

THE AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE NEWS

SPRING 2017

SINCE 1961

THE A.I.H.R.

HAS SOUGHT TO PRESERVE

**THE ORIGINAL
AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE,**

ITS HYBRIDS AND

DESCENDANTS.

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Horse of the Americas



The REAL Horse of the Old West is still here.

From the Banker Islands to the desert Southwest, less than 5,000 are left today including all of the strains of Colonial Spanish Horse. The Horse of the Americas Registry records Colonial Spanish Horses

from every strain recognized by the American Livestock Breeders Association.

HOA registration papers include pictures of the recorded horse, 5 generation pedigree with accomplishments, and a strain analysis with % of each strain in the horse's pedigree. HOA will record all Original Indian Horses. HOA co-sponsors the National Show.

Help us preserve them.

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contact, **Joan Norrish**
765-762-6528

www.horseoftheamericas.com

THE CENTER FOR AMERICA'S FIRST HORSE

Founded in 2010, the Center opened near Johnson VT. The stated mission of the Center is to enrich the lives of people through the spirit of the Colonial Spanish horse.

The center is home to the most diverse group of Colonial Spanish Horses in the eastern U.S. and is also home to equine celebrity 'Oscar' known for his role in Disney's epic adventure movie, *Hidalgo*.

The Center depends on private donations, sponsorship grants, fundraising and revenue from its programs to meet operating expenses. 100% of all revenue goes directly to our programs and expenses. There are no government programs to save these horses, only individual organizations and registries dedicated to their survival for future generations.

For information on how you can help go to

www.centerforamericasfirsthorse.org

NOTE: Your membership expiration date is listed on the mailing label of the News - we do not currently send out reminder cards so check the label so you don't miss any issues. And remember, this is your newsletter - so send in your stories, poetry, drawings, etc. We can't print what we don't have.



Since it's still early March as I type this, I can only hope that Spring is truly on its way and doesn't send any more bad storms to any of us - an always iffy hope this time of year, I know.

COUNTING COUP ~

Our AIHR High Point NATRC horse for 2016 is FOXHAVEN'S MEDICINE MAN (M-5555), ridden by his partner Bill Morgan (MO). This wonderful Indian Horse has quite a story - check out the center of this newsletter to read more about him.

Katie Neighbors (VA), riding her gelding YOUNG JOSEPH (0-4493) has earned their 85 hour certificate in AIHR's Horseback Hours program - good riding you two.

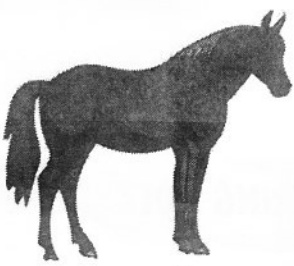
AIHR HALL OF FAME #170 has been earned by SPICED RUM P-3391, with owner Allison Moore (TX). Her points were earned in Tejas and AIHR shows and on the trail with NATRC.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

The Horse Channel.com ran their piece from 2014 on Native American Horse Breeds with A.I.H.R. getting a lot of attention. Thanks to all for this lovely piece. Since we have a very small advertising budget (as in none) this is excellent coverage for us.

2017 marks A.I.H.R.'s ^(38 - OOPS) 28th year in Texas, at Rancho San Francisco near Lockhart (Central TX) - Happy Anniversary to us!





A Throwaway Horse and a Dream

We drove toward Bennett, CO. Our friend, Lindsay the vet tech, joined us – I wanted a seasoned opinion. As I reflected on the journey that led us to this place, we talked about my having been raised on a Thoroughbred breeding farm in Kentucky, then when my parents divorced, horses no longer being a part of my life.

At least not visibly. But they had left an imprint on my soul.

That day that my wife saw the miniature horse at the vet two years earlier, and I assisted in getting him into the exam area, feeling him relax and let go at my touch... well, an old fire reignited. After some research, and finding a horse where we had "that connection", we came home with a miniature stallion (a World's Top Five stallion mind you), and his son, a feisty gelding. Smaller, and easier to care for and train, they seemed a great fit. I trained the stallion to harness, and got both a show cart and lightweight Hyperbike cart, and took to the trail. He is a mighty package in a small size. But there were trails my little man could not take me. Was it crazy to want another horse, and a saddle horse at that?

Sure it was. Call me crazy.

I looked at all kinds of gaited horses, and was about to despair at finding a decent one in good health, with a good spirit, when I heard about a string of Tennessee Walkers in Bennett. So, off we went to see them, and ride them to see if this too would be a disappointment. When we pulled up, we saw horses in tough shape. The closer we looked at them, the worse they looked. They looked like throwaways. Ribs showing, scars all over, and sunken loins matched with eyes that showed they had given up. Our vet tech friend was incensed, and privately told me she was ready to report this fellow. I shared her outrage, but since I was here... well, let's at least ride a few just to see.

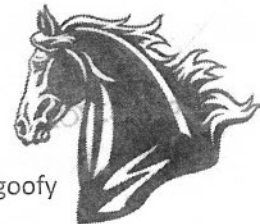
Did I mention none of these horses even had a name? No papers, no history, and no names. That was an appropriate symbol of the care they were getting.

The best looking of the bunch, a TWH well over 17 hh, the herd bully, was already spoken for. I rode one, and then another, after the seller put a saddle on them and warmed them up. I really was not impressed. There was one horse left, a bay and white pinto, scars and hair falling out. His feet were overgrown for shoes held on with all eight nails. The seller had some concerns, because he was a little afraid of him, frankly. He put a cruel twisted wire long shank snaffle bit and an ill-fitting saddle on him, and swung a leg over. The whites in this horse's eyes showed the horse had the same opinion of the rider as the rider did of the horse.

The horse took off in a very strange, "walk-a-lope" gait that made me think he was lame. He was tough to handle. Spooky. The seller came back for me to get on. Oh, and did I mention I was an extremely green rider? What could go wrong?

So I swung a leg over him, and simply asked that he stand. I exhaled, and I could feel him relax like that little gelding at the vet. I had learned soft hands through driving a miniature, and I gave him the slightest leg. We walked around, over logs, circled both ways. We went on a little trail with the seller's warning, "Be careful now, he is scared of water."

Of course we ended up girth deep in water, and this horse was playing in it. He gaited nicely, then that funny walk-a-lope, then back down to a nice gait. He did everything I asked, and it was like we had a



connection. Oh, great. I was falling for the ugliest, roughest, greenest horse in the bunch, with a goofy gait and possibly lame.

On the drive home, I kept thinking that this was NOT the way to buy a horse. It's how you buy a nightmare.

But that night, in the middle of the night, I felt this horse seeking me. I don't know how else to put it. He was looking for me, and I felt it clearly and sharply. I woke up with a start, and told my wife, who said, "You have to get him now." Oh, no. I said it would depend on the vet check the next day.

The vet check went as you might have expected. The vet said that the level of care was not good, and just shy of reportable. His feet had overgrown his shoes, one foot was ½" out of balance, and fluid had accumulated on the right front fetlock. He was grade 2 lame as a result. Discussing with the vet, she felt the foot condition might – and she stressed, 'might' – explain the lameness score. Other than that, he was in surprisingly good health, not counting a thin coat and poor body condition.

I took a bet I would counsel others to avoid. The next day, he was in my trailer headed home. My farrier was outraged at the condition of his feet, and set about fixing that. I fed him 12 QUARTS (no, that is not a misprint) of good pellet feed a day with all the grass hay he wanted, and within a few months, this bay and white pinto turned BLACK and white. I gave him a name as fancy as any in the barn: Foxhaven's Medicine Man, with a barn name of Dakotah. No scars remained, and he filled out and muscled up very nicely. We took lesson after lesson with a dressage trainer who did eventing, and he and I learned more in a year than I can describe. With a kind bit and a custom saddle, he was comfortable and happy.

I scaled back the pellet feed, and switched to one with less protein, which calmed him a bit. Every time we went on a trail, it seemed like he not only loved every minute, but we forged a connection that allowed an ever-softer cue. My farrier suggested that his athleticism really would be a match for a NATRC competitive trail ride, so I entered one. He came in first in our class. I was hooked.

Dakotah continues to mellow, having become quite sure footed on the trail, and ever more trusting that when I tell him something is safe, it really is – and I have his back. We continue to train and condition, and he amazes me. He is no longer afraid of people nor avoids them, and in fact he loves meeting new people on the trail. Our connection deepens weekly, and I am struck by how apt his name is: Wicasa Wakan, one who is spirit-connected. He is for sure my Medicine Man.

Just a throwaway horse? Not this one. I found my heart horse for sure in him, because he had the courage to reach out in a dream.



*Thanks, Bill, for
Donating the
Beautiful buckles
For 2016 & 2017.*



AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE
NETASA
 TRAIL RIDING CLUB

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017	11:00 AM	FREY'S VAN, TX
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017	10:00 AM	JOSEPHINE DAVIS HARLETON, TX
FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017 TO SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017	OVERNIGHT	ROBBER'S CAVE STATE PARK WILBURTON, OK
SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017	9:00 AM w/GRILLING	GABEL'S LUNCH QUITMAN, TX
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2017	9:00 AM	TRACE TRAILS ATHENS, TX
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017	9:00 AM	MINEOLA NATURE PRESERVE, MINEOLA, TX
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017 (HALLOWEEN RIDE/POTENTIAL OVERNIGHT)	10:00 AM	COOPER LAKE STATE PARK, SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017 (RIDE & 2018 PLANNING)	1:00 PM	FREY'S VAN, TX
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017	1:00 PM	COPPERHEAD RANCH MOORE STATION, TX

N.E.T.A.S.A. IS A FAMILY ORIENTED TRAIL RIDING CLUB. THOUGH MOST RIDE COLONIAL SPANISH MUSTANGS, ALL HORSES AND RIDERS ARE WELCOME TO COME JOIN US. OUR AGES RANGE FROM 5 TO 86 YEARS OLD. WE ARE IN IT FOR THE COMRADERIE AND THE RIDE.

ONE SATURDAY IN OCTOBER N.E.T.A.S.A. IS ALSO PLANNING TO RIDE THE KOMEN RIDE FOR THE CURE. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE N.E.T.A.S.A. FACEBOOK PAGE AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.



**TEJAS INDIAN HORSE CLUB
 2017 OPEN SHOW DATES
 APRIL 1, MAY 20, JULY 1
 JEFFERSON ARENA
 18362 HWY 49E/ JEFFERSON TX
 FOR MORE INFORMATION,
 CHECK OUT THE
 TEJAS INDIAN HORSE CLUB
 FACEBOOK PAGE**



Karma Farms

Home of champions, breeder of champions and still America's most decorated CS/"O" breeding farm.



rebuilding after April 30th tornado and offering our superior pedigrees at highly reasonable prices so that we can continue to repair and update our famous little family farm. Sale includes many "keepers" that we never expected to be offering for sale. We still have several sheds, pens and round pens and most of south perimeter fence and pasture damage from both the flooding and the tornado that have yet to be repaired. Inside we still need repairs to interior walls and ceilings of the house. **Thanks to SO many of you who have helped this far and to those who continue to help.** Donations of money, materials and manpower MUCH appreciated. Looking for your next champion? Give us a call after dark, please. We are still trail riding with our clients plus clean-up until after sunset most days but we would love to talk to you. **Vik— (903) 407-0298. Tommi-- (903) 503-8611**

THE AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE NEWS

is a publication of the American Indian Horse Registry and is issued three times a year to AIHR members. The News is mailed out in January, May and September. Deadline for inclusion is the first of the month of issue.

ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	\$40.00
1/2 Page	25.00
1/4 Page	15.00
Business Card	10.00

AIHR FEES

Membership	\$20/year	Life	\$150.00
Overseas membership	\$40/yr	Life	\$200
Weanling registration			\$10.00
Yearling			15.00
Over 2 years			20.00
Stallions			30.00

The American Indian Horse ~ An Original



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