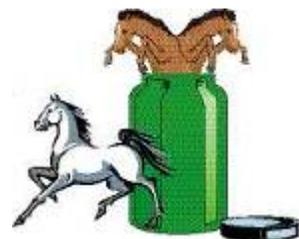

CONTENTS OF THE JAR

The Newsletter of Joder Arabian Ranch

*With News of Mountain Meadow Holistic Equestrian Center,
Rocky Mountain Equi-Rhythm, and Hands On Resources, LLC*



Spring 2008

MMHEC's Challenging Year

By Caroline Roy

It was just about this time last year that we were reporting a near-full boarding facility and a rosy future for Mountain Meadow Holistic Equestrian Center. That turned out to be the calm before the storm. Within six weeks we discovered that what the veterinarians thought was a simple respiratory virus among a few horses was actually the beginning of an outbreak of strangles that would spread to nearly every pen at the ranch.

Thankfully, the majority of horses who became ill had a mild or normal progression of the disease without complications, but a few had severe symptoms that took longer to subside and, sadly, Christy Jemal's cherished Desiree had to be euthanized because of a growth that was thought to be a complication of strangles. We survived the winter with no new cases of strangles and, as we come into the spring, we are carefully monitoring and have isolated a horse with some respiratory symptoms, even though it does not appear to be a case of strangles.

What We Learned

We learned a great deal about a disease caused by a bacterium called *Streptococcus equi* that invades the horse's respiratory tract and causes swelling of the lymph nodes around the head and neck. There has been much written about the disease and there is a great deal of inconsistent information about it on the Web. We relied on our veterinarians to guide us and particularly thank

Dr. Stacy Bluhm of Boulder Valley Veterinary Clinic for meeting with boarders and staff at the ranch to inform us about strangles and answer all of our questions. We have also incorporated information from an article by Dr. Nancy Loving into a set of guidelines to help prevent the spread of infectious disease in the future (see pages 8-9). We are grateful as well to the many boarders who participated in meetings, community forums on our website, and other venues to help develop these guidelines.

One thing that made it especially challenging at Joder Ranch is that we have so many 24 x 7 outdoor pen living arrangements. Once horses became ill in one of those pens, we were advised that it was better to keep those horses in those pens so as not to expose horses outside the pens, and since horses in those pens were already exposed, the disease eventually made its way through those herds. Ranch staff became equine nurses, giving doses of banamine, keeping nostrils as clean as possible, and taking temperatures to track the progression of the disease.

While there seems to be disagreement in the veterinary community about whether horses that get the disease gain an immunity to it in the future, the official AAEP report suggests that there is likelihood for immunity in a significant percentage of cases. The fact that quite a few horses at the ranch did not get strangles, even though they were clearly exposed to it, suggests that they were immune for some reason. Some owners knew for certain their horses had previously had it many years ago, so their "immunity" was not just short-lived. At least one horse that was

vaccinated got the disease anyway. We are strongly recommending but not mandating the vaccine for currently boarded or incoming horses, as we believe this should be an owner's decision. We trust that those horses that had strangles last year will not contract it again, and Dr. Bluhm has assured us that, although an isolated case of strangles could occur now and then, we are unlikely to experience the epidemic that occurred last summer.

All new horses coming to the ranch must now spend two weeks in our new isolation pens, and we have set up another specified small pen to isolate any horse showing signs of an infectious disease. We have also scheduled two days for disinfecting the ranch the first weekend in May, especially painting wooden rails, as this has been recommended as the most effective way to get rid of any remaining bacteria.

Other Lessons Learned

In addition to our stress and concerns over our horses' health, the strangles epidemic last summer had a profound impact in other ways: low morale among boarders, bad press for the ranch, cancelled plans to take horses off the ranch for shows or other activities, exhausted and demoralized staff, some owners moving their horses because they found fault with management's response to the crisis, and the resulting financial crisis of losing boarders while temporarily not being able to take new boarders.

Through all of this we worked hard to keep MMHEC and Joder Ranch alive as a horse facility. There were some things that were beyond our control and part of what we learned was acceptance of that and the need to work with what *is*, and that once you have done what you can, you then just simply have to support each other and get through the crisis.

One unfortunate lesson learned is that not only the good but sometimes the not-so-good in human nature comes out in stressful circumstances. Anxiety wrought rumor and innuendo. One particular horse was repeatedly rumored to be a carrier of the disease because he had come from Sombrero Ranch shortly before the outbreak. His family has since had him undergo

testing that has shown that he is *not* a carrier; he had a cough when he arrived at the ranch but he had been vet checked and was not sick with strangles then, nor has he been since. Our sincere apologies to his family for the distress those persistent rumors caused them.

Solidifying our Values

For many of you, Joder Arabian Ranch provides a getaway from the hustle and bustle of a fast-paced life to enjoy what the ranch has to offer—trails, open spaces, and the beauty of nature. Others see its tremendous potential as an equestrian center and seek to develop its programs supporting skills enhancement in horses and riders.

Joder Arabian Ranch has always been a place for individuals to work with their horse, staying as long as it works for them and their horse, given their particular journey or goal. Some of our boarders have been here more than 25 years, while others have come and then left when they realized what this ranch offered wasn't right for them.

Joder Ranch and MMHEC embrace a multidisciplinary approach that includes English, western, dressage, and hunter/jumper riding; equine-assisted therapy; and trail riding. Underlying that multidisciplinary approach are the principles of natural horse training and Centered Riding®. It has never been the ranch's philosophy to promote one discipline over another (although we will not stand for inhumane training or tack of any kind!). These are among the ranch's fundamental values, along with the goal of providing an opportunity to learn about horses, especially for young riders and adults who have a dream of becoming horsepeople.

Another principle is Joder Ranch's history of not discriminating against potential horse boarders because of where they come from. Horses from large horse operations are more susceptible to contagious diseases because of their living situations (large number of horses in contact with each other and frequent movement of horses from one herd to another) and often have less human observation and daily interaction than a horse from a small facility. But those horses are

often among the most willing, steady, and safe mounts, and most deserving of a chance at a different kind of life with one personal owner, especially one who is ready to love and cherish them. MMHEC will not change Joder Ranch's policy; rather, we have implemented preventative measures for all new incoming horses to minimize future exposure to any contagious equine disease.

We also value the sense of community that has been the mainstay of the peace and tranquility we enjoy at the ranch. Our shared values about horses are critical to the continued success of the ranch and our boarding operation. These include our love of the horse as a healer, a teacher, a friend, and a working partner (exemplified in the special tributes paid to several horses we lost in the past year; see pages 23-26). If we hold those values paramount in our community, we can remain strong and weather hard times.

Thanks to all who supported MMHEC and JAR throughout this challenging year. It was a tough one but, with such a great community of horses and people at the ranch, we held our own and will continue to grow and enjoy the wonderful place our horses call home. We are grateful that the openings left by horses moving to other barns have begun to be filled. (Our new horses and boarders are welcomed on pages 18-23.) We hope that this year is filled with love, joy, peace, and no new horse diseases.

As the Barn Turns

By Caroline Roy

This column shares news sent by Caroline via e-mail since the last newsletter plus updated news.

Welcome, Michelle!

Hello to our new ranch hand, Michelle Nequette, who is now living in the south trailer and working at the ranch. Michelle is a recent farrier graduate of Colorado School of Trades. She has an extensive history of working in the equestrian and landscaping business, having managed a

barn of 60 horses in Montana last year and, more recently, having worked at Suzanne Webel's horse barn as a caretaker. Michelle is already a very positive asset to the ranch. One of her duties as a resident in the trailer is doing the nightly "bed check" of our horses to be sure all is well. Michelle has also brought her two mares to the ranch (see pages 21-22). Welcome, Michelle; we are very pleased to have you with us!

Welcome, Ellene Kloepfer!

Hello to Ellene Kloepfer, our new upper-level dressage instructor. Ellene has ridden and shown at upper dressage levels for many years. Ellene is available on Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays to come to MMHEC to give lessons and already has several new students here. Please contact her at (303) 523-0191.



Horse Health Update

We will be sending out our official guidelines for preventing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases to all boarders and leasers (see pages 8-9 for an excerpt from the guidelines), but here are a few reminders in the meantime:

- Please do not pet or interact with any horses in 5A (the sick-horse isolation unit) or the new-horse isolation units unless you are the owner or ranch staff.
- Please check the white board by the phone in the lounge for daily horse health updates.
- Please do not forget to fill out the vet log when the vet comes to the ranch for your horse for an illness (not necessary for an injury or routine treatment).

Ranch Clean-up, Planting, and Disinfecting

On Saturday and Sunday, May 3rd and 4th, we will have a clean-up and beautify-the-ranch party. We will supply drinks and food for a lunch at 1:00. Let's start at 9:00 a.m. with disinfecting the ranch. We have purchased paint to paint the rails and sprayers to disinfect other areas of the ranch. At 11:00, we will do our spring Neva Road clean-up. Please sign up (sign-up sheet is posted on the lounge door) for disinfecting and/or Neva road clean-up. Please also bring a flower or two to share and plant in the flower beds and barrels at the ranch that weekend.

Leasers Wanted

Babe, the wonder horse—a solid and safe trail and arena horse—is for lease. Please contact Amy Paderta if you are interested in a lease on Babe (303-523-4969). Another solid, safe, and *big* guy—Buzzy2—is also for lease. Buzzy2 is an Equi-Rhythm horse who would love some extra attention. Inquire to Caroline about leasing this wonderful gelding (equi.rhythm@comcast.net). Finally, Shannon McDermott is looking for a half-time leaser who is an experienced rider for her mare, Hannah, who is trained dressage and is also a jumper. Contact her at 720-987-9599.

Instructor News

Brittany Johnstone is pregnant and will be decreasing her riding lessons at the ranch and will change her status to auxiliary instructor beginning in May. We will be looking for a full-time western instructor to take her place.

Instructors' Arena Schedule Posted

Brittany regularly updates the instructors' arena-use schedule and posts it by the phone in the lounge to let you know when the arenas are being used for lessons and help you plan your ride times in case you would like to ride your horse in an arena when a lesson is not occurring. Don't forget that the upper dressage and lower jump arenas are not used as much as the other arenas.

Some Things to Remember

1. Children under 12 cannot be at the ranch without parental or instructor supervision for the entire time that they are at the ranch.

2. Adults-only ride time in the indoor arena is from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays.
3. Only one-half of the upper arena may have jumps set up in it; the other half must remain open for schooling and lessons.
4. Boarders and leasers have arena rights even when there are lessons occurring in the arena.
5. Please do not forget to close the gates in the arenas and to pick up your horse's manure.
6. Please remember to have the parents of minors who accompany you to the ranch sign the MMHEC liability release form *before* you allow the kids to interact with horses!

Runners at the Ranch

Beginning in April, Greg will be inviting small groups of runners to join him on trail runs around the ranch on Thursday evenings. Greg will educate this running group on JAR trail etiquette as well as how to approach riders on horseback. Please keep an eye out when on the trails or even come join the Thursday evening runs around the ranch!

Spring Feeding Change

We have begun to feed pen 6 (and shortly will feed pens 8 and 9) in the tires rather than the round feeders, returning to our previous hours of feeding. We continue to use large bales, which are being placed on the outside of the pens, and throw hay (as we do with the smaller pens) at 7 a.m. and between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. If we have horses who need to gain weight or who lose weight easily, we can leave them in the south portion of their pens to free feed at night, as we can place waterers in those sections of the pens.

Joder Ranch on Channel 9!

Thank you to Hallie Sabo and her fantastic quadrille members (Courtney Schwander and Buzzy, Rachel Chaknova and Babe, Katie Biesiada and Halik, Kimy Harrison and Yahtzee, Claire Oblinger and Li'l Joe, and Lauren Micheli and Tucker) and their parents for getting up so early to get the girls to the ranch to perform for the Channel 9 5:30 a.m. broadcast about the ranch. What a great quadrille! (MMHEC has decided to help sponsor the quadrille for summer performances and showing.) Special thanks also to Bob

Joder for his performance on Buzzy and to his riding instructor, Mica Graves (with assistance from Sandi Rosewell, Greg Joder, and Karen Eifert). And special thanks to Pat Joder Cox for sharing some ranch history as part of the program. It was a fun early morning! Thanks to Sandi for her initial contact with Gregg Moss to garner interest in this coverage of the ranch. To watch a clip of the broadcast, see www.9news.com/video/player.aspx?sid=80198&aid=47410.

Indoor Arena Footing

We will be putting magnesium chloride in the indoor arena to help keep the footing moist as soon as the company is able to fit us into their schedule. When the weather is below freezing we are unable to use the water in the indoor arena and cannot harrow the outer arenas due to the soil being frozen. Thanks for your patience with the cold weather and difficult riding situations with the arenas at the ranch. Please remember that only instructors or management are authorized to water the indoor arena. This is to keep the footing at the right water level.

Fire Mitigation and Fire Plans

Due to the potential threat of a wildfire to the area surrounding the ranch, we continually work on fire mitigation around the barn. By appearances this may look like landscaping but in reality our efforts are aimed at reducing the fuel height and load, thereby lowering flame height and chances that flames could jump from the ground to the tree tops or a building should a fire break out around the ranch. We have consulted with Left Hand Fire Protection District Chief Nyquist to help us focus our efforts on the most critical areas. We will be resuming our Fire/Fire Drill Committee work shortly and remind you to turn in your personal fire plan if you haven't already done so (forms are in the lounge). We will conduct a drill using the Intrado phone message system (basically a reverse 911 calling system) to be sure it is working as expected and will inform boarders and leasers when this will occur.

Joder Ranch Road in Bad Weather

At times, the road to the ranch is treacherous despite our attempts to keep it maintained. Ranch

staff's duties of horse care take priority and, depending on the impact of the weather, can keep us occupied for the day. Please do not attempt the road if you do not have all-wheel or 4-wheel drive. We will continue to keep boarders informed concerning weather conditions at the ranch, but know that if the weather is bad in Boulder or Longmont, more than likely it is worse at the ranch. Please understand that, if you attempt to drive up the road or into the lower part of the ranch and get stuck, this will have an impact on others—staff who typically do not have time in bad weather to rescue a car that is stuck as well as other boarders with all- or 4-wheel drive who cannot get past your stuck car.



The ranch road in winter

MMHEC Advisory Committee

A newly formed Advisory Committee has been established, replacing the former Board of Boarders. We will no longer be holding elections, rather asking for a volunteer representative from each of the horse living situations. The new group will consist of eight members when fully formed. Members must be current boarders or leasers, or members of a boarder's family, who can support all MMHEC objectives. (A boarder is someone who boards one or more horses; a

leaser is someone who leases a horse from a boarder.) Advisory Committee members represent the different sectors of the boarding facility based on where their horse is living: stalls (Margaret Wilson and Sandi Rosewell), ICPs (Susan O'Kelley), pen 8 (Larry Langer and Rachel Stearns), pen 9 (Carter Flanders); pen 10 (Sandi Rosewell). We are still looking for a representative for the collective small pens (2, 3, 4, 5, and 11) and pen 6. Jane Braley, a 4-H mom, is the liaison to the committee on behalf of Blazing Saddles 4-H Club. Please come to the next meeting if you are interested in representing your horse's home. MMHEC Advisory Committee monthly meetings are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. MMHEC instructors will be rotating attendance at these meetings.

Goodbye to Cristen Poole and Amy Harrison

Cristen Poole returned to Georgia with Savannah to complete her undergraduate degree and to become a study-abroad student at the end of last summer. Cristen was an amazing asset to the ranch. She cleaned stalls and took care of horses through a very rough winter in 06-07 and was an inspiration as a lead camp counselor last summer. Thank you, Cristen, for everything; we hope to see you back in Colorado. Amy Harrison headed off to CU to begin her undergraduate career last fall. We appreciate all the wonderful contributions she made to our 4-H club. Thanks to all the boarders and 4-Hers who joined us at Terrace Maya in late August to wish Cristen and Amy well on their journeys. We will miss these two incredible young women!

Event Planning for 2008

One of the very important roles that MMHEC Advisory Committee members and MMHEC staff volunteer for is coordinating different events that we want to see at the ranch for the year. We are looking for co-coordinators and volunteers to sign up to participate in these events.

- Scheduling and coordinating Spring and Fall Vet Days – *Sandi Rosewell*
- Scheduling and coordinating Spring and Fall Dental Days – *Larry Langer*

- Annual Halloween Schooling Horse Show – *Blazing Saddles 4-H Club*
- Annual Holiday Horse Show/Party – *Karen and Caroline*
- Spring and Fall Highway Clean-Up Days – *Greg and Caroline*
- Trail Maintenance Days, including creation of trail signs with names of trails (Trails to Tables) – *Greg (we need a co-coordinator)*
- Cross-Country Course Maintenance Days – *Greg and Christy Cramer, Advisors (we need a coordinator, preferably a cross-country jumper)*
- Fire Plan Development, Volunteer Recruitment, and Annual Fire Drill – *Caroline, Greg, and Karen*
- Creation and implementation of a “new boarder orientation” – *Margaret Wilson*
- Creation of a monthly or quarterly general community education meeting (example: horse behavior awareness) – *Karen Eiffert and Rachel Stearns*
- Creation of a Volunteer Coordinator position – *Rachel Stearns*

Thank you to the MMHEC Advisory Committee Members for volunteering for these important events. And please let us know if you would like to see other events at the ranch (for example, an elder horse celebration similar to one we held a couple of years ago).

Spring Horse Turnout

We would like to develop a plan for the larger pens to rotate turnout in the south and east pasture for the spring. All horses in the pen would need to be turned out together with access to their pen available at night. Herds would rotate and it would last as long as there is grass to graze on. We would also do this in the fall, moisture permitting. The Joder and Equi-Rhythm horses will be turned out nightly on the back part of the ranch. We will need to walk the pasture before we do this to make sure that all prairie dog holes have been filled. We will be e-mailing everyone a form to fill out to grant permission for their horse to play in the pasture at night (so we know all owners in the pen are okay with this arrangement).

Safety Information and Show Rules

All young persons under 18 and their parents are required to complete a review of the Safety Information and Show Rules for Riders and Parents with their riding instructor or 4-H leader prior to attending any shows. This is to ensure that safety at the ranch and when attending events with your horse off the ranch. Thanks to Grace Maddox for updating this document.

Removal of Manure

Mike Parsons from Livestock Enterprises removed the large pile of manure from the ranch in August. Pens were scraped prior to his coming to the ranch. This job was more expensive than usual because Mike needed to disinfect his rig after all the manure was removed.

A Little Help, Please

- Arena rakes are now available to help maintain the rail and track in the indoor, so you may want to "rake before you ride" if you want to ensure the best footing for your horse between harrowings.
- If you have a free hand and some time, feel free to pitch in and help move horses to and from their pens and stalls. Thanks to all of you who have been helping with this.
- *Please* remember to clean up your hay at the rail, especially in the south barn, as there may be farriers there in inclement weather with forges that can cause sparks to fly.
- Many halters and blankets are missing ID tags. Please be sure these items are tagged so we know which ones belong to your horse(s). This is especially important to help prevent the spread of infectious equine diseases.

Motorcycles at the Ranch

Please park your motorcycle in the car parking spots and drive very slowly up the driveway as horses are not used to seeing or hearing motorcycles and this can create a dangerous situation for horse handlers and riders.

Use of Equi-Rhythm Tack

There will be a sign-up sheet in the tack room in the event you wish to borrow a saddle that is

owned by Equi-Rhythm. Please check with Caroline prior to using any saddle, especially during summer camp times. Don't forget to return tack, grooming tools, and buckets to the tack room after you have used them.

Communicating with Staff

Please feel free to leave a note on the white board in the tack/grain room if you want to communicate information to a staff member that is on duty the next day. For example, Michelle checks horses every night and you may want her to take a closer look at your horse if he/she has seemed ill. For a special service, please continue to fill out a special services form. Also, we now have a white board for horse health updates near the phone in the lounge. Please post information on your horse there as needed.

Your Suggestions Are Always Welcome

We want to address any issues that could help improve MMHEC as a boarding facility. The process for recommended fixes and changes is: fill out a fix-it form located in the file cabinet in the lounge and place it in the white box underneath the wood mailboxes near the phone. Just a reminder: The Advisory Committee's role is to recommend that a boarder with a concern fill out a fix-it form and to act as a liaison to bring any issues, concerns, or suggestions to management staff (Caroline, Greg, and Karen), who then address the issue or prioritize the project based on ability, time, and money.

Recommended Reading

In *Tug of War: Classical Versus "Modern" Dressage*, Dr. Gerd Heuschmann, a German veterinarian, speaks out against the incorrect and damaging training methods commonly employed by riders and trainers involved in competition today. This is a must read, not just for dressage enthusiasts but for riders and trainers of all disciplines who care about the well-being of their horses. See page 8 of the Spring 2007 *Contents of the JAR* newsletter for a photo from the Sustainable Dressage website (www.sustainabledressage.net) that shows an example of "overflexion" (also called "rollkur"), which Dr. Heuschmann also addresses.

Excerpt from the MMHEC Plan to Minimize the Spread of Contagious Diseases

Nancy Loving, DVM, in her article “Contagious Diseases: Minimizing the Damages,” relates that common concerns include respiratory infections such as strangles (a bacteria), influenza virus, intestinal diarrheal infections such as salmonella and rotavirus, and Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), all of which are highly contagious. Fungal infections such as ringworm are also highly contagious.

Humans (farriers, trainers, riders, caretakers); the things that move with people (trailers, bedding, tack, buckets); and even flies and rodents must be considered sources of possible transmission of infection among horses and between horses and other facilities.

Mountain Meadow Holistic Equestrian Center at Joder Arabian Ranch had an outbreak of strangles during the summer and fall of 2007, the first time this ranch had been exposed to this disease. Based on our past year’s experience, the following are new ranch and off-ranch protocols that have been implemented to minimize the occurrence of contagious diseases at Joder Arabian Ranch and exposure to others.

I. PREVENTION OF A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK AT MMHEC

A. General ranch protocol

- Timely communication to boarders from staff of such things as comings and goings of horses, horses in isolation, what management is doing at that time, and so forth (using a dry-erase white board in the lounge)
- Timely removal of manure pile
- Weekly disinfectant of all horse waterers
- Monthly scraping of pens
- Management of rodent and insect populations at the ranch
- Allowing boarders to initiate isolation of their horse if it is exhibiting signs of disease (three isolation units are available)

- Having veterinarians fill out a vet log form for every sick horse vet call (except injury calls), to give us the ability to monitor and see if multiple horses have similar symptoms

B. Management of new horses that come to MMHEC for boarding

- Current horse health paperwork prior to the horse’s arrival will be verified.
- Incoming horses will be quarantined for two weeks, prior to being put in a welcome-pen situation, and temperature will be taken daily and the horse monitored for any health concerns.
- MMHEC will recommend that new horses coming to board at MMHEC be vaccinated against infectious diseases.
- Workers handling a horse in isolation will wear a smock-type shirt that is easily put on over clothing and boots kept by the isolation pen (one smock per horse used by multiple people).
- All staff will wash hands with an antibacterial agent before and after handling any horse in isolation.
- Waterers, hitching rails, isolation units, water and hay buckets, and all implements such as manure buckets and manure forks will be disinfected prior to a horse moving into an isolation unit.

C. Management of horses that come for lessons, shows, or use of the jump course or trails

- Individuals must check in with ranch management upon parking their trailer to sign liability forms and be made aware of ranch protocol for visiting horses.
- Horse trailers shall park on the north side of the visitor parking area.
- All manure from visiting horses shall be removed and taken off the ranch by the visitor.
- Use of ranch waterers will not be permitted.
- There shall be no physical contact between off-ranch and ranch horses.
- All horses visiting the ranch shall have a current Coggins test.

II. MINIMIZING EXPOSURE TO AND FROM OTHERS TO A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

When taking a horse off the ranch:

- Make sure the horse has a recent Coggins test.
- Disinfect the trailer prior to a show.
- Take a horse's temperature prior to leaving the ranch. Check to make sure your horse is feeling well before you load it into a trailer. Do not take a horse off the ranch if it has any signs of illness, temperature, runny nose, loss of appetite, or is lethargic.
- Wash off your boots before going to another facility.
- Disinfect water buckets, manure buckets, rakes, forks, and so forth prior to leaving the ranch.
- Bring disinfectant hand scrubs to wash your hands if going into an area where other horses may come in contact with you.
- Park the trailer at the most distant point from other horses and only tie your horse to the MMHEC trailer.
- Bring water and hay from the ranch. Do not allow your horse to drink or eat anything that has not been brought from the ranch.
- Do not pet or touch other horses at the show or event.
- Do not allow your horse to have *any* contact with other horses.
- When entering a warm-up arena, ask a non-MMHEC person to open the gate.
- When finished with your class or warm-up, immediately return to the trailer.
- Clean up your horse's manure immediately in MMHEC muck buckets and bring manure back to the ranch.
- Do not leave anything behind at the show or event; everything comes back to the ranch.

III. MANAGEMENT OF A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

In the event of an occurrence of an infectious disease, management/staff will:

- Wash hands with antibacterial agent before and after handling any horse.
- Change clothes and boots after handling a sick horse, particularly if you have been sneezed or coughed on.
- Ask the vets used at the ranch to come to some kind of consensus on vaccination, diagnosis, treatment, and preventive measures and have one of the doctors come to the ranch, give a presentation, and take questions.
- Be active and vocal in our education of staff, boarders, leasers, 4-Hers, and visitors about the presence of a contagious disease at the ranch. We must not, for example, allow people to wander from stall to stall visiting with or giving treats to horses.
- For the duration of an active infection at the ranch, and for at least some period after, make every effort to keep the horses in each of the turnout pens from having contact that is likely to spread infection to horses in other pens. (We refer to this as "isolating the pens.") Contact that is likely to spread infection is sharing water, sharing hay, sharing feed pans, coughing, nose-to-nose contact, and other contact that is likely to spread saliva or mucous between horses. This should be done for all pens, not just infected pens vs. uninfected pens.
- Ensure that horses graze well away from the center of the ranch and not with other horses from other pens.
- Initiate quarantine for the ranch as recommended by a veterinarian.

Eco-Bits: JAR Trail Use Guidelines

By Greg Joder

Thanks to Greg for keeping us informed through this column about ecological concerns and wildlife at Joder Arabian Ranch. Photos by Greg unless otherwise noted.

Trail riding has been a part of Joder Ranch since the 1950s. Over the years it has been extended and new trails added as ranch activities grew and more riders realized the enjoyment of trail riding. The trail system as it exists today provides all of us the ability to enjoy solitude and the beauty of nature in a setting that is unique among private ranches in Boulder County. JAR trails are used by multiple groups associated with ranch activities, including equestrians, walkers, runners, hikers, and Challenge Course participants.



This photo, taken by Eloise Joder, is from one of the Joder photo albums. Beneath it she wrote: "My favorite trail on the back of the ranch. This is what the ranch is about and why we need to save it! 3-8-96, EWJ"

Because the ranch has an active conservation easement with ecological land-use stipulations, we are also responsible for mitigating impacts to the land that our uses may cause. The primary areas of concern are overgrazing, erosion, and noxious weed invasion. Overgrazing is currently not an issue so we are focusing on mitigating erosion and the spread of noxious weeds by evaluating and addressing trail use issues on the ranch.

The following guidelines are meant to provide clarification about trail use at Joder Ranch, which will in turn help us better manage and keep intact the ranch trail system we all enjoy.

- Please stay on existing trails! When horseback riders, runners, and hikers avoid muddy trails by traveling next to them, the trails are widened and eventually turn into "braided trails," that is, multiple trails right next to each other. Braided trails, in turn, invite erosion and noxious weeds and take years to re-vegetate.



An example of "braided trails" at JAR, showing four trails side by side; the oldest is nearly re-vegetated.

- Please do not create new trails by avoiding existing, non-threatening in-trail obstacles such as mud puddles, tree roots, or sub-surface rocks. As long as the obstacles are safely passable on horseback or on foot, please stay on the trail.
- Traveling off-trail is one of the benefits of horseback riding, hiking, or participating in the Challenge Course at Joder Ranch. Off-trail activity is permissible only when conditions are dry or when such activity will not

facilitate damage to the land. If you choose to explore off-trail, do not habitually use the same path and create a new trail. Please disperse your off-trail use and avoid the creation of “social trails.” Also, if you choose to travel off-trail, avoid crushing native wildflowers, cactus, and shrubs.



Ham explores an established trail while a “social trail” is visible veering off to the left.

- Dogs may be off-leash on the Joder Ranch trail system, but they must be under voice and sight control. **Dogs are not allowed to chase wildlife.** When taking your dog on the trail, please keep it on-leash until well away from the barn area.
- If trail conditions are muddy, snowy, or wet, please consider riding in one of the arenas or waiting for dryer conditions.

If you’d like to help improve trail conditions at the ranch, please feel free to volunteer for one of our annual trail maintenance opportunities!

Blazing Saddles 4-H Update

- A Blazing Saddles 4-H Horse Show was held in August to celebrate the end of the 4-H year, since 4-Hers were not able to attend the fair because of the strangles outbreak. RaeAnn Cook, an L Dressage Judge, worked with dressage riders in the morning. In addition, there were jumping classes in the morning and regular classes in the afternoon. Thanks to Nina Lewis and Hallie Sabo for coordinating this show.

- Thanks to the awesome Blazing Saddles 4-H crew who volunteered in the Dairy Bar during the county fair. A special thanks to Jaime Sharp, from New Zealand, champion shaker-maker, and Bishop Hennigh, tray collector, for working the busy Dancing Horses event with the other 4-Hers. We made \$42.00 in tips!
- The Blazing Saddles 4-H Club attended the stock show performance of the Dancing Horses on January 24th.
- 4-H riders took part in the quadrille that performed for the 5:30 a.m. Channel 9 news broadcast with Gregg Moss about Joder Arabian Ranch on January 25 (see details on page 4).
- 4-H meetings continue to be held every other Tuesday of the month in the lounge at Joder Ranch.

Thanks to the Blazing Saddles 4-H Club for hosting the ranch’s annual Halloween Schooling Show on Sunday, October 28th. You can tell by these photos that a great time was had by all! (Photos by Julie Rudy)



Courtney and Princeton were so beautifully color-coordinated!



Alexa and Winnie did well in their class!



The toilet-paper game is always fun!

Equi-Rhythm Update

By Caroline Roy

Rocky Mountain Equi-Rhythm (www.equirhythm.org) is a non-profit equine therapy organization housed at Joder Arabian Ranch..

Wilderness Therapy Equine Training

Twelve Naropa University Students from the Wilderness Therapy program came to the ranch from Monday, October 29th, through Friday, November 2nd, for equine therapy training with Rocky Mountain Equi-Rhythm staff as part of a Naropa degree program. Judy Cross-Strehlke instructed the group in Centered Riding® principles and techniques for one day of the course.

Equi-Rhythm Summer Horse Camps 2007

Thanks to all the Equi-Rhythm camp counselors who made last summer's horse camps success-

ful: Caitlin Epple, Zoe Drazen, Sabrina Ergun, Talia Hershaft, Erin Bove, Amy Harrison, Kelly Yelverson, Sela Harcey, Kelsey O'Neill, Myra Braley, Hannah Moench, and volunteers Bri and Katie Biesiada. A special thanks to Cristen Poole, the lead instructor for the majority of the summer. It was a hot summer and Cristen kept the counselors and kids motivated and excited about horses. Thanks also to Hallie Sabo and Nina Lewis for their lead role in the intermediate camp and Nina's help with the regular camps.

Equi-Rhythm Summer Horse Camps 2008

Equi-Rhythm weekly summer horse camps will begin June 16th and run through the week of August 11th this summer. Please contact Caroline if you are interested in being a camp counselor. Caitlin Epple and Misty Grimes, a BSW student from the University of Wyoming, will be our lead camp counselors this summer. Misty will be at the ranch full time from May 19th through August 19th completing her senior year internship with Equi-Rhythm. She will be bringing her horse to the ranch for the summer.

MMHEC Clinics and Shows: Save these Dates!

April 26th

Dressage and Western Show

Managers: Caroline Roy, Karen Eiffert, Brittany Johnstone, and Hallie Sabo

May 24th

Natural Horsemanship Instructor Training Clinic and Private Lessons

Managers: Caroline Roy and Julie Rudy

Steve and Amy LeSatz will do a half-day clinic for MMHEC instructors in the morning and will also be available for individual lessons in natural horsemanship (ground or under saddle) in the afternoon. Sign up on the schedule posted on the "Events at MMHEC" board in the lounge or e-mail Julie Rudy (jrudy@educause.edu).

June 7th

Hunter and Equitation Schooling Show

Managers: Christy Cramer and Karen Eiffert

June 13th to 16th

Centered Riding® with Judith Cross-Strehlke

Managers: Caroline Roy and Julie Rudy

Judy will provide a one-day clinic for Equi-Rhythm horse camp counselors on the 13th and be available for private and semi-private lessons on the 14th and 15th (possibly on the 16th). Contact Julie Rudy (jrudy@educause.edu).

July 12th

Ride-a-Test Schooling Show

Hallie Sabo and Ellene Kloefer (dressage), Christy Cramer (jumping and cross country), and Brittany Johnstone (western and trail) will set up tests in these disciplines. All riders must pre-register and will be assigned a time (similar to the 4-H dressage end-of-year show last August). This show will be open to anyone, including adult riders, 4-H clubs, pony clubs, and junior young riders who would like help preparing for the end-of-year shows, such as 4-H County Fair or RMDS, hunter/jumper, or cross-country championships. Hallie, Christy, and Brittany are securing dressage, western, and cross-country and jump judges for this event.

Spring Vet Day, De-Worming

A vet day is scheduled for April 26th, with Dr. Stacy Bluhm of Boulder Valley Veterinary Clinic, beginning at 1:00 p.m. For your information, the required spring vaccines for horses boarded at MMHEC are:

- East, West, and Venezuelan Encephalitis
- Tetanus
- West Nile Virus (initial dose, followed by annual booster thereafter)

All of these required vaccines will be available at the MMHEC vet day. Note that if your horse has not already received the initial dose of the WNV vaccine, you will need to get the initial dose on vet day and then arrange for a booster three weeks later. The booster should be received by

mid-May to be effective for mosquito season. Dr. Bluhm will be happy to set up individual appointments for those of you who wish to have your horse receive the strangles vaccine or who need a WNV follow-up booster. You can also schedule appointments for sheath cleaning and dental work.

Whether you participate in the ranch vet day, have your vet vaccinate your horse at your convenience, or vaccinate your horse yourself, confirmation that your horse has received the required vaccinations will be required by the end of May. If you do not provide this confirmation, MMHEC will have your horse vaccinated and you will be billed for a vet fee and a service fee.

MMHEC also requires a minimum of quarterly de-worming for your horse, preferably with a rotation of de-wormers to protect against different kinds of worms. De-worming is required in May, unless your horse is on a different schedule. (You may be able to have your horse de-wormed at vet day.) De-worming forms, which are available in the lounge, should be turned in by the end of the month and no later than June 10, after which MMHEC will de-worm your horse and bill you for this service.



Goodbye and many thanks to our wonderful ranch hand, Alfredo Cruz, who left Joder Ranch last October. Alfredo was an incredible part of the community and he took such good care of our horses! He has secured a new position at Kristi Cooper's barn, Blue Roof, where Dawn Fisher and several former boarders have moved their horses. We miss you, Alfredo, and we also miss, and thank, Alamar for all her great cooking through the years, especially her help with Trails to Tables meals. Adios and happy trails to you both. Photo by Greg Joder

We Can't Thank You Enough

Many thanks to all the members of the MMHEC and Joder Ranch community for your tremendous support in the past year; you are what makes this place so special. (Photos by Greg Joder)

- All who participated in the holiday festival and potluck: the great Santa helpers; Sandi Rosewell, who helped facilitate horse games, the horse gift exchange, and tasty potluck food; Hallie Sabo and her wonderful students who performed three quadrilles; and all the recipients of the Western Soil Awards.



- Colin Stearns (Rachel's son) and members of his Boy Scout troop for giving the ICP units their first coat of paint.
- Frank Mey for donating a special shoeing for Cassie, an Equi-Rhythm horse who has severe laminitis; Karen Eiffert for purchasing and donating the special shoes Cassie needed; Doctors Stacy Bluhm and Dale Bowers for donating x-rays of Cassie's feet; and Hallie Sabo for helping to manage and coordinate healing efforts for Cassie.
- Hope Ellis, Bishop Hennigh, Sela Harcey, Jaime Sharp, Julie Rudy, and Caroline for help painting the mid-ranch round pen that attractive green.
- Greg, Jaime Sharp, Caroline, and Alfredo Cruz for constructing and painting the isolation units in the trailer area at the ranch.
- Julie Rudy, for editing and publishing our *Contents of the JAR* newsletter.

- Sandi Rosewell for creating pen numbers for all the pens at the ranch and for arranging for Dr. Stacy Bluhm's visit to talk with us all about the strangles outbreak.
- Gwen Dordick, Christy Cramer, Greg Joder, Carter Flanders, James Callihen, Jared Emery, Kem Minnick, and friends for all your work on the cross-country course in the south pasture last spring. Two of the five sections of the cross-country have been completed so far. We will continue to work on each area to make them safe for our horses and riders and let you know when the next jump work day is scheduled.



- Kelly Kanizay for all of his excellent work creating separate waterers for pens 7 and 8.
- Greg for the new halter rack and hitching post for pen 8 horses on the west side of the pen and for all his work on the water leaks at the ranch.
- The Dordick family for donating the new toilet in the lounge bathroom and Carter Flanders and Greg for installing it.
- Pat Joder Cox for her continued care of the flower beds in the north section of the barn area.
- The pigeon mitigation crew in the ICP area: Julie and Jerry Rudy, Michelle Slaughter, Mark Hopkins, Carter Flanders, and Hope Ellis.
- Julie Rudy for organizing Amy LeSatz clinics and for arranging for Judy Cross-Strehlke to visit Joder Ranch to bring the latest in Centered Riding® techniques, with special thanks to Julie and Jerry for their donation to

the Bokamir Education Fund which paid for (and will pay for another) Centered Riding® clinic for Equi-Rhythm camp counselors.

- All who helped clean up the JAR section of Neva Road last spring (Hope Ellis, Greg, Caroline, Amanda and Madison McKenzie, Susan and Erin O’Kelly, Thomas Cantwell, Margaret Wilson, Julie Rudy, Maree Bach Greene, Robin Maras, Veronica Volny, and Rosemary Reitz) and last fall (Victoria and Ann Marling, Madison McKenzie, Rachel Chaknova, Susan and Erin O’Kelly, Amber Owen, Julie Rudy, Larry Langer, Caroline, Karen Eiffert, and Cheryl and Olivia Liquori.



- Nina Lewis, Christy Cramer, Hallie Sabo, and dressage judge RaeAnn Cook, who all helped create a wonderful horse show for the 4-Hers and other boarders last summer.
- Ann Marling and her Longmont Clearview Junior and Senior High School students for monthly service learning work: fire mitigation clean-up, painting, and stall cleaning.
- Maree Bach Greene for her wonderful work organizing the planting of all those beautiful flowers you see in the patio and tacking areas and all of her other work on the flower gardens. And thanks to her co-planters, Thomas Cantwell, Sherry Madison, Susan and Erin O’Kelly, Margaret Wilson, Gwen Dordick, Linda Gillmor, and all of the others who have helped beautify the ranch.



- Veronica Volny for organizing the Trails to Table work day last summer and the incredible meal following everyone’s hard work; to Carter Flanders for supplying propane and taking charge of the grill; to Linda Gillmor for the wonderful chocolate and almond cake and all the drinks; to Margaret Wilson for picking up ice for our refreshments; and to all who helped clean and move tables. A special thank you to those hard trail workers: Wiley Gillmor, Veronica Volny, Rosemary and Rick Reitz (has Rick ever missed a trail maintenance day?), Carter Flanders, Julie Rudy, Margaret Wilson, Bob and Greg Joder, and our community service worker.



- Dustin Maurer, Maree Bach Greene, Victoria Marling, Amber Owen, Caroline, and Karen Eiffert for painting the tack/grain room by the north tacking area
- Larry Langer for coordinating dental days.
- And last but not least, Greg Joder for his faithful documentation through photos of our activities throughout the year.



Have you seen this regular visitor to the ranch? Misty wonders if he wants to share her lunch. Photo by Greg Joder

BCHA / CTRC News

By Sandi Rosewell

Thanks to Sandi for keeping us abreast of the activities of two important non-profit equine organizations in Boulder County, the Boulder County Horse Association and Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center. Sandi is an instructor with CTRC and is president of BCHA.

CTRC

- CTRC's all-abilities summer horse camps start June 9th and run through August 16th.
- There are currently several job openings at CTRC (Volunteer Coordinator, Office Assistant, and Program Coordinator). Contact CTRC at 303-652-9131.

BCHA

- BCHA members will be participating in the Volunteer Trail Crew Leader Training sponsored by the Boulder County Parks and Open Space to help support our trail system, April 19th and 20th. Program objectives, volunteer responsibilities, qualifications, benefits, and other general information can be found at the BCHA website at www.boulderhorse.org.
- The next BCHA educational seminar will be "Recognizing Normal and Abnormal Health

Indicators in Horses," date to be announced, at the Colorado Horse Rescue facility.

- BCHA is still actively supporting the proposed Longmont Horse Park. If you wish to receive details about what is happening with this, please get on our e-mail list. Contact BCHA News at info@boulderhorse.org.

Judith Cross-Strehlke to Return to MMHEC

Plans are under way to bring Judy Cross-Strehlke back to Joder Ranch June 13th to 16th for Centered Riding® instruction again this year. The CR method was developed by Sally Swift to teach instructors and students many techniques of body awareness for a better understanding of typical movement patterns that can help or interfere with the horse's movement.



Christy Jemail riding Tara in a lesson with Judy last summer.

Riders can begin to understand how imbalances in their bodies affect the way their horse travels. Judy is an Advanced Level IV Centered Riding® Instructor and Clinician who has completed additional studies of body awareness and movement therapy, including Tai Chi, Feldenkrais, and the Alexander Method of Body Control, and is certified by NARHA. Judy will do a one-day clinic for Equi-Rhythm horse camp counselors on Fri-

day, June 13th, and will offer private and semi-private lessons for two days following the clinic. For more information, contact Julie Rudy (jrudy@educause.edu).

Bob Joder (left), Jared Emery (right) with Judy Cross



Christy Cramer helps Percy get centered on the mini-trampoline; Sandi Rosewell gets centered on Regalo.



Boarder Bits

This column highlights information shared by an MMHEC boarder. Send your contribution to Caroline (equi.rhythm@comcast.net).

Bran: To Feed or Not To Feed

By Larry Langer

There is a misunderstanding among many horse owners about feeding bran. It is not a laxative for horses unless you feed about 50 gallons of it. I have heard veterinarians Dr. Nancy

Loving and Dr. Susan Garlinghouse (who also has an MS in equine nutrition) mention this twice each during a presentation. Marcia King, in an article about winter feeding, quotes Corey Williams, PhD, an equine nutritionist: "Wheat bran does not serve as a laxative, nor does it keep your horse warm. Although it is neither harmful nor helpful to your horse, it is not nutritionally balanced, and may throw off the mineral ratio." Rice bran is beneficial to a horse who could use a little extra weight. It adds energy in the form of fat and fiber to increase heat of fermentation and is very palatable. It will also stimulate a picky horse to eat and will increase the energy density of the diet.

Bob's Bits: The Making of a Ranch

By Bob Joder

This is a column I write once in a while and have written often in the past. This particular column is for the benefit of the many new MMHEC boarders and also contains new and connecting information about Joder Arabian Ranch, which had its origins in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Enjoy!

In the drama of life for humans and I suppose animals, the making of big things is really a slow process of little things getting done while we do what we call living. One of those things for me was moving to Cheyenne, Wyoming, from Nebraska. I'm sure there were reasons but no one was asking me at the time since I was only about four years old.

We, I'm told, rented a house in town while my folks went about finding a piece of ground to build a house. And a certain man over in Europe was well on his way towards making life a living hell for those people. I was still doing what children do best: growing. Then Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. I'm told the contractor for our house bought and stored what was needed to finish our house so the house, except the basement, was completed. As WWII came to an end, I was older and very much more aware of what had happened.

One of the happier things that happened brought horses to our new house site. Backhoes didn't exist then. Even if they had, gasoline rationing would have prevented their use. So one day when I was at the site a man showed up with two draft horses and a skid-dump bucket and proceeded to dig the basement. The man left a way in and out for his horses and himself and the bucket full of dirt and he cut about eight feet into the ground and dumped the dirt up on top. I was impressed. What the man couldn't do is make the earth sides smooth and straight for the cement after the inner cement forms were built. This work was left to one man with a shovel. I wondered what would happen to his work if we had a rain downpour.

Like I've said, it's the small things that count. Who, today, would bother to smooth the basement earth? Who, today, would even try storing material at an open building location? Who, today, would use horses to dig a basement? But this was a bit of the drama that started our ranch. And I, in my youthful ways of that time, had yet to realize that barns, stalls, and fences had yet to be built!

New Boarders, New Horses!

We welcome these new horses, who have come to MMHEC since April of 2007.

Dutch: Jill Colby

According to Jill, "Dutch is an eight-year-old quarter horse and draft-cross gelding that I bought from Bill and Dona Larsen in Casper, Wyoming. I decided last year to sell Reno, who had been my show horse for many years, and buy a horse that would be more suitable for trail riding and western riding. I am interested in learning to do the Versatility Ranch Horse classes, so I needed a horse that has experience with cows and ranch work. Dutch has been a rodeo pick-up horse for the past few years, and the man who has been riding him—Shawn—says he's the best pick-up horse he's ever ridden. Dutch was raised as a ranch horse, so spent many of his younger years living out in wild areas, and

working around the ranch where Bill and Dona raise rodeo horses and bulls. I ride Dutch both western and English now, and Christy Cramer is helping me teach him how to jump. He has taken to jumping well, and is always willing to go wherever I ask him. He is a wonderful trail horse, and I have already been able to go to some awesome places on him this winter. I'm looking forward to many more miles of great trail riding and learning how to do the Versatility Ranch events. Dutch is one of the sweetest and most willing horses I've ever met, and I feel like he is just the perfect horse for me!



"This photo was taken when I went to pick up Dutch from Bill last October; we rode all over his property for two full days. We moved some cows and got surprised by deer and Dutch just did his job. It was wonderful!" Note that the photo was taken by Christy from the back of her gelding, Ike, who was also one of Bill's horses (as was Uncle Eeyore, who has now joined the Equi-Rhythm herd).

Diego: Madison (and Amanda) McKenzie

Madison McKenzie, eleven years old, is the proud owner of Don Diego Valdez, an eight-year-old, grey, flea-bitten, 15 hh quarter-horse-cross gelding. According to Amanda, "Diego had an exciting history before hitting the jackpot when he became our horse. He started life in Mexico where it is reported he was a rodeo horse. This may explain the excitement and speed of his canter. Madison likes to speculate that 'canter' means 'catch the cow' to Diego! Diego comes from the same ranch in Mexico as

Buzzy2. It almost seemed as if they knew each other when they both moved into pen 8. Diego also had a part in the TV movie *Comanche Moon* that recently aired. He invited his closest friends to a screening party and signs the occasional autograph if you bring him a cookie. Diego, who had only been ridden as a western horse, suddenly finds himself as a fancy English boy. Madison is working hard, with her trainer Christy Cramer, to teach him the new discipline of English riding.



“Smart and eager to please, Diego always tries his best and has done very well in his training. He even placed first in five of his events at the Joder Halloween Schooling Show. Diego and Madison can be found many days of the week trotting around a Joder arena or on one of the many trails. They are a wonderful pair and always have their heads together sharing a secret. If you see Diego around, please stop by and say ‘hola,’ and don’t forget the horse cookie!”

Eeyore: Equi-Rhythm

“Uncle” Eeyore was owned by Bill and Dona Larsen in Casper, Wyoming, until he

was recently donated to Equi-Rhythm at the ripe old age of 24. According to Christy Cramer, “Bill raised Eeyore from a colt, picked up on him at rodeos around the western half of the U.S., and used him as a working ranch horse. As Eeyore got older, Bill had many young horses to bring along and didn’t have as much time for the seasoned ranch horse (he was only ten!). Dona started to ride him in the opening rodeo ceremonies, carrying flags at breakneck speeds, galloping around and around the rodeo arenas. She rode him during the announcements for the entire evening performances. They spent all day together, too. Eeyore would drag the hay sled by the horn of Dona’s saddle to help feed the other horses, they would take lunch, have a bath, and then it was back to the rodeo at night. This would go on for the entire summer.



“By the time Eeyore reached his early teens, the Larsens started turning him out in their winter pastures from October through March to rest in the off season. The winter pastures are big: over 14,000 acres. They check on the horses, if they can find them, a few times per month. One year Eeyore came in with a broken hip that had somewhat healed. Both Bill and Dona were devastated. They decided to let him continue to help

out at the ranch by raising all of their youngsters in the winter pasture. The young horses look up to an older horse, learning to follow in the right footsteps (even if they are a little uneven!). Thus the name 'Uncle' Eeyore. To this day Ike and Dutch look for him as we ride past his pen. If he is out, they prick up their ears and immediately walk up and greet him, sometimes trying to get him to play." And here is a "Tail of Eeyore" contributed by Isabella Bozanic. According to Isabella, "It all started when a little fungus grew on Eeyore's tail. The fungus cut off the circulation so the hair fell out, and he was left with a little stub where his beautiful tail used to be. When he was around other horses at the rodeo he felt embarrassed, so he would stand in the corner of the pen, with his butt to the wall. His owner, Bill, felt sorry for him, so he went to the bucking horses' pens and cut off big chunks of their tail hair. He stuck these clumps of hair together and wrapped them to Eeyore's stub with an Ace bandage. Then he spray painted the bandage black so it would look just like Eeyore had a real tail. When Eeyore was in the rodeo being a pick-up horse, he swished his new tail around, as proud as he could be!" Now that Eeyore has come to Joder Ranch, we are well on our way to a full Pooh cast with a Winnie, a Tigger, and an Eeyore—oh my!

Finn and Hannah: Julie and Shannon McDermott

Finn is a six-year-old Hanoverian/paint mare; she's 16.2 hh and a deep reddish bay. According to Julie, "Finn was bred at two years old, and her previous owner didn't really do anything with her because she was too big for her and a little fresh. I bought her two years ago and basically started training her from the ground up. After about a year of being in training, an old injury became apparent. She had hunter's bump, a dislocation of her spine between her hips. We thought it was probably due to her being bred when she was still growing. Finn had to spend almost a year on stall rest, slowly letting the bones heal. When she was ready to get back to work, I moved her to Joder Ranch last fall. She's been doing very well, and her back seems to be fine. She has great

movement for dressage, but she also has the mind and the scope for big jumping; about a month after she had her baby her owner made a video of her free jumping 5 feet! Hopefully, we'll be doing three-day eventing, but her back could get re-injured very easily so we need to be pretty careful with jumping. Right now she's just doing simple flatwork as she's forgotten a good portion of her previous training. She's a total sweetheart and loves other people and horses.



"I've been riding since I was about five years old, on and off, depending on what barn we were at. Before I had Finn, we had a wonderful grey Arabian, Kiddo, who has retired and is living on a farm in California with a man and his two young granddaughters. I also had a five-year-old imported Irish Sporthorse, who unfortunately (and unexpectedly) died of colic about six months before I got Finn. We got Cody when on vacation/horse shopping in Ireland. They have incredible horses, and when looking for an upper-level competition horse, you can really find some good deals. I've trained with Kathy Johnson, Mark Mead, and a couple other trainers in the area. Now I'm training with Christy Cramer and I'm hoping to show my sister Shannon's mare, Hannah, in some local CHJA and 'A' shows this summer. Hopefully, Finn will be able to do shows soon, too!"

Hannah is a 17 hh Hanoverian chestnut mare, owned by Julie's sister, Shannon. She lives in pen 4 with Finn, Winnie, and Pirouette. These ladies get along very well and enjoy their mare pen. You'll see them playing mare games or just

hanging out comfortably, side by side. Presently, both Julie and Shannon are riding Hannah, training with Christy Cramer.



Flight to Damascus: Equi-Rhythm

Flight is a wonderful all-around thoroughbred gelding, foaled in 1987, 16.2 hh. A chestnut with a blaze and two white socks, he is registered with the Jockey Club. He has been donated to the Equi-Rhythm program by his former owners, Dee and Stephanie Elrod.



According to Dee, “Although he is very high-spirited, Flight is also very calm and has potential to be used for dressage, English pleasure, eventing, and jumping. Flight was a Grand Prix jumper in his youthful days, attending the Stock Show and traveling to the Indio to show. He was originally a racehorse with a tattoo but never won anything. He's an easy keeper when the situation's right. He will stand for the farrier all day long with no fuss and is wonderful with clippers. He trailer loads like butter and loves the

water. Overall Flight is a push-button horse who has been trained in natural horsemanship through the Parelli program.” Flight should make a great addition to the Equi-Rhythm program. (Photo by Michelle Nequette)

Liebi: Kathleen Gossard

According to Kathleen, “Liebi is a 20-year-old Hanovarian mare, whom I have ridden and competed at first-level dressage. She also likes to trail ride. She is kind, obedient, and has a pleasant personality. She has been my friend for the past six years.” Kathleen moved Liebi to Joder’s when she moved to Boulder from Arizona.



Nina and Tally: Michelle Nequette

Michelle is our new ranch hand, who brought her two girls, Nina and Tally, with her when she came to Joder Ranch last fall. According to Michelle, “Nina is my 15-year-old big, black thoroughbred mare. She ran on the track in California and wound up in Montana, where I found her three years ago. She had been pretty abused, and my friend whom I bought her from didn't quite know what to do with her; she wouldn't tie, stand still, or let you catch or touch her. I bought her in the spring having no idea that she was pregnant with a September baby! Nina is a big sweetheart, and has come a long way toward trusting people again in the time that I have had her. She loved the chiropractor who worked on her recently! I am working on finding a kind, new home for her. Tally is Nina's three-year-old filly, born in my front yard in Montana. She's

Appendix quarter horse and will eventually turn grey like her dad. She's a smart, sassy kid, and is just learning about riding and being a good girl. It's much more fun to be bad and try to buck me off! I am very pleased to have measured her at 15.2 hh the other day, and I'm rooting for a nice round 16 hands when she's finished growing.



“Both girls live in pen 9, and Tally has found the perfect partner in sass in Jack, the pony.”

Piper: Zoe Drazen

According to Zoe, who formerly owned Norm, “I had to give Norm back to his owner after we learned last winter that he was blind. I worked with him for awhile but he started to become too dangerous and we decided it was unfair to both him and myself for me to keep riding him. I kept him throughout the summer and groomed him and gave him some TLC, but did not ride him. I then gave Norm back to his original owner last September.



“I leased Doc through the summer but then I still wanted a horse of my own. We looked at a few ads but things were moving pretty slowly. Christy Cramer then mentioned to my instructor, Hallie, that there was a horse at Sombrero Ranch who looked very promising. Hallie rode him and was impressed, so I then went and rode him a couple of times. I really liked him and he had a sweet personality. I also liked his size: 17 hands. He is a thoroughbred/draft cross. I brought him to Joder’s and leased him for a month, making sure all of his muscles were in good condition and that I still liked him. I definitely did. He passed his vet check with the exception of a small problem in his leg that can be contained by making sure he wears medicine boots when I ride. So far he has been amazing and was great at the show I took him to in early March. We are still working on our bond as horse and rider. He currently lives happily in pen 8.”

Reno: Christy Cramer

According to Christy, “Reno has been in my care for almost nine years. In that timeframe he has gone from rearing, to major temper tantrums and hissy fits, to almost finding himself at the local auction, to finally becoming a very competitive show horse. Because of those many years of trials and tribulations with him (he used to be *very* naughty), it was hard for me to watch his owner Jill sell him. I knew that she needed to so that she could move on in her riding but, selfishly, it was hard for me to see him gone! So, on one of his last training rides, I started to daydream about ways to keep him.



“My school program has always needed an extra horse, a more advanced-level horse, and I knew he would be perfect. I made Jill an offer, which she thought about for a few months, and then we decided to make it work. He is such a wonderful creature, I feel very fortunate to have him as a new addition to the lesson program. Reno is now a schooling horse and is co-leased to Sharon Rives and Catherine Wilson.”

Spring: Phoebe (and Ali) Strawford

According to Ali, “Spring, a lively little three-year-old, 12 hh dapple-grey, Welsh mountain pony, and Phoebe, an equally lively little seven-year-old (also of Welsh extraction!), became the best of friends last September, a great partnership that has flourished ever since. Spring was a gift from Phoebe’s grandma and grandad in Wales and her sire was bred very close to their village in the Brecon Beacons, Mid Wales, where these tough little mountain ponies graze, roaming and breeding freely on thousands of acres of national park land. Her father was exported to Canada where Spring was bred before being imported to a Welsh pony farm in Oregon.



“Phoebe and Spring have been inseparable ever since they met and have enjoyed teaching one another amazing things through natural horsemanship games they have played together. Spring has been started very gradually and is getting more confident under saddle daily. She is still very early on in her riding career, having been running wild with a large herd in Oregon

for a few years, and not really having interacted with humans much until arriving here in Boulder. She seems very excited by her lovely new home, and especially by the sweet spring grass coming through. Phoebe is also loving being a part of this great community, where she rides with Hallie Sabo and has enjoyed several camps and also helping with Kyra. Joder Ranch has become a huge part of our family life....as the saying goes, ‘You can take a Welsh girl out of the mountains, but you can’t take the mountains out of a Welsh girl!’ We hope that both Phoebe and Spring will love being together at Joder, and with more time and training will enjoy many, many hours on the mountain, drinking in the peace and beauty of this magical place as both girls grow in their confidence and ability together.”

Remembering Three Special Teachers, Healers, and Friends

This past year we experienced the loss of three cherished horses to whom we want to pay special tribute. Lucky and Harry Jones had led long and very happy lives, but little Alfred left us way too early. All three gave so much in their time with us; they are deeply missed and mourned. Thanks to Bob Joder and Rosemary Reitz for remembering Lucky; to two of Christy Cramer’s students, Morgan and Amy, for sharing their special relationship with Harry; and to Karen Eiffert for honoring Alfred.

The following remembrance was written by Bob Joder, through the eyes of Lucky as he passed into the world of horse angels.

This was exciting for me. As I stood on top of the cloud bank I could see many other horses. Some, like Le and Terri, I knew; others, like Aadraffa, Raflind, and Kanaz, I knew only by barnyard stories. Hundreds of horses were assembling for the parade, guided by Mom Joder’s voice calling, “Come, pretty babies!” I felt like the other horses, my muscles strong and

firm, yet light and springy; my aches and pains were gone. I felt youthful again and I wanted to connect to the ranch, my home, to Rosemary and Bob. My stride was long and easy as I waited for the collection of horses to become complete. Eloise was on Valla Tara, staying close as if to say, “Welcome! We are all glad to have you.” The collection of horses had grown enormously. Sooner, Gilgamesh, and Wiki were there, along with Nafas, Truska, and Burkhana. And there was Peanut Butter, Jodeera, Bokamir, Harry Jones, and Madrasi. Then Mom Joder’s voice rang out with more authority. The massive herd of horses parted down the middle so Aadraffa and Ibn Rogue could begin the parade by trotting down the center toward the cloud draws and the ranch. Other horses fell in behind the leaders—Vicky, Tony, Buddy, Basat, Blackie, and many other Joder Arabs. Soon it was my time to go. Valla Tara and Eloise stayed close to make me feel safe.



Lucky in his show days. Photo by Marge Maagoe

The lead horses reached the cloud draws, broke into smaller groups, and disappeared over

the edge. Soon I began my descent, not far behind Le. As I got to the bottom of the cloud draw, the ranch came into view. I could see the horses in the pens, standing and watching us move with the freedom of the sky. As I got closer I could see Misty, Buzzy, Jasara, Annie, and all the rest, watching our coming. They began to play as our circle enveloped the ranch and Joder Mountain. Caroline, Greg, and Karen all stopped mid-stride and looked up. The ice crystal music spoke to them and sent feelings of wonderment and well being. Then our lead horses stopped circling and headed back to the cloud draws and all of the horse angels followed and the music faded.

Bob Joder

What a special horse; I’m the one who feels lucky! During his long and happy 32 years, Lucky touched so many people and there are so many great Lucky memories and stories. Zauba Walad was born April 28, 1975, a bay who later turned grey and who remained a stallion his whole life. He is survived by Buzzy, Misty, Annie, and Jasara. Bob and Ellie Joder owned Lucky, who was part of a line of well-boned, good-natured, solid performance horses bred by Anna Best Joder, Bob’s mother. Lucky and I started lessons together around 1997 and two years ago Bob gifted him to me—a dream come true. When we first met, he was 22 and rude, pushy, and tried to bite me. I thought this definitely would not work, which shows my horse sense. He had so much life! A blue-ribbon winner, he loved dressage and jumping and trail rides, flirted with almost every horse he saw, liked to go to shows and not get in the trailer to come home, liked to rear at every flag around the arena at shows, survived colic surgery, and many colics. He was egotistical, never wanted to end a trail ride, and even killed a coyote. If he couldn’t run as fast as possible up the entire south serpentine trail we would passage. Ellie called that being “all puffed up.” He was still willing to race at 30, knickered every time he saw me. Always a gentleman, always the boss, still learning tricks, he didn’t mind dressing up in costumes. My only “western soil award” came while grazing; I fell off trying to look at his hoof and he never

stopped grazing! Lucky was mischievous, brave, and proud, and the sweetest horse you could ever want. We will always remember you!

Rosemary Reitz

Over the three years I've ridden with Christy Cramer, I have seen so many horses come and go, but Harry was the only one that seemed superhuman. Harry was a symbol of resilience and proof that love really does exist, even if it's with an animal. The first time I rode Harry Jones, I acted what Christy would call "wary," but what I would call "extremely scared." That day he made me scream, that's how scared I was, and I realized how powerful a horse really can be. From that day on, I'll always know that Harry's personality was that of a leader. He was willing to give his best effort but loved to terrorize people who had previously lost their nerve.



Harry Jones, Christy Cramer's lifelong, beloved friend

Harry Jones meant the world to me. He was my best friend and the only living being I could ever tell anything to. When I found out he had left us, I cried so hard I nearly fell. That night I cried myself to sleep and wished that somehow he would know that he was to be greatly missed by all. I'm not the only person who loved Harry. I think it may have been impossible not to love him. On those days that I saw Harry I knew I

was one of the luckiest people on earth. He taught me to trust, to love, to understand, and to be the best I can be my whole life.

Amy Morgan

Harry Jones wasn't just a horse to me; he was one of my best friends. Harry taught me many lessons over the six years I knew him. Of those lessons that I don't think I will ever forget is how to trust. I broke my leg skiing when I was nine and I was absolutely petrified of getting hurt again. My second time on a horse after the accident I fell off and refused to do anything other than trot for almost a year, and that was when Christy had me do a lesson on Harry in a field on the lunge line. With Harry I felt safe, comfortable ... I felt like me again. I relaxed in the saddle for the first time in ages and he broke into a gentle canter. That day my life changed forever. Harry was my favorite horse ever. I rode him almost every lesson for about two years. I re-learned everything on him. I learned how to jump again, how to trust I wasn't going to fall again. The most important thing I probably learned was how to enjoy riding again. Harry was dubbed King of the Barn by my friends and me. The girl who rode him in lessons was the envy of all. After a hard week at school or just a bad day, I would go to the barn and there would be Harry, not caring about my hair, makeup, or anything, just happy to have a sugar cube. He didn't judge me and I know that he loved me. I loved him right back. After a few good years like this, we moved and the drive to Joder Ranch was a bit much for my parents so I had to stop riding until summer. I kept in touch with barn people and every time I'd ask, "How's Harry?" the answer was "Fabulous! When are you coming to see us?" I'd always reply, "Soon, I promise." I never got around to coming back until my friend Jamie called me, close to tears, and said, "Morgan, Harry died yesterday." I collapsed crying. Harry had been my best friend for the longest time. I loved him sooo much and then he was just ... gone. And I hadn't gotten to say goodbye. My bond with Harry was still strong when we pulled up the long driveway with snapdragons in the back of the car to plant on his grave. I

walked down to where he is buried and tears began rolling down my cheek. I began to tell him how much I loved him when a warm breeze swept over the field. It was just one breeze and then everything was still. I stopped crying and realized that even though Harry isn't physically still with us anymore he is still here in spirit and in all of our hearts. Harry was an amazing horse who impacted everyone's life that he came into. Harry was my best friend and he taught me many things. I relearned how to trust, thanks to him, and without him, who knows? I might still be trotting in a flat arena. So thank you, Harry Jones. You're a hero to all of us.

Morgan Boaman

On November 11, 2007, Rocky Mountain Equi-Rhythm lost its youngest teacher and friend, Alfred, to an impaction colic. Alfred came to Equi-Rhythm in September 2006 as a donation from a local Haflinger breeder. Although he was from champion bloodlines, Alfred was born with numerous birth defects, including his trademark floppy ears and crooked mouth. While these differences made him of little use in the showing and breeding world, they made him invaluable as an equine therapy horse.

Alfred had a one-of-a-kind way of inspiring his clients to recognize their own uniqueness and gifts, and to be unapologetically "themselves" in the world. Alfred's quirky little face and sense of humor nudged, nibbled, and prodded people to laugh at themselves and their own behaviors. Teens quickly identified with his quick shifts from obnoxious, pushy adolescence to nuzzly, sweet vulnerability. Their parents, in turn, were able to step back and laugh at the ups and downs of being, and being with, a teenager. Ranch staff and boarders took Alfred under their wing like a beloved mascot, and cheered him along through his early life stages, knowing that it would take a village to raise him.

Alfred had a special charisma and personality that drew in just the right people for the lessons he had to teach. In the end, he took on some far deeper lessons. He opened the door for many discussions on life and death, and the importance

of living life to its fullest. In a true expression of a life well-lived, Alfred's friends and clients couldn't cry for long about him without breaking into a smile over special memories of Alfred's rough-and-tumble antics. While none of us understands why Alfred had to leave so soon, we all can learn a lesson about the sweetness of being alive from our big-hearted, floppy-eared little friend.



Caroline welcomed Alfred to Equi-Rhythm

Alfred is survived by the many special people and horses in his life. He is greatly missed by the ranch staff and his penmates in pens 9 and 10. He is also greatly missed by his special friends, including Alexa (his personal hair stylist), Zach, Rachel, Olivia, Marissa, Kyra, and Miles. Rest in peace, Little Al.

Karen Eiffert

More Special Friends Honored

Peanut Butter Jack

Peanut Butter Jack, Peanut, Nutty Buddy, Nutter Butter, PB & J.

So many names for such a great horse.

Peanut taught my children to ride,
And he helped me return to a world of horses
Which I had thought lost.

My favorite Peanut memory: galloping up the
Sugarloaf trails

Under blue skies with aspens shimmering.
My funniest memory: Peanut taking the power
bar from my hand,
Then making such a face!



He could untie any knot, except for the knot of
love for him in our hearts.

Goodbye, Peanut.

Gosh, we miss you!

Holly Harris

Miss Star Eyes

March 15, 1981 – July 7, 2007

Teacher–Playmate–Feisty Lifetime Companion

Many thanks to those who stood with me
while we bid Star farewell, all of you who
have written to me with wonderful remem-
brances, and to the Joder family and Caroline
Roy who graciously allowed Star to be buried in
the south pasture. She was one of a kind and I
miss her.

Grace Maddox



Teddy

Some of you will remember Teddy, who
lived at my home for many years. (Actu-
ally, he was Barbara Scott's cat.) In his
younger years he would walk down to the barn
area and walk among the horses' feet as they
were being groomed. I remember Billy Myers
reaching down with her brush and giving Teddy
a quick comb. Ted also seemed to like being
picked up and held near the Joder pen and the
horses would move in to nuzzle him. He did not
object. Teddy was always with me when I was
working on the garden wall by the north barn. He
even put up with being sprayed with the hose but
he finally learned to stay at a distance when I
was watering. He felt very secure in my golf cart
and would ride sitting up very straight, as if he
was the one in charge.



Teddy also was a great guy when he accepted
the little black kitty who gave birth to four ba-
bies in the straw barn. After the babies were
given up for adoption, Greg had the mother
spayed and returned to the barn area. In the mid-
dle of a cold winter, I saw her eating bird seed
outside my house. She was so wild, but she fi-
nally ended up in my house and Teddy became
her friend. So, Teddy is not only missed by his
people family but also by little Missy. He passed
away February 20, 2008, at the age of 17½ years.

Pat Joder Cox

April to July Ranch Events

4-H meetings are held every other Tuesday

Andy Dean Dental Day	April 12
MMHEC Advisory Meeting	April 23
Dressage and Western Show	April 26
Spring Vet Day	April 26
Ranch and Highway Clean-up	May 3-4
MMHEC Advisory Meeting	May 21
LeSatz Clinic at JAR	May 24
May Deworming Forms Due	May 31
Hunter/Equitation Schooling Show	June 7
Judy Cross-Strehlke RMER Clinic	June 13
Judy Cross-Strehlke Lessons	June 14-16
Equi-Rhythm Weekly Horse Camps	June 16 – August 11
MMHEC Advisory Meeting	June 18
Ride-a-Test Schooling Show	July 12
MMHEC Advisory Meeting	July 16

MMHEC Advisory Committee

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Carter Flanders	720-560-1097
Larry Langer	720-406-7897
Susan O'Kelley	303-652-6069
Sandi Rosewell	303-449-0401
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This quarterly newsletter is edited and produced by MMHEC boarder Julie Rudy. Please submit articles or news to Julie by June 20 for the summer edition (jrudy@educause.edu).



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