanced cue for him to canter from the standstill. He was not happy when we took cantering off of our training program all together until he fully understood side passing, turns of the forehand and turning on the haunches.

Backing into obstacles. Teaching him to back with light rein pressure was much easier that I had expected. He would back anywhere and for long distances. It was when there was something that we had to aim for going backwards that became an issue. He would paw at the earth in front of him to voice his displeasure when asked to back between a row of blocks or into a ground pole chute. I'm sure he thought that there was no logical reason why he should do this when there was perfectly good ground all around him without things on the ground to get in his way.

Walking over obstacles. Trying to get him to lift his legs and walk delicately over poles was like teaching a Sumo wrestler how to ballet dance… patience, patience, patience. I'm still not sure if it was really all that hard for him or if he really enjoyed plowing through the poles and leaving them in a scattered mess for me to replace over and over and over.

Somehow we managed to progress along and in the process trust was earned. He let me take him over bridges, over tarps and through streamers. We dragged logs, walked up and down steps, jumped over barrels. He finally would back into the most unusual spaces, side pass through ditches and went into unknown puddles that might have been bottomless. He bravely went down Florida trails by himself, pushed a herd of stubborn deer out of our way and had complete faith that I knew that the crazy dogs on the other side of a fence would not come through and get us. It was a truly beautiful feeling when this magnificent animal put his fears aside, completed the task at hand and took a very vocal, huge sigh of relief.

We began to take him to some of the Florida Foxtrotter shows and compete in the Versatility classes - he did great in those classes as well as the performance classes. We traveled to VA for the 2007 FOSH Regional Championship show. Sampson competed along side eight different breeds of gaited horses and was named the Overall 3-Gait Grand Champion. That same year one of our customers and their Foxtrotter were named the Overall 2-Gait Grand Champion. The first time a Foxtrotter had claimed both Championships at a regional championship show, such an honor!

We then took Sampson to the 2007 World Celebration show - one year after the show where he was not able to compete. Everyone says that it is close to impossible to have a horse do well in Performance classes and Versatility classes. "You cannot train a horse to be collected and focused on forward motion, then have him be loose and responsive to leg yielding". That year Sampson qualified for and placed 7th out of 62 horses in the Ladies World Grand Championship. Outside of the Open classes, this is by far the toughest division in the Performance Arena. He also qualified for and placed top 10 out of 30+ in the Versatility Arena in the Open Western Pleasure and Open Trail Class World Championship.

During that show, Sampson and I would take leisurely rides around the grounds. So many people stopped and talked to me about him. He had become a well known horse for his beauty, his past outstanding performances and also for the really bad attitude that was developed in self defense. This was not the same horse he used to be. I would talk about the FOSH organization and about the diverse things this happy horse was now doing - and doing well. People would tell me stories about Sam's past, unthinkable and unbelievable things. So many stories and so many tears for this brave horse who endured all of the past heartache.

I set a goal for 2008 to follow and compete within the FOSH circuit. They have a National Points System that recognizes outstanding achievement for all gaited horses within separate regions as well as the nation overall. My goal was to have this horse recognized for his ability within an organization that has the strictest rules, to prove that it can be done without the use of any and all artificial aids.

We hauled Sampson from Florida to Virginia and then Missouri. We showed in front of 9 different judges and entered the arena gate 57 different times. He earned 9 Grand Championship honors

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Great Gaits
by
Barbara Weatherwax

Joys of the Trail

Noted gaited horse expert, Barbara Weatherwax has been a sound gaited horse enthusiast since her first gaited horse, a Midnight Sun daughter, in 1947. She is the author of three books about gaited horses and is working on a new one about the purchase, maintenance and winterizing of horses. She has been an examiner for several breeds including the Mountain Horses, Racking horses and Tiger horses. As a licensed judge for the Missouri Fox Trotter. Barbara judged many all-breed gaited horse shows, and is constantly keen about promoting the gaited breeds and educating horse lovers to the joys of sound horses wherever she goes. *Photo left: Barbara Weatherwax & General Jackson*

There are many ways to enjoy the trail experience. The relationship between horse and rider will determine the type of riding you most enjoy.

The terrain that is available to you will naturally affect the riding you do. Some riders time their rides, and enjoy making it to the top of every peak. Others are happy meandering around their neighborhood or over gentle paths. Yet others would rather be with a large group of riders. Some riders prefer riding alone. Many riders participate in a variety of trail activities and styles.

Add the variable of weather to the mix of multiple terrains and different riding styles and you can see there is a massive array of trail choices.

Whatever ride you choose, there are guidelines that will help to ensure a pleasant outing. The health and condition of your horse should be of primary concern. Matching the condition of you and your horse to the demands of the particular ride is most important.

Although the resting pulse rate for every horse is different, it should range from 32 to 44 beats per minute. When exercising, the pulse rate will rise, but within 10 minutes or so, it should drop to less than 70 beats per minute. Practice checking this pulse rate both at rest and during exercise. You will feel more confident about conditioning your horse if you have this information at hand.

There are five important items to keep in mind when you head out onto the trail:

1) Let someone know where you are going and approximately when you plan to return.

2) Dress appropriately for the time you're leaving and plan for any changes in the weather; if you're taking off on a warm summer afternoon, carry a jacket for warmth, in case you may be out longer than you plan; then, even though you may be starting out on a cool morning, take some kind of headgear to protect you from bright sun.

3) Don't endanger yourself.

4) Make sure you and your horse are properly conditioned for the chosen trail ride.

5) Carry a trail emergency kit in a saddle bag attached to one of the saddles. Some items to consider: leather thong, pliers or trail tool, knife, halter and lead, first aid kit, cell phone, gloves, duck tape, Conway buckle, leather punch, wire, rope, vet wrap, Chicago screws, hoof pick, 6" piece of hose, EZ boot.

Preventative maintenance and planning ahead can definitely improve the overall success of your trail riding experience. Talk to your horse and develop a strong vocal communication. In an emergency, voice control can make a tremendous difference in the outcome. Tell your horse what you want of it. Talk to it in soothing tones when it is upset. Maintain a vocal connection.

You will continue to learn about your horse and your own riding every time you venture out onto the trail. This learning process is what establishes the bonding between you and your soft-gaited horse. As the familiarity between you and your horse evolves, so does the potential for wonderful trail riding. Enjoy the process!

www.BarbaraWeatherwax.com
www.GreatGaits.com
www.TheFabulousFloatingHorses.com
softgaits@gmail.com

Playboy's Sampson

from pg 8

within FOSH and also placed top 10 at the MFTHBA National show in Performance and Versatility divisions. Sampson was named the North American Reserve Grand Champion Model Horse (over all gaited breeds - he was beaten by a spectacular Walking Horse). He was also named the North American Grand Champion Foxtrotter. Tear stains of pride, joy and accomplishment adorn his neck ribbon from that Championship. In his last two Championship shows, Sampson was shown barefoot and outperformed the majority of all gaited breeds that were represented.

Sampson had accomplished every goal and desire that I put in front of him. Even attending a Reined Cow Horse 2-day clinic along side all Quarter Horses that year too. He faked his bravery to impress the Quarter Horses that stood next to him when the cattle first came in the arena. I could feel every muscle in his body tighten and his breaths got shorter, but he did not move. He watched the Quarter Horses go out and take their turn with the instructor and the cattle, with each one he relaxed more as he watched intently. When it was our turn, he strolled out like he had been doing that his whole life.

Several of our customers were now also taking part in the FOSH organization and showing their horses alongside Sam and I. They knew the whole story of his past and celebrated every achievement with us. I let everyone know that after his last show, Nov. 1, 2008 I would be retiring him form the show ring. After his last class at that show, we all got together and had a toast in recognition of the amazing journey this special horse had taken. Now he could enjoy downtime on the trails and loafing around in his pasture - he had certainly earned it.

Sampson has taught so many people so much about the heart and soul of a horse. My husband gave me the greatest gift in the world when he put this magnificent horse in my hands, and let Sampson and I figure it all out together.

Sampson has taught me more than all of the horses, and probably people too, that have been a part of my life put together.

His beauty inside challenges the beauty on the outside, he will always be a part of me.

Follow Up on Samson's Future

I received a call from a trainer in Utah who had a customer that was looking for a specific type of horse. He had been looking for 3 years for his equine soul mate.

She told me of the qualities, training and description of the type of horse he was searching for. Essentially, he was describing the mythical, "Perfect Horse". Then I told her that I was the only one who actually had this "Perfect Horse" in my barn. She knew Sampson and had seen him perform many times; we had a good chuckle. Sampson was not for sale.

We visited for a while and I told her we would keep our eyes open and let her know if anything that might suit them became available. Several days later Bud and I received a call from the Gentleman in Utah. He wanted to know more about this horse that he was told about. Several calls over the next 3 weeks and countless hours spent on the phone lead me to the decision that was made.

I had retired Sampson after his last show in November. This was late December.

The family in Utah is loving and kind and had built an equine playground fit for a true king, viewed from every window in their home 3 yrs ago. My reasons for keeping Sampson were for me. The reasons for letting Sampson move to Utah were for Sampson.

I had Sampson in my life for 3 years to experience a journey where we both needed each other. This family had waited those 3 years for the opportunity for their perfect horse to enter their lives - this horse.

My Mother said the words that cemented my decision. "Think about what is best for Sam". In a never ending pasture, trail riding on the most beautiful trails in the world and a person that will protect and treasure him as much as I do.

The date was set for my Mother and I to make the 4 day drive to Utah to spend several days with Sampson and his new family to ensure an easy transition and make sure that a true compatibility would be there between Sampson and his new person.

After Sam was unloaded, he rolled a million times in his new stall. His new person stayed in the stall with him for what seemed hours, taking in this beautiful animal before him. Over the next couple of days I witnessed the beginning of the rest of Sampson's life. Distancing my interaction between the two of them a little more each day and watching a new partnership blossom. When the time came to head home to Florida, I knew Sampson was exactly where he needed to be - and ultimately where he was intended to be.

It is truly all about the horse. We are blessed with the ones that grace our lives… some more then others.

From My Point of View

— Pat & Linda Parelli's Demonstration for the Sound Horse Conference — Rose Miller

The bleachers were hard, my backside was numb and I was getting chillier and chillier by the minute. All the other horse demonstrations had been wonderful, but now I was anticipating something special: Pat and Linda Parelli. The demonstration was extraordinary to me, but not in the way many folks might think.

Linda and Remmer entered the covered arena and began their routine of warming up, playing together and re-bonding. Linda explained she would eventually ride him without saddle or bridle as she sent him around the ring. Remmer neatly circumvented the picnic table first time he cantered up to it instead of jumping it. Linda said she would ride him over it later. Most of us attendees were Parelli followers if not students, and most had seen Linda work with Remmer before in one media or another.

I had never seen them in person, so this would be extra special for me. I wasn't a Parelli student, but believed in the methods. I had shown Tennessee Walking Horses for nearly 30 years, done well, stayed safe and felt successful mostly "flying by the seat of my pants." I was 66 when I retired from showing and started riding gaited mules.

My mules were good mules, but one particular 16'3 hand john mule could be quite a handful—too much for me when he decided to draw a line in the proverbial dirt.

I believe it was Dr. Robert Miller, also in attendance and close personal friend of the Parelli's, who said, "You *have* to treat a mule like you *should* treat a horse."There was no way I could *make* Samson my big mule do what I wanted; reinforcements were in order.

A young man I knew used Parelli methods with his horse training and came to help me with my mule. It all worked like a charm, but it wasn't easy. Samson was big and tough. I was glad my young friend was working with him. Afterward I was able to play games with Samson and it made life much easier for both of us.

Linda continued playing with Remmer and I watched in amusement and enjoyment as she guided her big horse around and over obstacles. I closed my eyes for a moment, imagining my playing with the same finesse with Samson…

Next moment we all saw Remmer rear up very close to Linda. Her eyes widened in surprise as she motioned him back. Linda chuckled as she said to her audience, "He isn't ready yet!" No kidding!

Believe it or not, this was the high point of the demonstration for me. Why? Because it showed that although Linda and Remmer have been together a long time and she is what I would call an expert horsewoman, things can still happen that are unexpected. Horses don't follow a script. That little episode put a very human spin on their horse/woman relationship and gave me encouragement by showing even the best can get a little surprise now and then.

After a few more free laps around the arena, Linda did ride Remmer without saddle or bridle, sailing with gusto over bar-

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is pleased to announce they will be hosting three retreats on the following dates:

✳ JULY 10 – JULY 13

✳ AUGUST 6 – 9 (FULL MOON)

✳ SEPTEMBER 18 – 21

(NEW MOON; STARS WILL BE HIGHLY VISIBLE)

SouthWind offers the following hosted activties including but not limited to:

- Gentle riding lessons structured around the comfort level of the individual
- Guided horseback rides – beginners or experienced
- Meditation sessions both morning and evening
- Interactions between horses and those new to horses
- Fireside camaraderie and star-filled night skies

Our unique retreats offer the services of a variety of practitioners, both spiritual and physical. All are exceptional in their respective fields and will be available to our guests on an "ala carte" basis – they set their own fees, usually discounted. These services will vary from retreat to retreat,but focus around T-Touch (Tellington-Jones), human and animal psychic communicators, reiki, deep tissue massage (both horse and human) and PNT – a technique that uses the body's nervous system and reflexes to turn pain off in seconds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
WWW.SOUTHWINDRIDERS.COM
OR CONTACT:
DEBBE WOODBURY AFTER 5:00 PM
(435)671-3450; EMAIL: DEBBE_1@MSN.COM

My Point of View

from pg 11

rels on end, and the picnic table. They were a vision to behold. As I sat there thinking I would be very happy just to be able to ride my mule over level ground without mishap of any kind, I was inspired by Linda and her special horse.

Next Pat rode his horse, guiding a young horse beside him without rope or halter. Because this was a special private demonstration for the Sound Horse attendees, I thought our time with Pat and Linda was more personal, sort of like congregating with family and friends. Instead of being the consummate show-people that they truly are, this night they seemed very relaxed and although they were demonstrating their wonderful horses, I thought they were enjoying our company too.

Please look for my book *The Horse That Wouldn't Trot: 30 Years with Tennessee Walking Horses, Lessons Learned and Experiences Shared* coming late fall or early winter.

COMING UP!

Sept-Oct Featured Stories

FEATURED STORY

This edition will feature those wonderful mares. We want to hear from you about your outstanding mare.

FEATURED BREED

The Sept-Oct edition of the *Sound Advocate* will feature the natural brio and outgoing personality of the Paso Fino. Please send in stories, pictures and advertisements for this wonderful breed.

Send all info to:desiraischild@yahoo.com

Deadline August 15

Annual Idaho Horse Expo

Every April we look forward to the annual Idaho horse Expo, presented by the Idaho Horse Council. The 23rd Annual Idaho Horse Expo, themed " Let Us Equitain You," held in Nampa, Idaho was a fantastic success with an incredible turnout.

There were full clinician schedules throughout each day with topics from training to the care of your horse's feet, as well as numerous horse related demonstrations. There were educational seminars, free style reining, Supreme Cowboy Race, a silent auctions, a Blue Ribbon Horse Sale, Round Pen Challenge and a Breed Challenge.

Idaho Mountain Horse Breeders and FOSH members Shelly & Bill Spradlin of Weston Creek Gaited Horses, together with Toni Rohm of Rohm's Rockies had a double stall Breed Booth. Under the banner "Idaho's Gaited Mountain Horses" both breeders had a horse on display at all times, as well as an information booth in the center. Handouts, information pamphlets, magazines as well as videos, were available to horse enthusiasts.

Kathy Haynes, Diane Bromenschenkel and Lori Moore

Natural Hoof Care

by Bill Coon

I have mentioned in previous articles the names of Pete Ramey and Dr. Robert Bowker in reference to their work in studying and documenting the horse's foot. It has come to my attention from the American Horse Publication (AHP) that there is a scientific study being done on chronic laminitis of the horse's foot. This study will produce a scientific paper: it will be the "first time a successful method of reversing chronic laminitis as a scientific paper."

The question posed for this study is *"CAN natural hoof care reverse laminitis?"* To us non-scientific types the answer is already a simple – yes. With effort on the part of the human horse owners, through natural hoof care, one can reverse laminitis. Photos of this study may be found at www.hoofrehab.com/AuburnUvetschool.htm.

To quote from the AHP announcement "Dr. Debra R. Taylor DVM, MS, DACVIM at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine thinks it's possible, and is doing the research to prove it. **EasyCare, Inc*** has helped by providing funds and encourages those who have an interest in natural hoof care to do the same.

Dr. Taylor is recording and studying the results of natural hoof care on chronic laminitis cases. Hoof care practitioner Pete Ramey and his wife, Ivy, are currently traveling to Auburn every three weeks to expand the preliminary study- hopefully to include 50 horses. The study has consistently shown rotation reversal, increased sole thickness and profound improvement in levels of soundness. Several case horses have also demonstrated reversal of distal descent of P3. The goal is to publish this data as a scientific paper; it would be the first time a successful method of reversing chronic laminitis has been published. If you have a laminitic horse you would like to add to the study (and can haul to the University) please contact Dr. Taylor at the vet school http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/index.pl/animal_owners. Boarding is available at nearby farms.

Dr. Taylor has begun additional studies to prove out the clinical relevance of the research findings of Robert Bowker VMD, PhD. This summer she will use ultrasonography, cadaver dissection, histology, radiography, MRI and CT to establish parameters for evaluating lateral cartilage and digital cushion development. This preliminary cadaver study will pave the way for a planned study to track the caudal foot development in live horses over time using radiography, ultrasonography, MRI and/or CT.

Currently, there are a limited number of veterinarians in the field that recognize the significance of internal foot development, and its ramifications to the horse's longevity and soundness. Experts in the field of hoof imaging rarely address the anatomy, structure or health of the lateral cartilages, the digital cushion or heel depth when interpreting MRI results on horses with heel pain- in other words, half of the total volume of the foot is rarely taken into consideration. This study linking Bowker's cadaver studies to MRI, ultrasound and radiographic parameters should become critical to the future of lameness treatment and prevention."

As I have commented in previous articles, hopefully, giving my opinion through published websites and books, on how natural hoof care can help the horse's foot. The Sound Advocate has provided space for these articles in hopes of providing educational material to give the reader a new perspective on an ongoing problem with laminitis and founder. Now there will be a scientific paper on this subject. I will keep the SA readers posted as to the success of this study.

* **EasyCare, Inc** is the provider of hoof boots during the transition from steel horse shoes to barefoot.

Trailtown USA

A new website launching August 1st promises to offer everything the informed trail rider will need.

www.trailtownusa.com promises it will be the "world's greatest resource for equestrian trail riders in the USA."

It will offer a state-of-the-art website with 500 pages of trail riding related information spread through more than 50 areas of trail riding interest.

The website will present a variety of forums for trail-related discussions, Q. and A. with renowned riding experts, trail guides and suggestions, survival information, tack sales, contests and games with a number of prizes and articles from the archives of Trail Blazer Magazine.

There also will be auctions, horse rescue information, geocaching sites, personal profiles, equestrian travel stop information, breed specific horse sales, celebrity blogs, campfire cookbook recipes and a wide variety of other trail-riding related information.

Some short term free memberships are available by joining before the August launch date.

No Grand Expectations

Our First Three Phase Event Experience

Gina Mott won the Beginner Novice Level 12-17 Youth Award at the 2009 Three Phase Event, riding Midnight's Stud Duck,owned by Fosh member, Penny Austin, Kentucky.

I purchased my horse Midnight (Midnight's Stud Duck, a registered TWH) about 2 years ago. He was seven at the time. The four years prior to my purchasing him, he had been nothing more than a pasture ornament, a lovely ornament, but an ornament, nonetheless. My research into his past revealed that prior to becoming a lovely ornament, he had brief training as a racking horse sometime prior to his turning three. He either was not talented enough, or did not like the training methods, as he was sold to a trail riding concern here in Central Kentucky, where he gave 12-hour trail rides for three weeks prior to being purchased from the man I purchased him from. This man's goal in purchasing Midnight and another black walking horse, was so that he and his finance could go on trail rides. He neglected to check with his wife-to-be first, as she had no intention of doing ANY trail riding. So that is how Midnight became a pasture ornament.

I had next to no experience with horses so found a trainer to reacquaint him with good horse manners. I was told that he was too old to learn anything new and that all he would be was a good trail horse.

I, however, believed he had the potential to do great things. He was smart. He was willing. And he was curious and open to new things. I just needed to find someone who believed in him as much as I did.

I was fortunate to have come into our lives, a 17 year old girl named Gina Mott, who believed in him too. The following is her account of their experience at the Three Phase Event this past April.

"Just remember, we're going to this show for a good first experience. No grand expectations, and hopefully he wont jump into the judges booth....."

Friday was full of anxiety and questions, and of course excitement. Midnight loaded like a pro and we made it to the facility with a very anxious momma behind the trailer. Midnight was slicked out in a slinky and shipping boots. His tail was wrapped, and he looked like he had a mile-long resume just like the other horses, but alas, he was simply a first timer in this big new world. We found our stall and introduced ourselves and Midnight, and he was very quiet. The rest of the night was the first of many surprises; he was an absolute gem in the arena...no spooking, nothing. He didn't bat an eyelash at anything. We were cantering 20m circles in 15 minutes with great ease as he was focused and extremely confident. I think he took the whole show thing VERY seriously as for the next 5 hours we bathed, clipped, wrapped, braided, and dressed, and he was an angel the entire time...other than for the wash rack, but hey I woulda been scared of the big horse-eating drain right in the middle of it too. As we left that night around 9:30, he stood in his stall as if he'd been doing this his whole life...quiet and looking like Zorro! He ate his hay and seemed very comfortable! I was hoping he'd get some sleep, because tomorrow was the big day!

"I'm getting there AT 5 AM...I don't care if you're there or not, but I, however, will be there!"

We encountered some directional difficulty Saturday morning, but we did make it by 6:30...later than I had wished, but we had been driving for an hour and a half trying to find the place. I rode for about 40 minutes; he was again perfect. We went and got the vet check and back to the stall so I could re-braid. I braided him and got him saddled and I must say he was **THE** best turned out horse (we were going for the intimidation factor). I got myself ready and jumped on with about 15 minutes to spare until my dressage test. My adrenaline was through the roof! We were both turned out and ready to ride! We went in for our dressage test and executed it like we have a thousand times in the arena back home. I forgot to salute... yeah my bad. He broke out of his flat walk a few times, and his first stop was not very square and un-balanced, but those are things that we are still working on at home...for BOTH of our first dressage tests ever, we scored a 61.8! YEAH!! He never one batted an eyelash the entire time, I truly felt like we were a team.

"I hope he doesn't try to eat the brush box...."

Our stadium obstacle course was right after our dressage test...We nicked a couple poles, but we performed turn on the haunches in the box and on the platform perfectly. We did, however, knock down the rope gate....ha ha. All in all, the obstacle course was pretty well done; he got a little prancy but came right back to me.

"This is not a race...just an enjoyable ride through the country"

Before going into the Cross Country, we were in fifth. We both knew we had to kick butt in order to bring our spot up...even though we weren't "competing", my competitive side had kicked in the moment we had entered the dressage ring. This ride changed my entire relationship with this horse...we went and we conquered, together as a pair, in total unison. We the starting gate and I started my stop watch, I had a minimum time of 18 minutes, a optimum time of 24, and a maximum time of 28. My strategy was to keep him walking because it was such a short ride...and he's a VERY fast walker! That strategy quickly changed. *(Oh - I was riding in the dressage saddle because my trusty steed had suddenly become so svelte that his girth for his trail saddle was TOO big!!!!)*

About 60 feet before our first gate, he realized there were no other horses and it seemed as if he changed his mind and said *"ya know what? I've changed my mind..."* **BOOM** he threw me forward in my seat, sat back on his hocks and spun around and took off about 10-15 feet for the barn before I got him stopped. I was thinking to myself, okay he got it out of his system...we're fine. We continued walking and got probably 20 feet from the gate and **BOOM**, he did it again, just as hard and just as fast. I figured, all right now he's really got it out of his system. Once we get through the gate (that I wasn't supposed to open and go through ha ha) he'll be great. So I got off, opened the gate and was told I went the wrong way. I got back on and continued, white knuckling it the entire time as he was anxious and moving out very fast. We went down the small hill after the gate and came to a very small creek that was in the middle

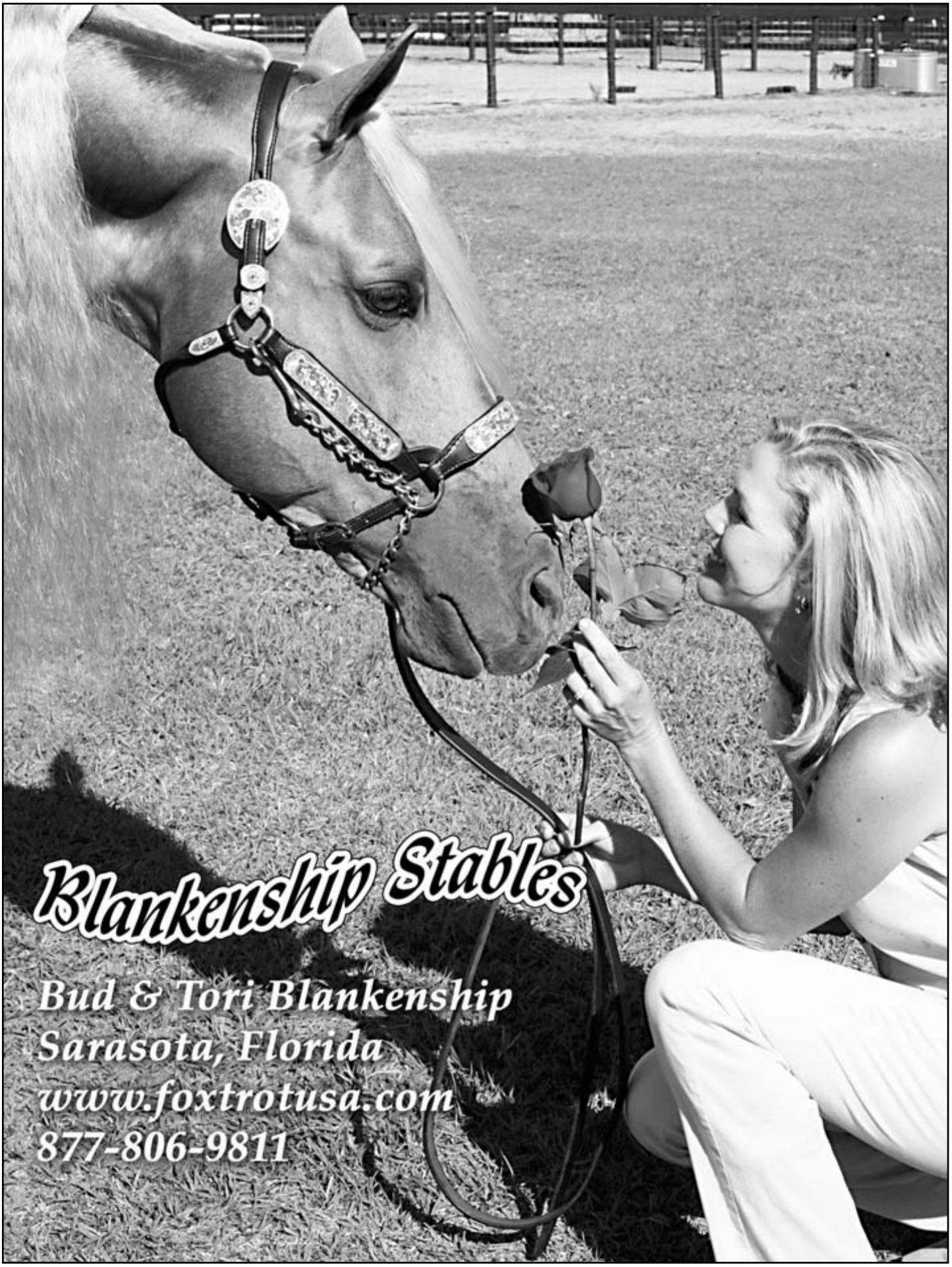
of a field. I was holding him back, and out loud saying *"DONT YOU DARE! this is not the Rolex. We can walk over this!"* The lady that was monitoring this all was laughing at me...Before I could even finish my talk with him he jumped it...ha ha, I was like, okay well we'll jump it then...another 50 feet ahead he did it again..**BOOM!** threw me forward, sat back spun and ran just as hard...at this point I was thinking... *"okay, third times a charm...were still okay... maybe"* No sooner had I said that and got him turned back around he did it a **FOURTH** time, **BOOM**...just as hard as the first time. At that point I was uneasy and unsure that we were going to be able to do this. As I'd done before I brought him back to me; he was scared and he had lost his desire to finish this ride. **OUT LOUD,** I had a talk with him...I didnt know what else to do really...I swear the lady thought I had fallen off the deep end... "*Midnight, its your most cousin Gina up here, it's just you and me bub...we have to do this, we're a team and you have so many to prove wrong."* we were already 13 minutes into the ride, not even a quarter of the way through. *"You remember you trust me, its just you and me, no one else...we've got this, YOU are the STUD DUCK, and we have pushed through so much...don't let me down, we've got this"*

As soon as I finished I reached down and gave him a good pat and hug, and his entire demeanor changed. His ears went up, his body relaxed, and he was ready to boogey.. He said *"You pushed me through this, and I'm gonna push you just as hard...lets do this."* And just like that, we were off! We crow hopped and cantered to the first gate, and as we're approaching the first bucket I'm like *"hey...hey ...HEY, bucket, I gotta stop here,* ***hheey! bucket!"*** he side passed over to the bucket and as soon as that tally hit the bag I was keeping them in, he was **GONE**. We were cantering in and out of trees, dodging rocks and holes as professionally and as adeptly as though he'd been doing this his whole life. We came to the second bucket...I holler at him *"bucket, bucket,* ***HEY!"*** He side passed over to the bucket, never **ONCE** stopping his feet. He knew we were running out of time. The tally hit my bag and he was off once again. He knew exactly when I had a branch to duck or dodge as if he were reading my mind as I could read his. We came to bucket three and just like the first two...I yelled to him *"bucket, bucket,* ***HEY! BUCKET!"*** He side passed over, the tally hit my bag and we were gone. Only 3 left. We got to bucket 4 the same way, cantering the entire way up and down hills and dodging anything and everything that came our way. Bucket five was back in the woods where the trail wound around trees. He never missed a beat. At this point I was at 23-24 minutes, we grabbed our tally out of bucket five as I'm yelling... "***HEY, BUCKET***," he slowed down but never stopped moving his feet as we side passed over. Bucket six was the bottom of a short, but steep slick hill. We were approaching the hill, and all the while I'm up there saying to him "*hey hey hey,* ***HEY...HEY*** *we have* ***GOT*** *to slow down."* He said, *"oh no, we dont have time!"* We hit the hill and he slowed down briefly- only to sit on his butt and shuffle down the hill with amazing ease. He picked himself up and I saw the 6th bucket...I say to him *"PHEW! WE'RE ALMOST DONE MIDNIGHT! "Hey, hey* ***HHEEY! BUCKET!"*** At this point we were at 26 minutes. I knew we had to haul butt back to the finish line. As we side passed to the bucket he pawed at the ground, he pranced and his ears were back on me waiting for our next move. **BAM**, he struck out at the ground again and my adrenaline was again through the roof! ...about 30 feet from the bucket was a gate and I knew if we didn't go slow it would take my leg off, the gate was not wide. As soon as the tally hit my bag, I said *"alright, we've gotta boogie bud, let's do this!"* He took off with the fire of a seasoned race horse and switched leads going through the gate to where I had room on each side to clear my legs. I think at that point my jaw was almost to the ground (he had just learned to canter 10 days ago!!!) We were running through our last field and I saw the monitor lady

standing in the middle of the lane. I was like what is she doin??? There's a big black horse barreling down on her. She never once moved, so I was like *"alright bud. You're a dressage horse now."* right leg in him ...**BOOM** he jumps to the right...Dodges the lady and gallops up the hill. I was saying to him "okay now we **HAVE** to slow down, this is just not going to work at a canter, much less a full gallop!!!!" There was barbwire fence on one side of us, then a 3 foot wide trail and then a cliff. The path was covered with rocks and small ditches. This horse never once skipped a beat. He cantered the entire path dodging rocks and the small ditches. He knew what had to be done. We hit the last open stretch and I looked at my stop watch, 27:30. I had 30 seconds!!!! There was a small bridge that we could cross for extra points. We ran to it, he stepped on it and at the exact same time we BOTH said *"nope, ZERO time for this right now."* He dodged to the left and took off for the finish...27:40...We were on our right lead and I knew we had to boogie, my heart was pounding because I knew it had to be crossed by 28. We ran and then **BOOM** he switches to his left lead takes a sharp left and hits the finishing gate at 27:56. PHEW! We both were so happy, and exhausted...we had MADE IT! Together, through everything as a team.

That ride completely changed our relationship...we have always been a team, but we have never been as *one*, we've always been two playing together but yesterdayafter that first gate, for the first time we were ONE, in the same mind, together fluid and ready to kick this cross country course in the butt. I pushed him through his fear, and he pushed me through mine. I truly feel like we came together after that first gate, and nothing will ever be able to change that. I'm so incredibly pleased and proud of this horse. We are only going to go up from here, and we will be unstoppable.

He came home with not only his first, 1st place ribbon, but he left that event with my heart.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Georgia Horse Fair

Barefoot and Sound Tennesee Walking Horses Promote the Breed

Mona Lisa and David Johnson of Double B & M Claxton Farm in Swainsboro, Georgia recently attended the 2nd annual horse fair on April 25th, 2009 at Callaway Plantation in Washington, Georgia. The horse fair is produced by the Classic South Equine Association. The CSEA is a south Georgia not-for-profit corporation with over 180 members.

The all day festivities included speakers Dr. Marty Adams, Bert Gates, and Kyle McMichan; information stations; parade of breeds; horses in motion; children's activities; equine exhibits; craft and folk vendors.

The Johnsons exhibited their barefoot Tennessee Walking Horses in the parade of breeds. David exhibited his 4 year old buckskin TWH Darrah's Sands of Chance "Jack" and Mona Lisa exhibited her 10 year old black TWH Sundrop at Sunrise "Sunny". The Parade of Breeds was demonstrated in hand/halter and was only open to registered horses. This was to show each breed's true conformation, definition, faults, and the overall build of the horse being presented to the audience.

Mona Lisa also showed Sundrop at Sunrise in the Horses in Motion riding portion. They demonstrated the flat walk, running walk, and the rocking chair canter in western attire for the many spectators.

The Johnsons also had a FOSH booth set up right outside of the arena so that people were able to stop by and ask questions about the organization and what it stands for, gaited horses, the fight to end soring, and pick up some pins and coloring books for the children.

Mona Lisa and "Sunny" enjoy doing exhibits and demonstrations for horse fairs, 4-H events, and basically anywhere that they can help people to better understand the TWH gaits, disposition, and promote them naturally and barefoot.

After buying numerous horses with problems that were not disclosed upon purchase Mona Lisa decided to start raising her own horses to have to ride and offer for sell. Double B&M Claxton Farm has a small band of mares and a perlino stallion that they use as the base of their breeding operation. They also offer outside breeding as well. Now they raise and train their own handpicked bloodlines of TWH horses by spending lots of hands on time from birth, many round pen hours, some arena time, and lots of trail hours. They believe that all their horses raised should have a natural 4-beat walking horse gait from birth and that all TWH should be able to transition from trail riding, to the show ring, barrel racing, endurance riding, jumping, and in many other events and perform successfully and naturally.

Double B&M Claxton Farm specializes in breeding for buckskin TWH that excel from the trail to the rail naturally!

Calling Gaited Horse and Parelli Fans

If you are a fan of gaited horses and a fan of Pat and Linda Parelli, you may want to mark your calendar to attend the Kansas City Parelli Celebration on July 24, 25 and 26. For the Kansas City Celebration, a 13 year old, rescued Missouri Foxtrotter named Jedai will be featured. The Celebration will be held at the American Royal Center, Hale Arena in Kansas City, MO. Tickets can be purchased over the Internet at www.parelli.com

Discovering the Gaited Breeds

Missouri Foxtrotter

submitted by the Journal of MFTHBA & Linda Fuerst;
edited by Julie T.

Playboy's Sampson;
photo by Action Shots Photography

HISTORY OF THE FOX TROTTING HORSE

More than a century and a half ago, the urgent need for a sure-footed, easy-traveling horse was recognized by the settlers and pioneers of the Ozarks. As people migrated west from the hills and plantations of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, they brought with them their finest possessions, including their best saddle stock. The breeding of this stock was largely Arabian, Morgan and plantation gaited horses from the deep South. Later, more American Saddlebred, Tennessee Walker and Standardbred breeding were added to give the Fox Trotting Horse a more pleasing appearance and disposition.

These horses were depended upon to do whatever was needed in this mountainous region around the homestead, ranging from plowing, hauling logs, and working cattle, while at the same time able to double as a stylish buggy horse or riding horse for the family. The ability to travel long distances at a comfortable speed of 5 to 8 miles an hour made the Fox Trotting Horse a favorite of the country doctor, sheriff, assessor, and stock raiser. Today the breed is in demand as a pleasure horse, show horse and for cross-country trail riding. It is often described as a "horse for all generations" because of its gentle disposition.

Bloodlines can be traced from the horses of early settlers coming to the Ozarks from neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. Many famous families of the Fox Trotting Horse have been known throughout the Ozarks and even to this day, the names of Copper Bottoms, Diamonds, Brimmers, Red Bucks, Chiefs, Steel Dusts, Cold Decks and many others are recognized by horse breeders everywhere.

Loved as a trail horse, 90 percent of registered Missouri Fox Trotters are owned by people who use them for trail riding, competition, endurance, and pleasure riding. Acclaimed as a show horse, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse is also recognized for its beauty and style in the show ring.

Used by hunters and the National Forestry Service rangers for its endurance and surefootedness in rugged terrain, by ranchers for its versatility and intelligence, and on Hollywood movie sets for its gentle nature, the Fox Trotter has quickly earned its reputation as a horse for all situations. In 2002, the Missouri Fox Trotter was named the official state horse of Missouri. While all are extremely proud of this honor, this horse breed is at home in all 50 states, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and beyond.

The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse has three natural gaits: an easy-going flat foot walk, the smooth and comfortable fox trot characteristic of its name which is a fluid, diagonal 4-beat gait, and a relaxed and free-flowing canter. No special shoeing or training is required for these horses to perform their gaits, and their good dispositions and willing attitudes are among their many desirable characteristics, making them one of the most versatile and loved of horse breeds within the equine registries.

HISTORY OF THE MFTHBA

The Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association was formed in 1948 in Ava, Mo., when a group of interested breeders, wishing to preserve the type of horse that had long been selectively bred in the Ozarks, incorporated and secured an organization charter for the purpose of maintaining an accurate stud book for the breed. Ten years later, in 1958, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association was reorganized and reincorporated as a stock company due to the increased interest and demand. In 1973 the corporation was changed from a stock company to a membership organization.

The Association had kept its registry open and still accepted horses that could qualify as characteristic foundation stock until January 1982. Beginning the first day of that year, all horses approved under saddle to be registered in the MFTHBA were required to have at least one parent permanently registered in the MFTHBA in order to be accepted into the registry. Beginning on the first day of January 1983, horses approved for registration had to have both parents permanently registered in the MFTHBA. These regulations brought the Association a "closed book" registry. As of February 2009, more than 94,000 horses have been registered with the MFTHBA.

STANDARDS OF THE FOX TROTTING HORSE
FOX TROT

The fox trot gait is basically a diagonal gait. The horse will perform this gait in a stylish collected manner by walking in front and trotting behind with reach in each stride (front and rear). He may disfigure or overstep his track, provided he travels straight on all four legs and does a true Fox Trot. The back feet must exhibit a sliding action in

order to keep beat of the gait. The horse will carry its head slightly elevated having as much rhythmic head motion as possible. This head motion should always be in time with the movement of the rear feet. The ears should be relaxed. The tail will be carried naturally elevated and should be in rhythm to the Fox Trot beat. The natural rhythm of the horse starts at the tip of the nose and goes back to the tip of the tail in one continuous motion.

The Fox Trotting Horse is not a high stepping horse, but an extremely surefooted one; and, because of the sliding action of the rear feet, rather than the hard step of other breeds, the rider experiences little jarring action and is quite comfortable in the saddle for long periods of time. The head and tail are slightly elevated, giving the animal a graceful carriage; and the rhythmic beat of the hooves, along with the nodding action of the head, give the animal an appearance of relaxation and poise.

The ideal characteristics of the Fox Trot shall be that the animal will travel with animation, Fox Trot rhythm, and style. The horse will travel in a collected manner. The Fox Trot should carry with it rhythm. The head should nod, the ears should indicate the step and the tail should be part of the rhythm. The step should be springy, consistent and smooth. The up and down motion should not be noticeable, but rather a smooth gliding gait without swinging.

FLAT FOOT WALK

The Walk shall be a flat, 4-beat gait performed in a square, stylish manner. The horse shall reach in each stride (front and rear) while overstriding the front track. This gait will be done with rhythmic motion in time with the feet.

CANTER

The canter shall be performed in a straight, collected manner with the head and tail slightly elevated. The horse shall travel with a forward rolling motion while on the correct lead both front and rear. Horse and rider should appear comfortable and natural. Excessive pumping of the horse will be penalized by lowering the horse's placing when being judged.

Missouri Foxtrotter

TRIXIE TRAX

Claims 2008 Reserve Champion Region 1

Trixie is a 6 year old Missouri Foxtrotter owned and shown by Cathy Warren of Wesley Chapel, Florida.

Our first introduction to FOSH sanctioned shows was here in Florida at some small schooling shows. Not being too familiar with FOSH, I was encouraged by my friend, Tori Blankenship, to join the organization and start accumulating points. The 2008 North American Pleasure Gaited Horse Championship in Lexington, Virginia, was the highlight of our year. Trixie never placed lower than 3rd place in each of the classes she showed in. It was truly an experience we will never forget. Through the remainder of the year we showed at several more FOSH shows and had a ball. It was a big surprise to me when I was notified that Trixie had been named Reserve Champion Region 1. I am very proud of her! Her natural abilities and exceptional disposition has made her my "dream come true, once in a lifetime horse."

I would like to thank all the people who have worked so hard to organize these shows and help to promote the naturally gaited horse. The FOSH shows have given me, and many others, a place to showcase our horses, meet so many new friends and all the while having a great time doing what we love to do.

Trixie Trax (left) and Playboy's Sampson (right)

URGENT REQUEST FOR FOSH MEMBERS!

Dear FOSH Members:

Please reach out to the Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and thank him for the job the USDA's Horse Protection program is doing, and ask him **not** to respond to pressure from the "industry" to back off of enforcement of the Horse Protection Act… soring has gone on for far too long and finally, USDA is in a position to put an end to it – but not without full, rigorous enforcement.

They recommend a letter mailed through the post, with a copy e-mailed to agsec@usda.gov. (You may also call his Public Affairs line, but they recommended the letter approach: 202-720-3897.)

Attn: Secretary Tom Vilsack
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP! Please pass this request on to your other horse-concerned contacts.

— Lori Northrup

Diane Sept Clinic

A Winner for this Foxtrotter Owner

– by Lisa Petty

My mare, Jester's Starlight Dream C., alias "Miss Pixie" attended the Diane Sept "Connected Riding for Gaited Horse" clinic over the weekend of April 25-26, 2009. I believe we were the only registered Missouri Foxtrotter/owner team in attendance, with the rest of the clinic horses being of the Tennessee Walker persuasion. But I must say, I have "never" felt so welcomed as an "outsider" to any group before, or since, this clinic. You "naturally gaited" Tennessee Walker folks really know how to embrace "newbys" to your fold, and how to make them feel immediately comfortable and welcome to "your club!!"

Diane was an awesome instructor and being an IJA judge for FOSH, really "knew" her MFT flat foot walk and foxtrot. I learned many new things at her clinic, including the observation, that many of the MFT's that "show" are actually doing a "running walk" vs. a flat-foot walk, when the flat-foot walk is called for.

I learned that there should be a "discernable difference of speed" between the flat-foot walk and the fox trot. I learned that I was pushing Pixie for a far-too-fast flat-foot walk and a far-too-fast "foxtrot" which was more square or slick than the "true foxtrot." The "fast foxtrot" was "bouncy" and more uncomfortable. The "true foxtrot" was more of a "broken diagonal" and was "extremely smooth" to sit. This "foxtrot" was very smooth, even when I took my feet out of the stirrups, as instructed by Diane, to better feel the difference between them.

Diane taught us how to ride with a "neutral" pelvis to adjust my weight over Pixie's hind end. Legs dropping naturally where they wanted to lie towards the front of the saddle. Once I got it, I could feel her every step with each hind leg. Immediately her head began to bob, practically clean off of her body. Diane taught me how to lightly feel just the corners of Pixie's mouth with hands that were flexed at the wrist, all the way around the reins, and drawn down and back with my shoulders and elbows "attached" to Pixie's croup. Diane taught me the importance of "freeing up" Pixie's shoulders so she could do the "proper foxtrot" gaits. She taught me the importance of "surveying" each saddle I use on Pixie to make sure they are not slanted down, putting more weight on her shoulders.

She taught me that even though Brenda Imus/Dave Robart Gaited Bits are supposed to be better for a gaited horse, this is not always the case. The ones I had purchased for Pixie were too big for her and she "hated" them. She was actually much quieter in a simple curb with a roller and Western Pleasure "show" bit , which is heavier than most foxtrot folks would guess would work well for a Missouri Foxtrotter. My head was "reeling" with all this new information when I left Diane's clinic on Sunday to head home for Columbia, MO. I was hoping I would retain some of this important new information.

A few days later was the first chance I had to tell and show Kris Randall, Pixie's trainer, all the "new techniques" and information that Diane had taught me. I rode Pixie first telling and showing Kris everything I could remember. Pixie started right off the bat driving with her rear-end in a very nice 4 beat flat-foot walk, and Kris immediately commented about Pixie's "quiet mouth," "accentuated head bob" and "smoothness" exhibited in her truly broken-diagonal "foxtrot." I made sure to add an extra foam "spacer" to level out her saddle and we used the heavy Western Pleasure show bit on her.

Next, I put Kris up on Pixie, and she couldn't wipe the grin off her face! She felt Pixie pushing with her rear-end immediately and was "amazed" at how smooth her "foxtrot" was. Next, we took her into a residential neighborhood across the street so we could ride on the pavement to be able to listen to, and count beats. The difference was "incredible!!" We could "definitely hear" the 1-2-3-4 separate beats of the flat-foot walk which was "energized," but not so fast as to become a "running walk."

We could "without question" hear the "distinctive roast beef and mashed potatoes" of the Missouri Foxtrot, and it was slow, smooth, and extremely comfortable! I noticed the "rhythm from the nose to the tail" that everyone talks about at the MFT shows. When we switched riders, Kris kept exclaiming how much "head shake or head bob" Pixie had, and for the first time ever, commented on how her tail "shimmied" from the top to the bottom when viewed from the rear.

Was attending Diane Sept's clinic on a Missouri Foxtrotter worth it? You BET! I finally have the tools in my "arsenal" to allow Pixie to drive from her rear-end, freeing up her shoulders to perform the "proper flat-foot walk and true foxtrot." Next time you see me with a huge smile going down the road or out on the trail it's because I've discovered through Diane's Clinic, how to make my Missouri Foxtrotter the "smooth foxtrotting" horse that the MFTHBA is always "advertising." Bet my knees will "never rub an open sore again" and I can throw away my neoprene knee protectors; anybody need a good pair?

"Pixie's" 2008 Amateur World Champion Jumping Class

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSES AND BIRD DOG FIELD TRIALS

By: Bill Suiter, Sun Crest Stables, McKenzie, Tennessee

The popularity of the Tennessee Walking Horse in both pleasure and competitive sporting events continues to grow very rapidly as people learn about not only the smooth gaited ride, but also the physical stamina and strength of the walking horse. One such sporting event for which the walking horse is dominant is bird dog field trails. The current consensus of opinion seems to be that the Tennessee Walking Horse is certainly the breed of choice for most bird dog enthusiasts. This article is a brief overview of how field trials are conducted and the integral part played by the field trial horse.

Several qualities are expected from a field trial horse. As a trainer of field trial horses for several years, as well as a dog owner and competitor in field trials, I can truthfully say that the Tennessee Walking Horse rises to the top for its comfortable ride, athletic ability, and sensible adaptability to the sport. A field trial is a competition to determine who has the best bird dog on a given day. Trials began years ago as dog owners would get together to run their dogs in the fields to see whose dog could find and point the most game birds, as well as show the most style doing what they had been bred and trained to do. Field trials have been a time honored tradition in the southern United States since the 1800's, and have gained popularity across the U.S, Canada, and as far away as Japan.

Sportsmen and sportswomen who like dogs often are horse enthusiasts as well. In field trials, horses maintain a tradition. Although there are "walking trials," horses are an integral part of field trials. In fact, they are now referred to as "horseback trials." It is traditional to use horses rather than mechanized vehicles. American Field Trial Association and AKC trials prohibit the use of 4 wheelers and other ATVs during field trial competition.

There is no doubt that gaited horses are definitely the choice of field trialers, and particularly the Tennessee Walking Horse. There are several traits that a horse must possess to make a good "dog horse." As well as a smooth gait, they must have a good mind and disposition.

Professional and amateur dog trainers spend several hours a day in the saddle training their dogs. They depend on the horse to carry them over crop fields, up and down hills, across ditches, water, mud, and through rain and snow, all with a ground covering smooth gait. There will be times the horse will flat walk, fast gait, canter, or even run flat-out in order to get to the dog's location on point. The well-gaited Tennessee Walker can do this effortlessly, whereas a horse that trots or paces would be unbearable for this type of riding.

Field trial horses must be in top physical condition as they are ridden many miles over rough terrain and in inclement weather. It is not unusual to ride 40 miles in one day at a field trial, so very often one horse is used for the morning trial, and another horse is used for the afternoon session. Professional dog handlers often have 4 to 6 horses in their string.

In addition to having stamina, field trial horses must have a calm, quiet disposition. They must learn to conserve energy, to stand quietly, and to ground tie. As they travel many miles during field trial season, they must load, haul and unload quietly. Very often, there are no barns available at field trials, so the horses must be picketed or staked out at camp sites.

Field trial horses must not only tolerate the dogs being under foot, but also running up suddenly from behind or jumping up on the horses' legs to get to the rider. At times, dogs are even carried in the saddle by the rider.

Field trial horses must tolerate gunfire. When the dog points game, the handler rides near the dog, dismounts, walks in front of the dog, flushes the birds and fires a blank loaded pistol to simulate a shot fired while hunting, and prove to the judge that the dog will stand steady and is not gun-shy. The horse should stand ground tied while all this occurs, as well as when the dog handler comes back to the horse and remounts.

"Roading" is another skill the field trial horse must be able to accomplish. This is a method of putting a harness on the dog with a 30 foot rope going back to the saddle. The dog should stay in front of the horse pulling against the rope. This practice is used to physically condition the dog. Also, if the dog commits a disqualifying offense during competition, and he or she may be ordered up and placed in the roading harness and taken to the nearest dog wagon. The horse must accept the rope slapping against its body and neck, and even being wrapped around its legs without getting upset and kicking at the rope or the dog.

Field trial horses are required to ride in a variety of positions during a trial, front, middle and rear. Competitions are broken down into "braces". A brace usually runs for 30 minutes or an hour depending on the age or type of dog running. Two dogs compete in each brace. The dogs are out front on the course with 2 handlers riding behind them. There are 2 to 3 judges that ride behind the handlers, and everyone else rides in the gallery which is composed of handlers waiting for their turn to compete, those that have already competed, onlookers, trial marshals charged with conducting the trial in an orderly fashion, and scouts who may ride out to the side or rear looking for a dog that has not been seen at the front for a while. So the horses must be willing to be ridden in all of these positions as well as leave and return to the gallery in a quiet, orderly manner.

A dog handler wants a horse that is athletic, has a lot of stamina, is sensible and intelligent and able to learn and comprehend what is going on at a field trial. The handler needs to

be able to concentrate on his dog, and not worry about what his horse is doing. A good "dog horse" is a valuable asset and is widely sought after by field trailers. The horse can actually help win a trial, or could possibly cause the loss of a trial.

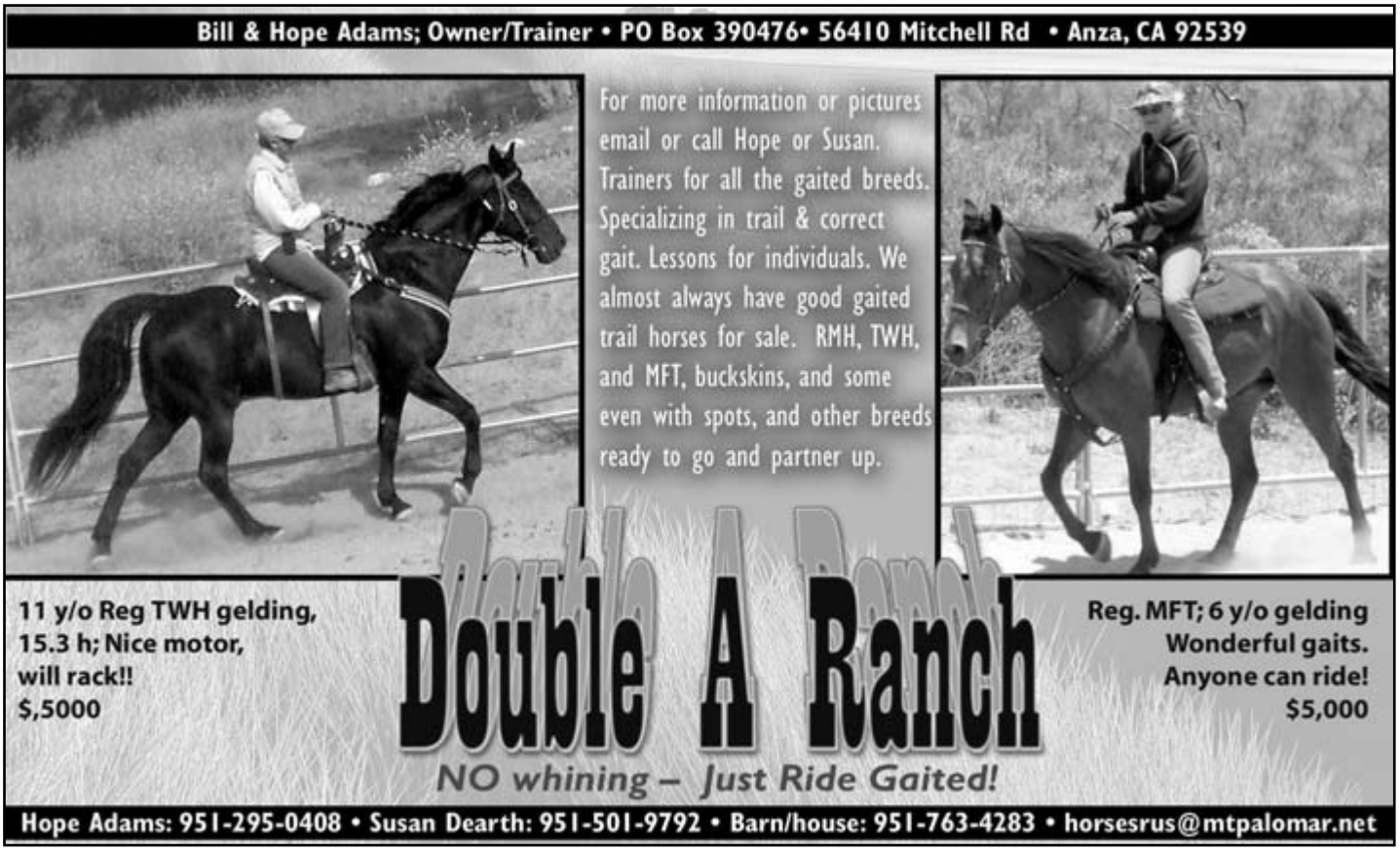
Both horse show enthusiasts as well as pleasure horse trail riders who have attended a field trial have truly been amazed at the versatility, adaptability, and athleticism of the field trial horse. In my humble opinion, the Tennessee Walking Horse is the horse best suited for this sport. There is nothing quite like the feeling you get while riding a smooth gaited horse across a variety of terrain following hunting dogs in search of their game. It certainly does not take long to get caught up in the excitement of the hunt, the working relationship with your horse, and the friendship and camaraderie of fellow field trialers. Basically, you can leave your worldly concerns behind for a while, and a good Tennes-see Walking Horse certainly enhances the bird dog field trial experience.

NAC NEWS

Show committee members have been hard at work in preparation of the 2009 NAC to be held in Sedalia, MO, Oct 15-17. The NAC website (www.naghc.com) is up and running – be sure to check it regularly for updates, entry information and stall reservations.

Soon to be available will be an online pre-entry form - complete with all entry and show fees.

In addition, all current FOSH members will receive a premium mailer containing valuable information regarding the show schedule, entry fees and pre-entry form, stall reservations and host hotel. Mailers should arrive by August 1.



GWPFHA High Desert Classic Combined Trail Rally

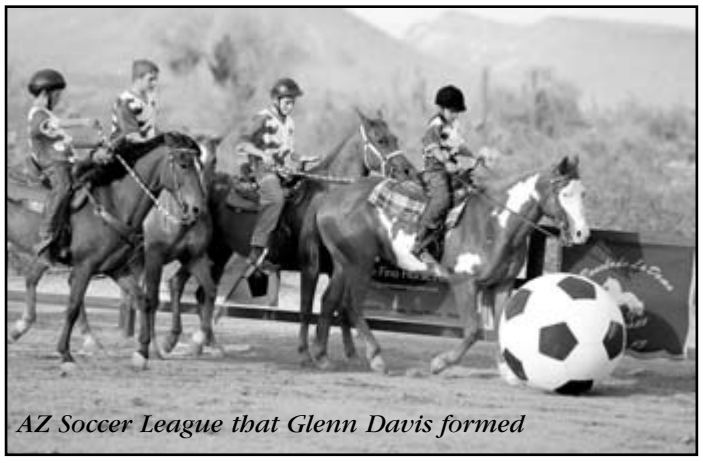
A unique, fun event is planned for August 29 & 30, 2009 in southern Utah. This event is open to all breeds and all styles of riding. It is designed to give riders an opportunity to demonstrate the multiple talents of the recreational rider and their horse in one of three skill divisions (advanced, intermediate, or beginner).

The Rally will consist of three classes (a paced trail ride, your choice of an arena pattern class or soccer match, and a fun show) in which all riders will participate, earning points in each to be totaled to determine the overall winners through six places in each skill division. Riders may also opt to form "teams" of four riders. Team members may be of different skill levels, may ride different trails and/or events, and will be judged individually as well. Team placement will be awarded through six places.

At the paced trail ride, riders will encounter judged obstacles typical of those encountered on a trail ride. Horse and rider will be judged on how competently they navigate the obstacles and perform the required trail tasks. Between obstacles, riders will pace themselves to finish within the optimum time (30-minute window). This is <u>not</u> a race, but a paced trail ride! Difficulty of the course will depend on skill division entered. Children 12 and under may enter the Rally if accompanied on the trail ride by an adult.

In the arena pattern class, horse and rider will be judged on how well they work together to perform a specified pattern on-line and under saddle. Difficulty of the pattern will depend on the division entered. The soccer match will consist of 3-man teams and will follow standard soccer rules. Each team will play a maximum of 30 minutes (3 each 10 minute segments) or until one team scores 5 points. Both activities will take place in the outdoor arena.

The fun show classes will be judged on the horse's willingness and quietness on the rail with other horses while performing three gaits (walk, trot, and canter or walk, intermediate gait, and advanced gait), except Division C where no canter/advanced gait will be allowed. Horses will be judged on their manners and way of going for the style being shown.



AZ Soccer League that Glenn Davis formed

RALLY INFORMATION

<u>Divisions</u>

There are 3 divisions in the trail rally. Division A is advanced riders; Division B is intermediate riders; and Division C is for beginning riders and/or horses. Division A & B will be expected to perform three gaits. Division C will perform all three classes at a walk and intermediate gait/trot only. No advanced gait/ cantering will be allowed. A horse and rider combination may enter only one division and all three classes must be ridden at that division. Riders on a team do not have to be in the same division.

<u>Judging and Scoring</u>

Points will be accumulated by individual horse and rider combinations in each of the three classes and totaled to determine the top six in each division. Combined scoring will be done with 50% based on the Paced Trail Ride, 30% on the Pattern Class/Soccer Match, and 20% on the Fun Show. Ribbons will be presented to the top six in each class/division and overall divisions, as well as team awards. A special award will be presented to the top GW member and the top FOSH member.

The Paced Trail Ride will be judged 75% on horse and rider skills in performing trail tasks and navigating obstacles and 25% on ability to ride the course within the prescribed time. Riders will lose points for completing the course too quickly or too slowly. The pattern class will be judged on horse and rider performance (40%) and partnership/attitude between horse and rider (60%), while the fun show will be judged on the horse's performance (40%) and attitude/willingness (60%). The Soccer Match will award points on scored points (25%), sportsmanship (25%), and partnership/attitude between horse and rider (50%).

<u>Teams</u>

Four riders may form a team for the purpose of competing for team awards. Riders may ride different trails and times, as well as compete in different venues (pattern or soccer), thus the four riders do not have to ride in the same division. The scores of all four riders on a team will be totaled for a team score. Ribbons will be presented to the top 6 teams. A team fee of $10 per person/per team will be charged. Team members will compete as individuals as well, thus are eligible for individual awards too.

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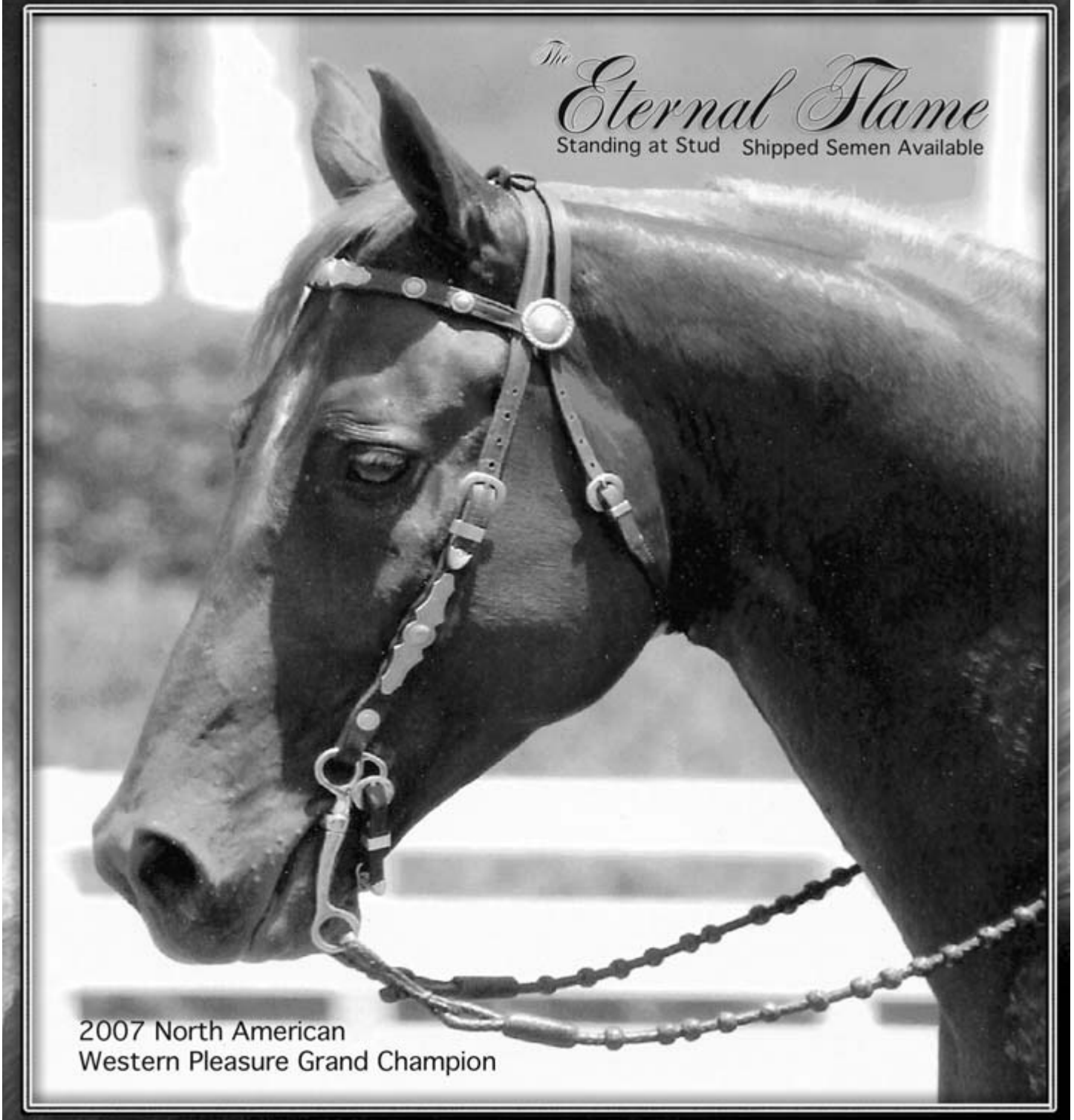
Walking The Dog Ranch

◆ Stud Service ◆ B.L.E.S.S. Training Clinics ◆ Riding Instruction ◆ Horses for Sale



How may we help you? Please contact us

(970) 882-4520 ◆ email us at: walknthedogranch@aol.com ◆ www.blessyourhorse.com

CombinedTrail Rally

from pg 24

Fun Show Classes

Judged fun show classes will include a mandatory rail class (class #1-#6 dependent on division and gaited/non-gaited horse) as well as optional fun classes. You may enter as many fun classes as you want. Additional games may be added prior to the event. Emphasis is on having fun. Classes are:

#1 Open Preferred 3-Gait – Division A – Gaited
#2 Open Preferred 3 Gait – Division A – Trotting
#3 Open Preferred 3 Gait – Division B – Gaited
#4 Open Preferred 3 Gait – Division B – Trotting
#5 Open Preferred 2 Gait – Division C – Gaited
#6 Open Preferred 2 Gait – Division C – Trotting
#7 Egg & Spoon – Individual
#8 Wine Glass – Individual
#9 Blindfold Tack – Individual
#10 Bank Race - Individual
#11 Dolly Parton – Pairs
#12 Three-Legged Sack – Pairs
#13 Manure Fling – Pairs
#14 Bottle Shuttle – Team
#15 Bang a Balloon – Team
#16 Water Bucket Brigade - Team

Meals and Accommodations

Breakfast and dinner on Saturday and Sunday will be catered by Personal Chef, Teresa Lemaster. Ms. Lemaster is a retire chef from Disney World, Orlando, FL. Over the past 35 years she has prepared personal meals for Tom Cruise, Hulk Hogan, Robert Goulet, and Steven Spielberg, to name a few. Teresa's talent have to be seen (or tasted) to really appreciate. She is the owner and head chef of Mama T & Me, catering weddings, rehearsal dinners, and corporate parties. Meals will be served buffet style at the Picnic Pavilion adjacent to the Triple C Arena. The fee for all four meals is $55 for adults, $35 for youth 12 and under.

Host Hotel is Marianna Inn, 699 North Main, Panguitch, UT, 435 676.8844. A discounted rate of $75 per night has been extended to participants. Rooms are held under the name of Judi Bradbury. The hotel and arena are within walking distance.

Your entry fee includes a stall for your horse for three nights (Fri/Sat/Sun) at the Triple C Arena, 50 East 900 North (just off US Hwy 89). Additional nights may be purchased for $10 per night. RV/trailers may camp at the arena at no additional charge. No power or water hook ups are available.

Cash Payback

In addition to the fun activities and good food planned for this weekend, we are offering cash payback to the top 6 riders. Payback will be distributed as follows: 1st place – $90; 2nd place - $70; 3rd place - $50; 4th place - $40; 5th place - $30; and 6th place - $20.

Sponsorships

Take advantage of the opportunity to become an event sponsor. We are pleased to offer the following categories:

Platinum: $200 – Your name will be announced at all three venues as an event sponsor; your banner (you provide) will be hung in the arena during the Arena Pattern, Soccer Match, and Fun Show. You may post 2 posters (you provide) at the Picnic Pavilion, which will be viewed during registration, Pre-ride Briefings, awards ceremony, and meals.

Gold: $100 – Your name will be announced at both the Arena Pattern and Soccer Match; your banner (you provide) will be hung in the arena during the Arena Pattern, Soccer Match, and Fun Show. One poster (you provide) will be hung at the Picnic Pavilion, which will be viewed during registration, Pre-ride Briefings, awards ceremony and meals.

Silver: $50 – Your name will be announced at the Fun Show. One poster (you provide) will be hung at the Picnic Pavilion, which will be viewed during registration, Pre-ride Briefing, awards ceremony and meals.

Bronze: $25 – Your name will be announced as a Fun Show class sponsor.

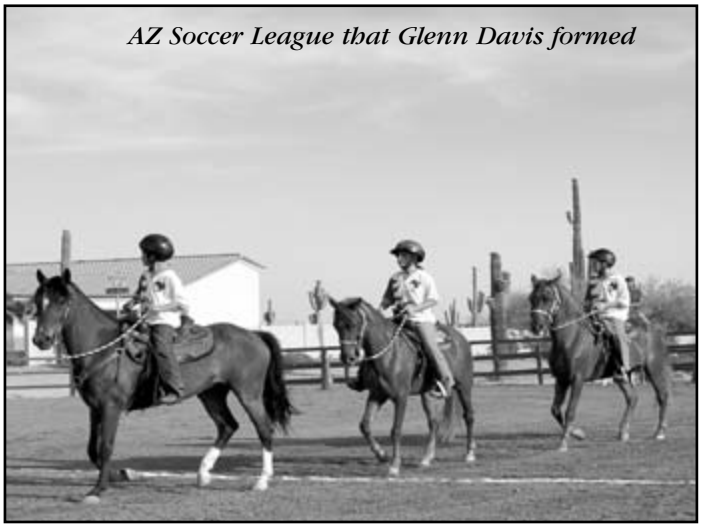
Sponsorship checks should be made payable to Great Western-Utah Chapter. They may be included with your registration fee or mailed separately to Judi Bradbury, 412 S. Davis Lane, Rush Valley, UT 84069. We appreciate any and all support.

Miscellaneous

Dress is casual for all classes. Helmets are required for all youth riders 12 and under. Panguitch elevation is 6,660 feet and can be cool in the mornings and evenings, but hot during the day. Red Canyon elevation is above 7,000 feet. Terrain is rocky and steep in places, so ensure your horse is sound and adequately prepared for such terrain.

Where is Panguitch and Red Canyon?????

Panguitch is a small, rural town located in southwestern Utah on US 89. Red Canyon is 8 miles east of Panguitch on scenic Highway 12. Mileage from major cities to Panguitch is: Albuquerque, NM ~ 606 miles; Boise, ID ~ 582 miles; Denver, CO ~ 516; Phoenix, AZ ~ 418 miles; and SLC, UT ~ 260 miles. It is within driving distance of several National Parks, so come early or stay late.



AZ Soccer League that Glenn Davis formed

HIGH DESERT CLASSIC COMBINED TRAIL RALLY REGISTRATION
29 & 30 AUGUST 2009

Rider' Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip Code ____

Horse's Name _____ Breed _____

Division (A, B, or C): _____ Pattern or Soccer: _____Fun Show Class Numbers: _____

If rider is 12 or under, name of accompanying adult rider: _____

Name of team and team members: _____

Anticipated Arrival Date and Time: _____ Departure Date and Time: _____

DESCRIPTION			TOTAL
GW/FOSH Member - $100	Non-Member - $125	Youth - $75	
Team Entry Fee - $10			
Adult meals- $55	Number of meals	Youth meals - $35	
Additional Stalls - $10@	Number of Stalls	Number of Nights	

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I hereby release and hold harmless Great Western Paso Fino Horse Association, its officers, and all organizers of the High Desert Classic Combined Trail Rally from all liability of any kind and character on account of loss, damage, or injury to myself, my guests, and any property; which I, the undersigned, may incur prior, during, or after the event.

_____ _____

Signature of Rider Signature of parent or guardian if rider is under the age of 18 years

Date: _____

All checks should be made payable to Great Western – Utah Chapter. Mail completed entry form and appropriate fee to Judi Bradbury, 412 S. Davis Lane, Rush Valley, UT 84069. Confirmation of registrations, along with Paced Trail Ride maps, rules, and directions will be mailed to registrants PRIOR to the Rally. All entry forms must be signed. All riders under the age of 18 years must have the signature of a parent or guardian.

Photo Courtesy Bobbie Whitman

Photo Courtesy Bobbie Whitman

Thanks to Horses who made the Sound Horse Demonstration Possible – These people and horses "walk the talk."

Friends Of Sound Horses was honored with the presence and participation of a wide variety of exceptional horses and their owners at the Sound Horse Conference Gaited Horse Demonstration.

These dedicated supporters devoted their own time and money to present an exhibition that wowed the audience. FOSH wishes to thank each and every one. Photographs are courtesy Bobbie Whitman.

FLORIDA CRACKER

Sonny is an 8 year old gray Gaited Cracker Horse Stallion. He is owned by Dr. Broussard of Crescent J Ranch of Forever Florida and exhibited by Dean Van Camp. Although Sonny has competed successfully at FOSH shows over the past 2 years, he prefers the cow pen and the range to the show ring. He loves to do what he and the Florida Cracker Horse was bred to do - work cattle.

Pretty Boy is owned by Dr. Broussard of Crescent J Ranch of Forever Florida and exhibited by Dr. Sandra Wise. This 20 year old stallion is the sire of many of the 125 Florida Cracker Horses at Crescent J Ranch. He is a utility horse who spends most of his time working the herd.

MISSOURI FOX TROTTER

Ironwood's Rising Star is a 5-year-old sorrel mare exhibited by Buck Thompson on behalf of Ironwood Farm. This talented mare began her career as 2007 Reserve 3 year old Futurity Champion and the 2007 Reserve World Champion Three Year old. She continues to add to those credentials.

MOUNTAIN HORSE

Crooked Creek's Capucine is a 4 year old barefoot Rocky Mountain Horse. Already a proven show ring competitor, this chocolate mare owned by May May Bowers was exhibited by Chris Stone. Her gentle nature, friendly and completely trusting personality, and smooth way of going gives her riders reassurance. She has successfully helped fearful new riders discover their abilities and confidence.

Holy Smoke is a 5 year old Chocolate Grullo Mountain Horse stallion owned by the Stone Family and exhibited by Tara Stone. In 2 years Smoke has won numerous multiple championships in 3 different Associations. He is a great example of versatility in gait. He can exhibit slow country pleasure all the way up to an impressive loose reined speed rack with natural reach and happy attitude. He is a trail rider's dream. He became a perfect candidate for bridle-less training. In less than a month and during the peak of breeding season, he began working without the bridle. The ultimate goal is to work at complete liberty.

NORTH AMERICAN GAITED CURLEY

Oh Boy is a 15 year old sorrel gelding who spends most of his weekends carrying his owner, Terry Schmidt, through the woods in Northeast Florida. He can do a fox trot, running walk, rack and

amble. Terry rode on a replica Comanche Indian pad saddle, with a braided rawhide belly loop, neck loop, and single rein that has a buffalo hide mouth piece instead of a bit.

PASO FINO

Alei de la Cosecha is a classic fino mare owned by Jacky McDaniel and Ralph Martin. In 2008 she was the PFHA High Point FIno Amateur owned and trained filly. In the walk she is relaxed, but when the reins are collected she becomes a fino machine.

PERUVIAN PASO

ERB Magnifico is a Peruvian stallion owned and shown by his world re-known trainer, performer and author Carol Fletcher. Magnifico is a trick and high schooled gaited horse capable of difficult Dressage and high school movements. He is the only high school gaited horse in the country. Magnifico is such an outstanding Peruvian horse, that Breyer Horses immortalized him as a Breyer model Horse for Breyerfest at the Kentucky Horse Park.

EBF Gaviota is a very accomplished 17 year old mare. She was bred, foaled, raised and trained by Lori Harrison. In addition to the many show ring titles she has earned, (Champion of Champions Performance Mare and Reserve Champion Open Performance Mare), she excels in Gaited Dressage and was the winner of a timed Trail Challenge.

SPANISH JENNET

Hookah Del Cardo is a 6 year old Grulla and White Pintata owned by HRH Exotics and exhibited courtesy of the Spanish Jennet Horse Society. The Pintata pattern is also know as Pinto. These colorful horses are reminiscent of the patterned horses reaching back to cave paintings in Europe.

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

Ivory Pal is a 12 year old Golden Palomino Tennessee Walking Horse Stallion owned by Rafael Valle and Stafanie Crosley. He is naturally gaited and has won numerous titles and blue ribbons including. He was the FOSH High Point Horse of the year for 2 consecutive years. Pal now enjoys a new career as a musical freestyle performer. Ivory Pal and Rafael and Cheri Prill performed "The Tango" to the delight of the audience. Pal performs barefoot and in a bitless bridle.

Pal's Caramel Sundae is a bay TWH filly. Her owners Dot and Jack Mount say she this fast learner is very patient with them as they work with her.

Pal's Peppermint Pattie is an 18 month Tobiano TWH. Owned by Dot and Jack Mount, this 18 month old filly has a kind and sweet disposition and is always willing to please.

continued pg 30

Thank you

frompg 29

Ivory Summer Delight is an 8 month old Cremello TWH filly. She is owned by Karen Smith and Joe Giaquinto and exhibited by Karen Smith. This filly is a fast learner and eager to please. Her favorite game is peek-a-boo.

Pal's Saharan Moonlight is a 13 month bay TWH filly who loves the water. Her owner Beverly Foster tells us Sahara's fascination with water began and early and today her swimming companion is an adult gelding.

Pal's Royal Patriot owned by Beverly Foster is a chestnut TWH 11 month old colt. He carries the old foundation TWH sensibility and wants to be wherever the action is. He loves people and will leave the herd to say Hi.

Odoms's Chance Merry Boy is a 3 year old Black TWH Stallion. Owned by Vickie Spitz, Wilbur made his debut at the Sound Horse Demonstration. He is being trained in gaited dressage by Teresa Hughes and performed at the introductory level.

TIGER HORSE

HRH A Lotta Static exhibits the Antigrado pattern also known as the dark bay leopard complex pattern. He is owned by HRH Exotics and exhibited courtesy of the Spanish Jennet Horse Society.

TROTE Y GALOPE

Bolero de Sierra Morena a 15 year old Palomino Stallion was imported from Columbia. Owned by Jacky McDaniel and Ralph Martin, this gentle giant has beauty, temperament, brio and a desire to please. To the owners knowledge, he is the only Palomino stallion in the United States. He recently went to Crescent Beach and amazed Jacky with his joy in running through the water.

Photo Courtesy Bobbie Wittman

2009 Gaited Trail Trials

Sign up today!

SUPPER PROVIDED * AWARDS * DOOR PRIZES *
YOUTH DIVISION

DATE: September 5th, Sat • Rain Date: September 6th, Sun
START TIME: 9 AM SHARP!

2 Riders starting approximately every 15 min on the course – Order of Go by drawing.

LOCATION: Hobby Horse Farm – I 35, exit #227 – East on Co Rd 4/5 for 2 miles to stop sign – South (right) on Co Rd 5 for 1 mile to first cross road – East (left) on Schelinder Road – 1/2 mile to Hobby Horse Farm at 2290 Schelinder Rd.
Phone: 218-389-6302 • Email: sallyfrones@yahoo.com

FEE: $40 per Horse & Rider combination – Checks payable to MWHA and Mailed to: Sally Frones, 2290 Schelinder Rd, Carlton, MN 55718

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 15th, 2009. *One Registration Form per horse/rider combination.*

30 IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RIDE SLOTS SO GET YOUR REGISTRATIONS IN EARLY!

Registration Form

NAME _

ADDRESS _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

EMAIL _

PHONE # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

HORSE NAME _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Coggins Ascension # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

- *No Dogs please*
- *Horses must be tied to trailer or in your portable pen or high line for the day*
- *Bring hay and water bucket*
- *Overnight camping available at St. Croix State Park – about 1 hr south of Hobby Horse Farm*
- *HHF can offer some overnight camping – primitive- tie to trailer, your own tie line, or portable pen*
- *Helmets required for youth division * 17 yrs & under*
- *Boots required*

Dressage Stereotypes?

THINK AGAIN!

By Elizabeth Jones

Elizabeth and "Brave" at the FOSH Regional Championship in October 2008 held in Columbia, Missouri

You've heard the stereotypes about dressage riders: snobby, uptight, controlling. On my recent trip to a dressage schooling show in St. Louis, however, I was pleasantly surprised to encounter a group of genuine and committed horsemen and horsewomen who were courteous, helpful, and patient with a newbie.

A couple of weeks before the show, I contacted the show organizers to ask if I could bring a gaited horse. They were so welcoming that I felt I couldn't back out at that point, even though I was nervous from the moment I received their e-mail reply. They had even contacted the judge, Ken Borden (L-graduate), to get his approval, and I discovered at the show that he had judged gaited horses before.

Upon my arrival to the show, I was greeted as warmly as I had by e-mail. I had lost both my watch and cell phone, and the show secretary was patient with my frequent requests for the time. From then until my ride, I was busy enough getting ready, eating, and changing clothes that I gave no thought to my nerves until after I warmed up my gelding.

After scores were calculated, ,my gelding, *Delight's Braveheart*, earned a fourth-place ribbon out of eight horses in our first class. If it hadn't been for some major errors by some other riders, we might not have been in the top half, but then we were all there for the same thing – to learn and to improve.

If you are now wondering where eight gaited horses came from to fill a dressage class, you should understand that my horse was actually grouped in with trotting horses. My horse was the only gaited horse at the show, so the show manager decided I would ride the same test but with my horse's natural gaits instead of a trot. Since dressage ribbons are awarded based on scores, horses are not directly compared to one another. Since then, I have learned that schooling shows in other parts of the country have done this for at least a decade.

The reactions from the other riders ranged from curiosity to praise. Some of them were surprised that a gaited horse could have such a nice canter. A couple of people commented on his kind expression and his good behavior. NO ONE cared how high he picked up his feet.

While talking with one gentleman, I mentioned that I was surprised to find none of the snobbishness people typically associate with dressage. Brien, with his tattooed forearms, said that he had encountered "snobs" at the regional dressage shows. But the same can probably be said of any competitive horse show in any discipline. In the arena next door, the reining horse riders were just as focused in their warmups as dressage riders.

I had expected to find the parking lot full of huge living-quarters trailers, but the range of trailers included nearly everything including every sort of aluminum trailer, steel goosenecks, stock trailers, older two-horse bumper-pulls like my own, and even a Brenderup (a lightweight trailer that can be pulled without a full-sized pickup).

What everyone had in common was the desire to put forth their best riding while treating their horses with kindness and respect. If you have every considered dressage competition with your gaited horse, don't let the stereotypes keep you away from it.

SOUND ADVOCATE DEADLINES

(articles, photos, ads, and calendar items)

Sept/Oct Issue
August 15, 2009

Nov/Dec Issue
October 15, 2009

See inside front cover for advertising information and rates

FOSH Farms

Looking for your next trail horse, trainer, or breeding stallion? Check out these fine farms...

** FOSH is unable to verify that each advertiser is a sound horse resource, whether farm, breeder or trainer.*
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We have horses available for sale, of all ages and in all stages of training. We welcome visits, but suggest advance arrangements, so we'll be sure to be available.

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FOSH Farms

Looking for your next trail horse, trainer, or breeding stallion? Check out these fine farms...

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At stud: **Genius Boy's Tony LaGotta** and **An Officer And A Gentleman** - call FMI

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JUST MY SIZE. His breeding is racking pony, and is expected to mature 13 hands. Black/White Tobiano. He is a very laid back and mellow fellow

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Training of fine gaited flat shod horses to include TWH, SSH, KMSH, RMH, RH, & MFT using basic Saddleseat and Dressage for trail, pleasure, field trial and show. Specializing in retraining and rehabilitation of previously shown horses from the rail to the trail. Consultation, sales, and lessons available.

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Each set sells for $25 and includes shipping.

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Make Checks payable to FOSH and submit to
Friends of Sound Horses
6614 Clayton Road #105
St. Louis, MO 63117

2009 FOSH Sanctioned/Affiliated* Shows & Events

*"Sanctioned" A show which uses the FOSH guiding principles regarding humane exhibiting of gaited horses. Show will be designated as an A, AA, AA+ or AAA. "Affiliated" A show or event which uses FOSH DQPs for inspection. Show will state "Affiliated." Listing includes equine expos and events where FOSH and sound horse supporters will be distributing sound horse literature. *The shows and events marked by * have been reported to FOSH to be sound and to embrace the FOSH Principles of Sound Horsemanship. Many of the shows listed below use a FOSH IJA judge and/or the FOSH IJA Rulebook, yet the show has not applied for FOSH sanctioning nor applied to use a FOSH DQP. Some shows may use rules more restrictive than FOSH.*

July

B.L.E.S.S. YOUR WALKING HORSE CLINIC (AUDITORS WELCOME)

July 11 & 12, 2009
Location: Walking the Dog Ranch, Cortez, CO
Note: Two day clinic with guide trail ride on Monday, July 13
Clinicians: Bucky and Nancy Sparks
Contact: Nancy, 970-882-4520

GWHA LINCOLN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SHOW SERIES

July 11, 2009
Location: 6:00 p.m., Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Troy, MO
Hosted by: Gaitway Horse Association
Classes for: Gaited and Stock Horse Breeds
Contact: Sally Naumann, 636-528-6059, justwhoa@centurytel.net
Website: www.gwha.org

EVERGREEN GAITED HORSE CLASSIC

July 18 & 19, 2009
Location: Puyallup, WA
Judge: Diane J. Sept
Contact: www.nwgaitedhorse.com

August

NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP FOR NATURAL GAIT

August 1 & 2, 2009
Location: Howe They Walk Farm, Napoleon, MO
Note: Auditor spaces limited; reservations required
Clinician: Anita Howe,
Contact: Anita Howe, 816-686-7748
Website: www.howetheywalk.com, Email: ajh@howetheywalk.com

GWHA LINCOLN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SHOW SERIES

August 1, 2009
Location: 6:00 p.m., Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Troy, MO
Hosted by: Gaitway Horse Association
Classes for: Gaited and Stock Horse Breeds
Contact: Sally Naumann, 636-528-6059, justwhoa@centurytel.net
Website: www.gwha.org

TRI-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, KBIF AFFILIATED

August 8, 2009
Location: Champions Center, Springfield, OH
Classes for: RMH
Contact: 859-243-0260, information@rmhorse.com

TRI-STATE CHARLES KILBURN MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, KBIF AFFILIATED

August 9, 2009
Location: Champions Center, Springfield, OH
Classes for: RMH
Contact: 859-243-0260, information@rmhorse.com

CONNECTED RIDING FOR GAITED HORSES

August 20-23, 2009
Location: Junction City, OR
Clinician: Diane J. Sept
Contact: lisanne@firstserver.com

HIGH DESERT CLASSIC TRAIL RALLY

August 29 & 30, 2009
Panguitch, Utah
Contact: Judi Bradbury, 435-837-2125

INDIANA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, KBIF AFFILIATED

August 29, 2009
Location: Hoosier Horse Park, Franklin, IN
Classes for: RMH
Contact: 859-243-0260, information@rmhorse.com

TRI-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, KBIF AFFILIATED

August 30, 2009
Location: Hoosier Horse Park, Franklin, IN
Classes for: RMH
Contact: 859-243-0260, information@rmhorse.com

September

GWHA LINCOLN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SHOW SERIES

September 5, 2009
Location: 6:00 p.m., Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Troy, MO
Hosted by: Gaitway Horse Association
Classes for: Gaited and Stock Horse Breeds
Contact: Sally Naumann, 636-528-6059, justwhoa@centurytel.net
Website: www.gwha.org

EASTERN IDAHO GAITED HORSE ASSOC. CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

September 7, 2009
Location: Eastern Idaho State Fairgrounds, Blackfoot, ID 83221
Contact: Jane Howlett, 208-235-1879
Email: jhowlett@ida.net

2009 RMHA INTERNATIONAL SHOW
September 8-12, 2009
Location: Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY
Classes for: RMH

NORTHERN NEVADA GAITED HORSE ANNUAL CLASSIC ALL GAITED BREED SHOW
Sept. 12 & 13, 2009
Location: Carson City Fairgrounds, Carson City, NV
Website: www.nnghc.com

GWHA COWBOY/COWGIRL OBSTACLE EVENT
September 12, 2009
Location: Troy, MO
Hosted by: GaitWay Horse Association
Open to all breeds
Website: www.gwha.org

GWHA LINCOLN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SHOW SERIES
September 19, 2009
Location: 6:00 p.m., Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Troy, MO
Hosted by: Gaitway Horse Association
Classes for: Gaited and Stock Horse Breeds
Contact: Sally Naumann, 636-528-6059, justwhoa@centurytel.net
Website: www.gwha.org

FIFTH ANNUAL IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY RIDGE RIDERS' RENDEZVOUS
September 26, 2009
Location: East Fork of Mink Creek, Pocatello ID
Open to all breeds
Contact: Jolynn Angle, 208-604-2302

October

NPWHA FUTURITY HORSE SHOW
October 2-4, 2009
Location: LAEC, Burbank, CA
Judge: Debbie Rash
Show Secy: Jackie LeSan; jlesan1128@roadrunner.com

NORTH AMERICAN PLEASURE GAITED HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS (AAA)
October 15-17, 2009
Location: Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO
Classes for: TBA
Judges: Bill Coon, Keith Dane, Susan Moses
Contact: Sandy McCart, sandymccart@yahoo.com

HIGH DESERT CLASSIC TRAIL RALLY
Aug. 29-30
Location: Panguitch, Utah
Contact: Judi Bradbury, 435-837-2125

FOSH Membership Application and Order Form

(All annual memberships include bi-monthly issue of the Sound Advocate, an Educational Packet and complimentary subscription to the Equine Journal)

Type of Membership (check one)
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Address: _____City: _____State: ____Zip Code: _____

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Additional Donations: ❑ $20 ❑ $30 ❑ $40 ❑ $50 ❑ Patron $100* ❑ Benefactor $300* ❑ Other $_____
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❑ YES! I wish to receive the *Equine Journal*

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2009 Independent Judges Assoc. Rulebook __$10 ea

All prices include shipping

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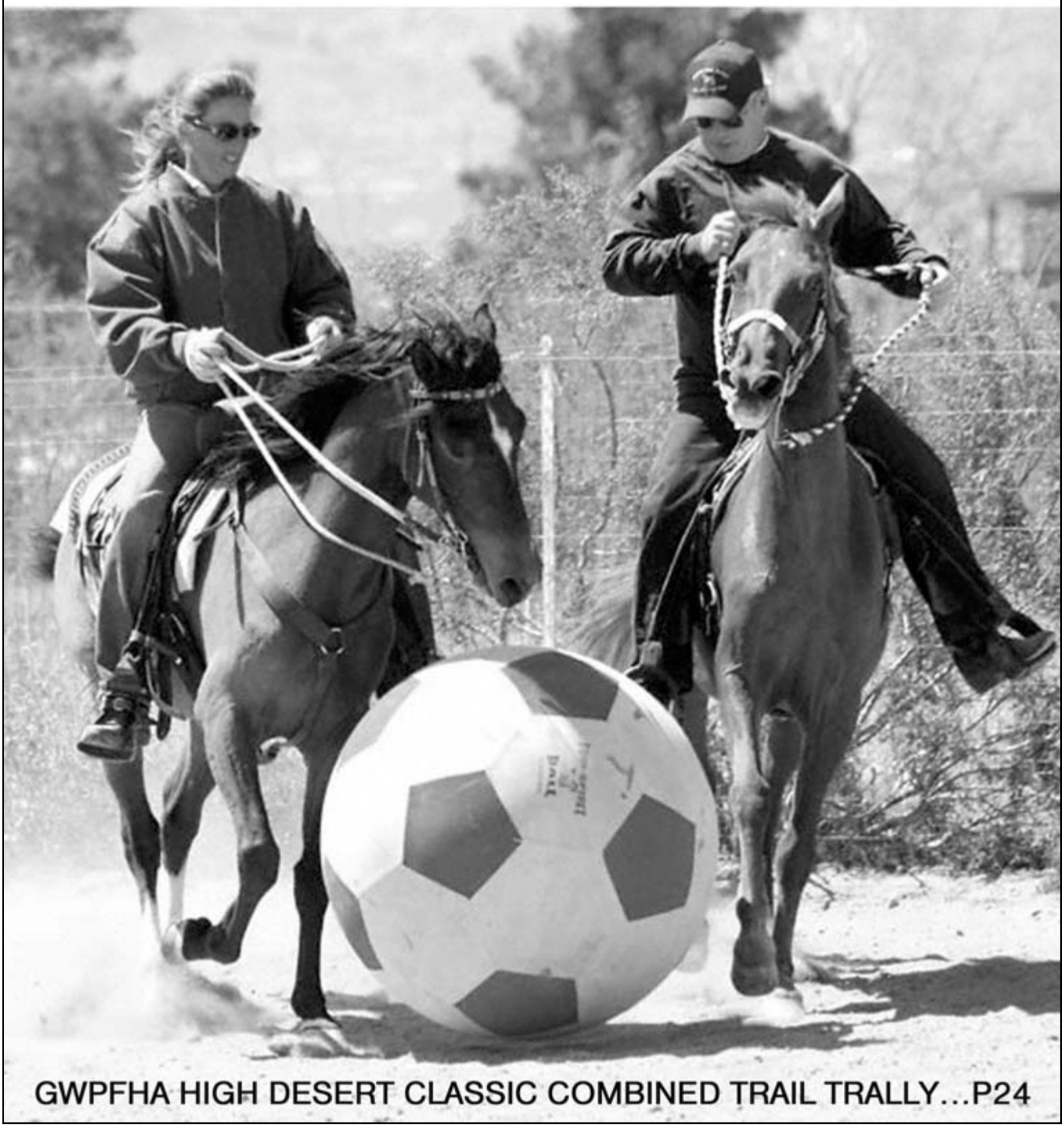

GWPFHA HIGH DESERT CLASSIC COMBINED TRAIL TRALLY…P24