

MĀLAMA LIO



THE HAWAII
HORSE JOURNAL



CLASSIFIEDS NEWS EVENTS COMMUNITY

for all islands, for all breeds, for all horse people

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SPRING 2011

**MALAMA LIO AT THREE : A LOOK BACK
2011 HAWAII HORSE EXPO - CURE FOR ANGRY HORSES ?
COX WINS 2011 ROAD TO THE HORSE**

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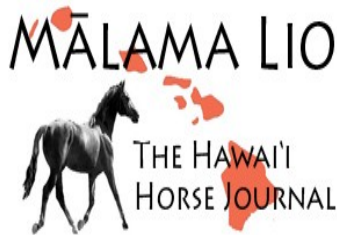
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Over the years, the *Mālama Lio* has reported on everything from the simple “how to” to events hosted on each island. You name it and the ML has covered it. And to think, all Sarah wanted to do was sell a saddle.

As noted in my article, “ML at Three: A Look Back” I tell a simple (a little amusing) story of how I learned about the *Mālama Lio* and Hawaii's horse community. As a horse lover myself, I'm always curious to know where the horses are —no matter where I am.

My love of horses began at a young age growing up in Pasadena, California. The horses were, by far, the greatest attraction at the Annual Tournament of Roses Parade. While one may not have found many horses in their neighbor's backyards in Pasadena, there were many in the surrounding areas such as Altadena, La Canada and South Pasadena. Many of the riding trails travel through all three cities. Often, riders practicing their dressage routine (long before I knew what dressage was) would be distracted by the young boy sitting outside the rail on his skateboard watching for hours. Riding was never something that entered my head at the time, just the pure joy I got from watching these magnificent animals in motion was enough for me. That changed.

After my sixth grade year, I attended my first summer camp at the Lazy J Ranch. I forget where it was located but never forgot the experience. What started out as a boring 3 days and 2 nights at this “Ranch,” took a certain turn when I learned that a horse clinic was part of the program. Guess who didn't read the brochure before he signed up? It was a game changer. Not only would we learn how to care and groom a horse but we would also get a chance to ride. And boy did I. Who cares that I hurt for a week afterwards.

Over the years I continued admiring the horses in the parade but not like I enjoyed riding or just simply caring for them..or as one friend, says. “Shoveling _hit.”

Who knew that paradise had a genuine horse community—not just an industry? It has a little something for everyone but much more for those who believe that an hour spent in the saddle is an hour of life well spent (I think W. Churchill, said that).

Mahalo, Sarah.

Laurence Todd

P.S. Wouldn't it be great to see Pa' u Riders in the Rose Parade. Now, that's an idea!

FEATURE

Malama Lio at Three

A LOOK BACK

By LAURENCE TODD

"Hawaii has a horse community." There it goes again, I thought to myself. Only now I'm annoyed, or inebriated. "Who said that! Did you hear that? Who keeps saying that?" I proposed to everyone in the bar—Max and Margaret, in particular, the slightly older couple from Boston (or was it Colorado?) who sat next to me at the bar of the Royal LaHaina Resort last year, Margaret was now wondering (out loud) if they truly got off the elevator, walked past reception, down the hall to a beautiful beach front bar to sit in "the" chair next to the crazy man from Pasadena, CA.

"Son," Margaret said leaning over her husband to speak to me, softly but loud enough so that everyone could still hear, "Are you alright?" Before I could respond, Max chimed in, "Dear, it's the Sailor.." pointing to the bottle of Sailor Jerry's Rum the bartender was pouring me.

I admit it, I may have had one glass to many of Rum (fyi - Rum is an underappreciated beverage - it's just as enjoyable, (straight/no ice) as cognac, scotch or...anyway) but I heard someone say something about horses on the island. And the voice sounded familiar. It didn't seem impossible; "Look, they have Arabians on Catalina Island," I told my new friends. "There has to be a horse somewhere on one of these islands."

After about a thirty minute tutorial from me about the importation of Arabians on Catalina (I learned about it from watching Huell Howser's - California Gold), poor Margaret was looking around the bar hoping that whom-ever mentioned the word "horse" would just own up to it. "What about that gentlemen over there, dear?" She said, tugging on Max's shirt sleeve to get his attention. "Maybe he said it?" She pleaded. "Nope." Max responded while enjoying his glass of Rum (compliments of yours truly). "He has a cane. He can't getty up much less expect a horse to."

No one came forward but that was okay. After about three more rounds of Rum, Max heard it too...."Hawaii has a horse community."

"Maybe there's a parrot around her somewhere....I think I heard it too," nodding his head in amazement. "Really?" Margaret said to her husband - giving him that "don't you dare go crazy on me in paradise " look. "No, dear. I think I heard it."

Margaret just shook her head. "Horses in Hawaii?" She said under her breathe; almost in disgust. But just then, Margaret had a moment. "Wait. WAIT! WAIT!..I remember seeing a ranch or something down by the entrance at the other hotel...the Marriott?"

I knew exactly what she was referring to. My cab driver (not the one who dropped me off at the wrong hotel when I first arrived i.e. the Lahaina Inn - but the second driver - the sweet young lady who promised to get me to where I needed to be) drove past what looked like a ranch.

"Game for a walk?" Max proposed. I declined, fearful that he did so without Margaret's permission. "Come on," he said while getting up from his chair. "It'll be fun. I could use some air." Just then, we all heard it again, "Hawaii has a horse community."

Turns out that during my cab ride, I didn't want to miss anything that my cab driver/tourist guide was saying about the area so I recorded her voice on my cell phone...which happen to be sitting in the chair that my good friend Max sat in. Somehow, I mistakenly set her recording to my ringtone and every time my phone rang, under Max's bottom, we (or I) would here a muffled "Hawaii has a horse community."

I knew I wasn't going crazy. Margaret was relieved that Max didn't travel to paradise to finally lose it. We celebrated our sanity with another round of Rum, or two, (even Margaret joined in) before saying our goodbyes.

Later that evening while standing out on the balcony of my hotel room, I had a chance to hear the entire recording.

"Your interested in Horses? Hawaii has a horse community. There's a great pub called the Malama Lio. You can view it on line."

I did.

I learned that Hawaii has a horse community unlike anything I've ever seen or read about on the mainland. While there exist hundreds of publications concerning the horse industry; it's rare, if not impossible, to find a publication that focuses on the rider...the people..or "a" community. For example, I recently received a publication, (whose name I won't mention), and 99% of the publication was advertisements. Not one article about the state, much less the city or the residents, it was servicing.

Maybe it's just an Hawaiian thing.

In honor of ML's 3rd Anniversary, I, as the new owner, etc., thought a quick look back at some of the people, places and things (I'm sure I missed a lot) that have helped define Hawaii's horse community would be a great starting point for our new relationship...and just in case someone has not heard that "Hawaii has a horse community."

You know, I never got the name of my cab driver, but she kept her promise.....she got me exactly where I needed to be.

Looking Back

No. 1

Hilo Hoof Beat 4-G Club is formed. (2008)

No. 2:

"Cowgirl Up"

The Kauai All Girls Rodeo Association made its first appearance in the Malama Lio in 2008 which marked the groups ninth successful year.

No. 3.

Honor the Fallen Warrior

Big Island artist Gail Duituturag's oil painting was shown at the Fountain Gallery at Wailoa Art Center in Hilo in October of 2008 before being shipped to its permanent home at the US Center for Military History in Washington, DC.

No. 4:

The Akamai Horseman was formed (2008)

Contributors included local favorites such Franklin Levinson, Anna Twinney, Monty Roberts and Yod Neal.

No. 5:

The Secrets to becoming highly successful with your horses authored by Franklin Levinson. The first (of the ten) secret "Attitude is everything," was published in the July 2008 edition of the Malama Lio.

No. 6:

Hawaii Island Horse Expo was created by the Hawaii Island Humane Society. (2008)

No. 7: The Unwanted Horse Coalition was formed (2008).

No. 8:

KAGRA Fundraiser

In August 2008, Kauai All Girls Rodeo Association raised more than \$9000.00 to help with medical bills for Jerry and Tami Yamamoto's 15 years old son Kanan.

No. 9.

Fist Polo Clinic held at University of Hawaii-Hilo (2008).

No. 10:

Shelby Rochelle Kanani Rivera was crowned Miss Rodeo Hawaii 2008.

No. 11

Naturally High on Horses: Youth Program

Lio Lapa'au Healing Horses in North Kophala piloted a project to serve youth through interaction with horses as therapy to build self confidence and sensitivity, while promoting a strong drug prevention message. (2008)

No. 12

Equine Slaughter ACT

The Prevention of Equine Cruelty ACT (HR 6598), a bill criminalizing the sale and transportation of horses for the purpose of slaughter, was approved in 2008 and recommended to the House of Representatives by the House Judiciary Committee.

No. 13

New Vaccine Program for Rescued Horses

In 2009, the Intervet/Scherling-Plough Animal Health and the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) launched the Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign (UHVRC), a nonprofit program that will provide equine vaccines to qualified equine rescue and retirement facilities across the United States. (2008)

No. 14

Welcome, Dr. Artwell

Dr. Brian M. Artwell, DVM, MZS—a magnum cum laude graduate of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, became owner of the Maui Equine Veterinary Services. (2008)

No. 15

Billy Bergin Honored by Kansas State University.

Big Island veterinarian, Dr. Billy Bergin received the 2008 Alumni Recognition Award from Kansas State University Alumni Association; it was presented at the 2008 American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) annual conference in December.

No. 16

Ashley Borsum—2009 Miss Rodeo Hawaii

The Miss Rodeo Hawaii Competition is sponsored by the Hawaii Women's Rodeo Association (HWRA).

Ashley, a biology major at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, has been competing in rodeo since age nine and has championship buckles in just about every women's rodeo event. As Miss Rodeo Hawaii, Ms. Borsum represented the state at the *National Miss Rodeo America Pageant* held in December 2009.

No 17

Paniolo Artisans Showcase September 17-19

More than two dozen paniolo saddle makers from throughout Hawaii were invited to the first-ever Paniolo Artisans Showcase in Waimea, a three-day educational forum, exhibits and conference sponsored by the Paniolo Preservation Society.

No. 18

New Barrel Racing Club

The then Newly formed Hilo Barrel Racing Club held its first competition in September 2009 at the University of Hawaii—Hilo.

No. 19

Hawaii First Extreme Cowboy Race was held on September 5, 2009 at the Kawailoa Ranch in Haleiwa. The event was Judged by 2009 Road to the Horse winner Richard Winters.

Letters, Opinions, Comments:

I am so glad to see a publication like this. We really need to unite the horse community across the islands. This can only help.

Mike Wedge, Wheeler Stables, Oahu

Letters, Opinions, Comments:

"Thank you for Malama Lio"

Last Month's issue has a small story about horse slaughter. I saved my Percheron mare from going to slaughter in Canada last year. When I got her to Oahu, she was going on three and barely halter broke. There is absolutely nothing wrong with her. When I inquired about her they said she had one more month to find a home or it's off to the slaughter house. I didn't even have a vet check done or anything, just from her pictures I knew she was my dream horse. I told them I would take her and to put her in my name immediately and I would put the check in the mail the next day.

From the day she got here she has been nothing but an angel. I have done all her training myself and she's never given me one problem. I have broken her to ride and drive and she's taken everything in stride. She's extremely smart. She is the poster horse for slaughter bound horses.

This is my dream mare that could have needed up on someone's plate. Disgusting. What is even more disgusting is that I have heard fellow riders slander horses saved from slaughter by calling them things like "Slaughter Ponies" or "Eukanuba Snookums." I am not sure if they are aware that there is a PMU rescue that has made it to the Olympics? Ha!

Stacey Nielsen, Oahu

Great Job! Mahalo for your hard work in putting out this wonderful newsletter. We need this to unite horse activities throughout the islands. Thanks again.

Beverly Kalan
Honoka'a Hawaii Island
 (2008)

*Awesome! A horse periodical!
 Finally.*

Kathryne Kent
Mauna Kea Arabians
 (2008)

COVER

Salt Point

Aina Hou Animal Hospital is proud to announce the arrival of their resident Thoroughbred Stallion SALT POINT. After beginning his veterinary career on the Thoroughbred farms and at the world renowned Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington Kentucky, Dr. Brady Bergin and his wife have dreamed of owning a Thoroughbred Stallion. They hoped for a horse that would cross well with Quarter Horses as well as other breeds and disciplines. Bergin's mentor and friend Dr. Scott Pierce of RREH shared that dream, and has been looking for a stallion to send this way; SALT POINT was handpicked from a farm in Lexington and arrived at Aina Hou Animal Hospital in late January.

Salt's sire **GONE WEST** is one of Thoroughbred racing's most successful sires. During his brief 2 year racing career he earned nearly \$700,000. As a sire, GONE WEST has over \$75 million in progeny earnings, and has produced some of the hottest stallions the industry has seen including: **ELUSIVE QUALITY, GRAND SLAM, MR. GREELEY, SPEIGHTS-TOWN and CAME HOME**. At the time of death in 2009, GONE WEST's stud fee was \$85,000.

Salt's dam **ZEPHYR** also had a successful racing career earning over \$150,000. Her pedigree has a balance of North American and European bloodlines.

He has adjusted very well to his new surroundings and is ready to open his 2011 breeding season. Measuring in at 16.3 hands, SALT POINT is a 6 year old dark bay with impeccable bloodlines, a kind disposition, balanced conformation, height and class.

Aina Hou Animal Hospital will be offering an introductory stud fee for the first 10 mares at a discounted rate of \$600, after which his 2011 stud fee will be \$1200.

As a great-grandson of the legendary Secretariat, Salt's bloodlines and conformation deliver the potential for solid bone mass, height, longer smoother muscling, and overall athleticism to accentuate the attributes you value most in your mare.

To book your mare please contact Aina Hou Animal Hospital at (808) 989-6149.



Letters, Opinions, Comments:

Honolulu Police Depart Horses to UH-Hilo:

I read last month's article on the HPD horses with interest. I am a student in the College of Agriculture (CAFNRM) at UH-Hilo and we would love for the horses to be donated to our Equine and Animal Science program. Such well-trained horses should have their talents put to good use. Not only would we use them for our science courses, but also for riding and equestrian activities. I enjoy the companionship that horses bring, and I'm sure the students would give them much love and attention.

The college of Ag has pastures for them at the CAFNRM farm in Panaewa, as well as two large arenas for riding. The Dean of CAFNRM is very supportive of the Equine program and would also welcome the addition of these horses to our program.

Mahalo, Sarah Ewert
(May, 2009)

No Excuses!

Recently I heard someone lamenting a lack of local horseman ship by saying "that's just the way it is in Hawaii." That's not the case. We enjoy year-round riding here, and have the same access to knowledge as folks on the mainland through everything from the internet to local clinics. There is no reason why horses here can't enjoy the same capable and knowledgeable riders as elsewhere! They deserve it, because this is as good as it gets."

Jim Warson, M.D.
(June 2009)

I'm on Oahu and my 12 year old daughter competes in hunter/jumper shows. I love your newsletter.

Thanks,
Charlotte Flanagan
(July 2009)

No. 20

Remembering Terry Tugman—01/05/27—06/19/09

NO. 21

ML Receives National Honor

In 2009 ML was a finalist in two categories in the 2009 American Horse Publications (AHP) Annual Awards Contest. ML submitted entries in three categories, including personal essay, service to readers, and general excellence. ML was a also finalist for the May 2008 article, "Shipping Horses To (From, and Within) Hawaii" and for the October 2008 essay "Trust Goes Both Ways." Our work is far from done!

NO. 22

Horses R US

In May of 2009, HRU began stocking polo gear.

Remember, remember, always buy local, First!

NO. 23

Ride Cowgirl, Ride

In October 2009, Lu Faborito, President of the Hawaii Women's Rodeo Association, gave a touching tribute to one of its members. She wrote:

"I had the honor of sharing a celebration of life of a very young cowgirl, Kaycee "Bug" Smith of Hilo. She left this life too soon. Seeing her grow up around the horses, in rodeos, and with her family, I realize how much the horses meant to her. Her unbridled spirit and kolohe mannerisms were why she bonded so well with the horses. She loved them unconditionally and rode them hard. Seeing the amount of people at this celebration in New Hope Chapel in Hilo really made me realize that this was too young, too fast, too soon. My hope is that she will be able to ride off into the heavens and for that I am blessed to know this young cowgirl and will miss her deeply."

NO. 24

A beautiful poem by Erica Mehan—submitted by mom

“Shimmer”

Streaks of silver and gold shimmer in the wind
 A creator so precious only the heavens could send
 Her strides flow easy as she soars through the air
 A small girl holds on tight to her beloved mare
 Stands of silk mane fly across the girl's face
 As she guides the spirited horse to their quiet place
 They ride toward the sea and gallop down the beach
 Whey they watch silhouettes of whales gracefully breach
 Flying over the sand, they thunder along the shore
 Splashing in waves with so much life yet to explore
 Racing through the black of night -
 Shimmers of silver and gold, ensued by white moonlight.

NO. 25

**Laura Rose
 2010 Mana Award Recipient**

No. 26

**Ikua Purdy
 Archie Ka'aua
 and Jack Low**

Parker Ranch celebrated its 46th Annual Independence Day Rodeo and Horse Races on July 4, 2008 and paid special tribute to three cowboys who traveled from the islands to compete in the 1908 Cheyenne, Wyoming Frontier Day.

“It is entirely appropriate that we honor Ikua, Archie and Jack at this year's rodeo,” explained Ranch President and CEO Chris J. Kanazawa. “These humble cowboys opened eyes across the nation 100 years ago when their skills were successfully put to the test among the best of their peers in Cheyenne. They put Hawaii's paniolo on the map and did so Hawaiian-style, with humility and dignity.”

No. 27

Hawaii High School Rodeo Season is underway. Part of HHRSA's mission is to promote the sport of rodeo and the highest type of conduct and sportsmanship and to maintain the highest regard for the livestock.

No. 28

Hawaii Horse Expo Raises over \$12,000.00

The annual HIHS Hawaii Horse Expo 2009 raised more than \$12,000 for the Society's Horse Rescue Fund. The fund are used by the Hawaii Island Human Society for feed, Veterinarian care, and the improvement of equine holding facilities on Hawaii Island. The Hawaii island Human Society's Horse Rescue Fund was established in 2008 to help abused and abandoned horses on the island.

No. 29

Mana's Story:

On a bright and sunny day early in November 2008, a woman arrived at the Kona Human Society Shelter trailering a small, emancipated, female horse named Mana. The owner, realizing that she could no longer adequately care for Mana, decided to surrender her to HIHS.

The Mana Award was created shortly thereafter.

The HIHS Horse Expo Mana Award is named after the abandoned mare who spent the final months of her life in the care of the HIHS's Waimea Shelter. The Mana Award recognizes an individual on the Big Island who has inspired and educated the community about horses, so in the future horses like Mana are not abandoned.

No. 30

HPD Horses Retired to Big Island

After much deliberation, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced that seven retired Honolulu Police Department horses would retire on the Big Island. The horses, identified as Chief Lee, Cruiser, Scout, Kuhio, Trooper, Justice and Cinbad, were moved to the Kaewewai Ranch where ranch owner Chandie Duke Heffner agreed to provide them lifelong good treatment, respect and care.

No. 31

“Cincha Fit: Your Cincha Right for your Horse?”

Pete Gorrell's (saddle maker, trainer, and half time resident of Waimea on the Big island) article in the December 2009 edition of the ML won second place in the Service to the Read category in the nationwide competition held by the American Horse Publication Association.

No. 32

National Helmet Awareness Day—July 10

The HNAD, endorsed by the US Equestrian Federation, is the brainchild of Jeri Bryant. (2010)

No. 33

Hawaii Horse Commission was officially formed. (2010)

No. 34

“Hildago” Arrives to Kahuku

In the Summer of 2010, TC Bey Cedar, the star of the film Hildago, moved to Oahu.

No. 35

Malama Waikoloa Nightingales

In the Fall of 2010, the MWVN was formed to monitor, educate the public, and to help protect feral donkeys on the Big Island. Estimates of the feral donkey population on the Big Island range from 400 to 600 with approximately 50-100 in the Waikoloa area. Several groups, including the Humane Society of the United States, Waikoloa Village Association, and local veterinarians were working to develop a sustainable management program.

No. 36

Operation Gelding Program

In the Fall of 2010, the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) initiated Operation Gelding, a program that provides fund and material to assist organizations, associations and events that wish to sponsor clinics to which horse owners can bring their stallions to be castrated.

Editors Note: These are all simple stories - simple stories that define Hawaii's horse community. I'm looking forward to sharing more with you.

Lawrence Todd

Posted

(Calendar /Events/ News)

Hawaii**April 2 -3**

High School Rodeo Association
Rodeo – District Finals,
Parker Ranch, Waimea

April 16-17

Hawaii Quarter Horse Association
Show, AGHA and Open Classes

May 7-8

Hawaii High School Rodeo
Association
District Finals,
Parker Ranch, Waimea

May 14 -15

Hawaii Quarter Horse Association
AGHA and Open Classes

TBD

Hawaii Isle Dressage
& Eventing Association
Hunter Show

June 18-19

Hawaii Quarter Horse Association
AGHA and Open Classes

August 5-7

Hawaii Island Humane Society's
Hawaii Horse Expo 2011

August 13-14

Hawaii Quarter Horse Association
AGHA and Open classes

September 10-11

Hawaii Quarter Horse Association
AGHA and Open classes

TBD

Hawaii Isle Dressage
& Eventing Association
Dressage and Horse Trials

October 15-16

Hawaii Quarter Horse Association
AGHA and Open Classes

Kauai**April 17**

Kauai All- Girls Rodeo
CJM Ranch, Pipou

May 22

Kauai All- Girls Rodeo
CJM Ranch, Pipou

August 21

Kauai All- Girls Rodeo
CJM Ranch, Pipou

Oahu**April 2**

Hawaii Women's Rodeo
Association Jackpot No. 3
Location: TBD

April 9

Hawaii High School
Rodeo Association
Oahu District Rodeo Finals
Kawailoa Ranch

April 9-10

Aloha State Dressage Shows
No.1 and No. 2
Judge – Dolly Hannon

April 30

Ranch Sorting No. 1
New Town and Country Ranch
Waimanalo

May 14

Hawaii Women's Rodeo
Association
Jack Pot No. 4
Location: TBD

May 20-22

Hawaii High School Rodeo
Association
Junior Wrangler State Finals
Location: TBD

May 28

Ranch Sorting No. 2
New Town and Country Ranch
Waimanalo

June 4

Oahu Performance Horse Series
New Town and Country Ranch,
Waimanalo

June 18

Hawaii Women's Rodeo
Association
Jack Pot No. 5
Location: TBD

June 25

Ranch Sorting No. 3
New Town and Country Ranch
Waimanalo

July 23

Ranch Sorting No.4
New Town and Country Ranch
Waimanalo
2:00 p.m.

July 23

Extreme Cowboy Race Hawaii
No. 2
Location and Judge: TBD

Maui**May 20-22**

John Lassetter Dressage Clinic
Kalae Farm Hanoverians
Contact: Trish (264-9375)

Editor's Notes: Event organizers,
club secretaries, etc. help us spread
the word. Send us your event
news.

EXHIBITION

Editor's Comment: Attended an exciting event or have something special or interesting you want to share? If it's about or affects the Hawaiian horse community, we want it. Send it (include pictures) to editor@malama-lio.com

Cox Wins 2011 Road to the Horse

by: Sarah Blanchard

Get a three-year-old untrained colt going under saddle in only four hours, in front of a sold-out crowd of 8,000 cheering, whistling, stomping, cowbell-ringing spectators? Sure, why not -- that's the whole point of the Road to the Horse colt-starting competition. The 2011 competition, billed as "The Legends" event, pitted top trainers Pat Parelli, Clinton Anderson and Chris Cox against one another Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in late February.

When the dust settled -- and there was quite a bit of dust, plus sweat -- it was **Chris Cox** who walked away with the 2011 title, in an unprecedented third win.

This year's three-year-old geldings were provided by the renowned Four Sixes Ranch in Texas. Eleven young, scared, untrained Quarter Horses were herded into the Tennessee Miller indoor arena, and the three trainers had only five minutes to view and assess the temperament of the horses before choosing the colt each would work with.

All three trainers then began working simultaneously with their colts in round pens set up in the arena, in a two-hour session on Saturday and a second two-hour session on Sunday. Each training session had to include a mandatory 30-minute rest for the colts. On Sunday afternoon, each trainer then had to ride his colt in basic maneuvers, through an obstacle course, and in a freestyle, when each trainer could showcase whatever he felt would best demonstrate the training strides he'd made with his colts. Judges Bob Moorhouse, Jack Brainard, Marian Buehler, Cody Lambert and Bill Ink carefully watched all three trainers and evaluated their performances during the training sessions and the final performance. (Dr Robert Miller, also slated to be on the judges' roster, watched remotely while recovering from an unexpected illness that sent him to the hospital a day before the event.)

Throughout the competition, Richard Winters (2009 RTTH winner) and Stacy Westfall (2006 winner) provided background, commentary and insights, as announcer Rick Lamb also asked the competing trainers to explain their work during rest breaks for the horses.

Each trainer used different methods to introduce their colts to human interaction by sensitizing, desensitizing, and creating the beginnings of a horse-human partnership. Their approaches were based partly on different training styles, but were also very much influenced by the different temperaments of the horses they'd chosen.

Saying he wanted "athletic ability," Cox selected a roan-gray colt named Perfect Performance (Sixes Pick x Best Performance by Special Effort). "This is a horse I'd like to ride," he explained, "but not necessarily the horse with the calmest temperament. Not too quiet." That proved to be an accurate statement, as his horse was at first very fearful. The colt expended a lot of energy avoiding all contact with Cox, backing and ducking away from every invitation to accept and connect with the trainer. When Cox finally dropped a rope over the horse's head and insisted that the colt face him, the gray bucked and fought the rope until both were winded. It took Chris almost to the end of the first session to get a saddle onto the gray gelding, but once the saddle was on, the horse accepted it well. Cox was able to then catch his breath, mount and dismount a number of times without incident. Bridling proved more difficult. "This colt is funny in the face (which means he doesn't want to accept the bit), Cox noted. So I do more body work with him." Cox explained, "It's very important to me if someone buys him or if he goes home to the ranch, I want him to have a future. I'm not going to use him up just to win a competition."

Clinton Anderson also chose a leggy, athletic colt, a dark sorrel named Fletches Career with a high-energy, high-reaction temperament. Anderson spent most of the first two-hour session working his horse fast and hard in an effort to get the connection he wanted. Both he and horse were covered in sweat by the end of the first hour. Anderson was the first to bridle his horse but ended up going back to groundwork frequently because the horse wasn't giving him "the accept and go-ahead signals" he wanted. Anderson used his Australian bullwhip to de-sensitize his colt to noise and motion. Anderson noted, "He may be challenging at times, but sometimes the best ones are."

Pat Parelli selected a smaller horse, a very laid-back, curious colt called Hey Whiskey. The horse followed him willingly right from the beginning, and explored all the "toys" that Pat brought into the round pen. Pat introduced many items early, bringing in barrels, a plastic tarp and ground poles during the first session. His colt appeared relaxed and amenable to everything. Pat hopped on the horse bareback early in the first session, even starting to stand up on the colt bareback at one point, earning wild approval from the crowd. But Hey Whiskey objected strenuously when Pat saddled him toward the end of the first session. With only a few minutes left to go in the Saturday session, Parelli got in the saddle and asked his colt to turn and disengage the hip. What began as a series of "disengage the hip" steps turned into a quicker and quicker turn on the forehand, and then the colt just blew up, bucking and dumping Parelli in the dirt. The sorrel then bucked and grunted his way wildly around the round pen, bucking over the tarp and the barrels in an impressive bronc display.

At the beginning of Sunday's session, Parelli called the colt "a bit of a sleeper," and admitted he hadn't spent enough time on desensitizing the colt to activity and pressure on his right side. He then went back to groundwork, using long lines to ground-drive his horse before saddling up again and mounting with considerably more success.

Cox commented later that the high-energy, reactive, athletic horses tend to go forward when they get anxious, while the quiet, laid-back ones "go up and down instead."

Ten minutes before the end of the second training session on Sunday, all three trainers were riding their colts and working on steering, brakes, backing and go-forward skills, with only occasional moments of bucking or balking.

After a break, they came back one at a time for the final performance and evaluation. Each trainer had to pick up his horse's feet, saddle and mount, and ride at a walk, trot and lope. All three horses performed well during the basic maneuvers. Then came the obstacle course, which included weaving through cones, stepping over poles and a small jump, throwing a rope, stepping on a tarp, backing, and walking into a mound of sawdust so the rider could reach up and ring a bell overhead. Parelli and Cox had no trouble with the obstacles, but Anderson's colt balked at the tarp and refused to cross it.

In the freestyle, Anderson let loose -- pulling the bridle off his colt and then riding at a gallop while cracking his bull-whip. Cox chose a more subdued approach, loping his colt around the arena while waved his arms overhead, and then stopping his colt and standing in the saddle. The horse remained motionless and attentive. Cox then jumped off and ran around the arena, while the colt simply turned to faced him, demonstrating that the horse had, in fact, made a close connection with the trainer. Cox then unsaddled his horse and led him calmly from the arena, to a standing ovation.

Parelli's freestyle included a quiet lope around the arena. Then Parelli took a big green inflated ball and bounced it next to his colt's sensitive right side. The horse remained quiet and calm throughout the demonstration. Parelli told the crowd that he'd decided to purchase the colt, because he'd "felt a real connection

with him."

Before the competition, Cox had said that his goal was to "Do the best job I can to get that horse prepared and working in rhythm with me. It's not so much about the competition with me. I want that horse to find out how he can be my partner." The judges agreed that he'd met that goal. Judge Bill Enk commented that Cox, more than the others, had "seemed to have the long-range training needs and plans of the horse in mind. It looked like he was preparing his horse for the next step in training the whole time." Cox added, "I feel honored to be here and go up against these great horsemen. What I really appreciated was that the horse connected with me and that means more to me than the win."

Judge Jack Brainard called the event "impressive," and noted that there was no clear leader throughout the competition. "No one knew who was going to win until the last hour," Brainard said, "which made it more interesting for the crowd. They're all fantastic trainers, fantastic horses."

Chris Cox also won top Road to the Horse honors in 2007 and 2008, making him the only three-time winner. Clinton Anderson has competed several times, winning in 2005; this was Pat Parelli's first time in the competition.

Editor's notes:

Sarah Blanchard, founder and former publisher of Malama Lio, resides in Raleigh, NC, where she rides her mare, Pandora, in combined training, hunter paces and trail competitions. Pandora will represent her state as the only Hawaii-born horse in the American Competitive Trail Horse Association's event, "America's Favorite Trail Horse" competition, which will be televised on RFD-TV later this year. Pandora has her own Facebook page and growing fan club. See www.actha.us for more information.



VIEWED

Editor's Comment: Got something to say? Get it off your chest. Let's hear it. Send us your rants and raves or whatever. Send them to editor@malama-lio.com

2011 Hawaii Horse Expo - Cure for Angry Horses?

by Joe Kemple

You ever think to yourself, as you're looking into Silver's eyes with a carrot dangling from your mouth - and he snaps it right out of your face - "I don't think this horse likes me very much?". Come on, you know what I'm talking about. The horse was fine. Then you showed up. He began hee'n and haw'n, maybe a buck or two - came right up to you, ears drawn back, teeth exposed and whamo! He snapped! At your face no less! Slowly, you back off and leave the stable feeling "I don't think I'll be riding today," or "Thank God I didn't lose my lower lip!" We've all seen that face before.

I've learned over the years that horses act almost like overly emotional children. One could even argue, bi-polar children. Either it loves you, or it hates your stinking guts. If it loves you, great! No worries. But, if he hates you, be afraid. Be very afraid. For all you know, Silver might belong to one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. And, whatever you do, don't saddle up, for fear that this could be your last ride just before you meet your maker! I mean, how would you explain that anyway? Would you say something like: I didn't know that horse didn't like me, or, Mr. Ed didn't say anything at all about leaving him the hell alone! What exactly would you say?

Could you imagine how dumb you'd look, mounting a horse that can't stand the sight of you. You spur him, then in an almost comical ballet, the horse rears up (forcing you off his back, maybe kicking you on the way down) and then takes off at full charge, all the while your foot still stuck in one of the stirrups??? Screaming "Help Me!!!" Now, how cool is that! Well you're right, it's not. Unless, you're one of the ranch hands witnessing this unfolding tragedy of events and doing everything you can to keep yourself from laughing at the pony riding novices who fashion themselves horse aficionados.

Of course, these things would never happen to an experience rider. This could not happen to experienced riders. Could they? Not sure, but that's a lotta English for another article.

Until then, the Hawaii Horse Expo 2011 is the only alternative.

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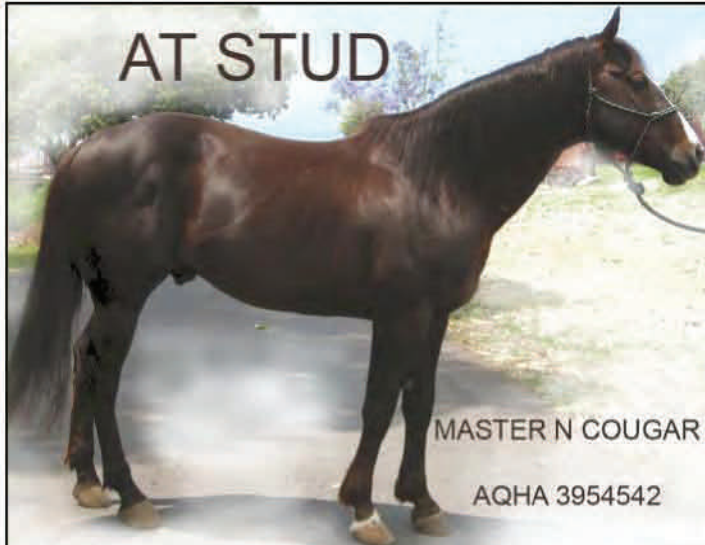
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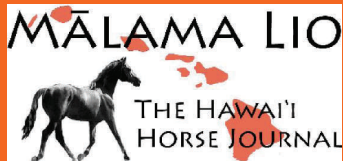
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