



Official Newsletter of Fawn Anderson

# The Journey...

## Spring Is Here - Are You Ready to Play?

It's hard to believe that March is nearly over and Spring is finally here! As always, time is flying by as I prepare to wrap up my extensive horsemanship studies so that I can come home and pass on everything I've learned to you.

Since January, I've had the opportunity to spend some concentrated time studying Dressage with Karen Rohlf. It has been a lesson in mental fitness and body awareness! She had me ride one of her big warmbloods so that I could feel what my horse was missing and learn what it felt like to ride something with that kind of self-carriage and lightness—in a

halter, no less. It was a great reinforcement and reminder for me to make sure my horse and I are upholding our responsibilities!

"When the student is ready, the teacher appears." That was true, as Aimee Brimhall came down to teach some clinics and I had the opportunity to spend 9 days with her. I picked her brain about all sorts of amazing discoveries she has made around herd dynamics and harmony. I'm fortunate that I have horses of all levels to experiment on, and I've been amazed at the results! Read more



'Sugar Billy Hickory' & Fawn doing a LHB demo at the Florida ISC

about herd dynamics on page 2.

Last week I flew to TX to watch a Buck Brannaman clinic. PNH was well represented, with the top 3 riders in the class being Parelli Professionals. It was great to see how a solid foundation sets you up to excel with any of the masters! To see when I'll be riding with Buck in Washington, check my website calendar!

### In This Issue:

- Understanding herd dynamics & dominance.
- Cow Working in the Kootenays!
- Dressage Naturally Update & Book.
- New Lesson Series Announced.
- 2008 Events...
- Sugar Billy Hickory's Road to Recovery

## Do you have a story for the E-news?

If any of you have clinic, play-day or horsemanship stories that you'd like to share, please send them to me, along with

any photos, and I'll do my best to get them into the E-news. It's a great way to let other people know about

Parelli going on in the area. You'll see photos of students braving the snow to play in this issue!



## Exploring Roles in a Herd—Dominant Vs Leader Pt. 1

I'll always remember Pat Parelli telling me, "If you want to learn how to be a better leader for your horse, watch how horses play with each other."

I'm fortunate to own enough horses that I get to observe herd dynamics regularly. Did you know that in a herd of horses the Lead mare and the Dominant mare are two different horses with completely different roles? If you've watched the new Horsenality DVD, you have probably already been observing your horses on a new level. I'd like to add another dimension to that for you.

### A herd has a few basic key roles:

**Leader** – ever vigilant, watches over the herd and alerts them to danger.

**Dominant** – the horse in charge of establishing the pecking order so everyone knows their place, and also defends the Leader.

**Stallion** – fights for supremacy and breeding rights - always either defending their title or looking for weakness in other stallions as an opportunity to conquer them and take over their role.

These are the 'elected officials' so to speak. Some horses were born to be Lead or Dominant mares – it's a strong instinctive programming. And there are Stallions that were born to fight their way to the top and breed (even after you geld them!). You can think of these horses as the 'Extremes' on your Horsenality chart (outer circle). These are also the horses that people struggle with the most because they don't understand how to deal with them naturally.

In the next few issues I'll discuss the Lead and Dominant roles in the herd, how they differ, and what you need to know to build a stronger bond and avoid trouble if you happen to have one of these special horses.

### Web Special!

Students who make purchases via my web site during the months of April & May will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a new 22' line.

To enter, go to [www.fawnanderson.com](http://www.fawnanderson.com) and click on 'Shop'. Each person who makes a purchase will be entered into the draw - Good luck!

Anyone interested in ordering a Parelli saddle can do so directly through Fawn for hands on help and consulting before, during and after the order.

Congratulations to Sue Sibley—winner of the January drawing for Karen Rohlf's newly released Book/DVD on Dressage Naturally!

### More Dates Added for 2008!

- ◆ May 13,28 & June 12-Uxbridge,ON: Level 1 & 2 Lesson Series \*Pending\*
- ◆ May 23-26 - Lucan, ON: Level 1 & 2, Fluidity, Assessments.
- ◆ June 18 – Thunder Bay, ON: Level 2 Group Lesson.
- ◆ June 20-23 - Dryden, ON: Level 1 & 2 Clinic.
- ◆ June 27-29 - Saskatoon, SK: Group Lessons & Level 1 Clinic.
- ◆ July 3, 10, 24, 31 - Fruitvale, BC: Morning Lesson Series.
- ◆ July 3, 10, 24, 31 - Nelson, BC: Level 1 & 2 Evening Lesson Series.
- ◆ July 28, Aug 18, 25, Sept 1 - Nelson, BC: Level 1 & 2 Morning Lesson Series.
- ◆ Sept 20-22 - Edmonton, AB: Level 1 Clinic & Group Lessons.
- ◆ Sept 25-28 - Saskatoon, SK: Level 1 & 2 Clinic.
- ◆ October 24-26 - Thamesville, ON: Level 2 Clinic & Group Lessons.

Check the website frequently for events in your area: [www.fawnanderson.com](http://www.fawnanderson.com)

## Award Packs to Remain the Same!

In last month's newsletter I notified you of a new fee that was to be charged by Parelli for Level Award Packs to non-Savvy Club members. I am happy to announce that a decision has been made by Parelli to reverse that change and continue to offer award packs to non-members free of charge.

## Cow Working in the Kootenays!

I have put in a proposal to the Nelson & District Riding Club Executive committee to approve plans to bring cattle back to the NDRC (Blewett, BC) during the months of July-September!

The plan is to develop a program where participants can meet at the riding club twice a week and have some fun with their horse while building a solid foundation to track, rope, sort and pen cattle. The emphasis will be on good horsemanship and utilizing horse and cow psychology to promote confidence and acceptance. No prior cattle experience necessary!

I have volunteered to oversee this program (I won't be teaching cow working!) because of my experience in a wide variety of cow related events, both competitive and more practical (ranch style). It is my desire to provide people in the Kootenays with an opportunity to see how adding purpose to their horsemanship program can increase their knowledge and enjoyment. And with any luck we'll be able to expose a few people to the benefits of Natural Horsemanship while we're at it!

Participants must be members of the NDRC and will be required to pay cattle fees to cover the costs of maintaining the cattle. If you are interested, email me at: [pnhclinics@yahoo.com](mailto:pnhclinics@yahoo.com).

## Dressage Naturally—the Book/Dvd!

At long last Karen Rohlf, Parelli Dressage Associate, has released her new Book/Dvd on achieving Dressage Naturally using Natural Horsemanship methods based on her studies of the Parelli Program. I received my own signed copy yesterday from Karen and all I can say is, "Wow!"

Not only is the book beautifully put together with plenty of illustrations to clearly explain how to do certain exercises, but it is also packed with loads of information and some new ways to look at old concepts.

This book will serve as a valuable guide for dressage enthusiasts striving to maintain the balance between mental, emotional and physical well-being for their horse as they study the art of Dressage.....Naturally!

*(I am hoping to be able to bring a few boxes of books back to Canada with me, so you'll be able to get them at my clinics this spring - until they're sold out!)*

## Karen's Clinic Full— Spectator Tickets Still Available!

For the second year in a row we will be hosting a Dressage Naturally clinic in Ontario. All of the rider positions in Karen's October clinic have been filled, but there are still a limited number of spectator positions available.

This promises to be an event not to miss, as Karen will be taking groups through both the first and second stages of her program applying Natural principles all the way.

Come and watch Parelli Professionals join their students for 5 days of intense learning and fun. And don't forget to attend the annual Wine & Cheese Social!

Contact Kathleen: 705-639-1813



Fawn & "Lincoln", her Rhodesian Ridgeback - Lion Hunting dogs!

# May 2008 Clinic Schedule

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |   |  |  | 1 Billy receives his first stem-cell treatment  | 2   | 3  |
| 4  | 5<br>Leave Florida                              | 6<br>Arrive Ontario                                      | 7  | 8   | 9 Demo - 7pm<br>Hastings, ON                | 10 Level 1, 2 & 3<br>Lesson Series<br>Hastings, ON |
| 11 Level 1, 2 & 3<br>Lesson Series<br>Hastings, ON | 12 HMS-Dressage<br>Riding with Eddo<br>Hoekstra | 13 TBA- Tentative<br>Uxbridge Lesson<br>Series: Lv.1 & 2 | 14 HMS-Dressage<br>Riding with Eddo<br>Hoekstra            | 15 Private Booking<br>Ottawa, ON                | 16 Group Lessons<br>Pembroke, ON            | 17 Group Lessons<br>Pembroke, ON                   |
| 18 Group Lessons<br>Pembroke, ON                   | 19  | 20 Private Booking<br>Orton, ON                          | 21 Private Booking<br>Orton, ON                            | 22  | 23 Level 1&2<br>Lucan, ON                   | 24 Level 1&2<br>Lucan, ON                          |
| 25 Level 1&2<br>Lucan, ON                          | 26 Group Lessons<br>Lucan, ON                   | 27   | 28 TBA - Tentative<br>Uxbridge Lesson<br>Series : Lv.1 & 2 | 29 HMS-Dressage<br>Riding with Eddo<br>Hoekstra | 30 Level 1<br>Lesson Series<br>Hastings, ON | 31 Level 1, 2 & 3<br>Lesson Series<br>Hastings, ON |

## Clinic Contact Info

- Hastings Lesson Series - Kathleen Dupon, duponfamily@persona.ca, 705-639-1813.
- Pembroke Group Lessons - Mark Lemke, naturalnorth@yahoo.ca, 613-687-2636.
- Orton Private Booking - Heather McNeil, mcnail.heather@gmail.com 519-993-4245.
- Lucan Clinic & Lessons - Gail Lamb, gail@gailelamb.com, 519-227-0582.
- Nelson Lesson Series - Heather Farrell, hfarrell@shaw.ca, 250-505-5270
- Fruitvale Lesson Series - Brent Wray, brent266@telus.net, 250-367-6015
- Uxbridge Lesson Series (Pending) - Judy Griffiths, 905-649-6309 dreamfeather@sympatico.ca

## Calling All Uxbridge Students!

Judy Griffiths contacted me to express an interest in booking a 3-part lesson series at her facility near Uxbridge May 13, 28 & June 12 and she wants to know if there would be enough interested participants to make up two groups. There would be a Level 1 & a Level 2 class offered, with six students in each group, and each class would be three hours per day.

Judy needs to know if she has the numbers to book the event by Wednesday, April 16th. Call or email her for details or to put a deposit down to secure a spot in the class: 905-649-6309 or dreamfeather@sympatico.ca.

## New Lesson Series Format in Demand!

I've always said that the most rewarding part of my 'job' is the fact that I get to truly make a difference in people's lives through their horses.

One of the reasons I decided to offer 'Lesson Series' vs the traditional 2-4 day clinic was so that I could break up the sessions over a greater period of time, thereby allowing students to go home and practice the material between classes. This allows them to see where their strengths and weaknesses are and better prepares them to get the most out of the next session with me.

I decided to limit the Lesson Series to only 6 participants, rather than the 10 usually allowed in clinics, to allow for a more intimate learning environment and plenty of time to be sure that each individual's needs are being met. After 8 years of teaching, I have found that this is a really great number that also allows a group to bond, resulting in a support network outside of class.

Although it will mean less profit for me and a lot more driving back and forth, having the ability to more thoroughly support students and play a

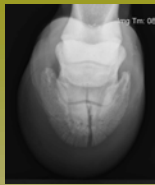
more consistent role in their studies is worth it.

Participants in the sessions receive questionnaires to fill out ahead of time and the class is customized to fit their needs. This format caters to those who are serious about accelerating

their progress. Students are expected to spend time between class doing the assigned studies/practical so they can build on those skills in their next session. For those of you signed up, prepare to have a blast!

~Fawn





Some of you have already heard that on the evening of my birthday (of all days!) my Level 4 horse, Sugar Billy Hickory, fractured his coffin bone during a storm.

The past month I have spent day and night researching my options and talking to every top surgeon in the country to come up with a plan to give Billy every chance at making a full recovery.

Dr. Madison, head surgeon at Ocala Equine Hospital, operated on Billy April 8th. Articular fractures are the type that split the coffin bone straight down the middle. Because of the high risk of osteoarthritis, inserting a lag screw to compress the fracture at the joint surface was the best option, although not without considerable risk.



Billy was brought to the hospital the day before to prepare his foot by cutting away any exfoliating bits and

then having his outermost layer of hoof lightly filed and sanded down. He had an IV bag filled with antibacterial solution taped around his leg and was left to soak overnight. All of this was to reduce the risk of possible infection during or after surgery, which would have a devastating outcome.

We were able to watch the entire surgery, including the part where Billy was hoisted by his ankles onto the operating table. They literally drilled a hole in his hoof wall and used x-rays to guide the screw into place. It seemed like



forever, but finally the surgery was complete. Now it was time to put the shoes on!



# Billy's Road to Recovery

The shoe was pre-made and only needed to be nailed on. They then put protective tape over his shoes and hoisted him into the recovery room—a dark padded area where the thrashing is least likely to injure them as they come to and struggle to get up. They don't let the owner watch that part!



Once on his feet, he was brought back to his stall to recover. That was the hardest part of the entire process for me— he was in an immense amount of pain, sweating, pawing and holding his foot up for hours. I stayed at his side and kept bringing the vets back to add something for the pain until finally, 6 hours later, we decided to nerve block the foot to get it under control. They gave him one more nerve block in the middle of the night and by the next day he was doing much better. Three days later he was comfortable enough to bring home.

Because of the nature of the injury, Billy will have to remain in Florida for the duration of his recovery. It is going to be a very long recovery that will include stall rest, bi-weekly injections of hyaluronic acid, supplements to support bone, hoof, joint, immune and digestive health, proper vitamin



and mineral absorption, photonic therapy, magnet therapy (thanks Michelle!), homeopathy and water contrast therapy to encourage circulation.

Dr. Sutter, another head surgeon at OEH and also an authority on Stem



Cell therapy, spoke with Vet-Stem and they agreed to donate half the costs of the Stem Cells so that they could study the benefits to this type of injury. Billy will have at least two treatments starting in May. Thanks Dr. Sutter & Vet-Stem!

I'd like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to my good friends Joy & Fred Cox and Tonya & Gina Cavaliero who are teaming up to manage the care and rehabilitation of Billy until my return in November. The only thing harder than watching my boy in pain is having to leave him behind to recover! But I know that he is in good hands.

I'd also like to thank Mark Lemke for his donation on behalf of the Ottawa Valley Natural Horseman's group to assist with the costs of Billy's recovery. It's been so great to see how many people have stepped forward wanting to help and participate in getting 'the Kid' back in action. Thank you everyone and I'll keep you all posted!



~Fawn & Billy