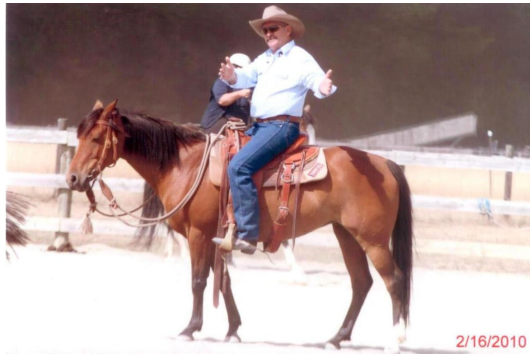


Issue 1/2010 - March

Editor: Pat Court

Hi Guys, to use a term I heard in a movie “I’m back”.



The break in my head was this big.

I’d like to thank you all for your well wishes. With a long list of all the things that I broke or damaged it made it necessary to work on three basic rehabilitation places, the brain, the body and the emotions. When I thought about it in order I realised it was no different to what I try to do with my horses. I realise that the more personal it is the more important it feels. I now think of a word called “empathy”. I think it is possibly the most important training aid we have at our disposal. Tom Dorrance once said “your horse doesn’t care how much you know until he knows how much you care.”

When you think about it your horse doesn’t have a choice as to what he eventually does. Our response is to do what we can to help him be as comfortable as possible while we develop his work ethic and enhance his performance levels.

It’s interesting to note that you can pet and kiss your horse but it means nothing to him until he feels it emotionally.

Your horse’s brain can’t function clearly if it’s got fear or doubt in it.

Your horse’s body can’t work freely and smoothly if he is suffering from emotional instability and his body won’t try if the first two are unhealthy.

Without a strong innate sense of purpose, I think it’s easier for our horse to feel a sense of futility and quit.

Sometimes any small positive can be all it takes to start a fantastic change.

Training Hints: The old masters say that the tighter the reins the lower the shoulders. I wonder what it has to do with the tightness of the horse’s mouth affecting the shape of the body. Remember “form to function.”

Your horse’s form is reflected and influenced by the quality and freedom of his function. It’s almost impossible to engage and strengthen the back of a straight horse but lateral manoeuvres will help make his back work and get strong. Lateral flexion and lateral movement make strong horses.

Consistency of gait and balance can only be established by doing lots of transitions, not by making him hold a gait for a long

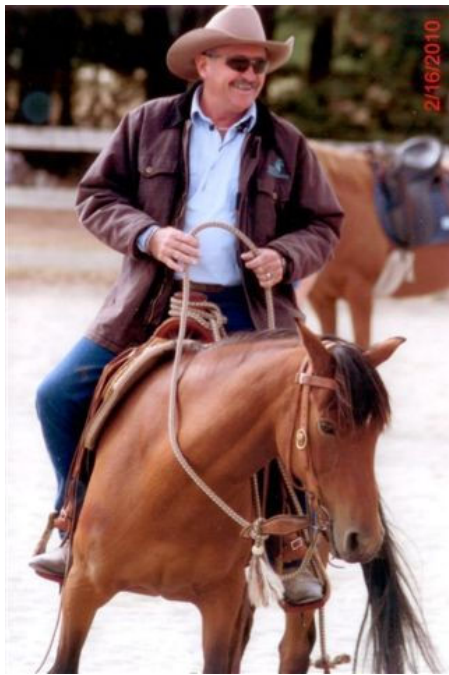
time. When the horse's head doesn't try to "bob", move in a freestyle transition, it's time to start strengthening the horse by gently picking up the reins. Shortening the reins to test his strength and balance should take months, even years. It's the mark of an advanced horse and a thoughtful rider.

When you ride a corner like a very slight shoulder in you will improve your turns and your circle. The circle is the hardest thing to ride properly.

When you have to use your hands to stop your horse you have lost the essence of horsemanship, you have also made him brace his shoulders by transferring his weight to the front.

Food for thought.

Cheers
Ken



Pleased to be back in the saddle again



Chuckle Time

Top Ten Old West Phrases that will never sound the same after that Gay Cowboy movie.

10. "I'm goona pump you fulla lead!"
9. "Give me a stiff one, bar keep.!"

8. "Don't fret – I've been in tight spots before."
7. "Howdy, pardner."
6. "You stay here while I sneak around from behind."
5. Two words: "saddle sore."
4. "Hold it right there! Now move your hand, reeeal slow-like."
3. "Let's mount up!"
2. "Nice spread ya got here."

And the number one Old West Phrase that Will never sound the same...

"Ride 'em Cowboy!"



WHAT IS NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP

"What is Natural Horsemanship?" It is not an entity within itself, it is an alternative training method. I seem to think that some of our members use it as a social outlet to do things with horses together with other people, and this is not in itself a bad thing, but then move on to a horse sport e.g. reining, dressage, campdrafting, eventing or whatever and forget about what they have learnt in Ken's lessons.

It worries me that people move on to these facets of horse sport and don't apply what they have learnt to the training of their horse in their chosen horse sport.

I for one, wish that I were a lot younger when I discovered "natural horsemanship" as it would have made life a lot easier for me when I trained for and competed in Dressage and Hacking. I discovered that helping my horse to understand and work with me was much better than trying to "make" him do what I wanted, that only caused resistances.

I know it is difficult to always apply what you have learnt in your horsemanship classes to what a trainer may be teaching you, as it sometimes seems to conflict, but there is nothing to stop you in your training sessions at home trying both ways, think of

the way you would do it if you were in a natural horsemanship class, using your body language and your weight in such a way that makes it easier for the horse to do, that then makes it easier for the horse to understand.

If I am having a problem with something I always think about what I am doing to cause it and try to adjust my body to help the horse. I cannot always solve the problem but I find the more I practice and learn about the “natural” way the more I can apply it to solve my training problems.

It is always good to do a horsemanship clinic now and then to hone up your skills and revise what you have previously learnt. To learn a new method requires practice and the more you practice the “natural” way the better your timing and feel gets and before long “natural” is normal for you as an individual.

I find that what is taught at ANH horsemanship clinics is the basics of what you need for training for any horse discipline. Think about it and try to “think natural” in whatever you do. Also, remember that on our members days you can always ask for a session on some aspect you are having a problem with, if you are having a problem there is probably someone else with a similar problem. I find I always learn from other people’s problems, you may not have a similar problem at that moment, but at some time you probably shall and then you will have a bit of an idea of how to solve it.

Good luck and good riding and “think natural”.

Pat

CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Enquiries/Bookings</i>
20-24 March, 2010	5 Day Horsemanship Course – Inverell NSW	Ken Faulkner	Damian Hall 0427 205 988
28-31 March, 2010	4 Day Horsemanship Course – Julia Creek QLD	Ken Faulkner	Leanne Eckford 07 4746 8649
4-10 April, 2010	7 Day Supercamp – Geelong VIC	Ken Faulkner	Narelle Unmack 0418 540 770 Agnes McCormack 03 5439 7397
17-20 April, 2010	4 Day Horsemanship Course – Motueka NZ	Ken Faulkner	Cathryn Eltham 027 239 9957
24-26 April, 2010	3 Day Horsemanship Camp – Wilmington SA	Ken Faulkner	Karen Sobey 08 8821 2369
1-14 May, 2010	14 Day Supercamp – Esk QLD	Ken Faulkner	Kathy Stewart 0427 732 394
15 May, 2010	Members Only Challenge Day – Esk Qld	Ken Faulkner	Pat Court 07 5426 8276
21-24 May, 2010	4 Day Savvy Weekend – Mudgeeraba QLD	Ken Faulkner	Tracey Vercoe 07 5533 8401
28 May – 2 June, 2010	6 Day Horsemanship Course – France	Ken Faulkner	Kathy Stewart 0427 732 394
5 June – 11 July, 2010	Horsemanship Courses – United Kingdom	Ken Faulkner	Kathy Stewart 0427 732 394
23 – 26 July	4 Day Savvy Weekend – Esk QLD	Ken Faulkner	Kathy Stewart 0427 732 394
27 July, 2010	Members Only Dressage Day – Esk QLD	Ken Faulkner	Pat Court 07 5426 8276
30 July – 2 Aug, 2010	4 Day Horsemanship Course – Tamworth NSW	Ken Faulkner	Jennifer Hawkins 02 678 7708 (Home) 0427 302 598 (Mob)
8 August, 2010	Members Conference Day – QLD	Ken Faulkner	Pat Court 07 5426 8276

17-20 September,2010	4 Day Savvy Weekend – Mudgeeraba QLD	Ken Faulkner	Tracey Vercoe 07 5533 8401
1-4 October, 2010	4 Day Savvy Weekend – Bendigo VIC	Ken Faulkner	Agnes McCormack 03 5439 7397
23-27 October, 2010	4 Day Horsemanship Course – Christchurch NZ	Ken Faulkner	Dianne Newton 001164 033126211
24-29 November, 2010	Foal Handling & Horsemanship – Mt Lyford NZ	Ken Faulkner	Mel Bollinger 001164 33156565