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DISPATCH

Volume XXIV Issue 4

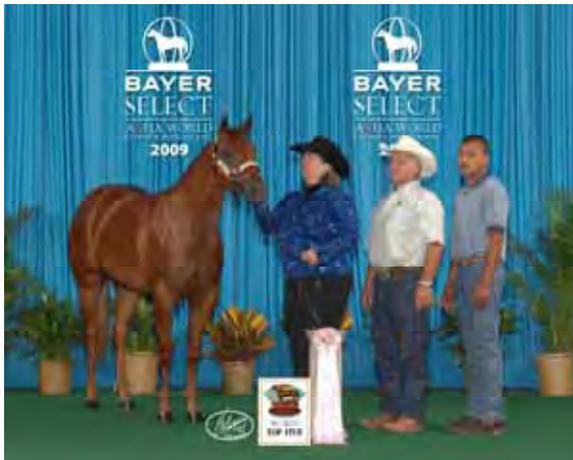
Pam Turner, Editor

April, 2010

Cheri Gayton: Breeding and Showing Quarter Horses April 15 - 7pm at the Empty Saddle Club

We show horses at ETI and some of us move up the ladder to bigger events- Cheri shows at WORLD events! She was in Oklahoma this year at the World Quarter Horse Championships with 10,000 horses competing! Cheri will be speaking on breeding and showing Quarter Horses which will include embryo transplants. This will prove to be a very exciting event for all! You can't forget the date- it's tax day- April 15th. See you at the Empty Saddle Club.

**Charlene O'Neil
VP Education**



General Meeting Report: Saddle Fitting with Karen Losbaugh and Margot Lovet, Schieese Saddlery

By Erin Ryan

Our two guest speakers were from Schieese Saddlery. A saddlery company that utilizes the "Saddle Fit 4 Life" system. They work towards getting that perfect saddle fit so that both horse and rider can be spared the pain from long term damage. Live models (horses) were used, outlining the areas of interest right on the horse. For instance, they showed our group how to find the last rib of the horse, explaining that the saddle should never go beyond that point. As with most live demonstrations, the written word cannot really describe all the goings on. With that said, here are some of the important concepts.

There are 9 points to check your saddle fit.

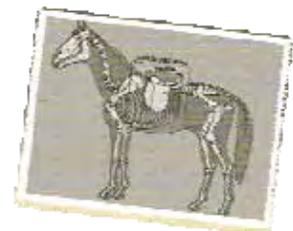
- 1) Balance: Center of saddle (seat area) should be parallel to the floor on the horse's back.
- 2) Withers Clearance: Clearance at the withers should be 2 - 3 fingers for normal withers; mutton withers will have more clearance, high withers will have less clearance. Clearance should be all around; not just at the top.



- 3) Gullet Width: Wide enough not to interfere with spinal process or musculature of the horses back (3 – 4 fingers).



- 4) Full Panel Contact: Should touch horse's back evenly all the way from front to back; some may be off the back end to allow the back to come during engagement.
- 5) Tree Width: Wide enough for saddle to fit during movement.
- 6) Billet Alignment: Billets should hang perpendicular to ground so that the girth is not angled – the girth will always find its position at the narrowest point behind the elbow.
- 7) Shoulder Angle: Panel points should be parallel to shoulder angle to position saddle properly.
- 8) Straightness: Saddle should not fall off to one side when viewed from the back. Tree points should be behind both scapulae (shoulder blades).
- 9) Saddle Length: Shoulder and loin area should never ever carry any rider weight.



If you feel your saddle needs some professional scrutiny, either gal would be happy to come over to your barn to evaluate your saddle fitted to your horse. The Schieese Saddlery web site is www.saddlefit4life.com. A big thanks to both Karen and Margot for providing our members with valuable information on how to properly have a saddle fit.

FROM THE EDITOR...

Happy Spring to all! Lots of great days riding trails, working our horses in the rings and, of course, Show season is beginning! Look for the dates and times in the What's Happening section. Then come out to support our local riders as they compete for ribbons and a chance to earn points to for the grand prizes at the end of the season.

Well, the trails are pretty much dried out but a few need some serious bulldozin'. According to one rider, there are trails behind the gates are passable depending on the horse and the rider. However, there is a pretty big chunk taken out of Quarterhorse that made her turn around. I rode John's Canyon and it was good and Storm's Hill is also good. Blackwater and Lower Si's are still closed. If your horse is barefoot, riding behind the gates could result in some stone bruising because it's mighty rocky on some trails up there so be careful. Fortunately, we've got lots of choices and great weather. So saddle up and have a great riding season!

Happy Trails!



What's Happening!

- April 15 – 7pm: General Meeting
- April 18, May 16, June 27, July 25 (rain date Aug 15) - Los Serranos Awards Circuit Western & Reining Horseshow- Beginners classes available- Ernie Howlett Park. Contact: Trish Harik at 310.378.9911
- April 24, 11am to 3 pm, Ride to Fly Country Carnival, Empty Saddle Club, 39 Empty Saddle Rd., Contact Shari Sprague (310.544.9757)
- Last Friday of each month, 6:30 pm, Barrel Racing, at the Empty Saddle Club

Welcome New Members!

Nadine Jett; Melanie Maclean; Moses Awad; Jenny Corona; Amelie Vergnolle; Chloe Malia Kerly; Jennifer Benedict; Stefanie Haggerton; Lynne Liebelt; Andrea Macho; Ruth Berman; Hannah Chiet; Robert & Jeannie Espinoza; Catherine & Dennis Gardner; Joseph & Sheri Gaines; Wanda Lombardi; Robert & Karen Cabrera; Tony Choueke; Michael Pearl; Virginia Eakins; Michelle Mangan; Lauren Berger; Jiro & Brenda Kikkawa; Mark Navarro; M.E. Edwards-Gneiser; Gary & Sheree Keller; Roger & Carol Schamp

Thank you Trail Donors!

Nadine Jett; Jenny Corona; Jennifer Benedict
Andrea Macho; Jeannie & Robert Espinoza
Julie Ramstead; Janice Wohlwill

Palos Verdes Peninsula Horse Trainer Spotlight Jan Ball... *Submitted By Doreen Houle*



"I developed 'horse fever' at age 3, so I have a special place in my heart for young kids who live and breathe horses" said Jan Ball.

Jan Ball is considered a foundation of the Western riding style on the Palos Verdes

Peninsula. She has been successfully training champion horses and riders here since 1973. An accomplished rider herself, Jan has won many national championships, including the acclaimed Cow Palace Grand Nationals Open Trail Event, in San Francisco, California.

Jan has coached many leading riders to professional status as well as national, regional and local championships. As much as she loves being in the winner's circle, she derives just as much pleasure from helping students lope for the first time or seeing pony campers smile from ear to ear, when taking their first ride.

Jan began her training with top trainers Sharon McKay and Rod Kelly, and continues her education by attending clinics and working with the country's most renowned coaches.

A significant contributor to the horse community, Jan conducts clinics, has been a 4H leader, served for nine years on the Pacific Coast Horse Show Association (PCHA) board and for thirty years on the Los Serranos Awards Circuit. Jan was also recently inducted into the SBNHS (Santa Barbara National Horse Show) Hall of Fame.

Jan Ball Performance Horses Inc.
Peter Weber Equestrian Center
26401 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
310.377.1335 / 310.251.3222 (cell)
www.janball.com

Jan Ball's Students win in Oklahoma and Scottsdale

Submitted By Doreen Houle

Presenting Sophia Harik and Marley Mainwaring: Both girls live on the Peninsula and keep their beloved horses at the Peter Weber Equestrian Center in training with Jan Ball.



Sophia (16 yrs) and her horse Twinkie, "A Slippery Situation" returned home from the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Show held in Oklahoma City which boasted over 2000 qualifiers from several different countries. Sophia captured the highest score of all the California qualifiers.

Sophia narrowly missed the final cut but still ended up eighteenth in the world in the trail division. Sophia has been in training with Jan since she was six years old and has won many national championships.



Marley Mainwaring (9 yrs) and her horse Buster, "Little Credit Needed" recently captured the Circuit Champion 11 & under Trail Division at the Sun Circuit held at Westworld in Scottsdale, Arizona. Marley also won the November Youth 18 & under Trail event. Last October, Marley earned a coveted "Top Ten" award at the All American Quarter Horse Congress held in Columbus, Ohio. Over 16,000 horses attended the world's largest single breed show.

Jan Ball of Ball Performance Horses Inc. has been instructing in Palos Verdes for 37 years. Jan enjoys guiding her students to the winners circle, and also loves to start beginners, young to young at heart, that want to ride just for the love of horses.

Jan may be contacted at 310-377-1335 or janball.com

Palos Verdes High School Sea King Equestrian Team – News

The Palos Verdes High School Sea King Equestrian Team has just finished up their eight-show 2009-2010 season in the **Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League (OCIEL)**. The team rode into the last two shows in the lead for

champion school of the season but won't hear their final placing until the awards banquet to be held at **Medieval Times** on Monday, April 19th at 6:00 PM.

Results of the final show are always withheld to maintain the excitement of announcements at the awards banquet. All shows this season have been held at the lovely Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano.

At show seven, held on January 16, the Sea Kings took 12th place ribbons in Novice Pleasure on the Flat (Clare Burke), JV Working Hunter 2'9" (Amanda Stefan); 11th place ribbons in Western Limit Trail (Sarah Powley), Novice Hunt Seat Equitation Flat (Kerry Spain); a 10th place ribbon in Western Limit OCIEL Medal (Sarah Powley); 9th place ribbons in Novice Hunter Under Saddle (Michelle Yamashita), Western Limit Showmanship (Sarah Powley), Western Limit Pleasure (Sarah Powley), Western Limit Horsemanship (Sarah Powley); 8th place ribbons in Novice Hunt Seat Equitation Flat (Clare Burke), JV OCIEL Medal 3' (Amanda Stefan), Western Limit Pleasure (Kaitlin Huben); 7th place ribbons in Novice Equitation Over Fences 2' (Michelle Yamashita), Novice Pleasure on the Flat (Michelle Yamashita), Varsity Working Hunter 3'3" (Rachel Thurman); 6th place ribbons in Novice Working Hunter 2' (Clare Burke), Western Limit Pleasure (Shelby Tsuji), Western Limit Horsemanship (Kaitlin Huben), Varsity Hunt Seat Equitation Flat (Rachel Thurman); 5th place ribbons in Varsity English Pleasure (Rachel Thurman), JV OCIEL Medal 3' (Kristen Yule); 4th place ribbons in Novice Equitation Over Fences 2' (Clare Burke), Limit Western Horsemanship (Shelby Tsuji), Novice Working Hunter 2' (Michelle Yamashita), JV Working Hunter 2'9" (Kristin Yule); 3rd place ribbons in Western Limit Showmanship (Shelby Tsuji), JV Equitation Over Fences 2'9" (Amanda Stefan),

Western Limit OCIEL Medal (Kaitlin Huben);

2nd place ribbons in Western Limit Trail (Shelby Tsuji), Varsity OCIEL Medal 3'6" (Rachel Thurman), Dressage Training Level Test 3 (Lauren Pell), Dressage Training Level Test 4 (Lauren Pell); 1st place ribbons in Western Limit OCIEL Medal (Shelby Tsuji), Western Limit Showmanship (Kaitlin Huben), Western Limit Trail (Kaitlin Huben), and Varsity Equitation Over Fences 3'3" (Rachel Thurman). They also rode away with High Point Western Limit Rider (Kaitlin Huben) and Reserve High Point Western Limit Rider (Shelby Tsuji) as well as High Point School in the Western Limit division.

Website: Pvhigh.com

FT. TEJON CARRIAGE DRIVING SHOW

By Catherine Starr

The 2010 Ft. Tejon Pleasure Days Carriage Driving Show will be held on May 22 and 23, at the Tejon Ranch Equestrian Center, located at Ft. Tejon/Lebec, CA. This show is the largest Pleasure Driving Show on the West Coast, and is an American Driving Society recognized event.

The address for Tejon Equestrian Center is 1401 Crane Canyon Rd., Lebec, CA 93243. It has easy access to Interstate 5, and is one hour north of Los Angeles. The air is clear at the elevation of 4420 feet, and the average high/low temperatures for May/June are 72 and 51 degrees. Precipitation at that time of year is negligible. A great location!

Advertisers and class sponsors, please contact Melanie Brooker, (661) 951-8808 or dulciepi@verizon.net. Your class sponsorship includes announcements throughout the weekend as well as being

listed in the program. You are also welcome to present the awards for your class.

This show is a first class but friendly competition. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!!

RHYMES OF THE RANGE...

ON A COLD RAINY MORNIN'

By Bruce Harnishfeger
(Sing to the tune of "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers)

On a cold rainy mornin',
on a trail out of High Horse
I met up with a Cowboy,
we were both too tired to speak
So we took turns a starin',
down the trail into the mud bogs
Till boredom over took us,
and he began to speak.

He said "dude" I've made a life,
out of racing Arabian horses,
Knowing what they're gonna do,
by the way they move their eyes.
And if you don't mind my sayin',
this trail is muddy and too deep,
I think I'd rather be back,
in my RV getting some sleep!

Well I turned & looked straight at him,
got so close that I could slap him.
Then I looked him square in the eye,
and I asked him about last night

And his **horse** got deathly quiet,
And its face lost all expression.
I said if you want to ride this trail boy,
you gotta learn to ride it right!

You got to know when to hold 'em,
know when to whoa 'em,
Know when to lead a horse low,
and when to lead 'em high.
You'd better count your blessing
For sittin' up in the saddle
And you'd best to keep 'em coming,
Until the ride is all done

The Caballeros know,
the secret to passing the mud bogs,
Is knowing when to lead a horse low,
And when to lead 'em high.
'Cause every ride's a winner,
and every ride's a loser,
And the best that you can hope for,
Is to ride until you die.

So when we finished speakin',
we turned back toward the trail
Thought about why we were **here**
and **not** back in bed
And somewhere past the trailhead,
and out beyond the mud bogs
The meaning of Caballeros,
kept ringing in our heads:

You got to know when to hold 'em,
know when to whoa 'em,
Know when to lead a horse low,
and when to lead 'em high
You'd better count your blessing
For sittin' up in the saddle
And you'd best to keep 'em coming,
Until the ride is all done

You got to know when to hold 'em,
know when to whoa 'em,
Know when to lead a horse low,
and when to lead 'em high.
You'd better count your blessing
for sittin' up in the saddle
And you'd best to keep 'em coming,
Until the ride is all done.

BEAUTIFUL DESERT RIDING & CAMPING

Heidi Furer

For those of you who would like to camp and ride in the desert with some beautiful scenery, here are some options.

Los Comrades Stable (760-864-9626) in Palm Springs is a club/stable. In the past you could camp there and keep your horse in their stable. I don't go there for a variety of reasons, the main reason you might not stay there, is due to their location to most of

the best trails. Smoke Tree Stable is closer to the better trails, but you can not camp at Smoke Tree Stable since they will lose their permit. From Los Comrades Stable you have an extra 50/60 minutes, (one way) of riding before you enter most of the better trails. You could trailer to some of the trailheads. There are two trails near Los Comrades, one of which is named after my father.

Blackrock campground is in or adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Park/Monument (760-367-5500), (camp reservations 877-444-6777, or www.recreation.gov), out of Yucca Valley. It is about 3 or 3.5 hours from PV. The campground has flush toilets, (a little walk to them), no showers, a water trough, at least one water faucet, tie rails, a few picnic tables, and I think a few fire rings. I have ridden there, but never camped and don't know the fee. Dogs are not allowed on the trail and don't know if they are allowed in the campground. Be sure to bring a GPS! A lot of the trails look similar; even the locals sometimes become a little disoriented. If you don't have a GPS, I strongly recommend one from Garmin that you wear on your wrist like a watch. It is larger than a watch, but it keeps both hands free and for a GPS is easy to use.

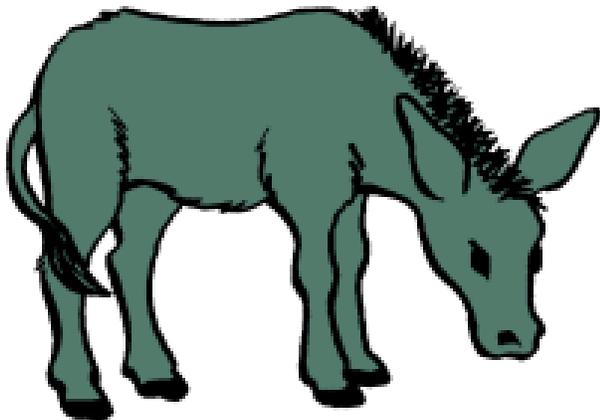
Pioneertown is also out of Yucca Valley; about 3 or 3.5 hours from PV. You can camp with your horses right in the center of town. They have corrals and water. When you call, ask about a bathroom. There is also a very, very rustic motel that has stalls. If I remember right, the last time I was there the horse camp was for sale. At that time the campground, hotel and restaurant had different owners. There is a restaurant, but if you plan to eat all your meals there find out their hours and days or you might be very hungry. Pioneertown was built for western movies, (Roy Rogers era), and TV shows. The town is small, but a fun place

for western equestrians. The riding is varied, from easy and flat, to mildly hilly or mildly mountainous. Bev Doolittle lives in the area and you can see how the landscape has influenced her art. While riding, you might see her working studio camouflaged in the natural rocks.

Bogert Park in Beaumont/Cherry Valley is a Riverside County Park (951-845-3818). It is a park for day use, camping and horse camping. It is a first-come, first-served or by reservation. There are corrals and if I remember correctly, outhouses. The scenery is chaparral rather than low desert. It is probably about 2.5 hours from PV.

I encourage you to use a GPS at all these campgrounds, especially Blackrock. All the drive times are with optimal traffic, (no or little traffic). I always research an area before I go, if I have not been there before. Research it on the Web and follow-up with a phone call or two, since Web information can be out of date.

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“Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway.”



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