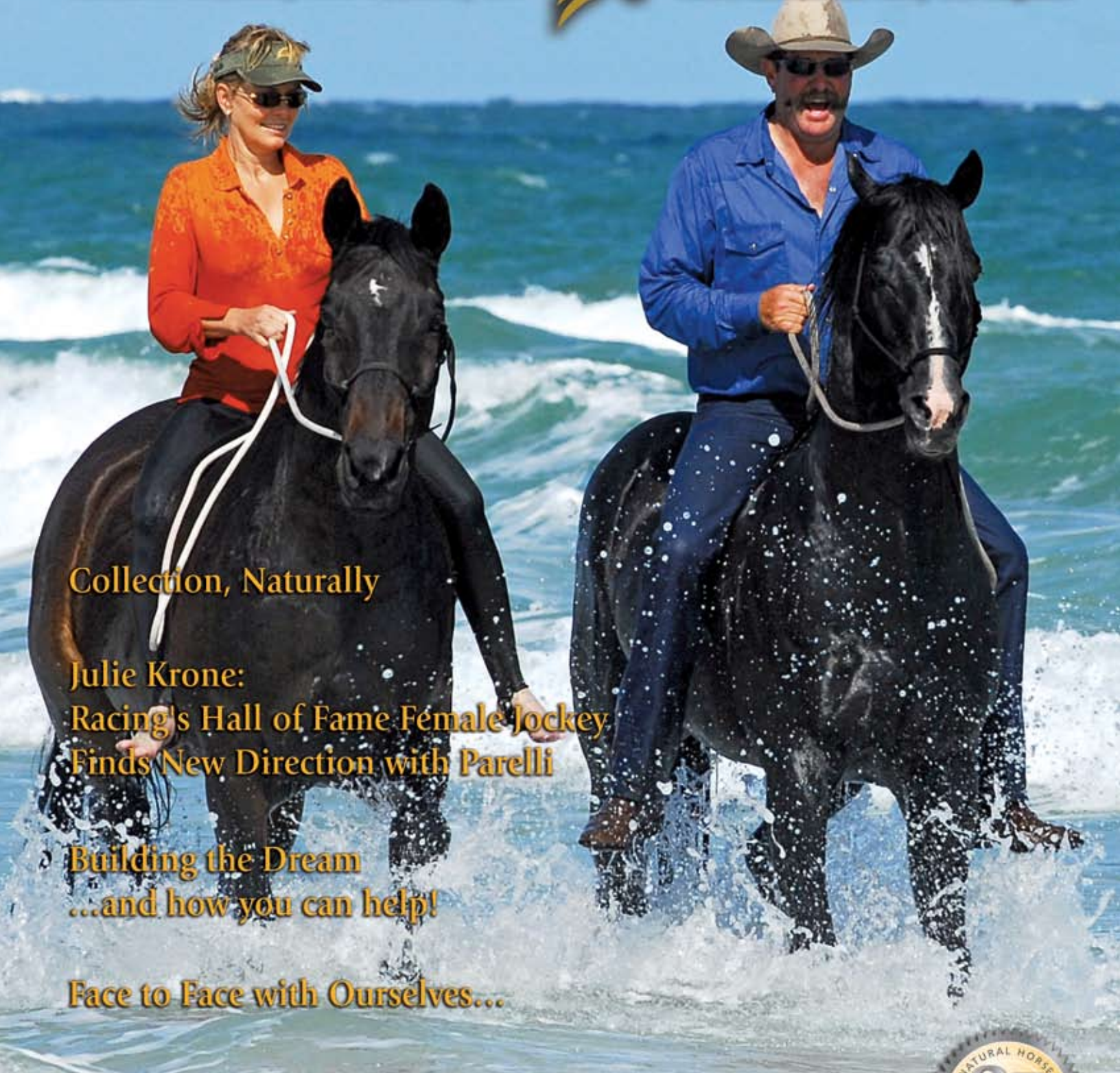


SAVVY TIMES

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 14, January 2007

Parelli International Savvy Club Magazine



Collection, Naturally

**Julie Krone:
Racing's Hall of Fame Female Jockey
Finds New Direction with Parelli**

**Building the Dream
...and how you can help!**

Face to Face with Ourselves...

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photos by Coco



Parelli International Savvy Club™ Magazine
Issue 14, January 2007

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*Pat and Linda playing on the beach in Florida
 with their horses Remmer and Casper*



Dear Friends,

So much has happened since we last wrote to you. As always, the Conference ends our Colorado season on a high and unveils new things for the coming year such as the new Liberty & Horse Behavior Pack, some new approaches to developing collection more naturally and Pat's secrets of bridleless riding (which you'll have already seen on the December DVD). Now we're in Florida for the winter season and already classes have been in full swing and just about to pause for the Christmas break.

Our Tour stops have been a lot of fun and for me, the best has been all the amazing stories and hugs I've gotten for the new Horse Behavior Pack. We knew this was the missing link that would take you way beyond what our Levels Program can do, and that many people will never be able to come and do the course at the Center...so the big decision to release the course on DVD was made. Not only have I been told some of the most incredible break-

throughs, like how their horses all of a sudden want to do so much more, run to them in the pasture, have completely changed their negative behaviors, are softer, friendlier, and best of all more CONFIDENT. Confidence is the biggest key ever and is the one thing that so often stands in the way of making major progress. So please don't hold back and think you're boring us with your success stories, we love to hear them!

NEW "FLUIDITY" ENGLISH SADDLE!

I'm so excited about this saddle that has been in the design and testing works for two years...for two reasons: firstly because the way it is helping horses and riders is fantastic, and secondly because Pat actually likes it! He now rides at least one horse in the English Fluidity Saddle every day. That's a first.

People have asked me why this saddle is so different from some of the really great saddles that are out there now, and my answer is that this is the first that is designed with the Fluidity principles in mind. You can find your Balance Point immediately, it takes the tension out of your body as well as the horse's body. Every test we've done has left students reeling with the results and I have trouble getting the saddle back from them! We've just released the Fluidity Saddle and the orders have been staggering.

Next on the line is the Parelli Ranch Roper, a more traditional version of the Buckaroo Western saddle but with a special tree that allows the horse more freedom to move. Like all the Parelli saddles, it's designed to fit a horse in action rather than at rest, so it doesn't get in the way of his back or shoulders. Pat uses his Fusion saddle for his performance training, and the Ranch Roper for all his 'work' with young or troubled horses, and of course for roping. This saddle is comfortable enough for the recreational rider and tough enough for the working cowboy. All the tests have proven out so stay tuned for more information and for details on all of the saddles you can go to parellicollection.com.

SABBATICAL

While Pat and I have always traveled around the world to teach, we've never been able to make a trip that was solely for our own learning. We chose Spain where I was fortunate to ride some of Luis Lucio's horses, including his top horse Nervi. As part of Principle #7 states, "...Horses Teach Riders..." so my horse Remmer was quite stimulated by the new things I had learned and have started to help him to discover too. Pat helped out with some ground skills specifically for preparing top dressage horses and helping a

Rosa, Pat, Linda, Alvaro and Luis at Alvaro's house



photos courtesy of Linda and Pat Parelli



Pat, Luis and Rosa at the SICAB show

young horse make faster progress. Okay, this was not the learning time for Pat, but that was about to come!

Luis and Rosa Maria Fradera Lloret (President of the Dressage Committee of the Spanish Equestrian Federation) took us to Jerez to visit the Spanish School and then we met up again with Alvaro Domecq. The Domecq family is legendary in Spain, producing some of the best Sherry in the world, but is even more well known for their lineage of famous bulls, horses and toreadors! It's a different world, but as Pat so often talks about, having a purpose for your horsemanship takes things above and beyond what you can imagine. These horses know how to get out of the way of the bull! Pat had an amazing time 'playing' with young, "brave cows" who they test for having enough aggressiveness to breed from. This time he was on a horse (many of you saw what happened when he was on the ground the time before!) and his highlight was getting to where he could circle the cow and rest his hat on it as he went, while the highlight for the Domecqs was Pat demonstrating his roping skills.

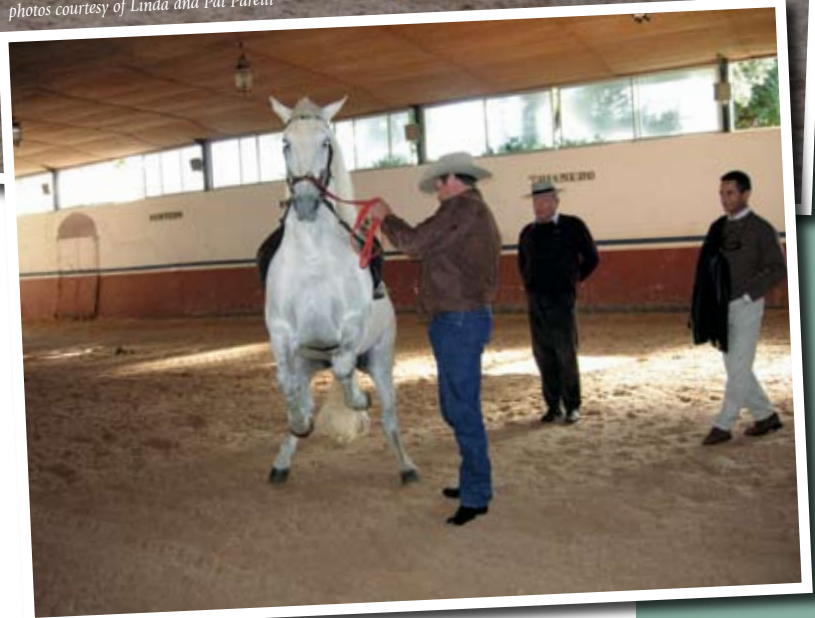
Another major highlight was Alvaro's high school horses. One after the other, he had them come in and perform phenomenal maneuvers right in front of us as we stood in the arena. Imagine a horse catapulting into a capriole above your head! These horses were spectacular and Alvaro's training seeks to preserve the art of the Alta Escuela, the 'High School' where horses are trained to leap into the air doing caprioles and courbettes, as well as piaffe, passage, pirouettes, levades and flying changes in the long reins. Alvaro was a joy to watch, his passion was palpable... and then he handed the reins to Pat. What an honor.

At the Spanish School, we were also treated to a special display of the Alta Escuela. We were introduced to the top brass there...Rafael Soto, Manolo and Ignatio Ramblas, people I've watched on video for years, as well as Rafael's super horse "Invasor," the giant Andalusian who has wowed crowds at three Olympic Games and several World Cup events. We saw him again at his retirement performance at the SICAB annual show for pure Spanish horses which is a very famous and grand event.

Thanks to our connection with Luis who was judging there, we had VIP access at SICAB and met some wonderful friends of Luis and Rosa, including Barnabas Mandi, international 'O' (for Official) level dressage judge. The dinner conversations were riveting and as Pat shared his thoughts around the confidence and dignity of horses, both Rosa and Barnabas found themselves looking for this in their judging the next day.



photos courtesy of Linda and Pat Parelli



Top: Pat ropes a brave cow as Alvaro watches.
Bottom: Pat with horse in levade as Alvaro and Luis watch.

Our ten days in Spain were a fantastic experience and we returned fresh and stimulated and headed off to North Carolina for our tour stop!

NEW HORSES

Pat is very excited about three new horses...Revolution, Vision and Legend. This is the first time in years that he has horses without 'baggage'. Having made his name by taking on and transforming horses that could not be trained, it's quite a different experience for him! All three are young, yearlings and two year olds, and actually there's a fourth that will arrive later because she's just five months old right now.

We were on the lookout for Pat's next potential super horses and were visiting breeders in California. Two of our students, Catherine and Mike work for the Atwood Ranches and had been telling us about the quality of horses raised there. So we made time to get to their Northern California ranch in between tour stops and were both impressed by the horses and got to meet Tom Atwood himself. After two

days of looking and talking, we made our four selections and then asked the price so we could decide on which one we would take. To our absolute amazement, Tom offered us all four...as his gift. His program is focused on breeding top cutting horses as well as good looking, good minded Quarter Horses for recreational riders so Tom was pleased that Pat was so taken by the horses he's been developing through his breeding program for many, many years.

You can look forward to meeting these horses in an upcoming DVD and maybe even see Revolution at some tour stops in 2007 with our new tour program!

INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS—AUSTRALIA, UK, EQUITANA GERMANY

Having taken a break from our sometimes grueling schedules with overseas seminars, we've now got some big events coming up next year...and we're taking our horses to two of them! We'll be flying horses to Australia and the UK so we can finally bring people closer to the experience our students have at home! Some people have asked us if the horses will be okay...we think they'll be shocked at how short the trip is compared to some of the criss-crossing we do across the USA! The Sydney event is booking hot and strong, and the news about the UK is just out.

In the UK we've selected the NEC in Birmingham because of its great national and international location with a big crowd capacity. Because this is likely to be the only time we bring our horses abroad, please spread the news to everyone and throughout Europe. It's going to be the biggest Natural Horsemanship Parelli Event ever so don't miss it!

Equitana Germany made us an offer we couldn't refuse, so we'll be headlining their show in Germany in March. It's been a while since we were there so it'll be fun to see how things have changed.

On that note, we've been specially invited back to Western States Horse Expo in Sacramento as the only featured "clinician," with an air-conditioned indoor arena named the Parelli Pavilion and a whopping four hour slot each day for our seminars. This means we can do way more than the usual 90 minutes!

FRIENDS & NATURAL WINNERS!

As I write to you going down the road from North Carolina, we just heard from friends Craig Johnson and Darren Simpkins. Craig has just had an amazing run at the

NRHA Futurity in Oklahoma City, winning first at three of the Futurities and went into the finals in fourth place. He finished third in the Intermediate division at the Finals, winning \$30,000 and is now just a few dollars short of making it into the million dollar NRHA Hall of Fame!

Darren Simpkins was an outstanding student of Pat's in Australia and we all met in the early 90's. Darren subsequently moved to the States and has been the quiet achiever in Weatherford, Texas, building his colt starting business into the most sought after location for starting young horses for the biggest names in the Cutting Horse industry. On top of that, he's become quite the trainer himself. He just won the last big event of the year for Cutting horses and his stallion, Ray's Dual Badger, has been voted Cutting Horse of the Year. At the time of this writing he has two horses qualified for the semi finals at the NCHA World Championship Futurity in December.

Congratulations to both of you!

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH...

The holiday season will see us focusing on our horsemanship and new ideas for Savvy Club to keep you avid students well fed and motivated about your horses and horsemanship!

Pat's R&D/Performance Barn has been completed, so with his team he's got lots on the boil developing the new super horses and coming up with some exciting new concepts. Ron Myler (of the famous Myler Bits) spent two weeks with Pat and the two of them were like mad profes-

sors coming up with some very important revolutions as it pertains to the savvy of biting. Stay tuned, you'll be the first to know!

Caton has become one of Pat's assistant trainers now, his patience, touch and skills proving very valuable with the young horses. He's been the first one to play Friendly Game on Smart Seven's back, and his own colt out of Mango and Liberty—"Coconut!" Even though we've kept Caton out of the limelight for a little more balance in his life, you should know that he's very much in action at his Dad's side every day.

And...proud Grandpa Pat wants you all to know that Angelina turned one on December 10th and is now walking!

May all your wishes for the New Year come true!

Yours naturally,

Linda



photo courtesy of Linda and Pat Parelli

Angelina turns one!



Q&A UPDATE

I wrote to you regarding progressing from the New Level 2 to the Old Level 3 at the beginning of the summer. I saw my letter along with your response in the October *Savvy Times*. I thought perhaps now that summer is behind us you would appreciate some feedback on our progress based on your advice to boldly move forward.



Anyway, I took a deep breath, jumped in and focused on one step at a time. I came to the realization that Level 3 was supposed to be more challenging and at this point I should have developed the skills to not need my hand held quite so much. With the information from the new programs I have the knowledge to make decisions about how to approach each task. In my opinion, the biggest difference between the old and new program is that the older program is task oriented compared to the new programs broader holistic approach and emphasis on understanding the horse. I found that if I applied what I had gleaned about Horse Behavior from the New Level 2 and the Liberty & Horse Behavior class and kept it at the forefront of every interaction with my horse I could do it. I look at each task as a puzzle and try to use my own problem solving skills based on what I have learned from the new programs. As you have said many times "it is not about the task!" Another key factor for me was really making sure I had not put some huge time line on my progress. I know this Level will take a while. I am making steady progress with the On Line and Liberty section, although still a klutz with my 45-foot Line. I have to move slowly through the

riding. For example as you know book one has "improve your carrot stick riding" as the first assignment. Well, having followed the new programs I had no carrot stick riding to improve. I just did the logical thing and started riding with one stick in my hand and getting comfortable. I have no professional goals, nor do I hope to compete in anything, don't even have a dream of being on the Savvy

Team, I just want to move forward, so maybe that makes it easier for me to be okay with taking my time.

At this point in the program I realize it is up to me to figure out some of the challenges and fill in what I had perceived as gaps. I know now that they are just imagined gaps, it is not all spelled out like it was in the new Level 1 and 2, but at this level it really should not be. I can apply the

deeper knowledge of horse behavior garnered from the new programs. I have enough information to get there!

So you were right! Thank you,

—Linda H.

MAGIC

There is a subject that I think a few words need to be written. When we started with Parelli five and a half years ago, I wasn't sure where this journey was going to lead us, but it has led us to the best relationship with our horses and will continue to amaze us as we continue the journey.

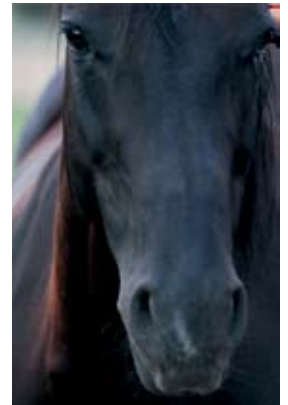
The subject of these words is a female that has raised the consciousness of all those who watch and observe her. When we first started the Parelli program I don't remember her. In fact, I can't remember when we first saw her. I think it was at a tour stop in Utah in 2002, but I'm not sure of that date. I think the most amazing thing about her is her presence with others and the pure elegance with which she presents herself. There is an aura about her that generates an expectation of greatness and she provides that expectation to all those who are observing her.

We are all subject to emotions that we are not used to exhibiting, let's say, within a large group of people, but in this instance I don't

believe that I have ever had a dry eye when it comes to her. Whether at a tour stop or at a Savvy Conference, I don't believe that she has left anyone with any doubt that she creates a very profound and deep emotional feeling as she helps others through any negative onslaught that exists in their lives.

I have been a subject of the emotional high when it comes to her. The latest episode

was during the Savvy Conference of 2005. I think that all present would agree that she presented her usual perfect performance with grace and beauty. If you are wondering who I am talking about, her name is Magic.



—Bill Coon, Herriman, Utah

THE KARATE KID ON HORSEBACK!

In the never ending journey to improve and challenge my horsemanship savvy, I asked myself the same question I often ask my horses, "Can you do this?"

Now, if only I could fly!!!!

—Elaine Polny



photo courtesy of Elaine Polny

MY FAVORITE PLACE

Hello my name is Monica Rawson. I am 14-years-old and am Level 2 certified and working on my Level 3. I wrote a poem and drew a picture about my favorite place. I thought that I should share it my fellow savvy club members. I hope you enjoy it!

My favorite place to be
Is somewhere that you can not see

It is at the barn of my dreams
Where the grass is always green
And no one there is ever mean

Because they all study natural horsemanship
And ride their horses without a bit

The barn sits on top of a hill
With wide open spaces and daffodils
A sparkling creek makes babbling sounds
While frolicking foals play around

There is a goat named "Goatman" that guards the place
With his two dog friends named Beauty and Grace
In the hot summer days the trees keep us cool
Under them I can always find Blanca the mule

My barn and farm are a paradise
With jumps and trainers that give good advice
There is a big arena that is enclosed
I use it to host my natural horsemanship shows

When the day is done and the horses are fed
Exhausted I climb into bed
And listen to the horses eat
As I drift off into a deep, deep sleep



Aha! Moments

You know you truly understand Parelli when you see how it applies to a part of your life that has nothing to do with horses. Send us your *Aha! Moments* to share with fellow Savvy Club members. savvyclub@parelli.com or Parelli, Attn: Savvy Times, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

A DOCTOR'S PARALLEL

As a 42-year-old physician practicing Internal Medicine in Quincy, Massachusetts, I have found a parallel between my continued study of medicine as it applies to humans and my study of Parelli Natural Horsemanship.

In the intimacy of the exam room many physical and mental evaluations occur. Patients often speak of topics uncomfortable to them, their medications, aging and disease. They step out of their 'comfort zone' if only for a moment and then retreat to comfort as they dress and exit. I, as the doctor in the exam room, am usually the one who is comfortable and 'in the zone,' but not so at the end of my 22-foot Line in the corral...

My study of Natural Horsemanship has made me leave my comfort zone over and over again with the hope that I may become a more natural horse owner of my two horses. Playing in the corral can feel like the exam room only I am the exposed patient, confused, unsure and hoping I am able to communicate what I mean.

I have found patience, forgiveness, and friendship in my horses while studying Parelli and look forward to our time together, like I believe my patients do at their visits with me. I have literally drawn Dr. Stephanie Burns' 'comfort zone' circle on a prescription pad to help patients learn more about themselves and to understand that it is alright to feel uncomfortable at times of self-exploration and growth.

Thank you Pat, Linda and Stephanie for helping people out in the corral and even in the exam room and likely beyond.

—Dr. Laura T. Cloukey,
Level 2 student, Quincy, Massachusetts

Our Readers Write About:

Each issue of *Savvy Times* features a particular subject to which our readers can respond. This issue's subject was "Harmony," but we guess you were all too busy playing with your horses to send us anything! The deadlines following are when your 250-word submission must be received to be considered for publishing.

May Issue:
"Confidence" Feb 15, 2007

August Issue:
"Leadership" Jun 15, 2007

Please send submissions via e-mail to: savvyclub@parelli.com or via U.S. Postal Service to: *Savvy Times*, c/o Parelli, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Thanks!



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Oct 26–Nov 7

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Feb 10–22,
Mar 30–Apr 11, Nov 9–21

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Feb 24–Mar 7,
Apr 13–25, Nov 23–Dec 5



2008 COLORADO

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior
May 18–30, Jul 6–18, Aug 24–Sep 5

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Jun 1–Jun 13,
Jul 20–Aug 1, Sep 7–19

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Jun 15–27,
Aug 3–15, Sep 21–Oct 3

Some spots are still available for 2007 courses. Current course availability can be found at parelli.com.





The Winter Home of Parelli

by Kaffa Martignier

The Florida Parelli Center has re-opened for the 2006–2007 winter season, and it looks amazing. Ranch Manager, Australian Rob McAuliffe, has excelled himself with his attention to detail at every level of preparation.

Pat has a set of words that go with the word “Savvy” on sheets of paper stuck to pin boards throughout the Parelli Center offices: “*Safe, Functional, Clean, Green, and Handsome.*” Rob has achieved all of that and more, and the winter home of Parelli is up and running with expanded office capacity, new barn and facilities for Pat and Linda’s Research and Development work, and new toys and obstacles for students in the Courses to play with.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE COURSES AT THE PARELLI CENTERS

As I write, it’s the weekend of the 11th and 12th of November, 2006. Course 1, “Liberty and Horse Behavior,” has just concluded, and Course 2, “Fluidity I,” is about to commence. It is just over one year since Linda and Pat Parelli launched the new Course format in October 2005.

Monday 31st October 2005, was the day that Neil Pye, in his role as Parelli Center Dean, first introduced the new Courses. In his introduction, Neil described the phases in an evolutionary journey from when Pat was the only Parelli Instructor there was, to today when we have a world-wide team of Instructors out in the field, and a team of full time Faculty at the Parelli Centers.

Neil described the discovery of the property at Pagosa Springs, Colorado, which became the first International Parelli Center, and walked us through the evolution of the Parelli Center Courses. He described how well those courses served Parelli students from all over the world for ten years (the summer of 2005 was our 10th anniversary of teaching courses at the Pagosa Springs Parelli Center).

And then, Neil talked about some of the thinking behind the decision to stop using the format and curriculum that had worked so well for an entire decade, and introduce something radically different. He described how Pat and Linda had worked on developing the new curriculum to shine a light on the aspects of Parelli Natural Horsemanship that are so much more difficult to put in a Home Study Pack, and on developing the course format to serve learners in a whole new way.

Finally, Neil welcomed Pat and Linda into the room to a standing ovation—and Pat and Linda proceeded to blow everybody’s socks off for the next 6 weeks.

From that exciting start, it’s difficult to imagine that the Courses could have evolved much further. And it would be understandable to think that once Pat and Linda ceased to teach the Courses and took a back seat to the Faculty team, things might have deteriorated. But, the reverse has happened.

A BOLD MOVE...

It was a bold move to stop doing what had worked so well for ten years and do something completely different. It was a bold move to hand the full running and teaching of the courses over to the new Parelli Faculty so soon.

But Parelli is nothing if not bold, progressive and provocative, and both moves have been immensely successful. One year later the whole thing has taken on a life of its own.

The growth and development of the Faculty has been warp speed. Time one-on-one and in small groups with Pat and Linda, combined with the challenge of putting what they are learning and becoming into words for their classes, has stretched the Faculty as a team and as individuals.

And the inspired brilliance of the curriculum, gleaned from the philosophy and principles Pat has been teaching for a quarter of a century, has served as an unchanging bedrock to the evolution of the Course Curriculum, as the Faculty Team has searched for better and better ways to be an effective conduit for Pat and Linda’s message.

One year on, to borrow words from Pat, we are “pleased, although not satisfied.” We will always be able to do better, but we’re pretty pleased with how far things have come in just 12 months. 🐾



HOW PARELLI AND A SMALL APPY MARE CHANGED MY LIFE

We moved to NZ from the UK in March 2003.

This was Pre-Parelli. I had found a lovely new home for my huge Warmblood mare as the cost of transport to NZ was prohibitive, but really I thought she'd explode on the rich grass here. I thought that was it with horses—I'd concentrate on my new life with my husband.

Well, about six weeks later I couldn't bear it—I started to look around for a nice quiet aged gelding. By August, a small five-year-old Appaloosa mare was delivered to me. I'd been to see her five or six times, and she'd 'chosen' to walk with me rather than the owner when

photo courtesy of Jane Cook



we put her back in the paddock—I was sold on her temperament. What should have alerted me was the fact they said, "You are the first person she hasn't run away with,"—that, and offering to deliver her!!

Anyway, it wasn't long before I wanted to load her and take her somewhere—no chance, she was backing off about 50m from the float (as I now call it!) A phone call established the fact she'd been in a 'small float fire'. BFO #1. Then she began to run off with me and even though she was small it was scary and I dreaded riding.

Somehow I got to hear that some guy called Russell Higgins was holding a clinic not too far from me, and I heard that he could teach you to load your horse. Luckily, I had months before the date as my number one problem was to get there. I bought Level 1 (old pack) in December and by February 2004 we got there.

Well, on that day we met some fantastic people and Parelli has changed my life. I have such good Parelli friends here that we have settled fantastically well—every 'true' Parelli person I have ever met has just been special. We now have our own mini-group who regularly meet up for play days every couple of weeks and play weekends.

All of this came from a little unconfident appy mare who couldn't load. 2/3 of the way through Level 2, I now have a whole new understanding of Pat's sayings—truly it really is 'not about the trailer' but ALL about confidence, or lack of. I still make mistakes, but with the Parelli Program and Russell's help I will get there. Thank you Cameo and thank you Pat, Linda, Russell and the whole of the Savvy team.

—From Jane Cook, Patumahoe, New Zealand



DUNCREE EDELWEISS

It's great to receive the e-News and all the information direct from the US. Nothing like Pure Parelli!!

Earlier this year our NZ instructor Russell Higgins lent me the Savvy Club DVD that showed Pat meeting Smart Seven. I'm also working my way through the Liberty & Horse Behaviour pack. Awesome!! It has made me laugh and cry.

This inspired me, along with the August DVD of Liberty Belle to make sure I spend as much time as I can with our new Shetland pony foals. So, I've been spending lots of undemanding time with the mothers-to-be, Essie and Holly, scratching their favourite spots and taking them treats.

I got my chance yesterday morning (23rd October) when Essie decided to foal at the very civilized hour of 10.30 am. I was there to watch a wee black filly foal enter the world along with the rest of our Shetland herd (27 in all). I was amazed at how quickly Essie started getting her baby in sync with her and how she'd up her phases if baby wasn't quick enough to move. I just sat and watched. Essie even bought her baby over to me. Over the rest of the day, I visited a number of times with treats, and she would trot over to me with her baby. This is so much different from the last two times Essie has foaled as she did not want to know us.

We've named the foal Duncree Edelweiss. We call her Della for short. It's been raining here today, so Della looks a bit damp. She's small enough for me to pick up, but the way she's drinking her mum's milk, she's not going to be that small for much longer!

Thanks for taking the time to make those DVDs and the Savvy Times mag. It's just great and it has made all the difference for me. I'm sure my Shetlands will thank you for it as well. Cheers,

—Catherine Crosado, Christchurch, New Zealand

photo courtesy of Catherine Crosado



PARELLI LEVEL 1/2 COURSE ROCKHAMPTON 17-20 AUGUST 2006

Sixteen keen Parelli students traveled to Rockhampton, Central Queensland, Australia to participate in a Level 1 or 2 course instructed by David Grace. Students traveled from as far as 750km to attend.

Level 1 students found themselves discovering horserenity and behaviour with their horses that they never thought existed. Horses



Kimblewick bit swapped for a savvy halter—I smiled the whole summer!

Instead of giving up horses I now found myself looking to buy another one! Wizard the Welsh Cob came into my life, unbacked and not really handled. What a very unsavvy thing to do. Although Wizard turned out not to be the right horse for me, he taught me an enormous amount. Wizard was re-homed, and I continued my journey with 28-year-old Copper until very tragically he broke his pelvis in the field this June. I am absolutely devastated by his loss. He was my best friend for 15 years, but I thank God every day for bringing Parelli to us in our last three years together. I will never forget the bond we developed or the feeling I got when he started to call to me when he saw me at the gate and would gallop flat out down the field to me. I will treasure the video I have of us doing our Level 1 together which we officially passed in October of 2003.

I now have a gorgeous 14.1hh iron grey New Forest mare called Storm. She's six-

and students put the first steps in motion to change their relationships for the better. With basics of the Seven Games learnt, partnership troubles were improving, and a little guidance from David never went astray in times of need.

Level 2 students started their course keen to soak up more savvy! No one was disappointed with loads of laughs along the way. One task found us playing on 22-foot Lines whilst sitting in a chair. This proved to be a little more thrilling for some than others. Needless to say that some became rather acquainted with the dirt when their horses started to play and enjoy the game!

As we moved further into our course we were shown the importance of having a great Phase 4 to achieve a fantastic Phase 1. Our savvy increasing all the while.

We had a great turnout for dinner at the local pub whose motto was "The best beer and grub in the scrub." A great chance for us all to learn more about each other and share our experiences whether these be good, bad or funny.

At the end of the four days all were a little sad to be heading home but also looking forward to using new found skills and savvy!

Keeping it natural,

—Leanne Cunial, Central Queensland, Australia



MY PARELLI JOURNEY

I began my Parelli journey in 2003 with my dear old friend Copper. He came out of semi-retirement at age 26 to do the old Level 1 with me. I had got too scared to ride him because he was a bucker and a bolter. Within two weeks of starting the programme, I was riding him once again with the

years-old, has some interesting behaviour and challenges me everyday. People keep saying to me, "It must be so annoying to start Level 2 with three different horses." My response to that is, "No, it's a fantastic opportunity to have experienced three very different horsenality's in the last few years, and I have learnt an enormous amount about myself along the way."

Storm is absolutely right for me, she's challenging without frightening me, and I love her to bits. She's starting to get that 'what are we going to do today' expression when I go to the field, which I love. It dawned on me that I have been obsessed with her cranky ears back demeanour especially when we play on the ground, and I've been very 'task motivated,' constantly referring to the Level 2 assessment criteria. I stopped doing that four weeks ago and Storm is completely different, ears forward, interested and having fun—she now comes flying back to me at a beckoning finger. Blinding flash of the obvious hits me squarely between the eyes—I've been like a little dictator out there brandishing my list of 'tasks.' No wonder she looked crabby!

Thank you so much Pat & Linda for this wonderful programme. I'd given up riding three years ago. I'm now excited every day about spending time with my pony and look forward to the rest of our Parelli Journey together.

—Amanda,
New Milton, England,



photo courtesy of Amanda



Julie Krone

Racing's Hall of Fame Female Jockey Finds New Direction with Parelli

Most people would think Julie Krone already knows everything there is to know about horses.

After all, she's the first female jockey ever inducted into racing's prestigious Hall of Fame. During a 20-year career, she rode 21,411 races and won 3,704 of them riding horses who earned more than \$90 million in purse money. She's the only woman jockey to ever win a million-dollar race. It was Krone who made history as the first woman to win a Triple Crown race when she guided Colonial Affair to victory in the 1993 Belmont Stakes, and again as the only woman to win a Breeders' Cup race, piloting Halfbridled to capture the Juvenile Fillies in 2003.

Riding against the best male jockeys in the sport, Krone came out on top as champion jockey by number of wins at

Belmont Park, Gulfstream Park, Monmouth Park, Atlantic City and the Meadowlands. In 2003, the year she retired for good, she was leading jockey by earnings at both Del Mar and Hollywood Park for the fall meet. She's been named Individual Sportsman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation, chosen by ESPN as the Professional Female Athlete of the Year, and recognized by *USA Today* as one of the Ten Toughest Athletes. When it comes to riding races, no woman jockey has come close to what Krone has accomplished. She rode for some of the sport's best trainers on some of racing's finest horses and competed successfully against many of the top male jockeys. She was even inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1999, alongside such greats as Dale Evans and Annie Oakley.

It might surprise the many fans who followed her stellar career to learn that today Krone has found a new calling.

certificate and drove her from Michigan to Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.

“The Parelli program is something you can believe in and something that allows you to believe in yourself. It’s really lit a fire in me emotionally. Now my dream is to believe in myself again and to be able to teach others.”

Predictably, this new direction involves horses, but what is remarkable is that record-setting, record-breaking Julie Krone who has ridden since she could walk is the first to say she has so much more to learn about these amazing animals.

“Until I got involved in Parelli I hadn’t felt that flame, that excitement inside, since I quit riding races,” says Krone. “The Parelli program is something you can believe in and something that allows you to believe in yourself. It’s really lit a fire in me emotionally. Now my dream is to believe in myself again and to be able to teach others.”

Born in 1963 in Eau Claire, Michigan, to Judi and Don Krone, Julie and her older brother Donnie, now a Thoroughbred trainer, grew up surrounded by horses. They became her obsession, or perhaps it is more accurate to say they were always her obsession.

Mother Judi was an award-winning dressage rider and all-around horse trainer who thought nothing of putting her toddler daughter up on a horse she was trying to sell just to show a potential buyer how quiet he was.

Growing up on a five-acre farm down a dirt road, the Krone children had animals of all sorts. Krone was active in her local 4-H program (her club was the Roadrunners), from an early age. She even showed a grand champion goat and grew a prize onion. At just five years old, she showed her pony to Grand Champion Trail at the Berrien County Youth Fair, competing in the 21 and under age division.

Judi Krone didn’t take shortcuts with her training methods and she expected her young daughter to follow suit. Even if other kids and their trainers might have looked for the quickest way to win, Judi insisted her children learn to respect and understand the horse.

At the time, it was often frustrating for Julie, but her mother’s dogged determination also opened doors that wouldn’t typically be cracked for a child. When she was just 12, Krone accompanied her mother to a week-long clinic with noted dressage trainer and author Chuck Grant, whose skill at teaching haute école (high school) movements made him a popular teacher and clinician.

To be sure, Krone had experience and natural talent. But she would need more than that to get where she wanted to go. Driven by a relentless dream of becoming a jockey, she left home and high school at the age of 15 to pursue a career at the race track. She did so with her mother’s blessing. In fact, Judi Krone was the one who altered her daughter’s birth

She was just 17 when she rode into the winner’s circle for the first time on a horse named Lord Farkle during the winter meet at Tampa Bay Downs in 1981.

Through years of ups and downs, of proving herself in a male-dominated sport, through thrills and defeats, terrifying spills and numerous injuries, Krone battled to the top and made a name for herself. During her last year of race riding, which was marked by at least two serious injuries, and after she retired for the final time in early 2004, Krone struggled with post traumatic stress disorder. She wasn’t ashamed to talk about it, but it dogged her nonetheless.



She married Jay Hovdey, award-winning racing columnist in 2001. Her personal life was enriched further by the birth of their daughter Lorelei in September, 2005. But even with these blessings, Krone felt something was missing since she’d quit riding.

It was around this time that she caught the tail-end of a Parelli program on RFD-TV. “He was applying the same methods I’d learned as a child with Chuck Grant,” she recalls.

Fascinated, she ordered the Level 1 program and had it shipped overnight so she could get started immediately. Today,

Krone, who has already taken several courses at the Pat Parelli Center in Colorado, is preparing to test for her Level 2. She spends hours working with her Quarter Horse pony, "Miss



Piggy" (a name inspired by the movie "Babe"), and is determined to become a certified Parelli instructor so she can share the message with other horse lovers.

We visited with Julie Krone from her home near San Diego, California, to learn more about this remarkable horse-woman, the experiences that have brought her to this point in life, and her goals now that she has become so involved with the Parelli program.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST HORSES AND YOUR CHILDHOOD HORSE BACKGROUND.

"My early life was rich with horses, animal husbandry and gardening. When you're a kid, you don't think a lot about it, but later in life the importance of these lessons carry over. I did every single thing I could on horseback. I rode bareback a lot with the neighborhood kids; we went to the grocery store, even teeped people's houses on horseback! I can't remember doing anything that my pony wasn't involved in.

teenager, but I never could get her out of my mind. I ended up finding her again and buying her back when she was in her early 20s."

"When you have a left-brained pony as a kid, you learn to make them happier just so you can catch them. By the time I was 12 or 13, I'd learned how to have a relationship with a horse without realizing I was doing anything 'Parelli' at the time."

YOU'VE GIVEN A LOT OF CREDIT TO YOUR MOTHER, JUDI KRONE, FOR TEACHING AND INSPIRING YOU. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE MOST VALUABLE THINGS SHE TAUGHT YOU ABOUT HORSES?

"I was so fortunate to be raised with a Mom who could do so much with her horses. She taught me to reward the slightest try when the horse yielded. I can remember working with my mare and my Mom telling me, 'She yielded, so stop asking her!'

"When I was young, I used to ask her why we couldn't just train horses like everyone else. She was really teaching me Parelli basics without knowing that's what it was.

"I'm just crazy about Linda Parelli because she reminds me of my Mom, who's in horseman's heaven now, and who taught me so much all my life."

HOW DID YOU USE THOSE EARLY LESSONS DURING YOUR RACING CAREER?

"Being quick at understanding how to communicate with each horse is one of the big things that made me successful as a jockey. I would take a right-brained horse away from the pony (horse) and gallop around in the warm-up. Then I would just let him stand.

Later in the Parelli program, I learned that type of horse needs to just stand and not move their feet. I've had great relationships with a lot of horses because of rewarding the slightest try.

"Everything with a racehorse is 'amplified.' Now that I'm going through the Parelli program, it's fun for me to put names to a lot of things that I'd been doing with racehorses all those years.

"There are some incredible horsemen in the Thoroughbred

world who do apply basic Parelli techniques with their horses, but they may not be doing it in exactly the same way."

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN THE PARELLI PROGRAM?

"Since I quit riding, something was lacking. I saw part of a Parelli program on RFD-TV and Pat was teaching concepts

I had learned with my Mom and with trainer Chuck Grant when I was a kid. Like Pat says, 'It's so old, it's new again.' I was so excited that I had the Level 1 program FedExed to me overnight and completed it in less than a month.



"My favorite pony was a real 'Thelwell' type; her name was Dixie Cup. My mom had a little Arab stallion which she bred to some Shetland ponies, including Dixie Cup. She had three foals and I was allowed to pick one to keep. Of course, the one I picked was the most challenging and ended up being my favorite. Her name was Ferni's Madih and she was very left-brained, just an awesome little mare. I taught her high school tricks, including how to bow, sit down, count, mount a pedestal, rear, piaffe, etc. I sold her when I was a



"I picked a local Parelli instructor who had the same first name (Margit Deerman) as a really nice racehorse I'd ridden. It was very ironic because she had no idea who I was. It was so refreshing to have someone allow me to learn without any expectations or preconceived ideas. I started learning because I was safe. Now that Margit knows who I am, she still hasn't changed her style of teaching me, being true to the Parelli program.



"After completing my Level 1 test in 2006, I went to Colorado to take the courses on Liberty & Horse Behavior, Fluidity I—Freestyle and Fluidity II—Finesse."

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS YOU LEARNED BY TAKING THOSE COURSES?

"I love being a student and being open to learning again. Taking the Parelli courses was like Christmas morning every single day. Emotionally, it's the safest environment you can find. You have to be so vulnerable to do the program.

"The length that Pat and Linda have gone to in discovering how a person learns is just mind boggling! They haven't missed a detail in creating a program that teaches people how to learn. They've really put together a program of all the world's greatest teachers. It would take me a lifetime to absorb and apply the three courses I went through.

"When I was taking the Liberty and Horse Behavior course, everyone was having these epiphanies. It was like you would be broken down to such a point where you had all this 'rubble' to deal with and then you could start to rebuild.

"At one point we were watching a video of David Lichman working with three white horses at liberty. The video was supposed to be a decompression time and everyone was relaxing. But when I watched it and saw what he was doing with these horses, I had an absolute meltdown. I had the most intense flashbacks of my relationship with my Mom. It was like it was yesterday. I started crying uncontrollably, thinking of all those times when my Mom would point things out and I didn't listen, and thinking of the racehorses I'd been mean to.

"I had to leave the room. I took my horse up on a hill and just sat there and sobbed. That's when I really realized all the things Parelli is teaching and the intensity of it. The program makes you realize how we force horses to do so many things.

I came to the course already knowing that, even though I couldn't put a name on it."

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REMARKABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR HORSEMANSHIP LATELY?

"When I was at the Parelli Center, at one point a teacher told me I could get off my pony if I couldn't be a constructive leader. After all I'd been through, after 20 years of being brave and tough, someone gave me permission to get off, to quit for a minute. No one ever told me that!

"Now any time I get to a place where I'm not being a good leader, where I can't get my horse left-brained while riding her, I realize I can get off. I still walk around thinking, Hey! I can get off! This whole experience also really helped me deal with my post traumatic stress disorder.

"At the ranch I had people say, 'I bet you've never been scared.' But they couldn't be more wrong. I've lived many of the bad things with horses that Pat and Linda talk about.

"A lot of people wondered why I was taking the Parelli courses because they thought I already knew everything about horses. I don't have to prove anything with my horsemanship but I'm going through the courses for myself and my dream is to be a teacher. I want to be someone who knows how to share how to have a relationship with a horse."

WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR RACING CAREER?

"Every single day I was doing what I loved, working with horses. I used to get really excited thinking about riding big horses in big races. My heart would be pounding fast just thinking about it.

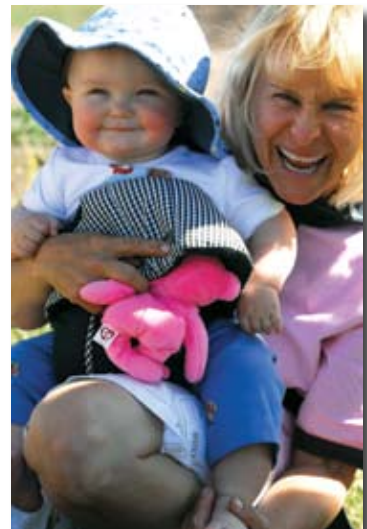
"It's that way for me now with Parelli. The highlight of my life now is that I'm doing something I love again. I have a dream and an attainable goal. It's challenging enough to be stimulating. It's possible but not easy!"

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS WITH PARELLI?

"My goal is to be a Parelli Instructor. I'm as excited about this as I was about my race riding. It's a very different journey for someone like me who's done so much with horses. Now I'm just going in a different direction."

"Whether you've been around horses your whole life or just two days, the Parelli program can take you as far as you want to learn. Parelli is the first and only thing in my life that has really put me forward with a horse.

"I cannot wait to share all this with my daughter, Lorelei, and for her to experience it herself. By then, I'll be a Parelli instructor. If I have anything to do with it, she will be raised completely Parelli. To me, there's no other horsemanship in the world." 🐾



Blast from the Past

Controlling Emotions To Control Your Horse

A horse needs a leader, not a reactionary



We'd like to take a moment to bring you a blast from the past! This article by Pat Parelli was published in "Savvy, The International Journal of Parelli Natural Horsemanship" Volume 2 Issue 1 March 1997

When a human's emotions get tense or scared, the hole under his tail gets tight and his hands slam shut. They grab onto the reins or lead rope and affect the horse's emotions. I've seen more people get *learn burns* and go sand skiing because they can't control the hole under their tail.

When the horse gets tight, his head goes up, his back hollows and he wants to escape. If you then hold him back, his attitude wants to go faster than you allow his feet and he will displace his behavior into an open mouth, swishing tail, prancing feet or a high head.

It is this same lack of emotional fitness that leads to the use of martingales, nose bands and tie downs. I call these aids "poor excuses for bad hands and not enough knowledge." Most people don't know what is going on in the horse's mind, and what they have or have not done to affect their horse's behavior.

We have to learn to become more emotionally fit for those times when our prey animal companion decides to act like a prey animal. When he gets emotionally bothered, we have to stay emotionally cool. If we can control our emotional reactions, we can learn to have hands that close slowly and open quickly. These are the best hands around horses. The only trouble is that people work at getting steadier hands when the real secret is steadier emotions.

The more you learn about horse psychology and behavior, the more emotionally fit you become because of what the knowledge offers you.

The more you develop your horsemanship skills naturally, the more safety you will enjoy around horses and the better you will handle them and be able to ride.

There are two kinds of people in this world: horse people and the other kind. And there are seven kinds of horse people: Natural, Normal, Nuts, Nuisances, Nerds, Nervous and the kNockers. I see them all over. Do you know who else categorizes people this way? Horses do.

Horses know, from the moment they see you approach, exactly which category you will fall into. They will categorize you as dangerous or non-threatening. If you are perceived as dangerous, the horse will react out of self-preservation. He'll be unpredictable and often dangerous to you.

If you are perceived as the latter, then the horse is going to try to dominate you. He'll do this by pushing on you, your leg aids, the bit and resisting rather than cooperating with your wishes.

Horses make a living out-thinking people. Horses, as prey animals, are programmed to do the opposite of what predators want. Our biggest challenge is to prove to the horse that even though we look and smell like a predator we really are not.

You see, when horses get scared, they don't think you are going to hurt them, they think you are going to *kill* them.

Don't be fooled into thinking that the horse is a domesticated animal because inside every gentle horse is a wild horse, and this is the horse that hurts people and can even kill in self-defense.

Horses have three major instincts: they are perceptive to danger; they fly from fear; and they are gregarious to the herd. If we want our horses to start acting more like partners instead of prey animals then we have to



photo courtesy of the Parelli archive

turn their wariness into perceptiveness for our communication, their flight tendencies into impulsion and their gregariousness into bonding with us.

To become more emotionally fit is not just something you work on when you are around horses. You need to work on yourself continuously. It doesn't mean you stop reacting to things,

but more that you have control over how you react, especially the *hole under your tail* and its anatomical connection with your hands.

A natural horseman must learn to think like a horse in order to be able to predict reactions. Understand that the horse usually reacts out of instinct and self-preservation so punishment is out of the question. Their motivation comes

from a desire for comfort and avoidance of discomfort. We have to learn how to take away and give back at the right times if we want the horse to respond.

Horses learn from comfort and discomfort. If you stop a stimulus while he continues to worry about it and dance around, he will think that this is what he is supposed to do.

We also have to help our horses become more emotionally fit—a gallon of horse sense for the human and an ounce of people sense for the horse. By gradually exposing your horse to more and more, helping him live through his (to us) irrational fears is how we'll develop this fitness.

Most of us are conditioned to stop if we startle and disturb a horse. "No running. Don't make sudden moves or noises," we hear people say. This is sound advice if your horse has not been helped to become braver around people. But what we need to see is that horses who react like this are dangerous in the human environment.

If you know horses, you know they are entirely predictable. You would also know that *you* have to help *him* become more mentally and emotionally fit. This is not the trainer's job. This is your responsibility as your horse's leader.

that this is what he is supposed to do. As you continue the stimulus, you desensitize him to it.

In this way you can prove to your horse that there is really nothing to worry about and he will quickly learn to trust you, especially if you remain emotionally calm throughout, and you can allow him to drift.

This is where your emotions and hands must not get tight. The tighter you hold on and try to stop your horse from moving, the more claustrophobic and distressed he will become. You need to prove to him that he will live through the experience. Remember, when he stops worrying, you stop.

You'll be amazed at how quickly your horse will learn to read that you are not threatening him. He'll start to blink, twitch his ears and lick his lips. This tells you he's learned something profound that will lead to a change in his behavior.

Horses can read people like a book. Become conscious of your body language, expression and inten-



photo courtesy of the Parelli archive

tion so you can teach your horse to read your actions and intentions and to know whether he should be worried or not.

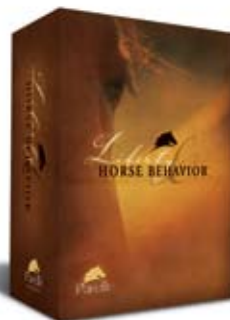
A horse needs a leader—calm, controlled and focused. It is up to us to learn how to become this kind of leader for our horse and even more important, how to be his teacher. Only then can we teach our horse to become our partner.

I want to see the age-old principles of horsemanship come back, not just riding, but a level of savvy that translates into everything we do with horses. It is my dream to help people have more fun, more safety and achieve more than mediocre results with horses. To become so good with horses that even their horses think they're brilliant with horses. 🐾

Another key is to know about the process of desensitization through habituation, as discussed by Dr. Robert M. Miller.

This means that you continue a stimulus that worries your horse until he is no longer worried, and you quit when he quits. Remember the first time you tried the Friendly Game?

Horses learn from comfort and discomfort. If you stop a stimulus while he continues to worry about it and dance around, he will think



To learn more about horse psychology and behavior, check out the new Liberty & Horse Behavior Home Study Program.

Meet the Team

Ever wonder how Pat and Linda are able to run a successful business, two ranches, teach and present their program around the world? They have a great support team to back them up. Here we feature some of those team members and ask them what their jobs are like. This issue meet: Penelope Stowell, Renee Weger, and Laura Rome from the corporate office in Pagosa Springs, CO.

Penelope Stowell



Renee Weger



Laura Rome



Where are you originally from?

Penelope: New York, New York

Renee: Strawberry Point, Iowa

Laura: San Jose, California

How were you introduced to Parelli?

Penelope: An unscheduled flight from the back of a very lovely but very green Australian Waler, resulting in broken bones and broken confidence, convinced me to go to a Parelli Savvy Day in Melbourne, Australia in 1998, where the “wow” factor set in. After I’d moved back to the US, I started to dabble in the program in my spare time. A Level 2 clinic at the Pagosa Springs ranch in September 2002 was the event that truly blew my socks off and convinced me that this program is not just a series of techniques or tricks, but that it goes very deep, right to the heart of the horse-human relationship.

Renee: In the same manner many of our customers were: I bought my first horse in 20 years and discovered I was not as fearless as I had been when I was a teen—in fact I was SCARED with no clue how to overcome it. A friend suggested Parelli and in time I rediscovered the passion and confidence I had had as a teenager.

Laura: Went to an Open House in Pagosa Springs after hearing about Parelli from friends. Won tickets to the Savvy Forum way back when they had them and was inspired, awed and started the program then and there.

What’s your job title, and how long have you worked for Parelli?

Penelope: Financial Comptroller and Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation. I’ve been with Parelli now for three years.

Renee: I am the Sales Manager and I’ve been an employee for 2-1/2 years.

Laura: I am the Event Coordinator for all American Tour Stops/Expo’s and the University Compliance Coordinator and International Student Visa Coordinator. I started working for Parelli in August of 2002.

What does that job entail?

Penelope: I oversee all financial aspects of the corporation, both in the US and internationally.

Renee: My responsibilities include customer service, leading the Sales Team, answering emails that come into the usa@parelli.com address, handling donation requests, reviewing credit memo’s

before they go to the accounting office, supporting the offices in the UK and Australia and answering letters from customers to name a few.

Laura: Event Coordinator consists of planning the tour schedule, contracting with all of the venues that we have tour stops and Expo’s we are attending, and all of the logistics for each event. University Compliance Coordinator consists of keeping the Parelli Natural Horsemanship University approved through the State of Colorado Board of Education, Private Occupational Schools, maintaining student records and keeping the instructors credentialed with the State Board of Education.

What’s the best/worst part of your job?

Penelope: On a daily basis, through my role as Comptroller, I know that I’m perpetuating Pat and Linda’s vision to raise the level of horsemanship worldwide by helping to build Parelli Natural Horsemanship into a healthy and forward-thinking corporation. The worst part is that there just aren’t enough hours in the day to do everything I’d like to do in support of their vision.

Renee: The best part of my job is getting to know our customers and being able to help them—we have some fantastic horsepeople out there! I don’t have a “worst” part to my job but one of the most difficult things is listening to people who call in because they have already experienced a tragedy because they unknowingly bought a young person a young horse or a stud colt and they’ve been referred to us. As a team we laugh and celebrate with our customers but we also grieve when they grieve.

Laura: Too many to list on the best part but here goes—The best part is the people I work with, the company I work for, the opportunity to learn new things, the chance to meet new people and accomplishing challenging tasks. The worst? How could there be anything?

Give an example of what your typical work day is like:

Penelope: My principal responsibilities include oversight for day-to-day accounting activities of the corporation and preparation of our corporate financial statements, as well as budgeting, cash flow projections and analysis, and various project development activities. I also provide oversight for human resources and for the shipping/inventory department; and serve as infrastructure liaison to our UK and Australian offices. Finally, as an officer of the corporation, I’m

responsible for supporting and executing the decisions taken by Pat, Linda and Mark for the long-range vision of the corporation. A typical day? No such thing!

Renee: On a typical work day I arrive by 7:00 a.m. to give myself 30 minutes to take care of things before the phones are turned on. I review my emails and the emails from the website, review projects that the sales team is working on, and set a course for the day. A very large part of any day includes customer service and making on-the-spot decisions. We answer anywhere from 225-500 phone calls a day so many different issues come up! I usually head home by 5:30 with the hopes of getting in a little horse time of my own before the sun sets.

Laura: Everyday is different, but most days include lots of paperwork, phone calls to various venues and gobs of emails. For each event I go through a 5-page, 200-item checklist that includes all of the logistics for each stop. Any given day I am working on a couple years out tour schedule or the next year's contract negotiation with the venues.

Are you studying the Parelli Program? If yes, please give us some details of your journey and horsemanship goals. If no or in addition to your Parelli studies, what are your hobbies/interests?

Penelope: Yes. I'm strictly a recreational trail-rider with no professional horsemanship goals, but each year I use my vacation time from Parelli to take a course at the Colorado ranch, and I follow

the home-study materials. I got around to passing my official Level 1 in 2003, and finally began to put together my Level 2 assessment videotape this year, but midway through the process, my horse Winter (featured in the October 2006 Savvy Times, "You Just Have To Live It"), was diagnosed with cancer and I lost her on October 27. I'm now looking forward to building a new relationship the Parelli Way with my next "forever" horse. Aside from horses, my hobby is writing for children. Most recently, I published a picture book called The Greatest Potatoes (Hyperion/Jump At The Sun, 2005), about the man who invented potato chips.

Renee: I am studying Level 2. I had taken several horses through Level 1 when one day it hit me that I would never have more than Level 1 savvy if I didn't progress through the program! I would like to take one horse through Level 3, however, the upgraded Level 2 and Liberty and Horse Behavior home study program have helped me to slow myself down and take time to really look at the relationship I have with my horse, Ace. He's a 25-year-old "grandpa" horse who was very impulsive and energetic (could it be he mirrors his owner?). He has developed curiosity, is showing a sense of humor and a personality I had no idea he had before now. Other hobbies and interests include being a member of the Mounted Search & Rescue Group, cooking, walking for exercise and several modalities of natural healing.

Laura: Yes I started Level 1 in 2001 studying at home then started doing clinics in 2002/2003 and passed my Level 1 in 2003. I have been playing in Level 2 and 3 ever since and love it!



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I love horsemanship.*

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Collection Naturally

by Linda Parelli

A LEVEL 3/4 CONCEPT

Over the years we've been searching for a way to teach the concepts of Level 3 Finesse more simply and comfortably for both people and horses. It's so easy to bother the horse and jam him up when you start to ride with two reins and attempt Finesse maneuvers, so we've come up with a new progression of steps that is proving very effective. Within that progression, new ideas about tools—bits and reins, and new techniques have emerged.

The way we want you to think of collection at this moment, is that you 'collect' the horse mentally, emotionally and physically. Mentally the horse has to be willing and trusting. Emotionally, the horse has to be calm and confident. Physically, the horse has to have impulsion and be able to shift its weight to the hindquarters. This means the rider, the horse's leader, has to know how to influence and develop each of these areas. The Parelli Programs and Courses already map out how to develop willingness and confidence in the horse, as well as impulsion. What we'll focus on in this article is the finer points of these areas as they directly relate to the outcome of 'collection.'

Instead of just 'collection,' you need to think of a collection of words that might describe it, words like "intimacy," "fluidity," "harmony," "grace," "accuracy." **Collection is not about getting a horse to arch his neck and give you a head set, it's a total feeling and state of body and mind.**

The Four Steps of achieving collection naturally are:

1. Relaxation
2. Longitudinal Flexion
3. Latitudinal Flexion
4. Suspension & Vertical Flexion

1. RELAXATION

Tension is the enemy of collection. It creates bracing which prevents the horse from using his whole body in an effortless concert of movement. A tense horse will brace in the back, shorten their stride, invert their neck and body... and a brace in the body indicates a brace in the mind.

What causes horses to brace are things like...

- A poor relationship with their rider
- Fearfulness, lack of confidence
- Fast hands, quick legs

- Inadequate preparation for a maneuver so the horse loses balance or rhythm
- Too much forwardness, horse on the forehand
- Reins or legs before seat
- A driving seat
- Rider leaning forward, arching their back or bracing in stirrups

Because the Parelli approach to collection involves intimacy, the quality of the relationship with your horse is very important. Understanding your horse's horsenality will help you create rapport. The more you want to advance a horse, the stronger your bond should be. In this way you won't blow your horse up as you ask for more.

As a rider, you need to do in your body what you want the horse to do in his body as it applies to shape, balance and energy. This is the overall concept of Fluidity and it simplifies riding technique. Because horses are so sensitive, the rider needs to learn how to use their body before activating the reins or the leg. A horse that is relaxed on the ground can become tense when they're ridden just because of the way the rider sits or uses their legs and hands. The worst thing you can do with a tense horse is try to teach him something new or make him do what you want. You have to get relaxation first.

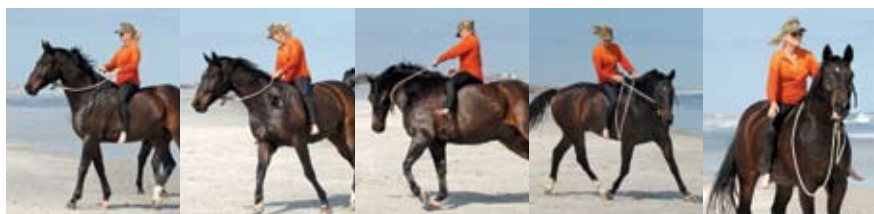
New Technique: Sideways-Circle

When a horse wants to rush or take short, choppy strides, ask him to go sideways as much as he's going forward but keep him on the circle. It will interrupt his tension and stop the rushing without blocking him in Zone 1. His mind engages because he has to think about where he's putting his feet, you're preventing him from traveling forward, then this makes his emotions subside and then he'll slow down. It works very well to disperse the energy this way as opposed to holding the horse back because that only makes them claustrophobic and more frantic.

To do this:

- Be on a circle that has about 15 feet radius/is 30 feet in diameter...not too big and not too small.
- Keep him on that circle but push his body sideways with your inside leg and inside rein if necessary. You'll use both your reins to keep him on the circle but not to hold him back. There is a difference. The reason you want to keep him on the circle is that's part of the control. If you go in a straight line it's easy for a horse to gather speed, especially when at first they think that the feel of your inside leg means go faster.
- You need to keep asking your horse to go sideways in this manner until you feel him try to lower his head or slow down, and then you release him so he can go forwards again.

- As soon as he speeds up, ask him to Sideways-Circle again. The idea is that your horse will quickly learn that when he's calm, he can be comfortable and 'released' on the circle, but when he gets tense, you'll snap him out of it by pushing him sideways as he goes forward.
- Timing is everything so make sure you respond quickly to both the desirable and the undesirable changes.
- Typically, the horse will start to "blow" which is a great sign that it's working. Tense horses hold their breath or take short, sharp breaths. When they start to relax they free up their breathing.
- You can do this at the walk, trot or canter, but the canter is not the ideal place to start unless that's the only time your horse gets fast or tense.
- Pretty soon, you will be able to extinguish the smallest spark of tension with just the slightest hint of sideways and you can do it anywhere, any time!



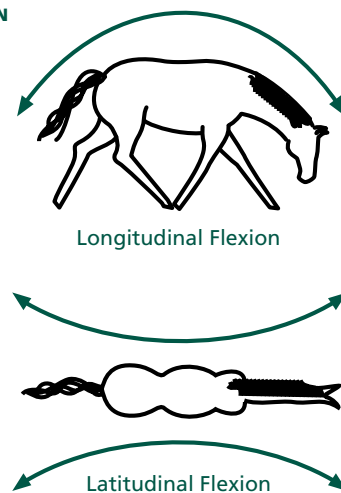
Here Linda uses the "Sideways-Circle Technique" to help Remmer after he became tense and fearful in a new environment. You'll see on the final photo that he was able to stop and stand still and Linda was able to drop the reins!

2. LONGITUDINAL FLEXION

Longitudinal Flexion is all about stretching or flexing the horse's topline and is a valuable part of developing vertical flexion. Many horses contract their backs because of emotional tension, or to avoid saddles or bits that pinch, or because of a stiff rider. A hollow or contracted back makes collection impossible because the dorsal muscles diminish and the belly muscles sag so it's very hard for the horse to actually lift his back.

Teaching a horse longitudinal flexion is an important step in the process of teaching a horse to 'collect.'

Once your horse is relaxed, you can then teach him to stretch and use his topline. A horse that lifts his back and lengthens his neck will bring his hindlegs more underneath him, lengthen his stride and become smoother to ride.



In order to do this, your horse will need a bit that invites him to go to it and reins that deliver a clean message:

- This is our current snaffle bit with horseman's reins and rein leathers



- This is our new Parelli Confidence Bit and the new Parelli Finesse Reins



The loose ring snaffle we've used successfully for many years works very well for FreeStyle riding and control through the activation of one rein. However, when it comes to using two reins for Finesse, the fact that it has only one joint in the mouthpiece can tend to make the horse get behind the bit and avoid contact. When this happens you end up with a 'head set' rather than collection which should involve the whole horse. It can also be misinterpreted as a 'soft feel' where it feels light and soft but the horse is isolating his head and neck so then the message doesn't go through his body and down to his feet. A soft feel describes harmony and unity through the whole horse and rider together, not just the reins.

As we continued to research better methods for teaching you Finesse, it became evident that new tools were also necessary. The Confidence Bit has two joints and is a little thicker in diameter making it more comfortable and inviting for the horse to go to. It does not collapse and pinch the horse because it is designed for riding with two reins and the contact you will learn to cultivate will feel like holding

a willing partner's hand that feels connected but is not leaning on you. (*Note: this bit is not advocated for Levels 1 and 2, especially where control issues still exist*).

The Finesse Reins are made of the same yacht-braid as the Parelli ropes and Horseman's Reins. Instead of attaching to Rein Leathers, they snap directly on to the bit. They have lots of feel and a little weight just behind the snaps which helps ensure a smooth and connected feel between the bit and the rider's hands. For the new technique, the Finesse Reins facilitate a consistent and flowing feel. (*Note: Rein Leathers are an important tool in Levels 1 and 2 for teaching people to develop hands that close slowly and open quickly. They protect the horse by slowing down and warning him of the approaching contact—something leather or other lightweight reins cannot do*).

New Technique: The Fluid Rein

Many horses are really afraid of contact with the bit, so they escape it, lean on it or fight it. This technique will teach your horse to trust the bit and your hands and in searching for the contact, he will stretch not just his neck, but his entire topline.

- Ride your horse on a circle at the walk, then later at the trot. You want to be on the same, consistent circle and on flat ground. When the horse puts his head down he is not able to see in front very well, but he can see out to the side. If you travel on too big a circle, or straight lines, your horse will keep bringing his head up to check where he's going which is counterproductive at this stage.
- Slowly and rhythmically comb the reins with a hand-over-hand action with the reins sitting between your index and middle finger, and your ring and little finger. The reins will slide through your fingers, keep a flowing contact with the feel of your horse's mouth and yet not block him.
- When your horse starts to reach and stretch, he'll flow more easily forward, sometimes more powerfully. It's a great feeling when the horse starts to use his whole body.
- At first, your horse may overflex, try to escape it in some way. Just keep the rhythm going until he tries to put his head down. As soon as he does this, release the reins. Within a few repetitions, your horse will start to stretch downwards seeking the feel of the bit.
- At no time take a steady hold. Either release the reins or keep combing them to maintain a flowing contact. The bit has to feel good to your horse and not suddenly block him.
- If your horse stops, allow him to do so. Just keep combing the reins until he tries to put his head down. If he goes backwards, direct Zone 5 into a corner so you

don't have to press him with your legs and confuse him. Once he knows what to do, you can ask him to try it when he moves.

- If your horse overflexes and tries to avoid the bit, put more drag into the combing action so he looks for where the release is. Once he pushes his nose out, then out and down, and each time he feels you release to the slightest try, you'll have taught him what you want.

- If your horse puts his head down but doesn't lift his back or lengthen his stride, simply put more drag into the combing action and ask your horse to speed up a bit. Keep the combing slow but increase the pressure and the horse's pace.

- If your horse starts to pull the reins from you, don't worry and do not block him by grabbing or holding the rein. It's just an experimental

stage he's going through so give him no resistance. Just keep combing the reins. Let the reins slide through your hands because if you block him, he'll lose confidence in you and in going to the bit.

- If your horse leans on the reins it means you are pulling! Keep your hands combing slowly and rhythmically the whole time you are doing longitudinal flexion.
- Longitudinal flexion is best done at the trot. It's okay to teach it at the walk but then move to the trot fairly soon. Do not do it at the canter because it's very difficult for the horse and rider to do this and keep the weight on the hindquarters. The risk of the horse tripping at the canter is the main problem.
- Remember...if your horse becomes emotional or tense, go back to the previous step of Sideways-Circle to relieve that tension. The relationship must always come first and as your horse's leader it is your responsibility to help maintain your horse's confidence and a learning frame of mind.



Fluidity Tip:

- Stretch and round your own back.
- Use the same rhythm in your hands as the energy in your horse's trot. This means you may not be in time with every stride (too quick), but the energy will feel harmonious.
- Keep your weight back and maintain your Balance Point (*The Balance Point is taught in the Parelli Level 1 and 2 Programs*).

3. LATITUDINAL FLEXION

Through flexing the horse's body latitudinally you not only put a nice bend through the body, you teach the horse to lift his withers which is the key to an "uphill" horse with a light forehand. As the withers lift the horse becomes more elevated in front, the hind legs reach further and the weight is carried more on the hindquarters.

With Latitudinal Flexion you are now learning how to flex the inside of the horse in a turn vs. pushing the turn (as with Carrot Sticks).

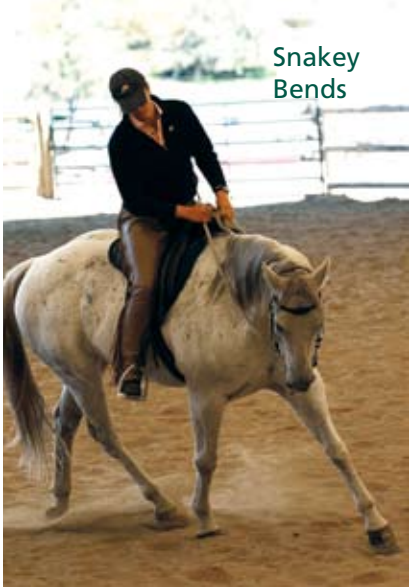
New Technique: The Snakey Bend

"Snakey Bends" develop your horse's rhythm, relaxation, bend and fluidity. It is much like the Sideways-Circle technique used to help your horse relax when in motion, but in a more refined and shaped way.

- Start just on the circle, then expand to fluid, 'snakey' changes of bend to change direction, to then snakey serpentine. You can also do it in the canter and to make simple changes of lead by changing from one bend to the other through the transition.

The relationship must always come first and as your horse's leader it is your responsibility to help maintain your horse's confidence and a learning frame of mind.

- Learn it first at the walk, then at the trot. Keep it slow, rhythmic and graceful.
- Your inside knee and outside rein become the most important elements. Your knee will help shape your horse's bend while the outside rein prevents the neck from bending more than the body. (*Note: It's typical for people to use too much inside rein causing the neck to bend more than the rest of the horse's body and then the lifting effect is lost.*)
- Using your inside knee, ask your horse to bend his body and drift very slightly sideways by pressing your inside knee into the saddle. (Leave your other leg draped around your horse's body but inactive. You should activate only one leg at a time or you will end up gripping and restricting your horse.)



Snakey Bends

Lyla and Zorro: Zorro is by nature a very sensitive and tense horse and Lyla has helped him make dramatic changes in his confidence and collection. Notice the roundness and lift of his back, the stretch in his neck, the lift in his withers and the reach in his hind leg.

- Hold a steady contact with the outside rein and lightly lift your inside rein straight up. The outside rein will prevent your horse over-bending his neck while the inside rein will encourage the horse to lift his shoulder while lengthening his neck and reaching down into the bit.
- The result is a curvy combination of longitudinal and latitudinal flexion.
- If your horse does not respond to the pressure from your inside knee, help him understand what you want by tapping him gently on the shoulder in front of your foot using a Carrot Stick. This will encourage him to move his shoulders over in response to your knee. This is the part of his body you want to effect. It will help shape the rib cage and keep the hindquarters engaged. You do not want to move the hindquarters as this would result in disengagement.
- Change the bend from one circle to the other by changing your ribs, pressing with the other knee, lifting the inside rein and supporting with the outside rein.
- When you change from one bend to the other, do it in a nice and easy flow, keeping the exact same rhythm and speed of the gait.
- Because you are working on developing accuracy, be particular about the shape and location of your circle. You could place a cone or similar marker in the center to help you. The ideal size of the circle would be 24 to 30 feet in diameter. If it's any larger than that you will not have enough bend in your horse.
- Focus ahead approximately half way around the circle.
- The better you get at this, the less you need your inside rein. The main communication will come from your body shape and your inside knee.

Fluidity Tips

- Bend your body through the ribs the same way you are asking your horse to.
- When you change the bend in your horse to change direction, change the bend in your rib cage.
- Augment your shoulders, inside shoulder low and outside shoulder heightened by stretching your rib cage on that side. Practice this before trying it on your horse.
- Stay on your Balance Point, keep your weight back and don't lean in or down.
- Remember to stay in rhythm with your horse, and remember to pedal at the walk and sitting trot.

4. SUSPENSION AND VERTICAL FLEXION

The final step is now to raise the neck with the Suspension Rein. When every step has been developed, this comes very easily, softly and naturally. The best way to start this is (1) first with downward transitions, then (2) ask for it during the gait and finally (3) in upward transitions.

As with every step, don't rush it. Teaching yourself and your horse takes time to achieve things like this with quality.

New Technique: The Suspension Rein

You've already begun to develop the Suspension Rein with the Snakey Bends and now you can use it as an effective rein position to lift the shoulder and elevate the neck.



Suspension Rein

- (1) Downward transitions. Go from a walk to a stop using the Suspension Rein. With both reins reasonably short, but not tight or restricting in any way, keep one rein steady and lift the other straight up, holding until you get the downward transition. Then release.
- Repeat this several times to get familiar with the feel and so that your horse understands.
- Now, ask for the transition to the halt and wait until your horse tucks his chin, then release. Some horses will push their chin up as they make the transition so you need to wait to release when he finds an elevated head yet tucked chin position. Don't pull, just wait.
- Next, start experimenting with downward transitions between each gait. Take your time, don't ask for fast responses. Think "graceful" and imagine yourself landing like a duck on the water...hind end landing first, front end elevated. We call these transitions "Duck Landings!"

- Improving the horse's physique and physical strength and well being
- More precise maneuvers or extreme transitions such as canter-walk
- Lateral maneuvers (Hindquarters/Forequarters in, counter arcs and half passes)
- Flying changes
- Preparation for learning about engagement and performance maneuvers. Engagement is collection with power and elevation. When I first rode with dressage master Walter Zettl at the clinic organized by our friend, Susanah Cord, I experienced the beginnings of engagement through demanding exercises requiring a "million" transitions within and between the gaits! It basically turned my horse into a hovercraft that could go forwards, backwards, right, left, up and down at any given moment. How interesting! This is the same goal that Pat Parelli has been moving us toward Level by Level.

*As when teaching your horse anything new,
do only a few minutes at a time, don't make it a drill, stop before
you bore or bother your horse, and always check your own Fluidity
before blaming the horse.*

- Once you and your horse feel consistently comfortable with the Suspension Rein for downward transitions, you can (2) start experimenting with it within the gait and then (3) in upward transitions.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

As when teaching your horse anything new, do only a few minutes at a time, don't make it a drill, stop before you bore or bother your horse, and always check your own Fluidity before blaming the horse. Most importantly take care of your horse's mental and emotional state, it's better to do too little than too much, and if your horse gets emotional remember to 'retreat' to something like the Sideways-Circle or get off and play on line until he's calm again.

Also, sometimes we don't realize when our body position is not quite right and we're giving a faulty message to our horse. When your horse doesn't do what you want, pet him, relax and start again. Never punish or force him or he'll not want to participate or will do it with anxiety and tension...and those are the enemies of intimacy in collection!

COLLECTION IS IMPORTANT FOR...

- Developing the horse mentally, emotionally and physically

SPECIAL NOTES

Collection is quite difficult to attain and maintain on a horse when bareback. This is because the rider cannot sit far enough back and their weight is concentrated in a small area on the horse's back. Many saddles are also placed over the shoulders of the horse which concentrates the rider's weight over the forehand instead of the hindquarters. The saddle needs to be clear of the shoulders and position the rider over the back part of the rib cage rather than the front.

There are also many English saddles that are too narrow in the gullet causing the horse to stiffen and hollow his back to avoid the pinch behind the shoulders especially; and Western saddles that are too long in the bars thus restricting the horse's ability to bend latitudinally or bring his shoulders back.

Restrictive saddles such as these can be improved with the use of the Theraflex Pad and TheraShims, thus putting the rider onto their Balance Point and shifting their weight more to the hindquarters.

For more information on the new line of Parelli Saddles, pads and shims that enhance the horse's ability to use his back, see my article on saddle fit in *Savvy Times* January 2005, Issue 6 and go to parellicollection.com. 🐾

No Matter Where We Go There We Are

Who Are They?

John Baar, Kathy Ackerman-Baar, Lyla Cansfield, Tina Giordano,
Don Jessop, Rachel Jessop, Jesse Peters, Carmen Smith

*Who are they?
They are the warmth...
The spirits...
The guides of possibility...
They are the faculty of
the Parelli Centers.*





Building the Dream

...and how you can help!

By Cynthia McFarland





Twenty-five years ago, an enthusiastic, albeit nervous, young Pat Parelli first shared his concepts with the public during a clinic in 1982. In the quarter of a century that has followed, Pat has been both humbled and elated to see the universal truths of his message evolve and grow into a literal revolution in horsemanship.

A major reason for the Parelli program's wide appeal is that it truly is "non-denominational." Horses are horses, whether their humans use them for international level competition, for work, or as casual riding companions. For that reason, Parelli methods work with any horse and perhaps more importantly, with any human who dares to accept



Pictures from Pat's first clinic in 1982 where he shared his concepts with the public.

photos courtesy of the Parelli archive

that there is a better way to communicate with and handle these remarkable animals.

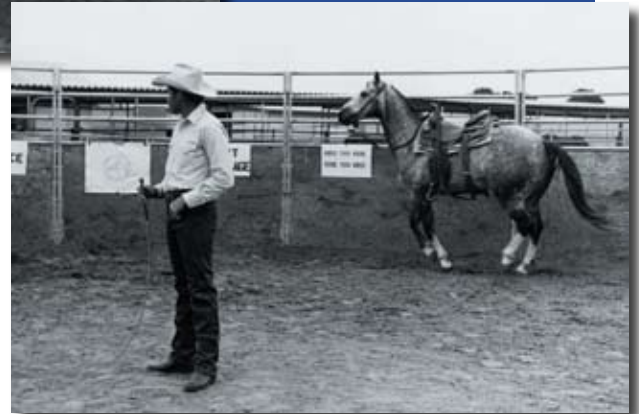
As anyone connected with the Parelli program well knows, the interest Linda and Pat Parelli have created in natural horsemanship continues to grow at a rapid pace. Home study students number in the hundreds of thousands and there are Parelli International Savvy Club members in countries around the globe.

Parelli now has branch offices located in Australia and the United Kingdom, and a Canadian branch is planned for the near future. Certified Parelli instructors can be found in more than a dozen countries, from the U.S. to Germany, from New Zealand to Sweden.

Despite this international presence and participation, the home place of the Parelli message—indeed the heartbeat—will always be found in Colorado where Pat and Linda established the first Pat Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs in 1996. Thanks to the tremendous growth experienced by the Parelli program in recent years, it became obvious that a new headquarters was necessary.

"Our goal was to create two places that will be recognized as the heart of horsemanship around the world, and we are doing this with our Pat Parelli Centers in Colorado and Florida," noted Mark Weiler, company president. "The spiritual home of the Parelli family will always be Pagosa Springs, Colorado. As part of our mission is to raise the level of horsemanship worldwide, we needed an administrative home where we can continue to service the needs of horse lovers with the most modern technology available."

Ground was broken for the new Parelli World Center in Pagosa



Springs on September 6, 2006, and plans call for the new headquarters to be open by this September's Savvy Conference.

"Every horse lover in the world will be welcome at the Parelli World Center," says Sue Shoemark, who is in charge of Parelli product sales. "It doesn't matter if you're a world champion or a 'happy hacker.' This is a home for horse lovers so that you can be a part of an international team and operation."

The eight-acre site located within the town limits of Pagosa Springs is destined to become a global landmark for horse lovers of all disciplines. With a stunning setting overlooking the mountains and the lake, the "lodge look" of the new headquarters, complete with massive timbers and plenty of natural wood and stone, ensures that the Parelli World Center will fit harmoniously into its surroundings.

"The new headquarters is really the pulse of our mission," explains Neil Pye, dean of the Parelli University. "It will be home to our ever-expanding creative, graphics and TV production departments that continue to produce the programs, products, monthly DVDs and magazines that reach our growing student base."

The customer service and call center, as well as the distribution department, will also operate from the Parelli World Center. Encompassing 35,000-square feet under one roof, the facility will offer a theater/media center where visitors can view archival footage of the history of natural horsemanship, the term coined by Pat and Linda themselves.

Making it a true destination for horse lovers, the center will also house the world's first and only Natural Horsemanship Museum. From the history's earliest proponents of a no-force, no-fear approach to handling horses, to more recent contributors such as Tom Dorrance, Ray Hunt and other masters of horsemanship, the museum will offer a self-

guided tour with audio headset so visitors can explore and enjoy at their own pace.



Leslie & Mark Weiler and Linda & Pat Parelli celebrating the ground breaking for the new Parelli World Center in Pagosa Springs, CO.

"Pat wouldn't feel right if we weren't acknowledging his mentors and key horse people who have been so instrumental in this movement," notes Shoemark. "The museum will also include a Walk of Fame to honor natural horsemen and horsewomen who have contributed to the movement and the universal change in horsemanship."

Because the Parelli World Center is only a five-minute drive from the ranch, the media and lecture center can easily be used for Parelli University programs.

"We never really thought of an office as being an attraction, but we've been astounded to see people from all over the world coming to our present offices," says Shoemark. "During Savvy Conferences we take hundreds of people through the offices on tours all day long. The new headquarters will be a destination where people can come and really have a Parelli experience."

Parelli educational materials (home study programs, DVDs, videos) and lifestyle products (clothing, equipment, saddles and Savvy accoutrements) will all be available at the new Parelli World Center.

PAVER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

At the heart of the Parelli program lie the dynamics of the prey/predator relationship.

"Our mission is really to spread this message throughout the world," Shoemark emphasizes. "In our human complexity, there are many clever horsemen and women who still don't realize that they are considered as predators by their horses. The more pressure we put on the horse, the more frightened the horses become. If people could truly understand the prey/predator relationship, the world would be different for both horses and humans."

"Pat and Linda have helped us reconnect with the natural order of things," adds Pye. "Their formula of Love, Language and Leadership has changed the way horse lovers relate to horses and caused us to understand that these universal truths are at the heart of improving all our relationships."

The constantly increasing demand for education and inspiration from the Parelli offices made Pat and Linda and the entire Parelli staff realize that a new headquarters was a vital part of meeting this demand and spreading the Parelli message.

"Education is our core focus," Pye notes. "That's the way we'll change the world by raising the level

of horsemanship. Whether someone is in Denmark, Dublin or Dallas, they can experience Pat and Linda coming into their homes on a regular basis to both inspire and inform them."

The good news is it's now possible for every day horsemen and women to be part of this remarkable journey in horsemanship. By giving a gift to Parelli, you will help support the funding for the creation of this new center. Parelli will acknowledge these gifts with the Walk of Honor. Horse lovers can be part of the creation of the Parelli World Center.

"Many people want to find a tangible way to be part of Pat and Linda's family and this program offers this type of fellowship in a simple, yet lasting and memorable way," Pye notes. Gifting contributions to the Parelli World Center are a unique way to honor someone or to recognize a special equine partner for perpetuity.

Pavers are available in three different sizes and at varying locations. Of course, the opportunity is limited as only a set number of pavers are offered because of space constraints.

Those who truly believe in the Parelli program and the vital changes that natural horsemanship have brought to the international horse community will no doubt be eager to participate. The project allows participants to be a part of a permanent memorial that will be treasured and respected for generations to come.

"We have so many dedicated and devoted members of our International Savvy Club and a lot of these people will want to come visit our spiritual home in Colorado," says Shoemark. "The new headquarters is really going to become the center for Savvy Club members and horse lovers worldwide. This gives them a chance to make a pilgrimage to really see Pat and Linda's home and the center of the mission." 🐾

Artists renditions of what the new Parelli World Center will look like when completed. Right: Inside lobby/reception area. Bottom Left: Front entry into the building. Bottom Right: View of the back of building from highway 160 through Pagosa Springs.



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- Pavers in the reception area (12x12 inches) will honor a gift of \$1,000

By the way, if you're curious about progress on the new headquarters, go to the Parelli website (www.parelli.com) and see for yourself! Check out the live webcam feed from the building site and watch the construction take place.

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If you've read the 'Success Stories' at parelli.com or remember our ad campaign in *Horse Illustrated*, then you may find Mary and Fann's story familiar. Four years have passed since we published their story, and Mary still takes the time to keep us up-to-date in their progress. Read on to see where they began their journey and where they are now, one year after Hurricane Katrina.



Photographs by Deepen Photography

Mary: Level 1 "Partnership" Student Fann [8-year-old Dutch Warmblood]

"Linda and Pat Parelli came to Alexandria, Louisiana with the Success with Horses 2002 Tour in March which I attended and found inspiring. The 2-day seminar was overwhelming with new information about ways to be savvy around horses for safety, the development of mental collection, lightness and a trusting relationship with your horse. During the lunch break for autographs I must have been the only person that insisted Pat sign his autograph, 'to my horse Fann.'

"I met Fann three years ago, and my heart went out to him. I was able to rescue Fann and begin an attempt to rehabilitate him. Fann had such advanced canker (thrush) in all four of his feet that his soles were black and crumbly, and he had no frogs. Relying on the experience of my farrier we began addressing the canker, white line disease and erosion of the walls of his hooves. Fann was so stiff when I first met him that he could not lay down. With each step he attempted, his head would drop to the ground in lameness and pain. Working in connection with a very

skilled veterinarian and farrier we set out a long-term plan to help his feet recover from each of these issues. This allowed for the development of a thicker, healthier sole. Communication and teamwork were the key elements in Fann's recovery.

"After six months and an improvement in his physical health, I began using the Parelli Seven Games to address Fann's mental issues. He became more and more playful as his pain and stiffness diminished. Through several years of sweat equity Fann has become my confidant and teacher. He now freely loads himself into any horse trailer and stays there until signaled to come out. He works at liberty. He stands with no ties or halter in the wash stall while I wash him and attend to his feet. His favorite thing is to come to me and put his head on my shoulder.

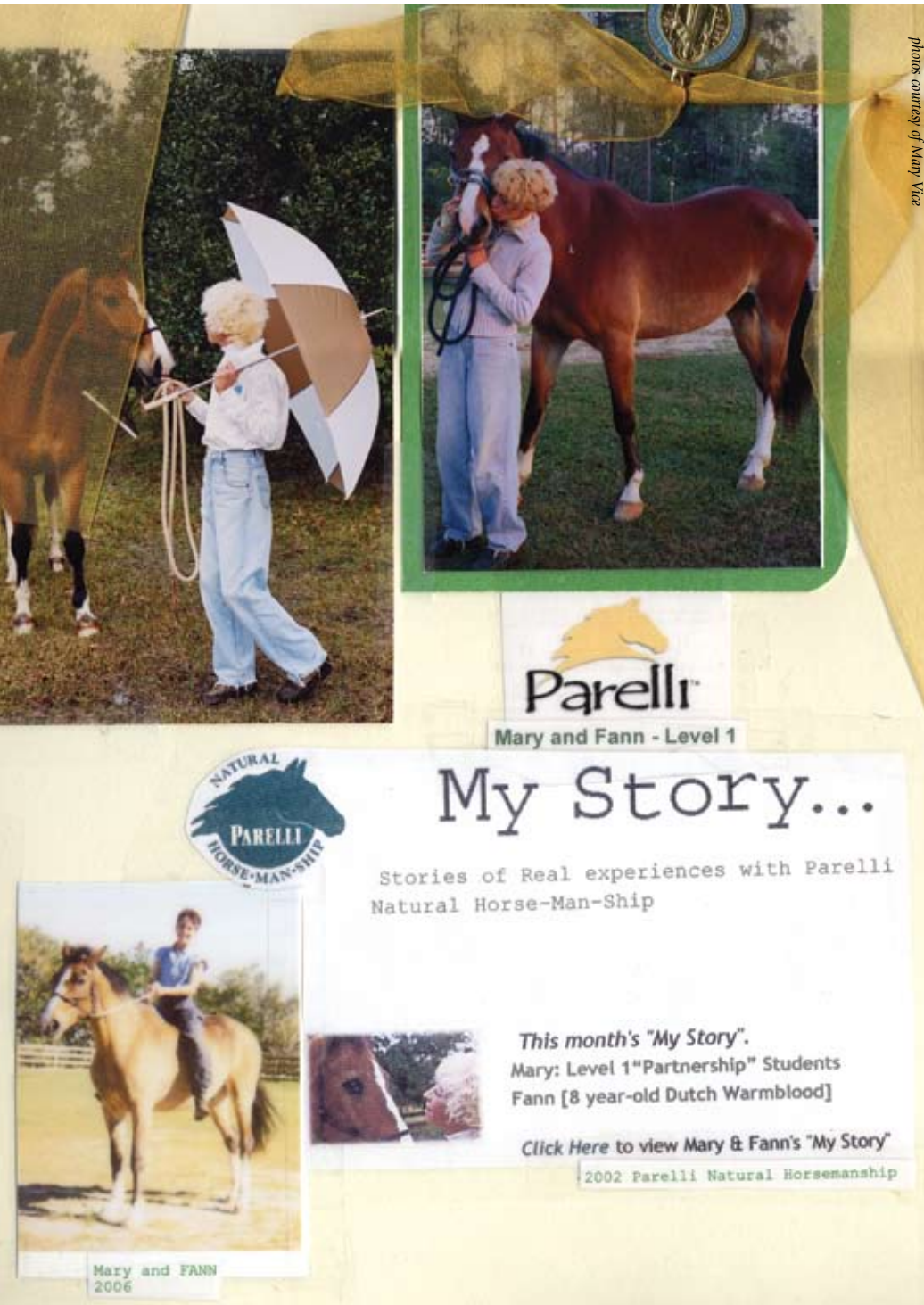
"In terms of personal development, the challenges this horse has presented to me in terms of dealing with people in the horse community (trainers, shoers, vets, and financial institutions) have been invaluable. His devel-

opment has challenged me to greater levels of perseverance, self-esteem and passion. As Pat says, 'The greatest challenge in horsemanship is mastering ourselves.'

"What is most rewarding to me is observing how Fann's story encourages all people to reflect on issues larger than themselves: animal welfare, human welfare and a better understanding of the commitment to horse ownership. Nothing is more gratifying to me than to have people stop and want to talk about a horse they personally rehabilitated or to share their own stories about how horses have positively affected them, a child, an unreachable person or a disabled person.

'Savvy is an invitation to excellence.' It is my hope that Fann's inspirational story sets a higher standard. Refocus on the horse. Think of how we can develop a partnership with our horses from the horse's point of view. Personally I have realized that if you can take care of yourself and be a whole person then you bring healthier gifts to your relationships with your horse, your friends, and your community."

Update: August 2006



photos courtesy of Mary Vice

Parelli
Mary and Fann - Level 1

My Story...
Stories of Real experiences with Parelli
Natural Horse-Man-Ship

This month's "My Story".
Mary: Level 1 "Partnership" Students
Fann [8 year-old Dutch Warmblood]

[Click Here to view Mary & Fann's "My Story"](#)
2002 Parelli Natural Horsemanship

Mary and FANN
2006

The eye of Hurricane Katrina passed over this farm in Louisiana August 29, 2005, presenting challenges for survival for all residing along the Gulf Coast. It seems appropriate to memorialize the events in writing at the one-year anniversary of Katrina.

Realizing late Sunday afternoon that Katrina was, indeed, focused for a direct hit on New

Orleans created panic in our community; gasoline for fleeing vehicles was scarce or unavailable. One fleeing teenager stopped and offered to pay for the gas from one of my lawnmower gas cans.

Praying as I grazed the horses very late that night, Fann was stalled with his mate Star, so they could be together during the brunt of the hurricane. For eight hours, I stood observing

the roof of the barn and prayed as Katrina slowly crept over. Unending nightmarish 200mph+ winds and driving, unyielding rain. 3:30AM the first of at least 20 tornadoes tore through the black skies, snapping pine trees mid-trunk, easily uprooting 100-year-old pecan and oak trees from the over soaked ground. The sound was unforgettable. Frozen in shock, I prayed and stood looking out the window facing the barn, not 100 yards away, repeating, "The barn roof is still there. The barn roof is still there." The roof was all that was visible for these hours of Nature's onslaught.

Late Monday morning when the winds had subsided to 50mph, I braced and made a run for the barn. Tears of joy and relief as Fann turned, he and Star standing frozen—as horses do when frightened. Fann came to me and licked my face!

The next 10 days proved a test of survival as the downed trees blocked any vehicular egress or access on properties as well as roads. With no cell phone service, we learned to walk over daily to check on our neighbors. That Monday night in the dark, one could hear the sound of neighboring farm tractors and saws as our community began pushing out trees and cutting as fast as possible to begin road clearance, a custom so that emergency personnel can get into the rural areas. We listened to WWL 870 battery powered radio broadcasts each night in the heat and dark, only slowly grasping the magnitude of death, drowning and devastation created by the gap between the hurricane's strike and 48 hours until federal or state aid could be deployed.

The horses began slow acclimation to the quiet and heat. As access to the majority of the property was limited and noting their curiosity at the dramatic change in the view from the barn, I let them loose to walk and inspect the new boundaries with their noses, ears up, and staying together as they explored up to the edges of the downed trees. Desperation inspired imaginative thought. With no electricity or water supply in 100+ degree heat and humidity, the horses were released into a flooded paddock so they could stand in cool water and drink.

I will never forget standing outside in the sun, frantically waving arms and yelling as military helicopters flew over surveying and looking for survivors! As my main water line



FANN grazing with Hurricane Katrina upended pecan trees scattered around property.

was ripped out of the ground by a huge tree that was lifted roots and all and set down against my house, once daily a neighbor would stop, load empty buckets and drive to another neighbor's who had offered to run his generator for everyone to obtain water. In this way water was obtained for the hot horses. There was feed and hay for only five days. Once I could get out, there was no way of knowing if the feed stores were open. Most were closed and guarded by military personnel to prevent theft. Louisiana was placed under martial law. Evening curfews and blue laws were instated due to the unrest of the returning population, and the fear level of the community.

Etched in my memory is the first journey out on the roads to find feed, hay, ice, food and water. Clutching a Rosary in my steering wheel hand, I assured Fann and Star, "I will be back." Navigating through horrendous tree debris, I amazingly arrived at the feed store, closed and under guard. The hay loader was still there locking up. We hugged with joy and tears, and in good faith he provided me six bales of hay 'on credit' as all were unsure about another trip on the unsafe roads. After stopping and asking the police for information regarding ice and water, I arrived to sit in the queue, 30 minutes after the first U.S. Army relief trucks filled with M.R.E.s (Meals Ready to Eat) had set up at a Target store. True tears of relief and my expression of gratefulness to the soldiers evoked, "It's our job, m'am." Two hours later, driving slowly and overwhelmed with the horrors of destruction all around, I returned safely to the farm with ice, water, M.R.E.s and hay.

hum of generators filled the hot night air as we all filled plastic buckets and hand rinsed clothing on the sidewalk, wringing out by hand and laying out to dry in the sun. We learned to barter and exchange our favorite M.R.E.s. We learned to share any news of survival, each step in the upward climb to the restoration of regular traffic and community services.

As our roofs had either been blown off or smashed by fallen pine trees, we learned to survive subsequent rains by moving to a drier part of the house. Hurricane Rita came soon after Katrina, adding insult to injury. My aluminum carport, top lifted and folded back like a sandwich with Katrina, was flipped back and returned to the horizontal with Rita. The carport is yet to be repaired; with the scarcity of labor my roof and house windows were only finally replaced in March 2006. Yet every day, managing Fann's care and the other farm horses, applying

One finds out who the truly good neighbors and people are as the materiality of our modern existence dissipates in importance with a scramble for the absolute basics of survival. Our rural area did not have electricity restored for one month during the most torridly hot and humid period of Louisiana's 2005 summer. The

the Parelli methods of focus and preparedness, has been a beacon of consistency.

August 2006 signifies one year forward from Hurricane Katrina's devastating arrival. There is a national awareness that Louisiana remains in a state of disrepair. It will be many years before infrastructure, schools and economic growth are redefined. St. Tammany Parish has absorbed citizens from the severely flooded New Orleans parishes of St. Bernard, all with stories of total loss of home and business. I feel fortunate that these horses survived such horrendous conditions, knowing that horses in historic New Orleans proper parks were not as fortunate. The New Orleans mounted police horses were evacuated to the north shore, where we are located, two days before the hurricane and were stabled at surrounding farms as we are significantly above sea level. Once services were restored, I will never forget seeing television footage of the lost horses loose and walking the sidewalks of New Orleans. Many were simply left by their owners, and those that were recovered were grouped for several months in a rescue shelter with donated supplies as volunteers located and reunited many owners with their livestock.



Wind damage to house and carport



Fann has progressed to advanced Level 2 groundwork. He circles on the 22-foot Line virtually at Liberty. I ride him in the Parelli halter only, NO BIT. I believe he has mouth

sensitivity as he has broken his Parelli bridle and is reluctant to the bit. He has broken most bridle sets as he takes off after dismounting and manages to get them off his head, snapping leather to do so.

Fann was diagnosed one month ago with borderline Cushing's syndrome which has broken my heart. The 'Eight Responsibilities in Action' as they apply to humans are appropriate here to inspire leadership in staying in the present day-to-day as I

learn to manage his care, particularly to regulate body temperature. Timing is everything from diet, when to turn out, when to ride...but it can be done. I anticipate his positive response to the medication will be even more noticeable as Louisiana's intense summer heat diminishes.

The Parelli methods and knowledge my horses have, plus the relationship already established prior to the hurricane, created a safer post-disaster environment and facilitated their adaptation to some extenuating circumstances. Writing this history of events has contributed to the healing process and allows for reflection on what CAN be survived. 🐾



Doesn't everyone have an uprooted perpendicular tree as the view out the kitchen window?



FANN AND STAR

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 Linda and Pat Parelli



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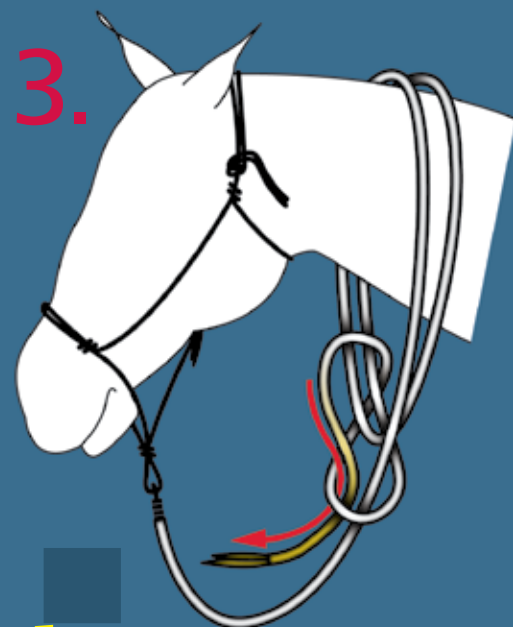
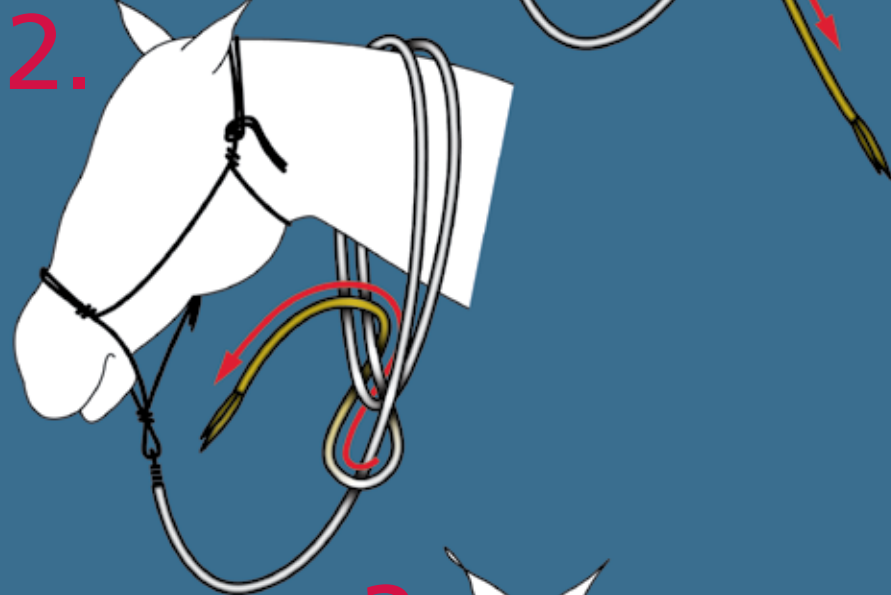
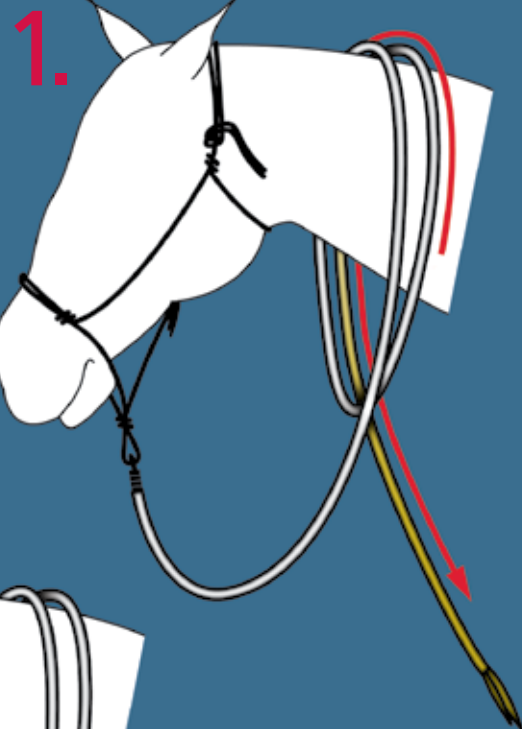
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The Bowline Knot

(The reins have been left out of the diagram to simplify the image.)



FACE FACE WITH OURSELVES...

by Kaffa Martignier

An underlying theme of the new Courses taught at the Parelli Centers is “human transformation.” The whole thing is laid out to cause us, as students of horsemanship and as leaders for our horses, to come face to face with our horses as our teachers, and with ourselves as our own rescuers.

We need to come to the realization that I—the leader in the horse-human relationship—have to be willing as a first step to acknowledge my responsibilities in the relationship and examine how well I am upholding them.

It’s like Pat says in his seminars—sending your horse to a horse trainer to get him or her trained to put up with your inadequacies, is like sending your spouse to a marriage counselor to get fixed up, but not being willing to go along yourself.

I am sure you have experienced this if you are a little ways along in the Parelli Natural Horsemanship program: Somebody sees you do something with your horse that looks great, and they ask, “Where do you get a horse like that?” You don’t bother trying to answer, because you know that down in the pasture at night, your horse’s mates are asking, “Where do you get a human like that?” It’s not a quick fix; it’s about us developing ourselves to be great leaders, so then our horses can be great followers.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

This summer, I heard Pat describe how at the outset of his people teaching career, he thought he could just teach people to be horsemen. He didn’t initially realize that people are generally not good leaders—and therefore, can’t learn to be horsemen. A fundamental pre-requisite is missing.

Pat went on to recognize that our civilized society, our culture of instant gratification, doesn’t develop us for effectiveness as leaders. Some of us have trouble leading ourselves and our families—let alone nature’s finest prey animal.

Everywhere you look in a civilized society, some form of instant gratification is available. For example, we can sit on the couch and watch the sports—and, such is the quality of today’s television and the cleverness of the producers, we can experience most of the positive emotions with none of the tedious character building effort that would be involved in getting off the couch, going outside, and training to play that sport.

Catching our own fish involves a great deal more patience and fortitude, not to mention feel, timing, balance, savvy and experience, than is involved in going to the frozen food section of the supermarket. Usually, catching our own fish also involves getting hungry, cramped, cold and wet—and having to persist in spite of all that. In our culture, failure to persist carries little or no consequence. By comparison, if failure to persist is likely to result in starvation, the whole picture changes dramatically.

Necessity is the mother of invention and resourcefulness; as modern technology has reduced these types of necessity for us, we have as a society experienced a corresponding drop in our own ability to be resourceful, inventive, courageous and persistent—all the qualities that we need if we are to be effective leaders.

THE TOPIC OF LEADERSHIP

A significant part of Course 1 is the topic of leadership. The reason that we come face to face with our own inadequacies in

this process is that to be effective leaders for our horses, we first have to be effective leaders for ourselves.

A feature lecture during Course 1 is on this topic, and although we stick to a skeleton outline, each time we do this session it brings up its own insights, unique to the collective energy and mood of the current group.

RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FILTER TO GUIDE US...

As I write, it's the end of Course 1 and the beginning of Course 2 in November, 2006. I cast my mind back to the Leadership lecture from the Course 1 that has just finished. During the lecture on this occasion, we used Pat's four Responsibilities of the human as a guide. Here's a reminder...

1. Act like a Partner (leader), not a predator. Be mentally, emotionally and physically fit.
2. Have an independent seat (or feet, when playing on the ground).
3. Think like a horse-man.
4. Know the power of focus.

We asked, "What are the consequences when I, as a partner and leader, fail to uphold my responsibilities?" We listed some descriptive words for this and called our list, List A. Here are some examples of the words that came up and how we related them to the Responsibilities:

- Feeling frustrated.

To quote Linda: "Frustration begins where knowledge ends." The feeling of frustration is a clue that you need to seek out more Mental Fitness by, for example, asking constructive questions or watching other students who are having success.

- Feeling inadequate or feeling like a failure.

A solution would be to combine Mental Fitness—making a plan and setting it up for success—with the power of Focus and an Independent Seat/Feet.

So, for example, select an activity that you have a high probability of success in, such as: stand or sit on something that keeps you still (with horses, the alpha games are all about who moves whose feet) and focus on a simple task that you and your horse can easily achieve. It might be, "Back away from me between those two piles of poop, then go put your nose on that stump." If you have never tried this, you would be AMAZED at the changes that succeeding at this simple exercise will bring about in how your horse views you and in how you view yourself.

- Feeling like blaming the horse.

It's easier to not blame the horse, if you think like a Horse-man so that you see it from a horse's perspective and recognize that his "misbehavior" is nothing personal—it's just what horses do until we provide them with better leadership.

- Feeling fearful or paralyzed or overwhelmed.

This may happen because you are failing to make use of the power of Focus to focus on what you can do, instead of on what you can't.

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE WHEN ITS WORKING

After we finished List A, we asked the opposite question: "What does it look and feel like when I succeed in upholding my responsibilities as a partner and leader?" Again we listed some descriptive words, and called this, List B. Here are some examples:

- Empowered
- Exhilarated, excited
- Enlightened
- Content, calm, peaceful/humble
- Admiration/respect for the horse
- Achievement/fulfilled
- Connected

FEEDBACK FROM OUR INSTRUMENT PANEL...

After our two lists were complete, we discussed why they were called List A and List B, instead of a "bad" list or a "good" list. We talked about how the uncomfortable emotions don't have to be "bad" or seen as "the enemy" or as meaning we are "wrong." Instead, these emotions are just feedback, guiding us to adjust our course.

An example is the flight path of an airplane. No plane flies in a straight line to its destination. The journey is made up of a series of corrections: as wind and other conditions bump the plane off track, the instrument panel indicates that it's off track, and the pilot makes adjustments.

Our instrument panel is our emotional state—if we could learn to read and acknowledge our emotions earlier and without resisting their message, we would never get so far off track. When the pilot sees flashing red lights on the instrument panel, he doesn't open the door of the cabin and jump out. He absorbs the information without judging it, and makes the necessary adjustments. That's appropriate leadership.

WHAT IS THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF THOSE WHO DON'T QUIT?

As we pondered our two lists at the end of the exercise, I was asked this question:



“What do you think is the common denominator of the people who are able to adjust their course and make it off list A, onto list B? What do the people who stay with natural horsemanship and persist through all these uncomfortable feelings, have that keeps them in the game?”

I responded that I think it's that these people have opened themselves to the realization that it's not about the horse or the task, but about their own growth and development. I think those who are attracted to Parelli Natural Horsemanship are often people who either have already started on a journey of self-development, or there is something in them that is causing them to search for a starting point on such a journey.

Inherent in that desire for self-growth, is a willingness to self-examine and adjust our course, and an ability to bounce back from so-called “failure.” It's a capacity for effective self-leadership.

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

There are stages to our growth and development, which go something like this:

In stage ONE, we are unconsciously incompetent—we don't know what we don't know. The saying is true—ignorance IS bliss.

In stage TWO, we become consciously incompetent. We become aware for the first time of how much we don't know and how far there is to go, and this is where the discomfort of learning begins.

In stage THREE, we become consciously competent. Meaning, we have learned some skills, and so long as we concentrate on what we are doing, we can maintain a level of competence.

In stage FOUR, we become unconsciously competent. Now, learned skills have become instinctive, or habitual. They are grooved into place and we can execute them without having to think about them. Like learning to drive a car—at first you had to

really concentrate, but now you can drive a car, eat a hamburger, and carry on a conversation all at once.

What's the next stage? Well, now the cycle begins again—if you want to keep learning and growing, at this point you seek a new level of incompetence, and plunge back into all the related feelings of discomfort.

UNDERSTANDING HOW AWARENESS

MAKES US FEEL

In addition to a love of learning and growth that we identified as a common denominator for those who don't quit, I think there is something else that can help learners stay on track when the going gets tough—and this is to do with understanding how awareness works to lead us into growth and change.

Awareness leads learning. Without awareness, we could not know there was more to learn. The discomfort of stage two described above occurs because we are always further ahead mentally than we can be emotionally and physically. Mentally, we know that we shouldn't lose our temper or give in to frustration, but we don't yet have the emotional development to catch it early enough to not go there. Mentally, we can see and comprehend the skills we want to develop, but physically we don't quite have it together yet—we still fumble and stumble.

At this stage of trying to master something, we often feel as though we are getting worse at it. The saving grace of the effective learner is to recognize that you are not getting worse—you are becoming more aware. The more aware you are of how good it can be, the more dissatisfied you will be with how it is.

Once you know this, you can recognize the feelings of discomfort for what they are—your instrument panel giving you feedback about where you are in relation to where you want to go. And with that understanding, you don't have to jump out of the flight cabin; you can just use your awareness to adjust your course.

The saving grace of the effective learner is to recognize that you are not getting worse—you are becoming more aware.



When you can be this effective as a leader for yourself, leading someone else will be a breeze by comparison!

DOES RAPPORT ALWAYS HAVE TO COME BEFORE RESPECT?

A few days after that thought provoking discussion on Leadership, Pat did a demonstration with Casper, during which he talked about having an "Attitude of Justice" and about being "effective to be understood and understood to be effective." He commented: "Most of you would not like your first two weeks as my horse, because you would find my Attitude of Justice and effectiveness, uncomfortable."

Later I had a conversation with a student who said that when she heard Pat say that, she realized that the reason her horse had no regard for her was because she was ineffective with him and never held him accountable. That afternoon, instead of limiting herself to just observing him while waiting for the rapport that she thought had to come before she could move on, she started to use an Attitude of Justice—to insist on an appropriate response, and to deliver a fair consequence if she didn't get it.

She said, "After five years of studying Parelli Natural Horsemanship, today was the first time I understood what it means to make a game out of getting his attention and keeping it. The look on his face transformed and we had fun together, instead of being bored together."

But, she said, she was confused because she thought she had to wait for rapport to happen before she could move on to asking for respect. She asked, "Can respect come before rapport?"

I responded, "Yes."

Look up the synonyms for "respect." You will find words like, admiration, deference, esteem, reverence. Look up the synonyms for "rapport," and you will find words like affinity, connection, empathy, relationship. Certainly it is possible to form a relationship with someone and then come to respect them. Equally, it is possible to feel admiration or deference for someone, and then to form a relationship with them.

Leadership is as important as love, and I suspect is inseparable from it. If you are trying to have a relationship with someone who needs leadership from you, and you don't provide it for them, the relationship will not be balanced and healthy.

Imagine if you had a child, and you loved him or her, but didn't provide her with boundaries for her behavior or hold him accountable for his actions—that relationship is not going to be what it could be if you took as much care of the respect—the leadership—as you do of the connection—the love.

A VERY PRIVATE JOURNEY

The reality is that we are all in positions of leadership—we are leading ourselves, our children, our peers...Any time you share an idea or set an example, you are leading.

I believe that nothing is tougher than self-development; nothing is harder than to face ourselves, love ourselves, and lead ourselves. There are no public accolades for the milestones on this very private journey. But no journey is more worthwhile, and no journey has more power for good in our world. 🐾



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In England's Green & Pleasant Land



photo courtesy of Lynda Garrad

The new Parelli UK office located in Hastingleigh, England

By Sophie Love

The new Parelli UK office opened on the 18th September at Brabourne House, Pilgrim's Way (how appropriate!) on the outskirts of a tiny, traditional English village called Hastingleigh, about six miles from Ashford in the heart of the rolling green pastures of the North Downs in Kent. The whispers and rumours, as well as a front-page picture of Pat and Linda on one of the UK's many equestrian magazines, ensured that the phone rang non-stop! Luckily Lynda Garrad had

Team Parelli UK are building something very special in the rolling green pastures of horse loving Britain. They have taken on a mammoth task with enthusiasm, joy and all shoulders to the wheel—to proclaim the name, games and principles of Parelli across the broad and diverse patchwork fields of equestrians one and all. Lynda Garrad and Nicky Townshend are on a mission—to make Pat and Linda's 2007 Parelli International Conference at the NEC the biggest celebration of natural Horse•Man•Ship Europe has ever seen, and to expose British horse lovers frustrated by the rigours of traditional equine practise and disciplines, to the joys of a more natural relationship with horses.

our bubbly Antipodean, Alison Bickley, on loan to help with the deluge of delighted Parelli fans, friends and students as they reached out to the life raft as it steered them back to the Horse•Man•Ship.

MEET LYNDA GARRAD

Lynda has the same energy and sense of fun as a glass of champagne—you know you're in for a good time! Her infectious laugh and sense of humour make calling the new office a joy, and as well as exciting and enthusing you, she can answer many of your Parelli questions as she is in the latter

stages of her Level 3 and has spent many weeks and months at the Parelli Centres in Colorado and Florida.

Lynda was born in Wiltshire but moved around a great deal during her childhood, due to her father's profession. But when they lived in Aldershot she started having riding lessons at The Priory and could be seen cavorting over Frensham Common on a little black pony called Smoky, who belonged to Brynley Powell's family. Lynda used to clean all Brynley's tack and became semi-adopted by this famous equestrian family. But then the family moved on again, and horses had to take a back seat while Lynda grappled with new schools, GCSE's and then work. She started her working life as a Receptionist for a huge London shipping company. She also took on a part-time job in the evenings and weekends working for a Spaniard, Fernando, in his local restaurant. It turned out that Fernando was more than just a restaurateur—he also had a butcher's shop and a building company. He soon asked Lynda to take over the accounts for all three, and that's how she met her husband, Lee, a builder. She got married at 21, had a daughter, Melissa, aged 24 while Lee worked for Fernando and began to specialise in carpentry. Once Melissa started kindergarten, Lee and Lynda decided to set up on their own, and established a carpentry contracting business. In the mid 1980s the company was successful enough to afford a move to a property with land and Lynda was able to have a horse at home. Honey was a real honey and Lynda did a bit of everything with her—dressage, cross-country, hacking etc. And Lynda also started pursuing the traditional British Horse Society qualifications, studying hard for her Stages I, II and III and practising everything she learnt on the patient Honey. Lynda also got involved with teaching the army brats at the local Barracks, and in return was allowed to compete on their immaculately schooled horses, which was 'brilliant!'

But in 1994 Lynda had a near-fatal accident on a road, riding a little Arab mare she had been doing endurance with. Trapped on a narrow country road with a lorry bearing down on them with no intention of stopping, Lynda and her riding companion were forced to mount a steep, slippery drive. The Arab was so scared that she spun and reared before falling over backwards onto Lynda, who broke her pelvis in two places, smashed her knee and ankle and had to be airlifted to Hospital. When she was finally on the road to recovery, after months and months of physiotherapy, Lynda became a British Horse Society Riding & Road Safety Examiner for the North West Kent Area.

In 2002 Lynda and Lee admitted that they were business partners rather than husband and wife, and agreed to divorce. They sold their gorgeous Georgian house and surrounding acres as well as the business, and Lynda moved to Hastingleigh. She then discovered that she had nothing

to do and no one to do it with! No job, no husband, no future! So she put the horses in livery and got a part-time job so at least she was getting out and meeting people. One of those newfound friends was an Aussie at her livery yard who was studying Parelli and got her

Lynda working in the new UK office and riding at the Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs, CO



photos courtesy of Lynda Garrad



photo by Coco

interested and involved. Lynda booked to do a two week Level 1 course in Tiverton in Devon with Russell Higgins, but her horse, Tolly, pulled a tendon! Isn't it amazing how life gets in the way?! But Lynda

was so determined, she went alone, as an auditor. She was so impressed that when she came home she booked to

go to the Parelli Center. Lynda has spent the last few years committed to her equine development, studying Levels 1 & 2 at the Parelli Center under Kaffa & Alain and Berni Zambail. She also travelled to Australia to complete her Level 2 Equine Touch, and spent most of 2005 in the USA doing the very last 10 week school with Dave Ellis, and studying the three new Fluidity courses with Pat & Linda (watch out for Lynda unawares in the new Liberty & Horse Behavior program!)

Lynda is studying Level 3, and now has the skills to take her new horse, Maisy, a very well bred Irish Sports Horse by Richard Z, up to her standard. Tolly is still in the pasture, long retired, and now just a faithful friend. The much-loved Honey died earlier this year, so Maisy has much to live up to!

Lynda's new role at Parelli marries all her business expertise with her passion for Parelli and her equine experience, knowledge, and understanding will provide a firm touchstone for us all as we navigate through British waters in the Natural Horse•Man•Ship!

Sue Shoemark (Worldwide sales/events), Lynda, and Alison



MEET NICKY TOWNSHEND

The other member of Team UK is 32-year-old exhibition organiser Nicky Townshend, who stands out from the crowd with her rippling golden mane. Nicky was born near Birmingham and says she was a 'typical pony mad little girl' who pleaded for riding lessons until her parents caved in when she was six. She joined the Pony Club and competed on borrowed ponies, but when the Riding School closed down just after Nicky's 15th birthday, her Mother bought a family horse for Mum and her two daughters to share. Since that time, Nicky has never been without a horse of her own and is proud to say that the original family horse still lives at home and has only just retired—aged 26!

Nicky was a studious child who loved to know how everything worked, and her excellent grades reflected her love of learning, and inquisitive nature. Originally she wanted to be a vet, but after three solid years at Leeds University, completing a BSc (Hons) in Animal Science, a further four years' study was a luxury she really couldn't afford. A year long Postgraduate Diploma at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, gave her a bit more thinking time and she decided to leave academia and make her way in the workaday world.

Nicky had met her fiancée, Nik, while studying at Leeds, and after Aberystwyth agreed to move to Market Harborough in Leicestershire where he had secured a job with a Motorcycle Helmet and clothing company. Both Nicky and Nik are motorbike aficionados...she says she loves 'anything that goes FAST!' Nicky was offered a role as Assistant Manager of a rural Feed & Agricultural store where she worked for three years, channelling her scientific knowledge into helping animal lovers achieve optimum health and wellbeing for their four footed and feathered friends, as well as assisting rural producers with their more complex agricultural needs. She then moved into an Account Executive role with a local Event Management company on their major account, Honda. Here Nicky learnt to co-ordinate hugely successful corporate events such as the Isle of Man TT races. She was then lured to expand her burgeoning PR and marketing skills with a Management role at a small casual wear company who took their inspiration from all the extreme sport disciplines.

And then the unthinkable happened. Nicky had a close call with Father Time when problems with her left eye uncovered a cerebral aneurysm, which needed immediate operative action. Suddenly confronted with her own mortality and a major surgical procedure which took months of blinding headaches to recover from, Nicky questioned all her life priorities and realised what many of us don't under-



Nicky and her horse Dunbar

photo courtesy of Linda Carrad

stand until much later in life—that life's too short to waste doing what you don't want to do!

In recovery, and on reflection, Nicky went back to her first great love—horses. A friend introduced her to Parelli and she started working her way through her Level 1 while recuperating. Parelli made perfect sense to Nicky right from the word 'go!' And for the first time she related her extensive equine studies to her own horse and began to build on a relationship that gives them both great joy and sustenance.

Determined to have a career in the equine industry, Nicky accepted a role as Manager of a local equestrian centre, but she soon became disillusioned with the way horses were handled and lessons were taught and offered her services to Parelli, where she brings all her experience to bear in the mammoth task of organising the world's biggest Natural Horse•Man•Ship show at the 8,000 seater NEC on the 4th and 5th August 2007, as well as promoting Parelli at a number of major equestrian shows in between times.

The team and the tools are all in place to take the UK by storm, and certainly Parelli is making a huge impression in the hearts and minds of British horse lovers. I'll be there in August for what promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime event—WHERE WILL YOU BE? 🐾



Parelli International Conference

To find out how to order your tickets for the show at the NEC call the new Parelli UK Office on 0800 023 4813



Happy Holidays

We love it when we get drawings, letters, and pictures from all you Parelli kids! So keep sending them in!



courtesy of Michelle Cartwright



Dear Mr. & Mrs. Parelli,
I am nine years old. I don't know if you remember but I sent you a



Christmas card last year. At that time, I didn't have a horse, but now I do. She is a yearling Quarter Horse. She kind of reminds me of a cow pony. I have put the saddle on her about three

times. I can send her in a figure eight around two cones and step her up on a pallet. She will go into the water and



splash with her front feet. I like watching you play with Smart 7 on the Savvy Club DVDs. I am learning what to teach Snap.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Love, Caleb Cartwright



courtesy of Caleb Cartwright



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Going the Extra Mile...

By Chris Corbidge - Three Star Australian Instructor



You know how something simple, like a tune or a particular smell, can connect your mind directly to a specific past event? (The smell of corned beef always makes me think of Tuesdays, the night my Mum ALWAYS cooked it!) Well, there is a saying that takes me straight back to my very first Parelli Professional camp—in 1996, when I was a wet-behind-the-ears Instructor. Pat gave us a piece of good advice... “Don’t go the extra mile for someone who is going in the opposite direction.” At the time, it had a very profound effect on me, not only because of how it related to the student-teacher relationship, but because it caused me to examine my other relationships as well. But 10 years later, I have been thinking a lot lately about the ‘other side of the coin’ of this saying... If we are well advised NOT to go the extra mile for someone travelling in opposition, surely this must translate as also meaning “DO go the extra mile for those travelling in the same direction.”

As Parelli Professionals, we are in a unique position within this organization. We are taught how to become very good leaders for those who are in our care as students of Pat’s program, but we can also benefit greatly by taking the initiative to be very good followers! So ‘going the extra mile’ in my book—means making every effort to spend time around



the people who are my mentors and leaders. People like Pat and Linda, and all the members of our organization, especially at a place like the Parelli Center, where there is such a strong feeling of united purpose.

Every time I visit the Colorado or Florida Centers, I come away feeling energized, like I’ve just been plugged into the biggest power source imaginable. My horsemanship goes forward, my teaching skills go forward and my business goes forward. More than anything I feel the biggest change internally, as though I have grown more—because I have taken time out for me—it is very easy to forget about this when you are in a teaching position. Just teaching doesn’t make you the best teacher, it gives you experience, which is only part of the equation. The time away from the students, spent studying to gain more knowledge and new perspectives, is so valuable!

So when I am asked “How do you do it?”—because let’s face it, ‘going the extra mile’ to spend time with our mentors and teachers includes time without income, expensive airfares, course fees, family re-arrangement, etc, etc... I answer, “I decide to do it FIRST, then I figure out how LATER.” Believe me, it doesn’t seem to work the other way around! (Ask any parent if they waited to have children until after they could afford it, and watch them fall on the floor laughing!)

And I also remind myself that the students that I teach every week, are there because of Pat and Linda's program...that is why they made the call in the first place! So it is important to THEM that I am making the effort to progress! They are counting on it...of course they come to the courses I teach because I have developed rapport with them, and they are happy that I have been able to assist them to progress with their horsemanship, but the bottom line is that I am a PARELLI professional—and that was what attracted them initially.

So, if I was MY student, and I wasn't making the decision to 'go the extra mile' shouldn't I ask myself "WHY NOT?"

One day people will be talking about Pat the same way we hear him talking about Ronnie Willis, Troy Henry and Tom Dorrance—maybe we ought to think about what a gift it is for us to able to spend time with Pat and Linda and our wonderful friends at the ranch...

It feels good to be able to say, "I'm heading off to Colorado to study with Pat and Linda" every couple of years! I'd love to say it more often! And to this 'girl from the suburbs'—saying it feels like the equivalent of saying, "I'm going to climb Mt. Everest" or "I am planning to go to the Olympics and represent my country..."

It's a BIG thing, an adventure I didn't imagine when I was dreaming of horses as a horsemad eight-year-old. The idea of becoming a professional horseman, who makes a regular commitment to travel overseas and study at a place like the Parelli Center would be the equivalent of someone making it big in Hollywood—to the eight-year-old that I was.

Pat told us years ago he was helping 'ordinary people get extra-ordinary results with horses.' Well Pat, I think you have also helped a lot of ordinary people achieve extra-ordinary things with their life, too. Thanks for that. 🐾



photo courtesy of Chris Corbidge



photo courtesy of Chris Corbidge



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Welcome to the New

Savvy Club Web Site!

www.parellisavvyclub.com

NEED HELP LOGGING INTO THE NEW WEB SITE?

If you are an **Existing Member** and it is your first time to the new site, we need you to re-register with us. Please click on the link that says "Are you an existing member and this is the first time to the new site? Click Here." You will then be asked to enter your email address. Be sure that it's the same email address that is associated with your Savvy Club account. This is also the email address at which e-News is sent to you. While a membership may be composed of a family unit, it is the main member's email address that the system will identify.

In the next step you will be asked to do one of three things based on what the system finds associated with your email address:

1. If it finds you had a user name in the Forum for the previous Club site, it will tell you that user name. Please make record of this user name. It will also ask you to create a new password. Type the password in and then re-enter it into the second field to confirm it. The system is case sensitive and requires a minimum of six characters.
2. If it cannot find a former Forum user name but recognizes your email address, then it will ask you to create a user name and password. Please make note of what you choose for your user name and password.
3. If it does not recognize your email address you will need to call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or email savvyclub@parelli.com for customer assistance. It is possible that we have the wrong email address registered for you or need to verify your membership status.

Once you have successfully completed option one or two above, you can log in on the main page with the user name and

log in

- If it's your first visit to the new site, you'll need to re-register with us before logging in.
- New members, you too can register here.
- And if your friends would like to join the Club, they can now sign up online.

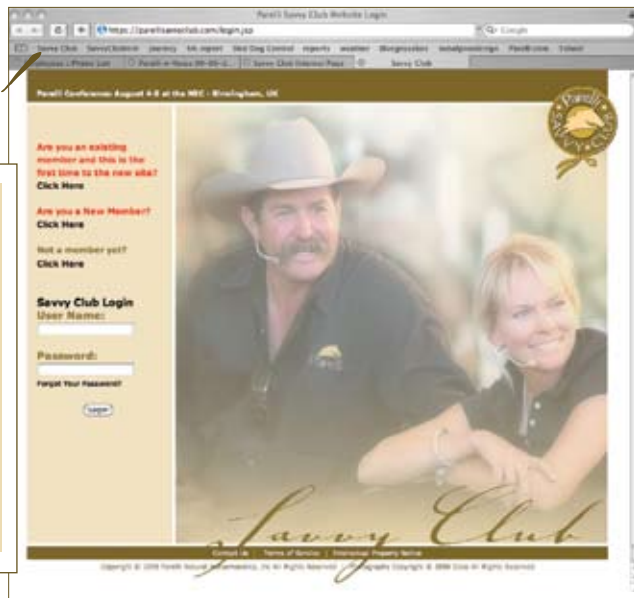
password that you chose.

If you are a **New Member** please click the link that says, "Are you a New Member? Click Here." It will ask you to enter the email address you gave us when you signed up for the Savvy Club. It will check to see if you are an active Savvy Club member, and will ask you to create a User name and Password. Please make note of what User name and Password you choose. You will then be able to log into the Savvy Club site with your registered User name and Password. If it cannot verify your email address, see option three above.

Type Tips: If the wording on the Savvy Club site appears to be distorted (words and/or pictures lying on top of each other or the type is too small to read), you will want to change your text size settings. Following are simple steps for changing type size in the browsers that we recommend.

- **Mozilla Firefox** In the menu at the top of the browser click View then click Text Size. In the drop down menu click Normal.
- **Safari** In the menu at the top of your screen click View then either Make Text Bigger or Make Text Smaller.
- **Internet Explorer** In the menu at the top of the browser click View then click Text Size. In the drop down menu click Medium.

Enjoy exploring the new site!



CH-CH-CHAAAAANGE... MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We've rescheduled the Tour Stop for Madison, Wisconsin. The **NEW DATES** are June 30–July 1, 2007.

On June 8–10, 2007, Pat & Linda will be honored at the 2007 Western States Horse Expo. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and are hopeful that you can attend on the new dates. Maybe the new dates are even better for you!

JOIN US! PARELLI USA TOUR COMING TO MARYLAND!

We have **ADDED** a Tour Stop—October 20–21, 2007—at the Prince George Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Savvy Club Members—reserve your **FREE** Tickets and Buddy Passes **NOW!** Bring your friends and family for two Extremely Enlightening, Educating and Exciting Days with Linda and Pat Parelli.

NEW MONTHLY ROTATION

To be sure we can bring you the best and most timely reports in *Savvy Times* we will be changing the rotation of the monthly items. *Savvy Times* will now arrive in your mailbox in the months of May, August, November and February. As we make the transition the 2007 schedule is as follows:

January	<i>Savvy Times</i> issue 14
February	DVD issue 23
March	DVD issue 24
April	DVD issue 25
May	<i>Savvy Times</i> issue 15
June	DVD issue 26
July	DVD issue 27
August	<i>Savvy Times</i> issue 16
September	DVD issue 28
October	DVD issue 29
November	<i>Savvy Times</i> issue 17
December	DVD issue 30

TOUR STOP ADMISSION

We ask that Savvy Club members reserve their seats at Tour stops by requesting a ticket for themselves and anyone who is attending on their membership. You are helping us keep a head count to ensure everyone gets a seat.

To request your free tickets log in to the Savvy Club web site (www.parellisavvyclub.com),

click on the link for tickets (found in the lower left hand corner of the featured photo on the homepage) and fill out the online form. Please note you can only request as many member tickets as the number of people on your membership. In addition to your member tickets, you can request up to five buddy passes for friends.

MEMBERS RECEIVE 25% OFF!

Members receive 25% off all Parelli education and equipment! This offer applies whether you order on the web, call us by phone or make a purchase at an event. (Note: Course Discounts remain at 35%)

When completing an order in the Parelli web shop, make sure that the system has

recognized you as a Savvy Club Member. When you are properly recognized, the upper right hand corner will say, "Welcome (your user name). You are a Savvy Club Member." The log in page explains the steps you need to take to make sure you are recognized. If you have followed all of the steps and still have problems, please e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com or call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU) or 0800 023 4813 (UK).

SAVVY CLUB MEMBERS' JOURNAL



As of September 8th, members joining the Savvy Club will receive—for each member on their membership—a special journal to record important dates, events and memories with their horse. Includes a convenient day planner, and each page has inspiring photos and savvy wisdom from Pat and Linda. This replaces the former Passport. Existing members can get one for only \$5.95.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT OR JOURNAL & MEMBERSHIP CARD



Requesting tickets will get you in free to all the Parelli Tour stops, but don't forget your Parelli Passport/Journal and membership card. Your passport/journal can be stamped at the Savvy Club booth with a unique stamp at every Tour stop or major Parelli event. Document your journey! And your card will be swiped to add your 25% discount to your purchases at

the show. Lost your card? Be sure to have a record of your member number.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This is your Club and we want you to contribute! Send us your home movies of savvy or fun moments with your horse for us to share through our weekly podcasts.



- Send a VHS, DV tape or CD with either QuickTime, Real Player or Windows Media Player files **no longer than five minutes**
- Include your email address, Savvy Club membership number and a signed note stating "I give Parelli Natural Horsemanship permission to podcast and post my video on their web site"
- Mail your videos to: PODCAST at Parelli Natural Horsemanship, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Videos submitted will not be returned.

Do you have stories or photos you'd like to share, too? Send them in! Mail can be sent to the address above, Attn: Savvy Times, or you can e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PARELLI E-NEWS

Parelli e-News is our official weekly newsletter. Find out about special offers; view the newest, weekly podcast; get Tour updates; RFD-TV programming; new releases; tips and more.

Call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU) or 0800 023 4813 (UK) to update your e-mail information with us or you can do it yourself in the new Club site at www.parellisavvyclub.com. to have e-News conveniently delivered to your In Box. Some e-mail programs do have spam blockers that prevent delivery. Don't worry! E-News is updated every Thursday at www.parelli.com.



Playing with squeeze obstacles on a rainy day.



It feels like years have passed since my last entry into this journal. Escada and I have tried so many new things since our trailer loading breakthroughs on “T-Day.” Being able to finally address the real issues behind our trailer loading fears and “taking the time it takes” (seven hours in the first session!), has given both of us the confidence to expand our experiences.

About a week after those trailer loading sessions I needed to take Escada to the Parelli Center (Colorado) for some research for the Parelli New Products dept. on the new PlayCards Game and Puzzles booklet.

The Center is about two miles from where I was boarding Escada. I didn’t want to get into a “have-to” situation with the trailer yet, so I decided to lead Escada over to the Center. My friend Aurora who owns the boarding stables was coming too and she offered to ride over with me to help out.

So we set out on our little trail ride. I was very happy to be literally “going the extra mile,” (two actually) for my horse’s confidence. She could now load all five zones confidently into the trailer, but she couldn’t move all five of them around confidently inside the trailer. So putting her in and driving a couple of miles was not a good idea at this stage. She needed to be totally over her fears or I could potentially undo everything we had done.

Student: Vonni [Yvonne Wilcox]
Horse: Escada [Kenlyn Muscata]
Age/Breed: 6-year-old Bay Arabian Mare
Levels achieved: Level 2 on the ground through self-assessment with the Pocket Guides.
Levels Goal: Used to be: To complete Level 3 on the ground before trying to achieve Levels 2 and 3 in the saddle.
Now: As above...plus to always remember to put our relationship before my goals!

In the last eight issues of Savvy Times, Yvonne has shared her journey through Level 2 skills, bucking issues, and what it was like to have a Fluidity lesson with Linda on Remmer, Linda’s Dutch Warmblood.

This issue we hear about the next step in their development after Yvonne is told the look on her horse’s face she thought was “confidence” was actually boredom!

At first it was fun, I felt like I was taking a trail ride with my horse—just instead of being on top of Zone 3, I was on the ground beside it.

I tried to get creative as we walked, moving into different zones, sometimes leading, sometimes driving. At one point we had to walk up a hill so I moved into Zone 5, held her tail, and let her pull me up the hill. At first she was a bit confused, but then she quickly learned the task and pulled me up the hill. She actually seemed to enjoy it!

About 20 minutes into the journey I was starting to feel a bit overworked (I sit at a desk for most of my week...) and my feet were getting sore. We were only about one-fifth of the way there!

Aurora was great. She was riding her Tennessee Walker, Poncho, as slow as he would go so Escada and I could keep up.

The friendly dirt road soon ended and we had to take a path down a steep hill through bushy terrain. Half way down the hill my sore feet gave me the inspiration for an idea. Escada had surprised me with her confidence so far, so I decided to hop on until we got to the bottom of the hill. The hill was steep enough that I could mount easily from the high side.

So with relieved feet and excitement about riding bareback on a trail—even if it was only for a few minutes down a hill—I hopped on.

Escada seemed happy to be able to get moving instead of having to drag her limpy human along.

Aurora later told me she felt nervous when I said I was going to get on. But in true supportive Parelli study-buddy style, she didn’t put her fear into me. She just said, “Oh, you’re going to ride her bareback...” and left the rest up to me.

Boy it felt good riding my horse down that hill! She felt confident, I felt confident, I couldn’t believe this was the same horse I used to be terrified of riding.

Once we got to the bottom of the hill we had to address some small dry ravines. Escada saw a horse herd in the distance and started to get impulsive so I hopped off and led her across the ravine. Here again, riding with a supportive Parelli student made all the difference. Aurora just went along with everything I did, not questioning my choices, not making me feel embarrassed for my fears. She just smiled and adjusted her speed to stay with me. (Thanks Aurora!)

When we got back out to the dirt road, I mounted Escada from a fence and started riding again. We rode along the road and then off into a trail that lead over a hill to the Parelli Center.

I rode the whole way with a huge grin on my face! Escada felt like a “different” horse. Before this I had mostly ridden her

in a saddle and in corrals and arenas. Even though we had come a long way in our riding, I still had a healthy respect for the rocket that could explode inside her. But now she felt different, like a 'real' horse under me. A real horse like the one I used to ride as a kid, one that felt like it didn't mind me being on it's back.

We arrived at the center and my friends who had never seen me ride my horse bareback were amazed. When I hopped off I turned around to show them my "ring of confidence" (the proud sweat mark on the seat of my jeans).

I was so excited that all the time we had spent with the trailer was improving this part of our relationship as well. Of course I had heard about this phenomenon, but now it was really happening.

After our fun sessions playing with the PlayCards and the Puzzles Booklet (the one in the Liberty & Horse Behavior Program) it was getting dark and time to go home.

Aurora and her extremely confident trailer loading pro, Poncho, loaded into a trailer and went home. Rather than walk home in the dark, I put Escada up in one of Linda's barns (one good thing about being Linda Parelli's sister!)

Linda and I used to always ride together as kids back when we lived in Australia. It's funny to think about those days because we knew absolutely nothing about being natural with horses. We thought all those catching and stopping problems were what you just had to expect as normal with horses.

The next day, Linda and I took advantage of it being a weekend and went for a trail ride together. She had not seen Escada for a long time and was amazed at how calm and confident she looked, and that I was riding out on a trail bareback! I had recounted my trailer loading marathon stories to her and told her that this was the only thing we had done that

had changed EVERYTHING! Of course she wasn't surprised.

It had been so long since Linda and I had played together with horses that she invited Escada and I to stay at her barn for the rest of the summer. I didn't have to think too hard for my response to that question!

So Escada was introduced to Linda's herd and she promptly fell in love with Remmer because he took pieces out of her, and Allure because he kept her constantly entertained.

Now one important thing to mention here, and this might be hard to believe, but having Linda Parelli as my sister does not mean I get unlimited lessons!

I love traveling on this horsemanship journey as a student. Linda respects that and would quickly put an end to our play sessions if I used her as an instructor! I do get to ask questions but I'll only ask if I'm



We're now playing with loading on longer lines. She surprised me here by turning around on the ramp and then backing up into the trailer all by herself!

ready to hear the answer—do you know the difference? Sometimes people ask questions because they want someone else to do the work. I've learned to keep most of my questions to myself because the answers are all in my Parelli packs!

THE NEXT STEP IN OUR TRAILER LOADING JOURNEY

There are four different trailers in the playground at the Colorado Parelli Center. Each with very different looks and degrees of claustrophobic challenge.

One day I rode with Linda up to the "Big Top" Cover-All where she was going to have a teaching session with the Center's Faculty. While she was with the faculty I went over to the playground with Escada to play more confidence games with trailers.

It was great to have Escada approach each trailer with more confidence than I was used to in the past. But she'd get stuck in Zone 3 as she first had with my trailer. So I slowed everything down and got into the mindset of "I'm not going to push you..."

After about an hour, Linda came over as she was ready to ride home. She asked how it was going and I said I was taking it slow. She watched me for a few minutes and then told me that I had helped Escada with her confidence, but that now her look was not a look of confidence it was a look of BOREDOM!

"Ooops! How did I get here?" I thought.

I had become so afraid of "blowing up" my horse that I had become less of a leader. Knowing when to ask for more and not push the horse over the edge is such a subtle thing. I see Pat and Linda do it all the time, but doing it at my Level is what I'm excited to keep learning and improving.

Linda saw that she had just blown my mind so she stayed with me for a few minutes to help me understand what she meant.

Where I would let Escada get to the same threshold up to three hundred times...Linda said when Escada has touched a threshold confidently at least three times, I should ask a bit more firmly the next time to help her to the next threshold.

I tried it and of course it worked...

I really expressed my fear to Linda about blowing Escada up by asking for more. Linda explained that if in fact I did ask for more and Escada showed signs of going Right Brain and unconfident, then I could change my approach to more retreat to help that.

It's like my love, language, leadership pendulum had swung all the way over to love, love, love. Being told your horse looks bored is great motivation to swing it back into balance. Thank goodness for this Parelli stuff! 🐾

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"These days it is so hard to know what to do for our horses in terms of their best care, and I take very seriously my role in introducing to you the things we know work. They are what we have been using with proven results that you can trust."
—Linda Parelli




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