



Blue Ribbon News

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2008

BLUE RIBBON RIDING ACADEMY
439 East Sowell Road
Canton, MS 39046

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Blue Ribbon Spotlights our Trainers

Here at BRRR, we'd like to wish Trainer BJ Hall a fast recovery after Hurricane Gustav ripped through Baton Rouge, LA recently causing loss of electricity to her barn, and to much of the Baton Rouge area. Our thoughts are with all those who've been affected by this bad storm. BJ is currently scheduled to come to Blue Ribbon to teach Hunter/Jumper Beginner to Advanced lessons twice monthly. While she maintains her equestrian center and lesson/training program at her own barn in Baton Rouge, she continues to come over to BRRR to teach and we greatly appreciate her knowledge, talent and expertise.

Blue Ribbon welcomes new trainer Guy Benefield, who joins us from Georgia. Guy has managed a full service equine management company since the 1980's which included training, breeding and consulting. He has put on many Class A shows and clinics. He has bred and trained American Saddlebreds, Half Arabians, and Tennessee Walking Horses. He is also a certified judge in the show ring. Guy is available to teach Intermediate to Advanced Hunter lessons, and Adult Beginner Lessons.

BRRR also welcomes new local trainer Ashley Lyons. Ashley rode Hunter/Jumper for 10 years in Virginia before moving to Mississippi. She has since added Team Roping & Barrels to her list of accomplishments. She competes locally at Team Roping and Barrel competitions. She is available Wednesday and Thursdays for English and Western, Beginner-Advanced lessons. BRRR welcomes Ashley.

Please Notice....

The round pen has been moved to the indoor arena. It will be used for lessons and lunging. You may ride in the indoor arena if you are free riding, but you may not ride in the indoor arena during a lesson unless approved by the trainer.

To Schedule A Lesson With One of our Fabulous Trainers...

To schedule a lesson with any of our trainers you may sign up on the board posted in the barn with times and days each trainer is available, you may check out our website which is being updated, or you may email

Edna: ednatcurr@aol.com,

Leichmann: drspinko@bellsouth.net,

Or Michelle @
curry.michelle@jackson.sysco.com.

Now there are three ways to schedule a lesson. We strive to offer the best in our lesson program at BRRRA and are pleased to offer you the services of these three trainers. They are available on different days, so please take a moment to sign up. If you have a question about your lesson time, call Edna @ 601-842-0564. If you cannot make your scheduled lesson,

you must call to reschedule at least 24 hours in advance. Trainers only come to teach a lesson when it is scheduled, and you will be charged unless you have notified them. Trainers now expect the rider to be ready by the start of the lesson by:

...have boots shiny & clean, horse well groomed, shirt tucked in, rider ready and on time for lesson, with rider and mount in arena before lesson begins!!!

Boarder Bits & Pieces....

Welcome Back to "Mae" and owner Katie Rose Anthony!

Welcome Back to Natalie, owner of Paris! Good to have you back!

BRRRA welcomes "Shiloh"!, a 5 year old quarter horse. He is for Kylie Patterson.

BRRRA also welcomes "Sweden". She is a 3 year old thoroughbred mare, for Lake Weston.

Weekends are a great time to come out and ride your horse! Even though school is back in session, everyone needs a little "horse TLC time"!!!

*****If you have any special needs or changes to be made for your horse, please call Edna Curry @ 601-842-0564.**

New Horses!!!

We are pleased to announce the arrival of several new horses to the schoolie program:

Kentucky: Red Roan gelding

Onyx: Black Thoroughbred (*He is nice to look at, but not to be handled*)

Baya: Arabian

Legacy: Arabian

Ann Hornbeak Dressage Clinic

Our first ever *Dressage Clinic* was held at Blue Ribbon in August. It featured well known Dressage Trainer Ann Hornbeak, from Folsom, LA.

Riders from all over central MS came to participate in the two day event, which was held August 24th and 25th. All the stalls were filled and the weekend was full of private and semi

private lessons given by Ms. Hornbeak. Many Blue Ribbon Riders participated on both days. Overall it was a huge success.

Thank you to all who helped with this event. We look forward to hosting another Ann Hornbeak Clinic in the future.

Farewell to Audra

We would like to say farewell to trainer Audra McGough.

She has been with us at Blue Ribbon since December of last year. Her husband TJ has accepted a job with a new company which requires them to relocate to Pennsylvania. We wish her all the best.

COLIC ~ COULD IT BE COMING WHEN IT'S COOLER???

Colic! Do you know what this is? Most of us may think we know. But let us take a closer look.

Colic is a disruption of the horse's natural digestive process that can range in severity from a case of simple discomfort to a truly agonizing life threatening condition. Colic can be managed, though, and here we'll take a look at just that.

First, there are two kinds of colic. Hyperperistalsis, or increased activity colic, can be caused by excessive parasites (worms), eating moldy or spoiled hay or grain, and in colic spasms in some mares can be triggered by heat cycles in the weather and pregnancies.

Hypoperistalsis, or decreased activity colic, can be caused also by excessive parasites (worms), or excessive increase in grains (such as the horse getting into the grain barrel accidentally) sudden feed changes, feeding grain to an exhausted horse, allowing a very hot horse too much water, dental problems (improperly ground up feed) and ingestion of foreign bodies and materials (including dust and sand).

In the wild, horses get dehydrated,

ingest sand and dust when they graze and one would think colic would be a regular problem. However, horses in the wild are always in motion, moving from place to place to graze, make trips to their water holes, and so forth. Also range forage (what they eat in the wild while grazing) is what the horse evolved to eat and it is less likely to "tip" a horse's digestive balance.

Most horses will show some restlessness or uneasiness as the digestive process starts to go bad. As the discomfort increases a horse may paw, look at his flanks, nip at his flanks, kick at his abdomen, keep getting up and lying down, roll or stretch in odd positions, rock back against a solid object and repeatedly change weight on the hind legs. Oftentimes the first noticeable difference between a resting horse and a colicing horse who is laying quietly on the ground is unusual and frequent jaw movements such as partial yawns, rocking of the lower jaw, raising of the upper lip, and curling of the tongue when the mouth is open. As the colic intensifies, the symp-

toms usually become more pronounced. There are several things you can do to prevent your horse's chances of developing colic.

- Manage your horse's diet. Give good quality feed with adequate roughage and avoid sudden changes. (which BRRR does!!!)
- Provide your horse with regular exercise through riding at the same level consistently or through active turnout in the pasture daily.
- Don't overwater a very hot horse. Give him enough for about 12 swallows and then come back again later.
- Make sure your horse is drinking properly, especially during unusual weather changes. Many horses tend to reduce their drinking during cooler months, then during an unusually warm day they can sweat unnoticed and become dehydrated. A horse that is chilled by a sudden cold spell may similarly not drink enough.
- Use preventive steps in the case of horses which tend to ingest dust or sand. Regular doses of psyllium mucilloid (if okayed by your vet) can help purge the intestinal tract of sand and dust buildup. But few preventive activities are better than simply giving your horse regular exercise.

Happy September Birthdays!!!

Happy Birthday to the following wonderful people at Blue Ribbon!!!!

Edna Curry, Paul Leonards
Wynelle Leonards, and
Rachel Bradley

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU RIDE....

Please remember a few very important things when you come to ride....

1. Always be careful. Whether you are in the arena with a trainer having a lesson or free riding to work on your personal riding goals, always be aware. Becoming too relaxed or unaware is not safe and makes you and your horse vulnerable to having an accident.

2. Even if you consider yourself an "experienced rider", NO ONE is immune to accidents or injuries when you are on top of or around horses! Be CAREFUL at all times. Be careful with your actions, with how you take care of your horse, and with those who are around you. Keep your head up and your eyes and ears open at all times.