Spring, 2026: Volume 21; Issue 1

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS NEWSLETTER





INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Column	Page 2
2025 HOA Riding Awards	Page 3
Homeschooling; Steve Edwards; Registrar Report	Page 6
Riding the Back Country by Kolby Jensen	Page 7
Treasurer Report	Page 8
HOA T-shirts & Bonfire Store	Page 9
Colonial Dream & Kendra Chavez	Page 10
On Carriage Driving by Su Zi	Page 13
Colonial Spanish Horse Photo Montage	Page 15
Safety With Horses by Nanci Falley	Page 16
HOA Associates	Page 17
Editor's Column: It's Your Newsletter	Page 18
Membership Column by Courtney Hudson	Page 19
Membership Form	Page 20

Colonial Dream: HOA-2002; AIHR O-5652; SBHA: APX-31
2024 Caballos de Corazon Award

Dream came into my life unexpectedly as I was shopping for a cart for one of my horses, not looking for another horse…I ended up with two more horses and a beautiful two-seat Spring Wagon. When I saw the ad for the buggy, I knew that was what I wanted! My husband and I went to see it and once the deal was made, I commented on the horses in the field and their history was explained to me. They mentioned they were downsizing the herd due to the passing of their breeder/caretaker. I knew absolutely nothing about Colonial Spanish Horses or the Baca Chica strain. I quickly fell in love with a "low in the pecking order" buckskin mare, her name was Dream Keeper, but she wasn't trained so I turned away. A sorrel gelding caught my eye and I decided to make him part of my herd. Found out the buckskin mare was his half-sister…hmmmmm. My husband said he wanted to take the mare also and he would train her. I laughed (he is NOT a horse person) but agreed.

A week later we arrived to pick up our new ponies!! Tostone loaded into the trailer no problem but Dream Keeper was quite the battle! Two-plus hours later we had her in the trailer and headed to their new home with us and my other three horses. I guess Dream Keeper didn't want to leave those that loved her but I promised her continued love, forty acres to roam and hopefully many adventures in the future. ~Continued on Page 10~

President's Column
Andrea Mulnix

I was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Livestock Conservancy this year. The Livestock Conservancy has been a long time supporter of Colonial Spanish Horses, and lists them as critically endangered. As such breeders of Colonial Spanish Horses are eligible to apply for their grants.

I had applied about 5 times over the years for the grant. I will say not being selected had made me wonder if applying was worth it. And also what I was doing wrong. Here are some tips that helped me finally be able to get a grant this past year. The applications generally open up in May and close in late July or early August.

One of the main things is to **BE SPECIFIC.** Looking back I think most of my projects I submitted were sort of vague. By being specific and offering something that's measurable, they are more than likely to have confidence and see the vision in your project.

Figure out how much you actually need and back it up with proof of cost. In my case we applied to get a portable heavy duty round pen. I submitted the specifics of the round pen a long with screenshots of the cost for one from a local supplier. **Tangible impact** – how will this further Colonial Spanish Horses as a whole (not just your program). **Start early** – a few times I put off applying and literally finished my submission the last day. This made it feel rushed, and I am sure impacted how I worded things. This last year I started early and was able to submit it several weeks before the application period closed.

Also important – gather your reference letters to attach to your application. They also require a letter stating you are a member in good standing of your breed association. HOA is more than happy to help provide a letter to this effect for members. **You can print the applications and mail it, or apply and submit online.** The online form allows you to start and then save as you go. **https://livestockconservancy.org** – you can keep checking there to see when the applications open (usually in May).



If you want to apply but are still struggling with how best to do this, feel free to reach out to me at drycreekranchmt@gmail.com for guidance. Hopefully many of you will apply this year, and hoping another CS person is able to receive and use a grant this year. Happy applying!

HOA Executive Board

President: Andrea Mulnix; Roundup, Montana
andrea.sue.mulnix@gmail.com

V. President: Amy Speissegger; Salley, South Carolina
hardihoodacres@gmail.com

Secretary: Mickey Pliakos; Morristown, Arizona
mickeypliakos@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Heather Buss; Smithfield, Virginia
heather.buss1@outlook.com

Registrar: Gretchen Patterson; San Antonio, Texas
glpatterson62@gmail.com

Promotions: Minden Fox; Cheyenne, Wyoming
mindenfox@gmail.com

Awards: Stephanie Holland; Smithfield, Virginia
stephaniehoaawardsdirector@gmail.com

Youth Program: Adam Edwards; Hulett, Wyoming
pahaponies@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Patterson

Social Media: Kelly Caldwell; Tyner North Carolina
Oneponyshow42@gmail.com

Area Representatives: Rebecca Pizmoht, Virginia

Kendra Chavez, New Mexico

International: Martine Lettau, United Kingdom

2025 Horse of the Americas Riding Awards

Hello everyone, my name is Stephanie and I am the new HOA Awards Director.
This year is a little bit of a catch up year.
Gretchen has been hard at work making sure everything is correct before actually handing it all over to me.
So for 2025 these pages are my only contribution, but I look forward to fully taking that off her plate for 2026.
Hopefully in the future we will be keeping up to date
and will issue these awe-inspiring awards in a more timely manner for these special horses.
We want to acknowledge all the work they (and you) do. I look forward to working with all of you!
Without further adieu, here are the award winners.



Rosa

Corazón de Caballos
(1,000 Cumulative Points)

Burn the Ships (Rosa) #2376
Samantha Shoemaker

Windrider's Hatak Hullo (Manny) #1909
Tim Shoemaker



Manny



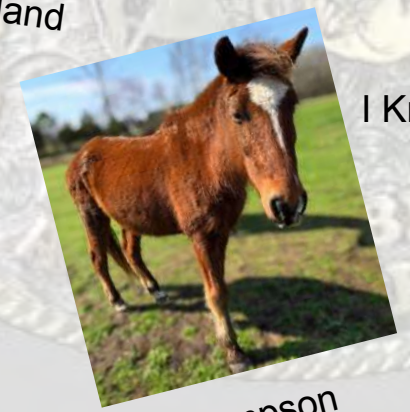
Holland

Legends
(500 Cumulative Points)

SWH Diamond City Pony Boy (Holland) #1649
Mill Swamp Indian Horses



Trouble



Sampson

I Knew You Were Trouble #2001
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

CWH Sampson #1774
Mill Swamp Indian Horses



Spark

Bella Notte #1901
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Spark #2388
Caleb Jensen



Bella Notte

2025 Horse of the Americas Riding Awards



Spark

Sundance (300 Cumulative points)

Spark #2388
Caleb Jensen

Hickory Wind #2102
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Choctaw Zee #2101
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Little Miss Sharpshooter #2131 (LIlly)
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Windrider's Average Joe #1908
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

Janie's Got a Gun #1988
Mill Swamp Indian Horses



Hickory Wind



Lilly



Janie



Zee



Joey

Carol Stone Ambassador (75 points)

CWH Black Elk # 2098,
KC's Hawkeye Jemstone (Onyx) #2237 and
CWH Esperanza (Hope) #2060 Pamela &
Dan Yohn at Timberline Ranch



I Knew You Were Trouble



Timberline Ranch

Trail Riding (Individual)

(Previously Pleasure Trail Horse)

I Knew You Were Trouble #2001
Mill Swamp Indian Horses

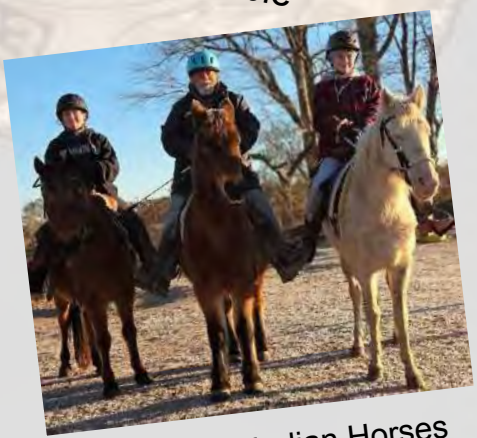
Reserve: CH Choctaw Zee 2101
Mill Swamp Indian Horses



Zee

Trail Riding (Group)

Mill Swamp Indian Horses
Steve Edwards



Mill Swamp Indian Horses

2025 Horse of the Americas Riding Awards



Copper Concha

English Performance

Copper Concha #2175
Rebecca Pizmoht



Saw Braw Cami

Western Performance

Saw Braw Cami #2396
Ginger Hipp



Spark

Farm & Ranch Work

Spark #2388
Caleb Jensen



Ride photographer Katy Carter

Endurance & Competitive Trail Riding

Miss Emery County #2347
Laura Geissler

Miss Emery County



Evelyn

Buckaroo (50 points)

Evelyn Porter
(7 horses, but mostly on
I Knew You Were Trouble #2001)

Cecily Williamson
(8 horses, but mostly on
Mozelle #2099)



Cecily

If you have received a buckle award, we'd love to get <u>a pictures of you and your horse with the buckle</u> that we could use in a future newsletter. You should receive the buckles in the second half of the year. This also <u>assists with acquiring future sponsors for the buckles</u> so we can continue providing the buckles for these astonishing achievements. Thank you everyone for getting me these incredible pictures for announcing the winners!

Homeschooling at Mill Swamp Indian Horses



Smithfield, Virginia

By Steve Edwards

There has never been a learning experience to compare with the home school program at Mill Swamp Indian Horses. Each Friday from 9-2 students are exposed to a range of topics that on any given day could range from history to philosophy, to wildlife habitat construction, to conservation and preservation of nearly extinct strains of early colonial horses and livestock, to music, to microbial pasture development, to natural horsemanship, all on a farm designated as a certified wildlife habitat.

Students range in age from five years old on up to older teenagers. Full family participation is encouraged. That is why the fee structure is only $100.00 per family per month. Parents may stay and participate in all of our programs. Mill Swamp Indian Horses is a program of Gwaltney Frontier Farm, a nonprofit corporation with no paid staff. Pack lunch, dress to be able to walk in woods and pasture and wear clothes that are great for play--and work.

Kids participate in helping with special programming like our annual sheep shearing program with our rare, heritage Hog Island and Leichester sheep. They can learn how horses can be used to bring peace to people with anxiety and PTSD by helping with our weekly sessions with patients in the PTSD program at the Hampton Veterans Hospital.

Kids learn solid information on health, exercise and nutrition and come together for special events like our January 1, ten-mile hike in the Dismal Swamp as shown above. The community has really come together to support our program with the understanding that we are more than just a riding lesson program.

We are a cultural and educational institution dedicated to bringing the best of the past into the present for young people today. Our book barn, which stores our educational materials and records, was constructed by, and completely paid for by the Smithfield and Suffolk Rotary clubs.

Program participants learn the joy of hard working and working together. Improving wildlife habitat, constructing and repairing fences, planting pastures by hand and clearing land for new forage opportunities-these are a few of the kinds of projects that the kids learn to do and have pride in their efforts.

Riding is not the focus of the homeschool program, but program participants learn natural horsemanship and they learn to understand the mind of a horse. They learn that building a relationship with a horse or donkey is the perfect model for using empathy and sound communication skills in building relationships with other people. Natural horsemanship is used to create good horses and better people.

Participants in the Home School Program help with what is one of our major missions, working to prevent the extinction of several strains of historic Colonial Spanish Horses, including the Banker horses whose ancestors arrived in the New World a century before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Choctaw horses whose ancestors carried the Indians of the southeast on the Trail of Tears, Marsh Tacky horses whose ancestors were ridden by Patriot forces during the American Revolution, and the remnant of the Grand Canyon horses. And all of this for only $100.00 per family per month. We have never turned a family away for inability to pay program fees. If the program fee is beyond your family's budget you may pay a monthly fee that is within that budget. For information, email: msindianhorses@aol.com.



Registrar Report

To date, HOA 2026 has acquired twenty-one new registrations and three transfers. A big welcome to Matt Griffin and his two Florida Cracker/Marsh Tacky geldings and Mickey Pliakos' herd with strong Wilbur-Cruce bloodlines and double registered with the Spanish Barb Horse Association.

Duv Cardenas sent us two lovely fillies of Sulphur heritage; Sofia (see below) will be double-registered with International Curly Horse Organization (ICHO).



Sulphur's Sofia Lucia LR; HOA-2483; ICHO

Samantha & Tim Shoemaker registered their entire herd with an emphasis on the Choctaw and Cherokee bloodlines.

Ginger Hipp acquired her Marsh Tacky yearling stallion, **Sawbraw** *Jigsaw* and Samantha Busby submitted *Pardo Rojo,* her Yaqui/ Yates/Johnson/Wilbur-Cruce stallion for registration.

The Registrar's Office hopes for a record year with the inclusion of more horses registered under the HOA umbrella. Visit the website: **https://horseoftheamericas.com**

Find us on facebook



Recognized Colonial Spanish Horse Strains

Baca Chica, New Mexico
Bankers: Corolla, Shackleford, Currituck, Ocrakoke, North Carolina
Book Cliffs, Utah
Brislawn, Wyoming
Cerbat, Arizona
Cheyenne, Crow, Shoshone, Western States
Choctaw, Cherokee, Oklahoma
Florida Crackers, Florida
Gilbert Jones, Oklahoma
Grand Canyon, Arizona
HOA (Original), California
Huasteca, Mexico
Ilo Belsky, Nebraska
Marsh Tacky, South Carolina
McKinley-Romero, New Mexico
Santa Cruz, California
Sulphur, Utah
Wilbur-Cruce, Arizona
Yates-Johnson, Oklahoma

By Inspection: Painter Barbs, Sorraia, Pryor Mountains, Kiger







Kolby Jensen with family and friends went camping and riding in the Utah back country after New Year's. In the background, The Bookcliffs rise above camp.

Treasurer's Report – Q1

Hello everyone,
As the new treasurer I would like to thank you for your continued support and involvement. As we wrap up the first quarter, I'm happy to share a quick and friendly update on how our finances are shaping up.

Income

We're grateful for the generosity and participation of our members. This quarter we received:

- Membership dues: $655.00
- Horse Registrations: $350.00
- Donations: $200.00
- Buckle Sponsorships: $355.00
  Total Income: $1,560.00

Expenses

Our spending stayed right in line with expectations as we continued supporting our programs and outreach operations:

- Administrative costs: $141.70
- Outreach/communications: $355.99
  Total Expenses: $497.69

Quarter-End Balances

We remain in a steady financial position:

- Account Balance: $1,868.13

Looking Ahead

We expect a smooth and stable next quarter. Thank you again for everything you do, your support truly keeps HOA moving forward.

Heather Buss
HOA Treasurer



NOW AVAILABLE!

Horse of the Americas

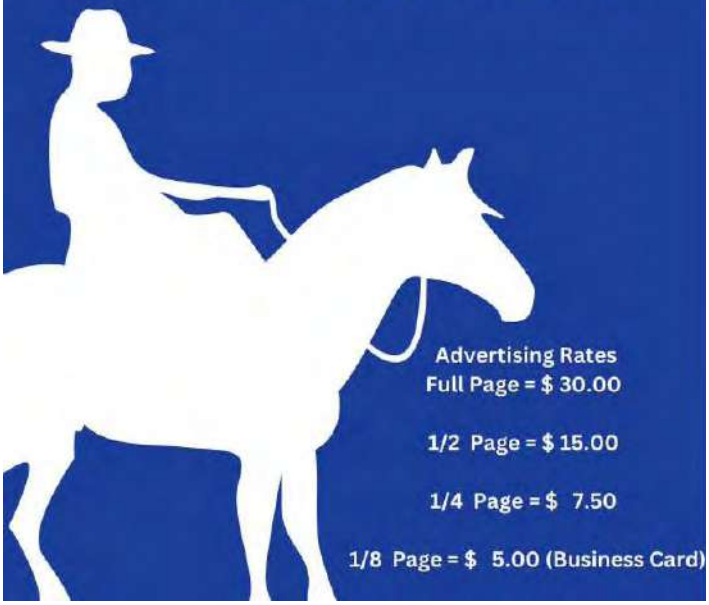
BRANDED GEAR TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT. INCLUDING T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, HATS, AND MORE! GO TO BONFIRE.COM AND SEARCH FOR THE HORSE OF THE AMERICAS STORE.



MORE DESIGNS COMING SOON! CHECK US OUT AT: BONFIRE.COM/STORE/HORSE-OF-THE-AMERICAS

ADS WANTED!!

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS NEWSLETTER WANTS YOUR ADS! HAVE AN EQUINE RELATED BUSINESS? POST AN AD IN OUR NEWSLETTER! CONTACT US TODAY TO GET YOUR AD INTO OUR NEXT ISSUE



Advertising Rates
Full Page = $ 30.00
1/2 Page = $ 15.00
1/4 Page = $ 7.50
1/8 Page = $ 5.00 (Business Card)



Where do I start?

By Kendra Chavez

~Continued from Page 1~

A week later we arrived to pick up our new ponies!! *Tostone* loaded into the trailer no problem but Dream Keeper was quite the battle! 2+ hours later we had her in the trailer and headed to their new home with us and my other 3 horses. I guess Dream Keeper didn't want to leave those that loved her but I promised her continued love, 40 acres to run in and hopefully many adventures in the future.

I started my research on the Colonial Spanish Horse and the Baca Chica strain while they were settling in and adjusted into our herd. Annette, Virginia and Mary had given me a lot of information and a CD documentary featuring Joty Baca and his horses. The more I learned, the more time I spent with them, they more I fell in love!!! At first I only knew that Dream Keeper and Tostone could be registered with Horse of the Americas so I started the process. Dream Keeper couldn't be registered with that name so she became Colonial Dream, Dream is her barn name. A little while later I learned about American Indian Horse and registered Colonial Dream. She later became registered with Spanish Barb Horse Association.

I took my time training Dream. I had the help of a trainer friend and he guided my work. I brought her home Feb 1, 2014 and in May of 2014 I finally got on her! We did many months of round pen and small arena riding, then graduated to riding around our 40 acres.



About a year into our adventure, I knew I couldn't keep Tostone. Dream was the right fit for me and Tostone was keeping her from reaching her potential. He was the overbearing big brother and it was impacting her training, he went back with the Baca family.



2 years of riding our property and local dirt roads, facing demons of white boulders, flying grasshoppers, butterflies and crazy dogs, I felt she was ready for bigger adventures! One of her first away from home rides was at my friend's house. She and Alex (my friend's horse) became BFF's that day and boy have we had adventures!

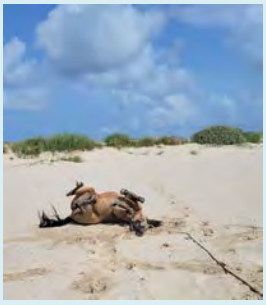
I decided to take the plunge and really test her by riding her at Red Canyon. It's a very technical loop trail on the mountain with some spots feeling like you will walk off the mountain as the trail disappears around a sharp turn with a steep climb! That little horse, with her deer legs and feet, proved that she would take care of me anywhere!! She earned the badge of Mountain Trail Horse that day and we haven't looked back!!!

We were camping at Fort Stanton NM one spring; we always do an easy ride the day we arrive. The next day is our long ride soaking in the beautiful scenery and history. The day went smoothly and after dinner over an open fire we tucked the horses in with extra hay as the wind had picked up. Barb and I headed to the camper for warmth and sleep. The wind was pretty vicious overnight.

In the morning Barb went out to feed and quickly returned. I knew something was amiss! She informed me that the horses were gone! WHAT???? HOW???? They were supposed to be in their corral!!!! I went out to find 2 of the corral panels down and horribly bent out of shape!!!

The search was on! We walked and called for a couple hours. No luck (there was no way to track them as there is a lot of horse riding activity in the area). We called people we knew in the area for help, no luck. About 5 hours later we had a truck pull up asking us if we were missing horses. They had seen them about 2 1/2 miles away which was amazing as they had access to the whole 10,000 acres! They gave us a ride to fetch them. They were standing at the corner of fencing headed the way home. We walked right up to them, haltered them and made them do the walk of shame behind the truck back to the camp site. Dream had several bumps and bruises and missing hair, we determined that she was the one that mangled the panels. Why? Only she and Alex know and they aren't talking but we suspect it was either elk that startled her or the reported mountain lion in the area. We didn't ride that day; we packed up and headed home. That was more adventure than we wanted. So grateful to have found them!!!

Another time, Barb and I were at her cabin in the Gila Mountains. We had the horses loose grazing that sweet mountain grass. Barb had a strand of wire around her property and assured me that her horses had never gotten out. I was hesitant about letting Dream out to graze but finally gave in. About 30 minutes later, I mentioned that I hadn't heard the horses. We went looking and they were nowhere to be found!! We walked the property line and found where they had pushed under the fence; at least we were able to see their tracks and which way they were going.



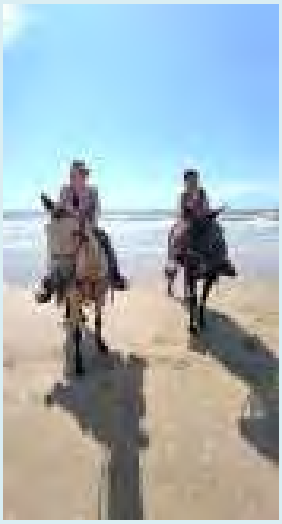
We headed down the road following their track. About a mile and several turns later we came across a kind neighbor with a lead rope on Alex leading her from the window of his truck with Dream following behind. Again, they had been headed in the direction of home! Those brats!!!



Well, they got put into their corral with dry hay, and Barb and I had a good strong adult beverage!! I blame Alex for this escapade, as Dream is a follower, and that was Alex's home turf. LOL! Now they have a GPS collar to wear!!

In August/September 2021, Barb and I took a trip to Crystal Beach TX. She had it all planned out and we rode along the way at our layovers. Bandera TX was our 2nd stop and we rode into town on our horses! It was so cool to feel like we were in the Old West, tying our horses in front of the stores at the hitching rails. But it was so humid!! Our desert ponies didn't know what was happening. We rode in the river on our trek to and from the town to let them cool off. We arrived at Crystal Beach and the water was calling my name! But first things first, we tended the ponies, getting them set up in their beautifully lush ¼ acre pen! They thought they were in heaven, but we limited that luxury so we wouldn't have any medical emergencies. The next day we rode from our campsite to the Gulf! Oh my! It was breathtaking seeing it between my horse's ears!!!





She, on the other hand, thought it was going to kill her! It took a lot of coaxing and patience to finally get her toes wet. I found a little river of water going back into the Gulf, and I let her follow that down to the BIG water. it worked! We rode about 6 miles that day along the beach and through a neighborhood. The horses were so appreciative of the bath they got (Dream doesn't like baths) before we put them back in the pen. Nothing like getting that itchy sweat off. The next day, we rode back to the beach. We galloped, we swam (Dream kicked at every wave that hit her back feet LOL) but she went into the water deep enough to get her back wet, then we sunbathed and were quiet…ahhhhh…. Another bath when we got back to the campsite; then Barb and I went on foot adventuring; we quickly found a golf cart to rent as we looked like drowned rats from the humidity and walking. Our last day there was right before Labor Day; we rode again to the beach, but this time it wasn't quiet. There were tents, people fishing, big dune buggy looking vehicles, remote-controlled cars, kids, kites, dogs, people everywhere! Well, none of that bothered our wonderful ponies!!! We rode around and galloped some more and were even stopped by people asking to take our picture. We were even on the live feed of the beach, thankfully before Dream decided to pollute the water in front of a child that was totally horrified by it. Sorry, there was no way to remove that from the "trail". We finally got smart and asked someone to take our picture for us - one of my favorite pictures to date!!

We have ridden many mountains, roads, valleys and everything in-between. She took me to the Gulf Coast and faced the big water (she's a desert horse LOL) and conquered it, giving me a lifetime dream of galloping on the beach!!!

We have camped too many times to count; she has taken me to the hot springs where I got to soak while she grazed sweet mountain grass.

We faced bears, snakes, deer, elk, rabbits, coyote, dogs, motorcycles, mountain bikers, backpackers and the occasional rotting carcass. She will move cows and I believe she would move the mountain if I asked her!

Colonial Dream has become my perfect partner! She heals me! I feel I have lived up to my promise to Dream!

~Kendra Chavez; Mountainair, New Mexico~



Essay On Carriage Driving

By *Su Zi, Ocala Florida*

One of the most beautiful aspects to carriage driving is the variety of horses—from beloved VSEs (Very Small Equines) to competition-bred, imported KPH, horses have been hitched throughout history, and seeing modern carriage driving is quite the thrill. For me, as a frequent volunteer at carriage driving competitions, I like to see



our Horses of the Americas, especially our native breeds, going down the centerline. Apparently, I am not the only one, because occasionally an overseas-based judge will show an interest in our native breeds as well.

As a volunteer, Sunday on the 4th of January, I had an opportunity to both work and watch a combined effort of two, ultimately, national organizations collaborating at a local show series: the American Driving Association and STRIDE, which is a USDF group member organization. Held at the Florida Horse Park, now the long-held showgrounds for STRIDE, there were concurrent rings running, because the facility hosts a cross-country course with specific carriage obstacles for competition.

Also at this show, I was able to observe the variety of horses hitched, most notably the Breyer famous *Bugsy Malone*—an equine rockstar, who performed solo at that show. While STRIDE itself has hosted carriage driving (dressage and cones) since its foundation, the effort made to formally collaborate with the American Driving Society is recent.

I remember well Sis Rose driving her mule, *General Nuisance* and Irene with her saintly standardbred driving dressage in a ring next to spotty rump ponies gamely trying Training Test A.

Nonetheless, HOA horses make excellent carriage companions—though not every horse can pull a carriage: some do not like a rattling thing behind them attached to their girth, ever. There's an unrecognized



Chincoteague competing at national levels, and an HOA-likely pony at the grassroots shows. My own driving companion, *Dakota Krome* is HOA and there are lifetime moments that do include carriage driving competitions.

So, since we are sane, do consider adding carriage driving to the equine disciplines at which our HOA horses excel. After all, taking the winter blankets off our human frailties, the Morgan is an American breed with Breyer famous carriage champions. I, myself, would love to see a pair of well-driven HOAs in the ribbons, wouldn't you? The American Driving Society has a website, regions, affiliations, trainers, tack and information galore. What might be a nice introduction would be to visit a competition —maybe there will be a spotted pony going down the centerline.

https://www.americandrivingsociety.org



Dakota Krome, HOA-1991 driven by Su Zi
2022 Driving Horse of the Year







Weldon Merchant & Miss Irene rolling through town on the occasion of her 102nd birthday. Irene was Weldon's former school teacher. Weldon uses only CS horses for work on his farm in Mississippi.

A Crossection of Colonial Spanish Horses



From Sharon Sluss, West Virginia: (l - r) *Utah Blaine, Dunsmoke Maverick, RE Lonesome Traveller, RE Gold Dust, and Cayuse Gold*



From Martine Lettau, UK:
Kiowa Warrior



From Sarah Jane Linthacum, Missouri:
SJ's Chahta "Miko" McKinney



From Ginger Hipp, Georgia:
(l - r) *LL175 Tipsy* & *Tipsy In Georgia*



From Vickie Ives, Texas:
A Million Dreams



From Kolby Jensen, Utah:
Walk This Way

Safety Around Horses by Nanci Falley

Reprinted with permission by AIHR President, Tomlyn Grey, 2026

How safe a horse owner/handler are you? Do you even think about safety when you are dealing with your equine or those of your friends or clients? Too many times we humans take short cuts with our very lives and those of our horses at stake, Common sense and mindfulness are keys to safety.

Are you leaving a halter on your horse because it is too hard to catch without a halter? If so (and this is a very common practice) you are subjecting your best friend to the chance of being hung up in the halter and being injured or even killed, Horses scratch themselves on posts and can easily become hung if wearing a halter, or even on their own hind foot if they scratch their cheek with a hind toe. If you must leave a halter on your horse, - teaching the horse how to be caught would be a better solution - then always use a breakaway type halter. (You can make a breakaway halter by tying the halter closed with a string rather than using the buckle.

Yes, your horse might lose the halter in the pasture, but the possible alternative of injury or death outweighs the loss of a halter.)

When you are leading your horse, is the lead rope coiled around your hand, or is it in an S-loop so you can easily release the loops if your horse spooks? Think about it - if it is coiled around your hand, you could easily be dragged down under your horse in a panic situation.

Be sure that the bridle you are using on your animal fits. If you don't know how a bridle should fit, please ask someone who does. An ill-fitting bridle can cause all kinds of problems, from head tossing to rearing or worse.

And never - NEVER - tie your horse with the reins-carry a halter and lead rope with you, so you can tie the horse properly if you plan to dismount and tie the animal.

When you ride, are you using a breast harness? If not, why not? This is an easy and inexpensive way to help keep your saddle in the correct position on your mount's back, and should be required.

Is your girth the right size for your horse, or are the girth rings rubbing holes in your horse's girth area? The girth should also be clean and burr-free. Does your saddle have a rear girth? If so, and you aren't a calf roper, remove that rear girth. It is superfluous unless you are roping calves or cattle. If you insist on using a rear girth, please be sure that it is tight enough (snug, allowing a couple of fingers to be inserted between it and the horse's belly) - otherwise if your horse kicks at a fly, or anything else, the kicking foot could become hung in the rear girth and you are headed for a serious wreck.

These are only a few safety issues - but they are some of the most important.

Happy riding!



Unwritten (Rhett) HOA-1792 & Nanci Falley

Ms. Nanci crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2025. Her wit and wisdom will be missed.

HOA ASSOCIATES

PRESERVATION • NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP • EDUCATION

MILL SWAMP INDIAN HORSES

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY

MOLLY'S CUSTOM SILVER

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL

THE CENTER FOR AMERICA'S FIRST HORSE INC.

American Endurance Ride Conference

NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE NATRC.ORG

Bluebonnet EQUINE Humane Society

Preserving an American Tradition, One Equine at a Time

KARMA FARMS MARSHALL TEXAS

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

American Indian Horse Registry Inc.

The wild horses are here again grazing on the grasses of my land. Always distant, always untouchable. They run free, roaming the mountains, resting on cliffs, breathing the air of freedom to my envy.

~Ric Bastasa~



Editor's Note:

Thank you to co-editors, Stephanie and Sarah Holland; to everyone who shared photos and articles; to the riders and horses who promote our Colonial Spanish Horses.



IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER

How you can make it even better:

Share your wisdom. Write articles about horses, horse care, training, riding, healing and therapeutic work, preservation, history, what you're reading, your favorite Spanish Mustang movie, your travels and adventures, your successes and heartbreaks. If all you have is a great photo, send that along with a caption and we'll share it with your community.

Share upcoming events. If you're doing something we should know about, please share. Just pay attention to the calendar below to make sure you get it submitted on time.

Make an announcement. I want to highlight riding and horse breeding successes, especially among our younger riders. Please share

Sell us something-advertise. Please consider placing an ad in an upcoming newsletter:

Full Page = $30.00
Half-Page = $15.00
Quarter Page = $10.00
Business Card = $5.00

HOA Newsletter Publication Schedule.

Spring Issue Content deadline February 28
Spring Issue out by March 15
Summer Issue Content deadline May 31
Summer Issue out by June 15
Fall Issue Content deadline August 31
Fall Issue out by September 15
Winter Issue Content deadline November 30
Winter Issue out by December 15

Email: glpatterson62@gmail.com



Thunder's Rain Cloud; **Loran Mulnix driving.**

Mission Imperative: Are you a member of the HOA?

By Courtney Hudson – Norfolk, VA

The HOA currently provides so many great services to the Colonial Spanish Horse community, from maintaining an exten-sive registry to cataloguing the history of our horses and conservation efforts, from providing competitive opportunities for our horses and members to share their successes to providing educational opportunities, from maintaining an active website and Facebook page to help share our horses with the world and facilitating multiple ways for Colonial Spanish Horse enthusiasts — breeders, owners and riders, alike — to communicate with each other across great distances.

Of course, while all of these benefits are coordinated by a team of hard-working volunteers, maintaining the organization is not without operating expenses, many of which are currently coming straight out of the pockets of our dedicated board members.

I was shocked the other day to learn that the HOA currently has fewer than 75 paying members! Our Facebook group alone has more than 1,100 followers! That means that roughly 90% of our Facebook followers alone are not paying members of the HOA.

***TLH Fichik Okchakko*; HOA-2477**

All it takes is a small invest-ment in the HOA to make a real difference in our coordinated efforts. Beyond supporting the basic operating expenses of maintaining a registry, website and communications, just imagine the additional services the HOA could provide to its membership and horses and conser-vation efforts if more enthusiasts invested in an HOA membership — from helping to support critical herds in times of need, to providing more exposure opportuni-ties through coordinated show efforts and media attention, to providing online access to information in the HOA registry, to arranging conference and educational opportunities to build a stronger community, to coordinating additional fundraising efforts, to facilitating DNA sequencing in order to better understand how to preserve our horses' unique genetic traits, to assisting with transporting horses across long distances for breeding, to helping with costly semen-banking and AI services to enable breeders across the country to make the best decisions in their conservation efforts.



We have come such a long way since Bob Brislawn's conservation efforts began in the '40s, but now, more than 70 years later, there is still so much to do to make sure these horses don't disappear.

Visit the HOA website to complete the membership form and choose your membership level. **https://horseoftheamericas.com**

- **Junior Membership** (for individuals aged 17 or younger): $15 **–** includes horse registration
- **Individual Membership:** $25 **–** includes 1 vote and horse registration
- **Family Membership: $30 –** includes 2 votes and horse registration
- **Farm/Ranch Membership:** $35 **–** includes 2 votes, horse registration and listing on HOA's Breeder Page, Annual 1 page advertisement in the newsletter.

Annual membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. We accept membership payments via PayPal or by check made out to **Horse of the Americas** and mailed to:

Heather Buss
698 Moonlight Road
Smithfield, VA 23430
Email:
heather.buss1@outlook.com



Horse of the Americas, Inc.

Annual Membership Form

All Membership fees are due on January 31st of each year.

Name: (please list all members)_____

_____

Farm & Ranch Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

City:_____**State:**_____**Zip/Postal Code:**_____

Telephone: (Home)_____**(Cell)**_____

Email Address:_____**Website:**_____

All Membership fees to be paid in U. S. Dollars only, International members please add $5.00 (postage).

Membership fees are as follows:

Jr. Member Only:	**$ 15.00**	**(Ages 17 & Under)**
Individual:	**$ 25.00**	**(1 vote)**
Family:	**$ 30.00**	**(2 votes)**
Farm & Ranch:	**$ 35.00**	**(2 votes)**

Family includes all family members: horses may be registered in any family name.

Farm & Ranch includes: 1) owners, horses registered by Farm/Ranch or owner's name.
2) qualify for listing on the HOA website: Breeders Page & Stallion Directory.
3) receive a free, one-page advertisement in the HOA Newsletter.

Horses must be registered with HOA. All award points follow the horse.
See our web site at https://horseoftheamericas.com
Look us up on Facebook at: Horse of the Americas, Groups

Print out this form and return to: HOA Treasurer, Heather Buss
698 Moonlight Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430

Payment available through PayPal to glpatterson62 @gmail.com or check (payable to HOA), or with a money order. The web site has a PayPal link for membership fees.