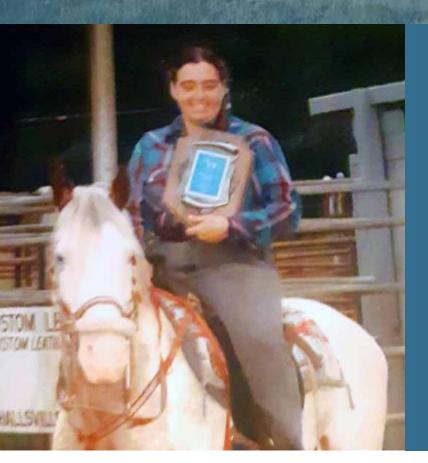
HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

Winter 2022 | Volume 19, Issue No. 1

NEWSLETTER





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From the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony

By Vickie Ives, HOA President

Charlie Siringo's most popular book was A Texas Cowboy, Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony. I bet almost all Colonial Spanish Horse lovers have read or even own a copy of it.

Naming my new president's column was easy; I have loved Charlie's book for more than half a century, and I've got Charlie beat by 22 years.

Leana and Buddy Rideout introduced me to America's First Horse around 1970 and by 1971 I had purchased my first — a uniquely colorful son of the fine Gilbert-Jones-bred Choctaw stallion Choctaw Ghost Dancer, and out of the fine mare

Rosario, one of three Huasteca-Indianbred horses Gilbert Jones imported from Old Mexico.

He was a yearling stallion bred by my dear friend and personal mentor Nanci Falley, president of the American Indian Horse Registry, at her Rancho San Francisco in Lockhart, Texas. She named him Choctaw Sun Dance. He was foaled April 26, 1981, but it was 1985 before I started riding him. He was my first Colonial Spanish Horse and I wanted to know his mind before I started campaigning him. Since I started showing "Dance", I have only competed on our horses. So, by my calculations, I had

Charlie tied in 2000. 2022 makes 37 years I have been riding and promoting our rare and important breed.

Dance and I did open shows, Mustang shows, American Indian Horse shows, competitive trail riding with the North American Trail Ride Conference, parades and who knows how many exhibitions of his wonderful trick routine? He was my soul horse, my best friend, my dauntless companion. He was my First. I bet lots of you have felt that wonder, that oneness, that exuberance of sharing hearts with a truly remarkable horse.



Photo: Choctaw Sun Dance

Yet I have been graced by sharing my life with so many other great Colonial Spanish Horses that you may have heard of: stallions like Rowdy Yates, El Tigre Segundo and Timber Ghost; mares like Espéranza, Liona, Meet Virginia and My Sunshine; and so many honest and hard-working geldings that I would hate to name call, but only one stands at the top of that list: my daughter Tommi's "best little black horse in the whole world," Fernando. Now, as I turn 73 on March 10th, I think it is time to share their stories. I sure hope you would like to hear them.

I will also take time out from telling horse stories to actually talk about what the HOA is doing... and get some input from our members on what you would like to see us do.

We are starting by holding an online auction in April to raise money for our 2021 and 2022 awards and to begin the re-funding of our Lido's Fund, a fund used to help HOA members and their horses in times of extreme need to keep the remaining Colonial Spanish Horses safe and protected. Our Vice President, Annette Baca-Garcia, is chairing this project of the Executive Committee and

we need donations and helping hands to put this all together. Email Annette or me if you'd like to serve on the auction committee to help us put it on or to donate items for the sale.

We are also in the process of naming representatives from around the country and the world to be a part of our Executive Committee. If you live in proximity to other breeders and owners and feel you can get their input and represent them in our Executive Committee, we would love to hear from you. This committee meets by Zoom and likely will continue to meet online so that we can meet the needs of our members around the world, sharing opinions and concerns without bankrupting the farm. Please do not volunteer to serve as your area rep if you cannot meet by Zoom.

We are also planning our first online horse show for this spring! And guess what? We need planners and approved judges to volunteer to help us put this first one together, especially if you have experience organizing such an event.

Last but not least, if you are NOT an approved judge but want to learn how our horses are judged, or if you feel you would like to brush up on our criteria, we are planning a judges' training session here at Karma Farms this spring. Annette will be bringing her new Baca-Chica-bred stallion to the farm on her way home to New Mexico. We hope to be able to enjoy a visit and share some info and ideas with those who want to come and learn in person. Our new treasurer Tommi Grey plans to film the session and put together our first judges' training film. We'll share more on this live get-together when we know the date that Annette and friends plan to arrive.

I would also like to welcome, Adam Edwards, our new Youth Director. He has some big plans for our kids, including helping to set up more farms and breeders to share their know-how with local youth organizations and starting a scholarship fund for HOA youth members.

For those of you who have expressed an interest in Gretchen's Master's thesis on the founders of Colonial Spanish Horse preservation, we are studying the feasibility of printing it as a paperback available through HOA. New t-shirts and maybe even a Colonial Spanish Horse kid's book are also in the works.

WE ARE TODAY'S HOA.

To our new members: you are the future of this historic breed. Get involved. Encourage your Colonial-Spanish-Horseowner friends to join the HOA! Gift an HOA membership to the folks who buy your horses. Volunteer to help with one or more of these important projects. All the tomorrows for our breed are in our hands today. Let's not drop the ball.







Photo: Rosa (third from left) joins the hunt

A Colonial Spanish Horse in the Hunt

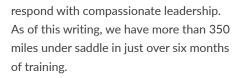
By S.A. Borders-Shoemaker – Smithfield, VA

It was as if she had been born for it. Rosa, my grulla, registered American Indian Pony, swelled with excited breath. The hounds called out and her head turned in their direction. Her attention was sharp but relaxed, neither overexcited nor anxious. She was simply ready for the next run. This was our second hunt and our first formal meet, but well-turned-out or not, she rose to the occasion. This Colonial Spanish Horse was truly in her element.

That's the thing foxhunts and mustangs have in common for me: I planned for neither to be a part of my life. Yet, circumstance led me to both. Growing up training primarily in English, Foxhunting was something I heard about but never had the opportunity to try. And while crosstraining in Dressage and Endurance Riding made me an adept rider, Foxhunting itself seemed forever evasive. Yet, a friend generously offered me a horse and place in the 2020 Opening Hunt with the James River Hunt Club, and I was instantly hooked. The thrill of the runs and the warm camaraderie made a strong impression on me, and I wanted my next horse to be suitable for this pursuit.

And although I had been looking for a more traditional mount, Rosa captured my attention from the very moment I saw her. Colonial Spanish Horses, generally called "mustangs" by those unfamiliar with them, had always been portrayed to me as hard-to-train and highly dangerous, an option that shouldn't be considered. Yet, as my husband and I began volunteering with Steve Edwards at Mill Swamp Indian Horses in Smithfield, VA, I began to understand that I was more than capable of taking on the task of gentling a mustang. I learned about Colonial Spanish Horses, their excellent dispositions and conformation, and just how much these small equines break the mold of expectation. These hearty and intelligent ponies truly changed the way I think, and quickly won my respect.

When I first purchased Rosa in May 2021, I focused my training efforts to accommodate both Endurance Riding and Foxhunting. The young lady who gentled her from the wild to being greenbroke to ride used natural horsemanship as her guide, and I followed suit. By growing as a team in confidence and communication, this young mare learned to clearly convey her feelings and I was able to



For those considering Foxhunting with their own Colonial Spanish Horse, here is my advice. First, have fun! The primary focuses of most hunt clubs are safety and enjoyment, so relax! I would recommend focusing your training at home on your English-riding skills, building confidence on the trails, riding in groups and having dogs accompany you (when possible), clear communication between you and your horse, trailering, and being able to comfortably have your horse ride up to 15-20 miles without being overworked or too tired. Some other key skills to consider are standing still while mounted, staying in place while other horses pass, remaining calm while riding faster gaits, and the ability to at least jump logs. You should inquire as to whether the hunt you ride with requires your horse to be able to jump large obstacles, or if there are options to circumnavigate them. Generally, hunt clubs will encourage you to ride in third flight if you prefer not to

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ANATOMY LESSONS

The Colonial Spanish Atlas Bone

By Sara Annon – Santa Fe, NM

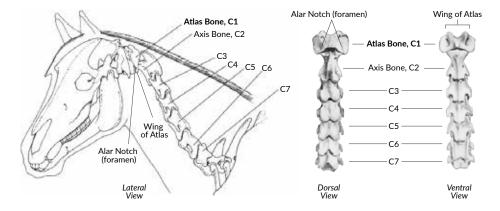
When I finally found a longeing cavesson that came close to meeting my criteria for humane head gear, it came with an "ergonomically"-designed headstall. I wanted the cheek strap that prevented the headstall from sliding into the horse's eyes and the padded noseband without chains, cables or metal plates inserted. It wasn't until I was putting the new headstall on my Colonial Spanish stallion Asad that I realized I had a problem.



Photo: EHF Asad in October 2021

When I put the ergonomically designed headstall I had purchased on his head, it made him uncomfortable. His ears are set so far apart that the ends of the curves designed to accommodate the base of his ears press into them instead. It was a problem I had run into before.

When I sent measurements of my Colonial Spanish Horses to the Albuquerque Museum so they could fabricate a model to fit their set of 15th century Spanish horse armor, it didn't occur to me to send them ear measurements. When the model arrived, the armor fit perfectly except for the chevron or face piece. The model maker had placed the ears high and close together, as is commonly seen on modern horses, but it became clear that 15th century Spanish armor was



made for horses whose ears are set lower and wider apart than those on modern horses. It turns out that the characteristic broad forehead and wideset ears that fit the 15th Century Spanish armor are also found in our Colonial Spanish Horses today.

When Sharon May-Davis ("The Bone Lady") viewed a number of skeletons from Vickie Ives's Colonial Spanish Horse graveyard in the early 2000s, she observed that the shape of their Atlas vertebra (the first cervical vertebra behind the skull, or C1) differed from those of other breeds. She noted that the Wing of Atlas (also known as the transverse process of C1), appears in most breeds as a semi-circular, lateral, downward-facing extension from the vertebral body.

In the Colonial Spanish Horse, the Wing of Atlas starts in the same place as it does in other horses, from the upper edge of the jugular groove, but instead of traveling upwards towards the ear, it deviates dorsally towards the nuchal ligament (centered under the mane). To palpate the Atlas bone in your Colonial Spanish Horse, run your thumb or forefinger along its wing and note the sharp upward angulation.

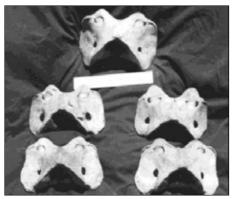


Photo: The Atlas bone from a modern horse (top) compared to those of four Colonial Spanish Horses (below). Source: Sharon May-Davis

Other aspects of the Colonial Spanish cervical vertebrae Sharon May-Davis found to be of note were the dorsal area caudal to the Alar region, the spinal foramen, the actual shape of the wing from convex to concave and the articulating surface of C1 that receives the dens from the Axis (C2).

Because the Atlas and Axis are two very unique vertebrae that define the range of motion of a horse's head, such a distinctive and consistent variation in their shape must also be consistently reflected in the horse's movement. And, indeed, the elevated head and neck and the vertical profile so greatly prized in upper-level

Click here to continue reading on page 10.

FEATURE

Report on Approved HOA Strains

By Gretchen Patterson (HOA Registrar), Nacogdoches, TX, and Vickie Ives (HOA President), Marshall, TX

In 2001, the HOA had registered just over 150 horses when we last published a list of approved HOA strains in our second newsletter. As of this writing, our Registrar, Gretchen Patterson, has recorded 1,331 horses since we recorded number #1001 and amassed a work-in-progress database of nearly 7,300 Colonial Spanish Horses.

The first 1,000 numbers in the HOA's database have been reserved for important strain genetic contributors, leading sires and dams of the past, and for those horses we wish to one day recognize for their accomplishments in promoting our breed even though they lived before HOA was re-established. One day we will use history, member input and Gretchen's database to assign those first 1000 numbers for history and the honor of the breed.

As of 2022, approved HOA Strains include:

- Robert and Ferdie Brislawn
- Book Cliffs (before BLM addition of stock from outside HMAs; no longer eligible from the wild except by inspection)



Photo: San Domingo, SMR #4; 100% Brislawn Foundation



Photo: Chief Pushmataha, SMR #47; 100% Choctaw



Photo: Choctaw Sun Dance, SMR #1282; 50% Choctaw/ Gilbert Jones Foundation, 50% Huasteca

- Original Horse of the Americas herd collected by Robert Brislawn and Jeff Edwards
- Gilbert Jones
- Tribal strains, mainly Choctaw, Cherokee and Huasteca
- Spanish Barbs
- Wilbur-Cruce
- Romero/McKinley
- Tally Johnson/"Cap" Yates
- Ilo Belsky

- Joty Baca/Baca Chica
- Havasupai (Grand Canyon)
- Bankers (Corolla, Shackleford, Currituck)
- Florida Crackers
- Marsh Tackys
- Pryor Mountains (by inspection only, unless descended from previously registered stock)
- Sulphur (by inspection only, unless from previously registered stock)
- Kiger (by inspection only, unless from previously registered stock)
- Cerbat (by inspection only, unless from previously registered stock)

Foundation horses for strains such as the Brislawn lines, Book Cliffs lines, original Horse of the America's lines, Robert Painter Barb lines, Gilbert Jones lines, the Tribal strains, the Wilbur-Cruce, Ilo Belsky lines, Havasupai/Grand Canyon lines, the Tally Johnson/"Cap" Yates lines, and perhaps even others, may overlap. For example, many of the foundation horses for the Brislawn strain came from horses captured by Monty Holbrook in the Book Cliffs range. HOA strain information may



Photo: WC Padre Kino, HOA #1186; 100% Wilbur-Cruce



Photo: Midnight Storm, HOA #2206, SMR #3942; 40.625% Brislawn Foundation, 34.375% Book Cliffs, 12.5% Choctaw, 6.25% Cerbat, 3.125% Crow, 3.125% Feral-Nevada

show overlapping percentages and add up to more than 100%. For example, a Book Cliffs ancestor that was part of the early established Brislawn herd would be 100% Book Cliffs and also 100% Brislawn.

Strain lines are named to our best known accuracy today, yet even these may overlap. We know that lines originally preserved by Gilbert Jones, Jewel Whitmire and several Choctaw families, plus those Tribal horses collected by the Brislawn family, are part of the Jones strain, the Brislawn strain, and tribal strains such as the Choctaw, Cherokee and Havasupai (Grand Canyon) horses.

The strains are preserved in these several groups for a reason. For example, the Jones foundation horses are not all tribal horses. The Susie line, for example, is a Texas line that Gilbert himself had owned since he was a teenager. Not all Brislawn foundation horses are Book Cliffs, such as the beloved San Domingo, but all Book Cliffs seem to owe their preservation to the Brislawns.

When HOA uses the term "Foundation," we are referring to the original horses that made up the early days of collecting that strain. Correctly, a horse can be Foundation-bred or from straight Foundation stock, but unless a breeder is collecting a group with intentions of creating a new strain, the success of which can only be judged by future breeders of Colonial Spanish Horses. Only time will tell if it can actually be called a unique strain.



Photo: Wayward Wind, HOA #1751, SMR #1599; 37.5% Book Cliffs, 25% Cheyenne; 12.5% Brislawn; 12.5% Sulphur Mountains, 12.5% Choctaw



Photo: First Lad, HOA #1636; 50% Sulphur Mountains, 15.625% Robert Painter Foundation, 15.625% Brislawn Foundation, 6.25% Book Cliffs, 6.25% Romero/McKinley, 3.125% Choctaw, 3.125% Cheyenne



Photo: CWH Stitch, HOA #2096; 100% Corolla Island/ Outer Banks, North Carolina



Photo: Barrier Island Nightlight, HOA #1934; 100% Marsh Tacky



Photo: Scoundrel Days, HOA #1313; 37.5% Book Cliffs, 12.5% Grand Canyon, 12.5% Feral-Utah; 12.5% HOA Foundation; 12.5% Sulphur Mountains, 6.25% Brislawn Foundation. 6.25% Shoshoni Indian

The notation of each horse's strain information on HOA registration papers is only one of the significant reasons why registering horses with the HOA gives Colonial Spanish Horse breeders more information from which to make smart breeding decisions.

Please be sure to register all of your horses with the HOA to help us increase the numbers of our rare and historic horses and insure they remain genetically viable. We hope to make a difference that can meaningfully promote and preserve "America's First Horse" far into the 21st century and beyond.

Each set of HOA papers has three four-color photos of the horse printed on the back of the paper (no glued photos), a five-generation pedigree, plus strain percentages and accomplishment information. Each comes notebook-ready in a plastic page protector. Each set of papers is also stored in the HOA archives so that they may be reprinted easily if papers are lost or damaged.

Breeders may submit registration information digitally. Sending digital forms and/or pictures? Contact Gretchen Patterson at (903) 407-3260 or email her at glpatterson62@gmail.com before sending.

TRAINING INSIGHTS

Equine Behavioral Repathing

By Kelly Anders – Blue Raven Farms, Tyner, NC

Some horses are cool characters. They can take a joke, don't get upset easily and generally take whatever comes in stride. Other horses react disproportionately, the smallest disturbance a catalyst for fight or flight. When you're on a horse's back, there's no question which horse all of us would rather ride.

The question is ... how do you help a horse become capable of processing through its fight or flight instincts? It can be really frustrating to feel that your horse has the potential to be a great partner while watching them act like a disaster. The great news is that one of horses' survival mechanisms is also to take the path of least resistance. They're not typically going to waste energy that might be needed to outrun predators if they can help it.

One of the most successful tools for helping a horse learn to process stimuli is what I call Equine Behavioral Repath Sequencing. Synaptic plasticity, or activity-driven modification, allows the horse to absorb incoming information instead of just reacting to it. This tool involves using deliberate, repetitive motions to change behavior reactions and habits.

You need to plan EBRS.

- What is the horse's behavior you want to modify? Why are they doing it?
- What behavior do you want them to display? What is keeping them from doing it?
- What are the logical steps to move the horse from A to B?

Every horse is different and no two plans will be exactly alike. We have talked about haltering a horse that doesn't want to be handled, and how touching/releasing is a



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

critical part of giving the horse confidence. When it comes to getting on the horse's back, the same principles apply.

Let's look one of my mares, Lyrical Moment, as an example. This over-reactive and highly intelligent horse sees something suspicious in just about everything. Her survival instincts tell her that she's more likely to survive without a rider. Fighting a horse's inherent nature is always going to be a losing battle. Even if someone commits to breaking the horse with force, it's a huge loss for the horse. What we can do is teach them to process and work through situations by building trust with their handler.

When a rider gets on her back, her whole body tenses. It's not that she wants to throw her rider, she is responding to her strong fight or flight instincts. That intuition dictates that she get predators off of her back, which is essentially what we are to horses. I don't need to prove I can stay on. I don't want to have to. I want her to work through situations so that she can relax.

Sequencing the action of having a rider, we start by using what she accepts. The next step is to build on it in a way that is intentionally designed to end before there is an opportunity to object. Then we add another step ... then another. During this process it's especially important to reward heavily and quit while you're ahead. The activities are quick on purpose, to show the horse that it really is No Big Deal.

Example Repathing Steps:

- 1. Lay across your horse's back and quickly slide off.
- Lay across your horse's back and remain there for 10 seconds before sliding off. Increase this time to a minute.

- 3. Lay across your horse's back, then swing your leg all the way over before sliding off.
- 4. Lay across your horse's back, then swing your leg over and remain there for 10 seconds before sliding off. Increase this time to a minute.
- Lay across your horse's back, swing your leg over and then sit up, walking three steps before asking for whoa and sliding off.

I repeat these patterns, building through mounting and riding with small sessions.

It is not a fast process. There is no set time-frame within which to proceed to the next step, but you always want to quit before the horse has a reason to object. The goal is to build a foundation, not rush to a finish line. Utilizing the mechanism of additional steps gives your horse the chance to consent and participate, while setting the stage for better safety and success. The horse will learn to process instead of reacting first.

Learning how to do something is harder than responding to it. Be patient. The horse will eventually come to you as a willing partner and that is one of the greatest feelings ... for it doesn't just change the horse's performance, it changes their whole mentality for the better. It makes them happier horses, and isn't that always the main goal?

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

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



Introducing Our First Area Representative

By Vickie Ives – Marshall, TX, Karma Farms

I would like to introduce Kendra Chavez as the HOA's first appointed Area Representative. Kendra will serve the states of New Mexico and Arizona. If you are an HOA member in those states, she will be glad to help you with any issues, questions or ideas you have about or for HOA. She can also represent any HOA members with any ideas or issues you need brought before the Executive Committee. Welcome, Kendra!

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT KENDRA

My name is Kendra Chavez and I've been a horse lover for all of my 56 years. I was born in Washington State, raised in Michigan and transplanted to New Mexico.

I had many horses up until I was 10 years old, when my mare trampled me and all of our horses had to be rehomed. But the absence of horses didn't lessen my love of them. I would sneak into neighbor's fields and ride their horses bareback and bridleless. I begged my friends to let me ride their horses every chance I had.

Thirty years later I purchased my first horses as an adult. Bailey is now 27 and Poncho is 25. Poncho is broke to drive, which paved the way to my becoming aware of Colonial Spanish Horses.

I was looking for a buggy for Poncho when I found the ad by Baca Chica Farms selling theirs. When I went to purchase





the buggy, I was admiring the remaining Baca Chica herd and immediately fell in love with their personalities, build, colors and history. I was informed that two of them were available and on February 1, 2014, Dream and Toston came to live with me!!!

I've since fallen more in love with the breed. I still have a ton to learn about the history of the Colonial Spanish Horse but it's a journey I'm loving.



(A Colonial Spanish Horse in the Hunt, continued from page 4)

jump or want to slowly take your introduction to the sport.

My two hunts with Rosa were wonderful opportunities to show the modern horse world just how capable these ponies can be. While more Colonial Spanish Horse strains, such as Choctaws, are being seen in Foxhunting, misinformation still abounds. Which is why it is so important to be proud of your Colonial Spanish Horse and try new disciplines you're interested in! Be ready and willing to educate others with patience and enthusiasm, and you'll often find curious minds willing to learn more about these horses we know to be truly exceptional animals. As Steve Edwards says, and we know it to be true, "heart is not measured in hands."

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(The Colonial Spanish Atlas Bone, continued from page 5)



Photo: Captain Beudant on Robertsart II, a 1913 French Remount in North Africa

dressage is based on the illustrations of Baroque horses of Iberian and barb descent.

So it is not so much a matter of what Colonial Spanish horses can do because of their anatomical differences, it is a matter of what other types of horses cannot do. Modern sport horses suffer greatly from their rider's attempts to force their head and necks

into what are anatomically impossible frames for them. Their horses develop arthritis, cranial nerve damage that leads to head-shaking and other behavioral problems, problems with their breathing all the way up to the extreme of crushing of their tracheal cartilage, and more I can't bring myself to think of.

Breeding to retain the distinctly Colonial Spanish trait of wideset ears on a broad, flat poll is also breeding to retain the distinctive movements of the Colonial Spanish Horse. It also makes the Colonial Spanish influence a valuable asset in any sport-horse or sport-pony breeding program that wants to reduce the suffering of their performance mounts. Breeding for horses that are anatomically capable of performing as their riders demand is fundamental to any humane modality of competition.

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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, HOA #2331

Gringo Pistolero

Red Dun colt by Northern Song out of Honci.

HOA #2330



Blue's Heather Breeze

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



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

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Courtney Hudson Newsletter Editor

While it's technically still winter, for many across the country it certainly feels like spring!

When I'm not with my horses, I'm driving a big rig about the country, and it's been busy, so I'm a little behind in getting this issue ready to be published. That being said, I am still so very grateful to all contributors who have provided content for our newsletter (and who have been very patiently waiting to see their articles in print).

And keep an eye on the roads; if you see me around, please do say hello! My company is named after my heart-horse, Midnight Storm, and her silhouette was the basis for

my company logo. This way I can keep her with me no matter where in the country I might be.





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

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



The Sale Page Is Coming Soon!

Have a Colonial Spanish Horse you're trying to sell? You will now be able to submit your horse(s) for inclusion on the HOA's new sale page.

Required information:

- Seller's name and contact information
- Horse's name, date of birth and HOA registration number (numbers for other registries may also be included)
- Horse's pedigree
- Horse's color
- Up to five pictures

You may also want to include information about the horse's strain, temperament, training level, accomplishments, etc.

Please send your sale information to: Mickey Pliakos mickeypliakos@hotmail.com

