



**High Desert Horsemen**  
**P.O. Box 2263**  
**Dayton, NV 89403**  
**[www.hdhorsemen.org](http://www.hdhorsemen.org)**

# HD Hoofprints

**Volume 2 Issue 5**  
**May 2006**

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**Upcoming Events**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 May 11 General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.). Stagecoach Community Center. Marie McIntyre 629-9705.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

May 14 Mother's Day Ride/Drive and Scavenger Hunt. 215 David Ave, Stagecoach (Churchill Rancho Estates). 10:00 a.m. Bring instant mashed potatoes as ride fee (to be used for Thanksgiving baskets). Members only (applications available day of ride/drive). Cost \$5 to participate in scavenger hunt (need not get off horse to participate). Contact Linda Mulkey, 629-0817 or Kelli Lyon, 629-0865.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**May 20** Bring all your unwanted tack and yard sale items to the Highway 50 Yard Sale on May 20th. For \$5 you can reserve a spot. It will be held at Margy and Jim Hamilton's Arena (11225 Silver Lane). If you have items to sell but do not want to spend the time, you may drop off the items (with prices marked on them) and for \$5 (goes to HDH), I will sell them for you. Contact Linda Mulkey at 629-0817.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**May 21** De-Spooking Clinic 101. Conducted by Vince Pirozzi. 11225 Silver Lane (Margy and Jim Hamilton's Arena) \$10/members, \$25/nonmembers. Lunch included in fee. Contact Linda Mulkey, 629-0817.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**June 4** Virginia City Ride. 10:00 a.m. Staging area north of Highway 50, Dayton. Contact Margy Hamilton, 629-0807.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**June 10** Summer Horse Schooling Show, 11225 Silver Lane. 8:00 a.m. High point awards at end of day. English, Western, Driving, Speed, Fun classes. Contact Linda Mulkey, 629-0817.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**June 18** Under Saddle 101 Clinic, 11225 Silver Lane, 9:00 a.m.. Conducted by Tony Sumner. Contact Margy Hamilton, 629-0807.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**June 25** De-Spooking Clinic 102. Conducted by Vince Pirozzi. 11225 Silver Lane. \$10/members, \$25/nonmembers. Lunch included in fee. Contact Linda Mulkey 629-0817.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## President's Corner

Our 2nd Annual Hairy Horse Show went very well despite the threat of rain in the morning. All had a great time. I would like to thank Chris Easterling and her daughter Caitlin (who by the way is very charming and a lot of fun) for being judge and ring steward, gate person and ribbon giver. Also thanks to Laura Bell for taking time away from her busy work day to judge our trail classes.

We got through all but 5 classes before the rain came. The High Point of the day for "18 and over" went to Kelli Lyon. High Point of the day for "17 and Under" went to Teresa Cash. High Point of the day for "Driving" went to Jackie Jones. Congratulations to all of the winners for the day. Hope to see all of you again, and many more at our next Horse Show on June 10th at the Hamilton Arena.

See you at our meeting on Thursday, May 11th @ 7:00 p.m. for the board and 7:30 p.m. gen'l meeting at the Stagecoach Community Center.

By for now—Marie

## News Briefs



High Desert Horsemen made the news. The Nevada Appeal featured the club on Friday, April 28th on their Personal Appeal page.

Diana and Harold Miller are going to recite poetry, along with Willis Lamm's band at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 13th in Old Town Dayton at the Oodles of Noodles festival.

Have you read a good book lately? We would like to start a reading list of books you might have just read, or read a long time ago, but feel is worth mentioning. If you have a book (fiction or nonfiction) to add to the list, please forward them to Linda Mulkey. Kelli Lyon just finished reading a book from her childhood and feels it is worth mentioning. It is: *Smoky the Cow Horse* by Will James.

## Classifieds

[Free classifieds for HDH Members. Contact Linda Mulkey to put an ad in this section](#)

**Wanted:** High Desert Hoofprints 4-H Club is in need of a child's size 14 Western Saddle. The saddle will be used for horseless kids. Could someone lend a saddle to the 4-Hers? Or the members are willing to exchange labor for a saddle. Please call Melinda Cash at 246-0198.

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## Farriers

Harold Roy Miller

All the farriers I know are the type of folks  
who can handle a horse with ease  
But most of them tell off color jokes  
and show up when they dang well please.

Most of them are crusty and gruff  
and have been shoeing for so many years.  
They sure fit the description of cowboy tough  
and have no horse problem fears.

One minute they can be quoting Bible verses  
and the next they begin to rave.  
They are experts at spewing expletives and curses  
when a horse starts to misbehave.

But if you can cut through all the bull they fling  
they can be a reliable source,  
They're knowledgeable and you might learn something  
beneficial to you and your horse.

Women are also getting into the act  
and breaking down the sexual barriers  
There are a few I know for a fact  
that are making their living as farriers.

Men or women, they are a special breed  
and they certainly know what they are doing.  
They also are someone you're going to need  
next time your hoses need shoeing.

Yes, most farriers are rough kind of folks  
but they sure know their way around horses.  
So you have a choice either laugh at their jokes  
or prepare to take farrier courses.

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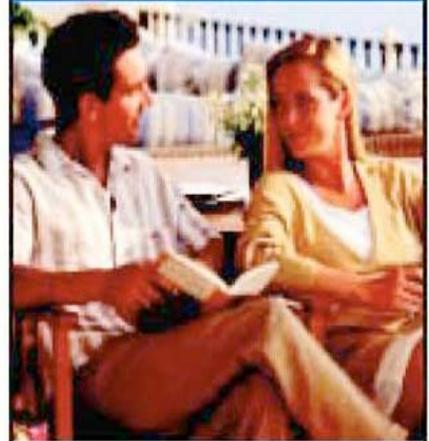
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## Lungeing-With-Purpose For Starting Or Re-Training Horses

By: Laura Bell

Starwood Farm and Bell Star Mustangs - Silver Springs, Nevada

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Lungeing-with-purpose involves teaching the horse a set of cues that will then transfer to the mounted level later on. It also involves lungeing with LONG sidereins and allowing the horse to "self-teach" giving to the pressure on their mouth that they themselves create. I usually start, and restart horses for my clients, using my lightweight western cordura saddle or my close contact huntseat saddle, a full cheek medium thickness snaffle or fullcheek frenchlink snaffle and the sidereins for lunging purposes only. I favor the fullcheek bit because if the horse decides to caper about on the end of the line, if they pull, the bit won't be pulled through the horse's mouth because the full cheek pieces prevent it from doing so.

I also balance the bit in the horses mouth, and set it up so that the horse will apply poll pressure from the lungeline if they pull, by running the lungeline through the ring on the snaffle, up over their poll and then down to snap on to the top of the snaffle ring on the opposite side. This way, the contact from me to the horses mouth isn't just working from whatever side I'm on. The line going through the ring and over to the other ring on the opposite side creates more balance and even contact between myself and the horse. It will also apply poll pressure on the horse's poll if they pull because the lungeline will tighten as they pull, but release and loosen from pressure if they don't pull.

I don't use sidereins after I have a horse going under saddle. I find that by putting the long sidereins on the green horses that are just getting their start under saddle, and also on the horses that I am restarting because of man-made problems and big holes in their training, it allows them to work through some issues in a way in which they are the ones deciding on where their comfort zone is and how they want to feel. The sidereins are adjusted very long so that the horse has to really overextend up, down or out with their neck and head before they come into contact with the end of the sidereins, and thus, the bit. As the horse tests the boundaries, they discover where they are most comfortable and they also learn that by yielding in their jaw and their poll and rounding their neck and back slightly, instead of trying to run through the pressure they are creating, they find relief and a comfortable spot because the sidereins go back to contact (I use sidereins that have the elastic insert, rather than the rubber donuts. At the trot, I feel the rubber donuts create too much bounce on the bit in the horses mouth), or even slack, when the horse relaxes their poll and jaw. If a horse wants to overextend their neck and head in any direction, that's fine with me. If they don't mind the discomfort of tension and pressure on their mouth that they themselves are applying with over-extension in any direction, then they can carry themselves that way. Most horses however choose a comfort zone and seek to create contact or slack sidereins, rather than dealing with tension on their mouths. By putting the sidereins on very long, they are in no way being restricted or pulled-back into a "frame", they really have to overextend to come to the end of the sidereins. Every single horse that I've ever started this way (numbering in the hundreds at this point) have made the choice,

or decision, to loosen their jaw and "give" at the poll, thus going to contact or slack reins. The purpose or goal is not the horse coming into "frame", the purpose is for the horse to learn to go forward and then "give" to the pressure they are creating if they are trying to "run through the pressure" and learn not to fight the pressure instead. Unlike humans, who may make errors in their timing of when to "give" or release when the horse "gives" at their poll and jaw, sidereins are either "there" in pressure (tension), or they are not (when they are just in contact or are slack). "On the bit" is not my goal, the horse learning to go forward, loosen their jaw, "give" to pressure on their mouths, relax at the poll and round their topline slightly is the goal.

The other positive aspect of doing it this way is that there is no conflict or combat between horse and human. The person isn't put in the position of being the villain atop the horse if they accidentally don't "lighten" or release with their hands at the precise moment the horse "gives". The horse has a chance to think things through, find the comfortable parameters depending on the length of the sidereins, and decide how they wish to feel.

Once the horse has learned these basics and also understands the various sound cues for walk, trot, canter (going forward) and then the sound cues for the transitions back down through the gaits, then we are ready to add the rider, but without the sidereins. I'm able to act as ground support for the rider (the owner) who is usually the first person to ever ride the horse in the case of the young horses. With the full understanding of lungeing, the horses most always progress very smoothly and positively in whatever direction their riding careers are headed-in. This also holds true for most horses that I re-condition/restart too. There is a lot more education in place before we ever get on the horse.

A key issue here is that I never progress to the riding until the ground training is correctly in place. We are building a foundation that will last the horse's lifetime, so we are in no hurry and we don't skip steps or move on in training until each level of the training is in place and flowing seamlessly. Lungeing sessions are usually about 25-30 minutes long, tops. I'm working on the mental aspects more than the physical with my method of lungeing. I also rarely use lungeing to "work a horse down" or to "take the edge off" before riding. The only times I put a horse on the line "naked", or with just a saddle and bridle, is for a few minutes at the horses first shows if they are a bit over-excited in their new surroundings, or for a pre-purchase or lameness exam. Otherwise, once we do the "lungeing with purpose" in the beginnings of under saddle training, or during restarts on older horses, we won't be using it very often after that, maybe just as a refresher course if the horse has been off work a long time due to

broodmare duties or having been turned out and not ridden for a long while. Its a great foundation training method and makes the whole starting or restarting process a lot more simple and positive, and with no confusion in the mind of the horse and no danger to the human because of the horses maybe dangerous evasions such as rearing, flipping themselves over backwards, bucking, etc.

To start the horse off, I use "walk-walk" and a few soft clucks. To move up to trot, clucking and "show" the horse the whip. I utilize the whip in a sweeping motion a few feet off the ground. When lungeing, the lunge line simulates the reins and the whip simulates the legs motivating the horse forward, moving from back to front. I place the horse between the "legs" (whip) and "hands" (lungeline) by forming a V-shape with me at the point, with the line going out to the horses head and the whip pointed toward right behind the horses haunches and me facing the horses flank and staying slightly behind the horse. I walk a smaller circle within the horses larger circle so that the horse is not stressing themselves physically and/or losing their balance on too small of a circle. I also never snap or crack the whip. Snapping or cracking the whip continuously will cause the horse to become unresponsive to those sounds. Similar to when a person continuously clucks when they are riding. After a while, the horse no longer pays attention to the sound, it means nothing to them anymore because it is so continuous. To canter, I kiss and slightly raise my line hand. Downward transitions are: from canter to trot I say "terotrrrr"-softly, drawn out word "trot", and then "waalkk"-softly drawn out word "walk" and then soft whoa for halt.

I also do things a little differently when I stop the horse and prepare to go the other direction in that I don't allow my horses to face me when I stop them. Three reasons for this:

Safety--If I allow a horse to stop and face me, as I reel in my line and walk toward them preparing to make adjustments and turn them the other way, if they hear a noise or perceive movement behind them (even if there isn't even anything there) if they spook or bolt, they will usually just run in whatever direction they are pointed or facing, maybe mowing me down in the process.

Psychological--some horses use facing the handler on the lunge-line as an evasion to not wanting to lunge anymore. They'll continuously get the handler reeling them in, pointing them the correct direction again, getting them going again and then will face up and the handler starts all over trying to get them going the correct direction. Some horses will even face-up, challenge the handler to get them going again and then take the evasion farther if the handler pressures them to go and will either come into the handler (perhaps charging them), or they might turn and run the wrong way. So now there are more issues to deal with then we originally started with. If we teach the horse right from the beginning that facing-up is not allowed, then they will not use the evasion of facing-up, and/or charging the handler, or turning and running the incorrect direction on the lunge-line because they know it's not allowed.

Adjustments-- I have to make adjustments to my lunge-line and maybe even my sidereins, so I have to go to their head anyway and can't just reverse them out on the lunge-line anyway. Since I rarely lunge a horse "naked" (with no tack except the halter and lunge-line) reversing a horse out on the end of the lunge-line is not even a consideration.

This lungeing approach is a wonderful start for horses at the ground level that then transfers to the ridden level in terms of the education the horse possesses in regard to knowing how, and becoming more conditioned to carrying themselves in a round frame, being relaxed in their jaw, poll and over their whole topline from nose-to-tail, and also not trying to run through any pressure of the riders hands on the reins. The rider (with ground support lungeing them on the horse if desired) can then begin to transfer verbal or sound cues that the horse knows from the lungeing, to physical cues from the rider via the hands, seat, legs and weight. The rider will apply the sound cues at the same time that they apply the physical cues and are eventually able to phase the sound cues out entirely as the horse begins to understand what the physical cues are. In this way, the rider will be the only one communicating with their horse via physical cues when in the show ring or on organized trail rides for instance because the horse won't be tuning it to what sounds (signals/cues/commands) the other riders are making to their horses. This avoids a lot of confusion and produces a horse/rider team that work in total harmony with one another.

This methodology and approach for starting young horses, or re-training horses, for any discipline of riding or driving has proven to be very successful for me for over 25 years and produces well-adjusted, trusting, and also physically and mentally relaxed and comfortable horses.

### Baby's Corner



Baby born 2:30am May 2nd, Mom doesn't want me in there so not sure it we have a boy or girl. But very healthy and Mom and baby doing fine.  
Kathie Peterson—proud grandma  
Rowdy proud Dad  
Luna proud Mom

# 2nd Annual Hairy Horse Show



Teresa Hardy, Aimee & Tony Sumner, Sheila Aerick



Hairiest in Show—Bandit owned by Margy Hamilton



Teresa Cash & Tango



Kelli Lyon & Pepper



Kimberly Hamel & Smoke N Lonsum Zephyr



Patty, Casey & Dallas Ott & Kenos Elite Fleet



Registration



Ring Steward Caitlin Easterling, Judge Chris Easterling, Kimberly Hamel & Smoke N Lonsum Zephyr

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Jill Andrews & Bunny Can Dance

High Point Awards of the Day

17 & Under—Teresa Cash

18 & Over—Kelli Lyon

Driving—Jackie Jones



Teresa Hardy & Clyde



Dallas Ott & Kenos Elite Fleet,  
Caitlin Easterling



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Linda Mulkey & Raven (owned by  
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Pancake Breakfast 8:00-11:00

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If you have a Horse for Sale - Bring Pictures, Information or a Flyer for the "Horses For Sale" Board!! (No Live Horses Please)  
**Also** - bring **yard sale** items.

**Buyers** - Come and get some GOOD DEALS on horse and livestock tack and maybe buy a Horse or Trailer or win the 50/50 Raffle!!!  
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by May 19 to Reserve Your Space

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