

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

Fall 2021 | Volume 18, Issue No. 2

NEWSLETTER



Photo: Display of Conquistador armor in the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History. Credit: Bob and Elsa Pendleton, <http://www.bobandelsa.com>.

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A Model Specimen

By Sara Annon – Santa Fe, New Mexico

In the fall of 1982, Byron Johnson, then curator of the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History (now simply known as the Albuquerque Museum) contacted me to explain that the Museum had recently acquired a full set of 15th Century Spanish armor from Spain for the mounted knight, his warhorse, his foot soldier and his war-dog. They had been able to create models to display the armor for the people and the dog, but were unable to find a horse model that would fit the armor.

Both the size and proportions of the models they had of modern Spanish horses and Quarter Horses were so different from those of the historic horse armor that they simply would not fit.

I had previously acquired a small herd of horses from old New Mexico bloodlines and was busy schooling, breeding and promoting them, so Mr. Johnson asked

if I could supply the Museum with measurements from some of my horses. I had about 25 horses, including mares, geldings and stallions. Happy to assist the Museum in its efforts, I measured those between 3 and 25 years of age, averaged the results and sent them off to Mr. Johnson.

The Museum then hired the man who made the horse models for the Kentucky Horse Hall of Fame to turn the measurements into a fiberglass model. When the model based on my horses' measurements arrived at the Museum, the armor fit the body perfectly. The only problem was that neither I, nor the model-maker, had thought to measure the distance between the horse's ears. In order for the chevron, or headpiece, to fit they had to reposition the model's ears further down and to the side of the model's poll.

It never occurred to me that the armor would not fit my horses, but until Drs. Sponenberg and Cochran began their DNA testing, that armor was the first and only objective evidence that any of the free-roaming horses in the USA were actually descendants of the horses that came to the New World with immigrants from Spain and Portugal.

The model and armor stood in the Museum's display of Spanish history for decades, but have since been removed due to the Museum's re-evaluation of how they present the history and cultures of the different peoples who make their homes here.

You can learn more about our horses on my blog, www.saraannon.wordpress.com.

Little Haista Lin

By Tom Norush – Attica, IN



Haista Lin (HOA-2459, Istahota Issiwein/ Buffalo Gal) was a small, wild-colored mare who had been part of the John Justice breeding program. She didn't fit the program, so I ended up trading with Randy Webster for her. Haista Lin gave us a number of really nice foals, most with color, but none were as colorful as she.

Haista Lin was living with my son Doug and his stallion, Dancin Hawk, on the edge of the prairie in western Indiana. One winter we had a really bad blizzard come through that snowed everyone in. On a dark, snowy and windy night, someone came knocking on Doug's door. His friend and neighbor, David, had slid his car into a ditch about a mile down the road with his wife and kids in the car.

Doug saddled up the horses and went out in the storm to bring them home. He got the two kids first; Haista Lin was just great with them. But when they went back for David's wife, Marie, Haista Lin wanted nothing to do with her.

Haista Lin was a little mare, about 13 hh and 600 lbs. Doug was a large man, about 6' 4", but he had no choice but to put Marie (a petite 5' 2") on Dancin Hawk and ride Haista Lin himself. It was quite a sight to see them riding through at least a foot of new-fallen snow, with Marie on the large, bright sorrel stallion and Doug riding the tiny, wild pinto mare.

Grumblings from the Grumpy Old Man

By Tom Norush – Attica, IN

I started writing this in late 2020, just after the election. We weren't able to publish a newsletter at the time, so I've been holding on to it.

We have just finished an election for the leadership of our country. Half of the people are happy, the other half very unhappy. I don't remember the country ever being this divided before. While I was out feeding my horses this evening, the thought came to me that the Colonial Spanish Horse world is in a similar situation.

Most of you know that I have pushed for unity among the different registries for ever. I firmly believe that until we can come together in our common interest we are not helping to save our horses. We are mimicking our elected officials and choosing self-interest over the good of the horses.

A very close friend last summer told me (in my words, not hers) that I am talking the talk, but not walking the walk. I was not always being positive about the other registries, etc. I was pushing unity, but looking for things with which to discount the other registries. And, yes, I was doing that very thing. Sometimes I need a 2x4 to the back of my head.

Our country is in turmoil and, sad to say, so is our Colonial Spanish Horse community. I don't have any idea of how to solve the problems with our society, nor of the problems within the world of Colonial Spanish Horses. I do feel that we all need to come together for our horses. That's not to say that your favorite bloodlines or strains are not good, but that we all need to be able to look at these horses with open and inclusive eyes and minds.

We have lost a number of the older breeders and those that are still around aren't breeding many horses these days. I haven't bred a horse in a few years now; I can't afford to and don't want the extra work ... getting a bit old to be fooling with foals. And I know I am not alone in that situation.

Can we have an open, honest discussion and exchange of ideas on what we can do for these horses as one united force, or are we looking at the end of the Spanish Mustangs/Colonial Spanish Horses? How many different registries are there for our horses? And how many registries are just sitting there for a few horses? How many registries are gone, and where are all the horses that they had registered?

We, in my humble opinion, need to have a national conversation about the future of our horses. I think it would be great if we could call a convention (a congress?) of Colonial Spanish/ Spanish Mustangers together to talk, combine ideas, strategize and work to help save our horses together. (By the way, I read somewhere that a group of baboons is also called a congress. Fitting???)

In 2015, I wrote about what we wanted for the HOA and our Spanish Horses. It's been more than six years, but we (HOA) are still here and active. And our wonderful Spanish Horses are still here.

Gretchen Patterson has a great database that includes most of the Spanish Mustangs. It's not a Stud Book, but it's very thorough – a work of love by Gretchen. HOA also has a great Awards Program that covers most

(Continued on Page 3)

American Indian Horse Registry Celebrates 60 Years!

By Nanci Falley, President, American Indian Horse Registry

The AIHR was established in 1961 in California for the purpose of collecting, recording and preserving the pedigrees of Native American horses. The registry moved to Arizona in 1968 and in 1979 came to Texas where it is still housed at Rancho San Francisco near Lockhart, Texas, together with a collection of western and Native American and a library



pertaining to the history of the breed. The breed had a profound impact on the founding of many American modern breeds. In recognition of this contribution, the AIHR has five classifications of registration. Not only are the Original Indian Horses eligible for registration, but their hybrids and modern descendants are as well. Registration classification is based on pedigree information, if known, DNA and inspection by photography and evaluation of each horse.



All the colors known in the horse world occur in this breed, from solid to roan to appaloosa to pinto, and any combination. No color or pattern is discriminated against. AIHR follows the old truism: "A good horse cannot be a bad color." Indian Horses are normally a smaller, more compact

animal shorter than 15 hands. A narrow but deep chest is normal. Hooves are hard and healthy and shoeing is not recommended. Indian Horses are well prepared by Mother Nature to survive hot summers, frigid winters, sloppy conditions and in between, on less feed than other breeds. They can be ridden long distances with fewer injuries, perform heavy ranch and range work with more power than many larger horses.

(Grumbings from the Grumpy Old Man, Continued from Page 2)

things that you can do on or with your Colonial Spanish Horse; Kathy Peacock has done a great job on that end. And we have our newsletter back; can't thank Courtney Hudson enough for that.

The HOA membership and leadership are also a great resource for information, advice and guidance. Of course, you always have Vik or myself to go to for help or advice. I'm the oldest of the two of us so my advice is aged somewhat, but Vik is pretty good for being the young damsel she is.

Photo: Wild Mustang in Little Book Cliffs; Credit: Traildog Artisans; Adobe Stock



Building an English Equestrian Team

By Cynthia Ojeda – Karma Farms, Marshall, TX

In 2018 and 2019, I started trying to show Heaven's Little Mystery (HOA-1741, Building a Mystery/Stairway to Heaven) on a small schooling circuit in Louisiana, as it had always been a dream of mine to do show-jumping and eventing.



Photo: Cynthia leads Lyla Wix on CWH Up 'N Adam

When I owned and showed modern horses, there was always an emphasis on specialized training for one discipline or another; however, our Colonial Spanish horses thrive on variety in their training, which makes them ideal candidates to represent the breed on a diverse show circuit.

We arrived Saturday afternoon so we could warm up in the arena before our show on Sunday. Upon arrival we



Photo: One Dance Left with Amelia Guy, now riding by herself in walk/trot poles

were welcomed by members of the club and never felt like we were out of place. CWH Up 'N Adam (HOA-1873, Corolla Wild Horses) competed in three divisions: leadline with Amelia Guy, and walk/trot poles and cross-rails with Dalilah Harris. El Condor Pasa (HOA-1848, Timber



Photos: (Top) Dalilah Harris at her first show on CWH Up 'N Adam, (Bottom) Dalilah posing with her English ribbons the week after the show, while taking a Western lesson.

Ghost/Ilo's Bonita Shaquita) carried Maddi Calderon in walk/trot poles and Carinna Le in walk/trot and cross-rails, showing with a great horse, however an old injury flared up and Mystic was suddenly experiencing discomfort when asked to perform.

My last show in Louisiana was on El Condor Pasa, riding in pony hunter, when our show schedule for the weekend changed. Condor had minimal work over jumps previously and had never seen oxers or roll-top jumps, but after a quick warmup, we completed our classes. As I got to thinking, I saw no reason why a well-trained Colonial Spanish Horse

wouldn't be able to pick up and help young riders excel in the show ring.

I spent the winter preparing Smoke and Mirrors (HOA-1981, El Condor Pasa/ Phantom's Fancy Lady) for his first shows and Dixieland (HOA-2112, Champagne Supernova/Heaven's Little Mystery) for in-hand future event horse classes and cross-rails, but by spring 2020, everything had been canceled or restricted due to the pandemic.

While the pandemic put a damper on our plans to show, it did seem to bring more people into the horse world. Our lesson programs in 2020 had us seeing twenty-five students once every week or two through the winter months, so by early 2021 I was coaching five students who were ready to show.

Most schooling show circuits hadn't started again yet in 2021, but I received an answer from the East Texas Hunter Jumper Club saying that they



Photos: (Top) Carinna Le and Dixieland won Reserve in all their classes and Reserve in her division overall. (Bottom) Dixieland on the rail with Carinna Le up.

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An Overview of the Brislawn Foundation Strain of Colonial Spanish Horses

By Gretchen Patterson — Nacogdoches, TX

Brislawn’s “knowledge, experience and the ranch — land to run the horses on,” put him in a good position to preserve the Spanish-type horse.

In 1940, Robert E. Brislawn, Sr., retired from U.S. Geological Survey work due to technological advances in surveying equipment, aerial photography and aerial mapping that replaced the need for teamsters, horses and mules.¹ The western ranges, now surveyed and mapped, developed into modern cities with irrigated agriculture, industrial complexes and tourist attractions, which meant less land for free-roaming, feral horses. After thirty years of travel and survey work, Brislawn stayed home, turning his hand to his family, cattle and horses.

When Brislawn’s wife, Gennevieve, died after a brief, sudden illness in 1942, he

was left to care for their children, the ranch, a small herd of working cow horses, and his retired survey packhorses.² Living on a ranch with livestock to feed and tend every day did not slow down for death and the family filled their days with ranch work. During the winter months, the older children stayed at St. Joseph’s Orphanage in Torrington, Wyoming, for school, but this proved difficult, especially with Wyoming’s harsh winters. Brislawn’s younger brother, Francis, home-schooled his nieces and nephews for two years until they were old enough to ride their horses to a distant country school.³

Brislawn’s horses and those he kept for the survey teams were either geldings or older mares. At that time, he only had one mare, Old Kate, that fit his description of a Spanish-type horse, but no stallions. His oldest daughter, Mabel Brislawn, recalled her father “talking to people who stated that the Spanish horse was being



Photo: Robert E. Brislawn, Sr. (1973) Spanish Mustang Registry Annual Meeting in Camino, California; Source: Colonial Spanish Horse Collection, A/323, East Texas Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University.

exterminated; that very few, if any, were left in the world, [and that] someone ought to do something to preserve these horses.”⁴ The turning point came when Jim Clark, a fellow surveyor, visited the Cayuse Ranch in 1943. The conversation drifted to the horses, and Clark insisted that Brislawn’s “knowledge, experience and the ranch — land to run the horses on,” put him in a good position to preserve the Spanish-type horse.⁵ Brislawn’s former survey chief, John Blackburn, concurred. What happened next was “the almost unavoidable, nearly predestined effort to prevent the willful and assiduous extinction of the Spanish (Indian) Pony.”⁶ Brislawn asked himself, “Could full-blooded Spanish horses still be found anywhere?”⁷ He decided that “It was time for spirited detective work.”⁸

With years of horse experience, Brislawn had a firm idea of conformation standards



Photo: Wild Mustangs in Little Book Cliffs; Credit: Traildog Artisans, Adobe Stock

that he believed defined the Spanish-type horse. Ranging in size from 13 to 15 hands in height and weighing between 800 to 1,000 pounds at maturity, Brislaw identified the distinct features that set Spanish-type horses apart from modern breeds:⁹

- “A narrow but deep chest that provides for greater lung capacity and rapid cooling ability” which is an important aspect for distance riding;
- “Long, well-angulated shoulders” that provide a smooth ride, especially at the trot;
- “Sharp, well-defined withers;”
- “Short, strong backs;”
- “A sloping croup (hip) and from the rear view; these horses are “rafter-hipped” with no distinct crease at the backbone;”
- “The body is equally balanced;”
- Elongated musculature as opposed to the “short, bunched musculing characteristic of the American Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, or American Paint Horse;”
- “A low tail set;”
- “The chestnuts and ergots are small or non-existent” – these are evolutionary remnants of toes before the hoof became one solid foot;
- “Heads generally have straight to concave foreheads and a nose that is straight or slightly convex. Heads can vary between long, finely made heads to shorter, deeper ones;”
- “Teeth meet evenly;”
- “Nostrils are small and crescent shaped but will flare wide with exertion or alertness;”
- “Ears are small and usually hooked” with abundant ear hair to prevent bugs from reaching the ear canal;
- “A long, ground-covering stride.”
- “Dense cannon bones (lower legs) are nearly round rather than flat;” and

- “The first cervical vertebra (known as the atlas) has wings that are more lobed rather than semi-circular.”¹⁰

The search for mares and stallions that matched these requirements as a Spanish horse began with two Indian mares acquired from the Crow Reservation in Montana in 1943. Two other mares came from New Mexico and one from northern Mexico. In the summer of 1945, Brislaw met Monty and Sadie Holbrook who were trailing a small band of horses down the “D” road that ran in front of the Cayuse Ranch. As itinerant horse traders, the Holbrooks travelled between Utah, Montana and Canada catching, selling and buying horses.¹¹ The horses that day were captured “from the Green River Canyon badlands and along the Book Cliffs [in Utah]. Only the toughest horses and the hardiest folks ever made their way into and out of the Book Cliffs.”¹² Brislaw bought a young grulla stallion and named him *Buckshot*.¹³ Two years later, Brislaw’s older brother, Ferdy, purchased a full-brother to *Buckshot* from the Holbrooks and named him *Ute*.¹⁴ These two stallions, *Buckshot* and *Ute*, were the first SMR foundation stallions. Both were sired by Holbrook’s Book Cliffs stallion, *Monty*, and out of a Ute Indian Reservation mare (probably captured in the Book Cliffs).

These seven horses formed the nucleus of the original Cayuse Ranch herd. Brislaw travelled extensively throughout the western ranges searching remote areas for Spanish-type horses, adding only thirteen to the herd by 1949. He knew his task was difficult but believed that success was possible with a little luck and a lot of faith. Ferdy joined the mission but remained in the background while Brislaw did the traveling and talking to anyone who had a lead or a location of Spanish-type horses. The Brislaw brothers also shared their vision with a small group of horsemen and women who wanted to help with the preservation effort. They followed the example of Spanish horse organizations in Chile (1893), Argentina (1923), and Brazil (1932) “whose purpose was to preserve the descendants of the mounts that Spanish Conquistadors rode.”¹⁵

Brislaw’s loosely formed association was incorporated in 1957, as the Spanish Mustang Registry (SMR) under Wyoming state laws. Brislaw, Ferdy, his eldest son Emmett, and Dr. Lawrence P. Richards were the first directors and officers.¹⁶ When Brislaw started numbering horses in June 1957, *Buckshot* received the #1 number; his brother, *Ute* was #2. Seventy horses were registered by 1958 with the Brislaw horses receiving the first twenty



Photo: *Buckshot* (SMR-1) with Robert E. Brislaw, Sr.; Source: Colonial Spanish Horse Collection, A/323, East Texas Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University.

numbers. The first tally or studbook, published in 1969, listed 218 horses.¹⁷

Bob Brislaw's goal to restore and preserve the Spanish horse had become a solid reality rather than a dream.

Sources

1. Mendenhall, *Annual Report of the Director of the United States Geological Survey to the Secretary of the Interior for the Year Ending the 30th of June 1938* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, 1938), 142. Accessed March 9, 2018. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/ar/59/report.pdf>.
2. Neil UiBreaslain, *The Way of an Irish Horseman*, (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2006), 130.
3. UiBreaslain, *Irish Horseman*, 131.
4. Mabel Brislaw, *Spanish Mustangs and Hard Times: I've Known Some*, (Lexington, KY: Bob Brislaw Memorial Society, 2014), 123-24.
5. Brislaw, *Spanish Mustangs*, 124
6. UiBreaslain, *Irish Horseman*, 139.
7. UiBreaslain, *Irish Horseman*, 139.
8. UiBreaslain, *Irish Horseman*, 140.
9. Author's Note: A hand is equal to four inches; horse height is measured in a straight line from the ground to the top of the withers (shoulder).
10. Phillip Spönenberg, DVM, "Conformation in "North American Colonial Spanish Horse Update" (Blacksburg: Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, July 2011), accessed March 18, 2017, <http://www.horseoftheamericas.com/conformation.htm>. See also: Brislaw, *Spanish Mustangs and Hard Times*, 158.
11. Monty and Sadie Holbrook did not have a permanent address, although at one time, according to Jeff Edwards, they lived in Craig, Colorado. The author researched several sources but was unable to find any information about the Holbrook family beyond being mentioned by Mabel Brislaw in *Spanish Mustangs and Hard Times*, by Neil UiBreaslain in *The Way of an Irish Horseman*, and *Horse of the Americas Newsletters* by Jeff Edwards.
12. UiBreaslain, *Irish Horseman*, 141; According to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), "Between Price, Utah and Grand Junction, Colorado are miles of barren, windswept terrain and the thousand-foot-high wall of the Book Cliffs that winds for 250 miles across Utah and Colorado. It is the longest continuous escarpment in the world. Near the town of Green River, Utah, a second escarpment, the Roan Cliffs, rise above the Book Cliffs, and together the two climb a vertical mile above the desert. From a distance, the double rampart appears to be a smooth, unbroken wall, but on closer inspection, it resolves into a complicated network of spurs, ridgelines, and canyons." Small bands of horses resided in the region until the mid-twentieth century; Monty Holbrook captured Monty, the sire of Buckshot and Ute, from the Book Cliffs, accessed July 18, 2017, <https://suwa.org/multimedia/map/book-cliffsdesolationcanyon-region/>.
13. Author's Note: The grulla horse color resembles the color of gunpowder, although the color may also be described as "mouse gray."
14. UiBreaslain, *Irish Horseman*, 141. Author's Note: Buckshot was a grulla; Ute was an orange dun.
15. Don Worcester, *The Spanish Mustang: From the Plains of Andalusia to the Prairies of Texas* (El Paso: University of Texas Press, 1986), 77.
16. Spanish Mustang Registry, Certificate of Incorporation 1980-000073811, Wyoming Compiled Statutes, 1945, Section 44-101, 1957. Note: Dr. Lawrence P. Richards was a professor of Zoology at the University of Illinois in 1957. He was a regular correspondent with Bob Brislaw and assisted with the legalities and paperwork for incorporation.
17. Robert E. Brislaw, Sr. and Kitty UiBreaslain, *Spanish Mustang Registry Tally Book, 1957-1969* (Oshoto: Wyoming, 1969), 20.

(Building an English Equestrian Team, Continued from Page 4)



Photo: Maddie Calderon on El Condor Pasa, grand champion in walk/trot poles

would be hosting shows in Greenville, TX, through the summer. I was fortunate to have assembled a team of talented riders from diverse backgrounds, but many of the chief complaints of the show world were judges being biased against small horses, different colored horses, and equestrians of color.

As I had only communicated with the Club through Facebook and text messages (and due to my previous interactions with other clubs) I was somewhat dubious about what we were going to experience at these shows. As luck would have it, we were pleasantly surprised.

As the 2021 show season progressed, we took more riders and horses, including

Dixieland, Simple Gifts (HOA-1804, Flaming Pie/Blue Spanish Sky), Razzle Dazzle Ghost (HOA-2182, Timber Ghost/Written on the Wind), and One Dance Left (HOA-1081, Locomotion/Queen of the Silver Dollar), who even earned his first points in English classes. We took six different horses with eight different riders, with several horses carrying their riders in their first shows and to their first reserve and grand champion ribbons.

I chose the East Texas Hunter Jumper Club because they were welcoming and affordable, and in doing so we promoted



Photo: Cynthia Ojeda on El Condor Pasa with their ribbons in 2' jumper division



Photo: Cynthia Ojeda on El Condor Pasa with their ribbons in 2' jumper division

our horses to a new audience and made the show ring more diverse.

Karma Farms's Colonial Spanish Horses have always been known for their accomplishments in competitive trail riding and in the western and Indian Horse show rings, and I am enjoying being able to follow my own dreams in taking them to new adventures under English saddle.

TRAINING INSIGHTS

Three Cs and Let Them Be

By Kelly Anders – Blue Raven Farms, Tyner, NC

How do you make a horse that says “NO” say “yes”?

One of the questions I get asked most often is, “how do you make a horse that says ‘NO’ say ‘yes’?”

We do that with the Three Cs as part of our foundation building blocks. Every training uses three core principles to ensure we are rewarding effort and fostering future participation from our horses. You cannot force a horse to perform for you; you present them the choice of doing something or not.

It’s no big deal if they say no. In training, failure can often be success, but making sure to acknowledge and reward a horse’s efforts is essential in creating that success.

Command. Think of the noun, not the verb. A good leader uses guidance, not force. When a horse isn’t doing what you’re asking them to, it’s usually because they aren’t fit enough or they don’t understand the request. It’s cruel to punish a living creature for not being able to do something it is not prepared to do. Failing to prepare your horses to achieve success undermines your leadership.

Calm. Don’t get all hyped up. Quiet confidence is what everyone looks for when they are in a stressful situation.



Photo: Kelly Anders training with Lyrical Moment (HOA Registration Pending).

Horses in a herd are no different. They seek out the horse that will guide them with assuredness when issues arise.

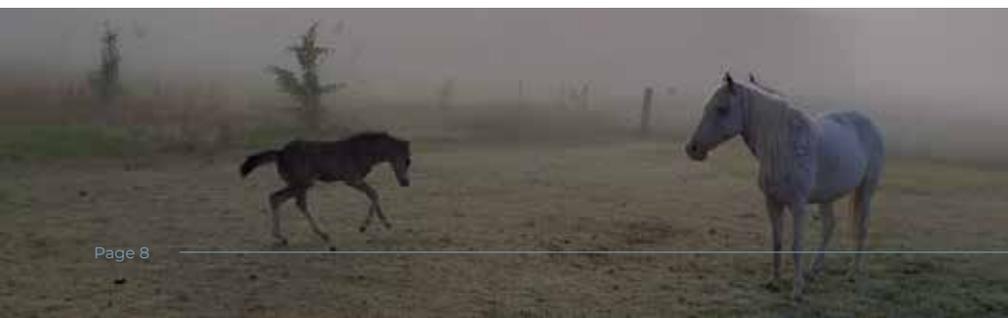
Consistency. Maintain clear and consistent boundaries. Don’t allow a behavior one day and then punish a horse for that same behavior the next. Be dependable. Horses need to know that you will be the same person today and tomorrow.

If you want to learn how to teach a horse to go from “NO” to “Well, Maybe...” to “YES!,” the Three Cs will go a long way toward helping you achieve your goal.

Feel free to join us on Facebook at Horse Training Talk: Commonsense Horsemanship.

*blueravenfarmswrites@gmail.com
IG and FB: Blue Raven Farms
#commonsensehorsemanship*

Photo: RE Kitty Hawk (HOA-1972, Wayward Wind/Cheyenne Dog Soldier) and her 2021 filly BRF Hawkeye Jemstone (HOA Registration Pending, by Scoundrel Days); Credit: Kelly Anders



HOA AWARDS

It’s Awards Season Again!

The Horse of the Americas Awards Program is designed to promote and acknowledge the accomplishments of HOA members and their HOA-registered Colonial Spanish Horses through shows, trail competitions, parades, farm and ranch work and various other horse activities.

An overview of the HOA Awards is provided here. Award submission forms and a complete list of rules and instructions can be found on the HOA website at: www.horseoftheamericas.com.

Submissions for this year should be mailed or emailed to Gretchen Patterson no later than January 15, 2022. Award recipients will be announced February 14:

Gretchen Patterson
502 N Steen Drive
Nacogdoches, TX, 75965
glpatterson62@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM KATHY

First I would like to say thank you to all of the HOA members who have participated in the HOA Awards Program over the last several years. It has been an honor to be your Awards Chairperson since 2008, but it is now time for me to resign my position and pass these rewarding duties on to a new member.

I have truly enjoyed being able to present these many Awards to you and your horses over the years. I have especially loved hearing about how hard our younger generation has worked to earn the Buckaroo Award. I have met many wonderful people during my time with the HOA, and hope to continue to remain in contact with you all!

Horse of the Americas Awards

CAROL STONE AMBASSADOR AWARD

Awarded to the HOA MEMBER who accumulates the most points in the Promotion category from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

This is an annual award given in loving memory of Carol Stone, a long time friend and lover of Colonial Spanish Horses and their owners.

Points are awarded for:

- Promotion to the Public (local) – 5 points/day (schools, library, youth groups, parades, etc.)
- Promotion to the Public (national) – 10 points/day (expos, fairs, festivals, local or national)
- News Article (local) – 10 points
- News Article (national) – 15 points
- Media Advertising Promoting HOA – 1 point (ads, flyers, brochures for exposure)
- Each photo in an article – 1 point

BUCKAROO AWARD

Awarded to HOA MEMBERS who are 18 years of age or younger for accumulating 50 points in any of the accepted categories. Points may be earned on different horses, but horse(s) must be HOA-registered.

SUNDANCE AWARD

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES who have accumulated 300 points in any of the accepted categories.

LEGEND AWARDS

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES for accumulating 500 points in any of the following individual categories:

- Show (Show and Sport)
- Distance (Competitive/Endurance)
- Pleasure Trail (Ride and Drive)
- Time (Speed Events)
- Farm and Ranch Work (Competitive/ On the Farm)

CABALLOS DE CORAZÓN

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES for accumulating 1,000 points in any of the accepted categories.

SEASONAL AWARDS

Awarded each year, for most points accumulated by an HOA-registered HORSE from September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021.

- PLEASURE TRAIL RIDING HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for the most points earned while being ridden on the trail during pleasure or organized rides.
- PLEASURE TRAIL DRIVING HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for the most points earned while being driven on the trail during pleasure or organized drives.
- SPORT HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for the most points earned during Horse Shows in all English disciplines, including jumping, dressage, hunt seat, driving, eventing and cross-country.

- SHOW HORSE OF THE YEAR
Awarded for the most points earned during Horse Shows for halter, pleasure and western classes (does not include Sport Horse or Speed events)
- SPEED EVENTS HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for the most points earned during timed events during Horse Shows/Trail Courses.
- FARM AND RANCH WORK HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for the most points earned for work on a Farm or Ranch.
- FARM AND RANCH WORK HORSE OF THE YEAR IN COMPETITION; Awarded for the most points earned in Competition Ranchwork such as team penning, team sorting, cutting, mounted shooting, etc.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Awarded each year, for the MOST points accumulated by an HOA-registered HORSE during the CALENDAR YEAR from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

- COMPETITIVE TRAIL HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for points earned during Competitive Trail Rides.
- ENDURANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for points earned during Endurance Trail Rides.
- COMPETITIVE TRAIL CHALLENGE HORSE OF THE YEAR: Awarded for the most points earned during Trail Challenge Courses in Competition.

Mission Imperative: Are you a member of the HOA?

By Courtney Hudson – Norfolk, VA

Many of you recognize the great value of the HOA and the hard work that goes into keeping a volunteer-run organization operating smoothly. To all current HOA members, the HOA wants to extend its sincere appreciation for your continued support and appreciation of the HOA's mission and efforts.

The HOA currently provides so many great services to the Colonial Spanish Horse community, from maintaining an extensive 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 50 paying members! Our Facebook group alone has more than 900 followers! That means that roughly 95% of our Facebook followers alone are not paying members of the HOA.

The HOA understands that the pandemic, drought and other crises out of our control have created difficult financial times for many, and the holidays make things even tighter, but all it takes is a small investment in the HOA to make a real difference in our coordinated efforts.

An annual HOA membership for an individual costs \$15; a family membership costs \$20! That's the cost of a few peppermint mochas, a couple cases of soda or lunch at any fast food establishment nowadays.

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 conservation efforts if more enthusiasts invested in an HOA membership – from helping to support critical herds in times of need, to providing more exposure opportunities 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, and so much more.

Members of the HOA also receive additional benefits like voting rights on important HOA activities and initiatives.

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.

We make it easy to become a member!

Visit the HOA website to complete the membership form and choose your membership level. Annual membership levels are:

- Junior Membership (for individuals aged 17 or younger): \$10
- Individual Membership: \$15 – includes 1 vote
- Family Membership: \$20 – includes 2 votes
- Farm/Ranch Membership: \$25 – includes 2 votes and listing on HOA's Breeder Page

An 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:

Tomlyn Grey
202 Forest Trail Rd
Marshall, TX 75672

You can direct any questions you have regarding membership to Tomlyn Grey at: thetomlette@gmail.com.

Karma Farms

Looking to add a fabulous Colonial Spanish filly?

Karma Farms offers

Dancer and the Moon

by Smoke and Mirrors

out of Palomino Days.



She is a dun roan appaloosa foaled April 22, 2021. Sire is 42+% Belsky with McKinley/Romero, Book Cliffs and Northern Rancher. All his foals are beautifully conformed appaloosas, sweet and easily trained. Dam is ivory champagne by Tambourine Man, a champagne overo son of Choctaw Sun Dance. She is out of a Thunder Heart daughter. "Thunder" is by Rowdy Yates. \$2000 weaned, halter-trained, taught to lead, load, and tie. (903) 407-0298



CopperHeadRanch



Little Thunder Girl

Tobiano Medicine Hat Mare Foaled 2017
By Dakota Tears out of Special's Little Missy
Started under saddle, very calm and easy going
HOA #2150

2017 Foals-HOA pending

Charlie Siringo

Classic Champagne colt by Riggy's Something
Special out of Moonlight Sonata

Gringo Pistolero

Red Dun colt by Northern Song out of Honci



Blue'sHeatherBreeze

Blue Corn Roan Mare Foaled 2017
By Rigaleto's Something Special out of Misty Blue
Moon Rising
Started under saddle, willing with brio.
HOA #2149

Come Along Willie

Champagne Gelding Foaled 2015
By Torchwood out of My Wonder Woman
Green broke to ride, will need miles to be
finished.
HOA # 2148



Contact Patricia Leopold Or Curtis George
CopperHeadCSM@Yahoo.com Copper Head Ranch on Facebook

Board of Directors

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Special Consultant	: Dr. Phil Sponenberg
Membership Director	: Sheila Brown

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Courtney Hudson
Newsletter Editor

As you can see, we have a packed newsletter this season, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to

all of our contributors for taking the time to share their stories, experiences and knowledge with our membership. This kind of sharing is one of the great things that the HOA organization inspires among lovers of Colonial Spanish Horses across the country.

Individually, we are horse people who recognize, appreciate and love these incredible horses, but together, we are a force that can

actively save them from extinction. To truly preserve the unique traits and genetic makeup of this breed and share its diversity and wide range of capabilities with the world, we can only succeed by working together, sharing experience and helping one another. I am thankful that the HOA organization recognizes the importance of these collaborative efforts and that its members are eager and actively working to do just that.

Questions? Ideas for future newsletter articles? I would love to hear from you.

I can be reached by email at courtneyhudson@gmail.com.

Photo: Spanish Mustang mares; Credit: Mark, Adobe Stock

Upcoming Officer Elections



Elections for President and Vice President of the Board for Horse of the Americas are coming at the end of the year. All HOA members will have the opportunity to vote for candidates for these leadership roles.

If you are interested in being a candidate for one of these positions, please notify Gretchen Patterson no later than December 10, 2021:

Gretchen Patterson
502 N Steen Drive
Nacogdoches, TX, 75965
gipatterson62@gmail.com

