

## **SHARP NOTES**

### **Winter 2010-11**

Time to get used to the indoor arena again... this kind of weather always makes me think of the beautiful summer days that I miss so much. Then I think to myself, "Cowboy Up Mary!" Wintertime is a great time to be grateful for all the things that I am lucky to have, even though the weather is irritating.

I am lucky to have such a wonderful herd of horses! Their patience, kindness, flexibility, knowledge and willingness never cease to amaze me. Don't ever take these wonderful animals for granted.

I am lucky to have a delightful group of clients! Some of you have been with me for over a decade! Thank you for your trust and business. I have been teaching professionally for 22 years now and this continues to be a job that I love doing-because of you!

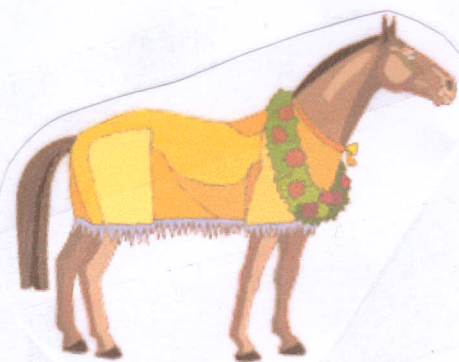
I am surrounded by wonderful support for my herd. Dr. Haggard and the staff at Eudora Animal Hospital who keep my horses healthy and happy. Charley Mattingly our farrier who keeps the herd members comfortable with his second- to -none horseshoeing skills. Don, Joel, Mike, Harriet and Sean who have an eye out for us and take such good care of our horses. I am proud to have been supported by these individuals for so many years now.

Winter weather also gives me time to slow down and evaluate progress and perhaps change goals. What new methods can I use in my teaching? How can I help others out of plateaus? Maybe it's time for you to try a new event or style of riding. Maybe moving out of your comfort zone and onto a different horse is a good idea. Really push yourself to accomplish those skills that have been intimidating or scary to you.

From Brady and I, Henry, Andy and Quincy

Tender, Smokey, Nike, Whiskers, Michael, Gator, Sport, Prince and Junior

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS \* MERRY CHRISTMAS \* HAPPY NEW YEAR**





## SHARP NOTES

Winter 2010-11

At Kill Creek, we are lucky to have access to an indoor arena, so that we can ride in less than perfect weather. However, it is still very important to dress appropriately for the cold conditions.

I recommend thermal long-johns under jeans and sweatshirts/sweaters. Gloves with grip or leather palms/fingers are the best. It is not effective to have fuzzy gloves that make it difficult to grip the reins. Wool socks are best to prevent frozen toes. Hand and boot warmers will *not* be available at the barn. These can be purchased for \$1.00 at many stores. Riders can wear coveralls (available at Tractor Supply/catalog/farm stores) and are a good investment. Too many layers become dangerous when the bulk makes it difficult to control your horse effectively.

The heater is on in the lounge and the horses sure appreciate the attention, so continue to come out to the barn this winter! I have no set guidelines for cancelling lessons due to weather conditions. Generally, lessons will be held unless the road conditions are too hazardous with ice/wind/snow. Low temperatures do not necessarily mean lessons are cancelled. However, they may be shorter or less strenuous to accommodate the horses and riders. If you have any questions, call my cell phone 913-244-2771.

Look for new bridle hooks to be installed in the lounge so that the bits can warm up while you are grooming. That fuzzy winter coat hides lots of problems too! Be aware when you groom your horse-look for changes in weight, coat condition and hidden mud. Be sure to put blankets back on only after the horse has been thoroughly brushed.

### Welcome to new riders:

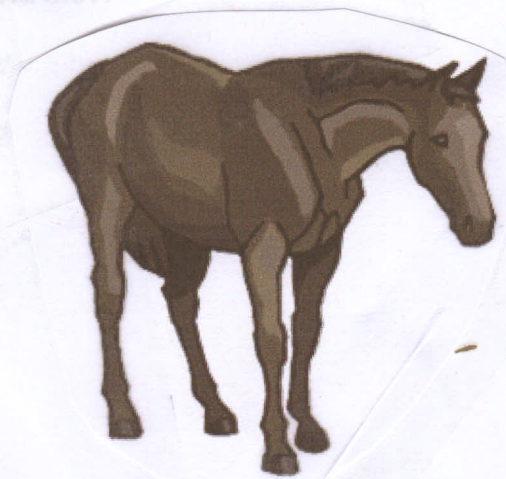
*Alice Keller*

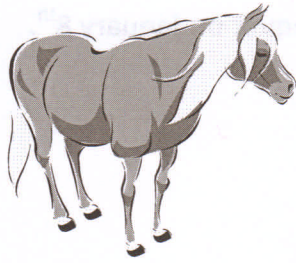
*Leah Sewster*

*Jeremy Schmidt*

*Samantha Bowlin*

*Morgan Cole*





### QUOTES:

*"Exiting your comfort zone is part of riding. That's where the trust comes in. But it's the key to helping you improve." - Bob Avila, Worlds Greatest Horseman Title Winner*

*"Paying your dues is the time you spend practicing. It's inevitable that you will make mistakes, but those mistakes are learning opportunities. They are the price you pay to advance." - Stacy Westfall, Professional Horsewoman*

*"Riding is a challenge. It makes people hungrier to get better and it makes our horses happier. Taking the time to learn the fundamentals about horses and horsemanship is part of that. We've got to care about the horse and learn to become horseman." - Dana Hokana, AQHA Professional Horsewoman*

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The Not Summer Horse Show Series has gotten an AMAZING start! Full parking lot, dozens of trailers, class numbers in the double digits-lots of smiles!!! The series is on break until March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss out! Be sure to go to [www.killcreekarena.com](http://www.killcreekarena.com) for pictures of the latest shows!

Here are our High Point Show winners:

September- 17 & Under-Lilly Fleming and "Step On Roman"

18 & Over-Deb Arnold and "Yoshi"

October - 17 & Under-Lilly Fleming and "Step On Roman"

18 & Over-Joe Thurman and "KSU Blue Jay"

November- 17 & Under-Keeley Hansbury and "KC Skipka Star"

18 & Under- Deb Arnold and "Yoshi"



No shows left until spring, but we do have the Pony Express Awards Banquet on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Results will be reported in the Spring (I can't wait!) issue of Sharp Notes.

Lessons this winter will be held on Monday nights 5-8pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Sunday for make-up lessons and part-time riders

Holiday lesson times are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Weeknight lessons will resume in the spring after Brady graduates.

### LESSONS:

Private: \$50.00/lesson

Group: \$160.00/4 lesson package

\$200.00/5 lesson package

\$45.00/lesson when fewer than 4 are purchased

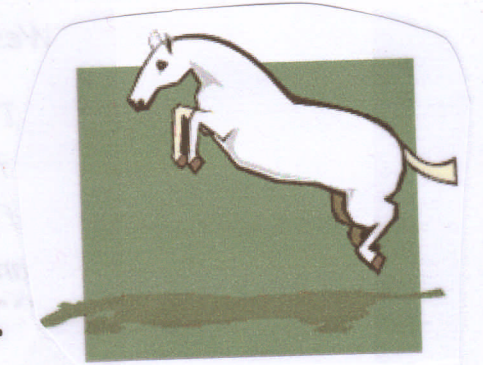
Sessions last 45-90 minutes as determined by the instructor

Group lessons are minimum 2 riders/maximum 4 riders

**ALL LESSONS MUST BE PAID FOR AT THE TIME OF THE LESSON!**

No penalty for missing pre-paid lessons with at least 2 hours notice.

We will do our best to reschedule lessons due to illness or emergency. Lesson packages are for the 30/31 days of the month. Missed lessons that could not be rescheduled will NOT be carried over to the next month. Lessons purchased outside a package will be charged if missed.



### OPEN RIDES:

Open Ride times are available whenever I have lessons or workdays scheduled. Please call Mary for Open Ride times and dates. 913-244-2771

Open rides are \$30.00/2 hours

Please note that this is not instruction time, although there will be supervision. This is extra time for you to practice your riding skills and enjoy time with your favorite horse. Riders do not have to be in the lesson program to participate-however, all riders must have a signed release form, helmet and boots with a smooth sole. Riders **MUST** reserve spots prior to open ride days.



### HORSE LEASES:

Full lease: 5-6 days per week, tack included, 4 lessons...\$360.00/month

Half-Lease: 2-3 days per week, tack included, 4 lessons...\$280.00/month

Additional family members can be added to a lease for \$45.00/person

Horse use includes-lesson use, trail riding, pleasure riding and shows.

Leases are month to month and can start anytime during the month.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES:

Birthday parties at the barn include a present for the birthday child, a mini-lesson on grooming and safety and rides for all the guests.

1-5 riders (guests): \$120.00/90 minutes

6-10 riders (guests) : \$180.00/120 minutes

Additional riders can be added for \$10.00 each. Waivers must be signed prior to party date. Packets are available from Mary.

### SHARP PERFORMANCE HORSE SHIRTS:

These are limited quantity and we will not be ordering more. There are three designs- halter, jumping and western. Red with black design. Available in these sizes and quantities:

**Sweatshirts: \$20.00**

1-M western, 1-L halter, 3 XL-one of each design

**Long-Sleeve T-shirts: \$12.00**

2-M jumping, 2-L jumping

**T-shirts: \$7.00**

3-3T 2 halter, 1 jumping 4-4T 2 jumping, 1 western, 1 halter 2YS 1 halter, 1 jump

1 YM- jumping, 6-L 2 halter, 3 jumping, 1 western 9 XL- 3 of each design



**MINI-CAMPS:**

Winter mini-camp dates:

January 8-9<sup>th</sup>

February 19-20<sup>th</sup>

March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

\*9am to 1pm

\*\$125.00 per person/\$40.00 non-refundable deposit to hold spot

\*Minimum 4 riders/maximum 9 riders to hold session

\*Mini-camps include 2+ hours of riding instruction daily, special activities and guest speakers. Campers will learn about "behind the scenes" activities/skills in the horse world & practice whole horse care and management.



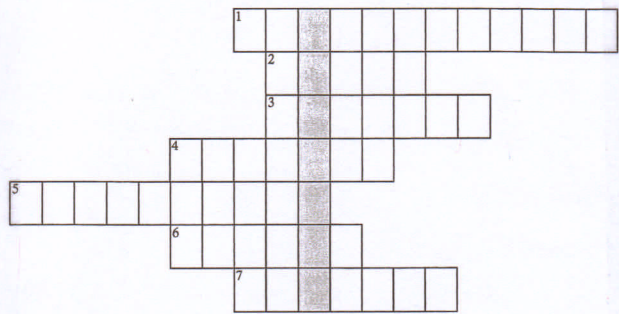
**February 11-13<sup>th</sup>- Wichita, Kansas**

**Equifest of Kansas**

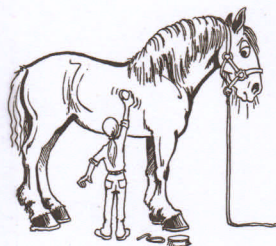
This is a fantastic horse expo with demonstrations, clinics, breed demonstrations, drill teams, shopping and more! Be sure to check it out! We will have a group of people going from Sharp Performance Horses. Let Mary know if you are interested in going for all three days or just part of the weekend. Schedules will be available soon on the website.

Return this puzzle for a pony penny!

The seven clues below describe people who care for and ride horses for a living. Print the answers in the appropriate rows and the name of an eighth horse lover will be spelled out in the shaded column.



- ❶ Someone who cares for sick horses
- ❷ A person who bathes and brushes horses
- ❸ This person raises horses out west
- ❹ Someone who shoes horses
- ❺ An experienced rider
- ❻ A person who races horses
- ❼ Someone who breeds horses



Mary Sharp 913-244-2771  
[www.sharphorsekc.com](http://www.sharphorsekc.com)

[www.killcreekarena.com](http://www.killcreekarena.com)  
[alphamare@sharphorsekc.com](mailto:alphamare@sharphorsekc.com)

### **Question for Mary:**

#### **“What do I do if my horse bucks?”**

There is always a reason for a horse to buck. These include fear, joy, play, pain, avoidance and abundance of energy. To prevent a buck, be aware when preparing the horse to ride. Is the weather changing? Is there a lot of wind? Has the horse been off work for a period of time? Are there horses nearby that are running and bucking? Check the saddle and other tack to see if it is clean and fits properly. Is your horse dancing in the crossties? Maybe you should turn the horse out to play for a moment or lounge prior to starting your ride. When you are riding, make sure that your cues to the horse are clear and subtle. Be aware of your horses' typical personality and traits. Look for changes that might indicate a buck is in your future.

All of these things can help you prevent taking place in a rodeo. However, if you plan on riding horses for any length of time during your lifetime, accept that bucking can and will happen and sometimes can't be prevented. There are several variations of a buck. The most common is the “cold backed” buck. This is when the horse lowers its head slightly and raises its back underneath the saddle. It feels similar to a wave rolling under you. This horse is showing discomfort and needs equipment checked or warmed up longer. The best way to deal with this is to push the horse forward and keep the feet moving to the right and left. Next is the “crow hop” when the horse lowers its head and hops its back feet off the ground. This horse needs to be pushed forward in a very strong manner by the rider. Pulling on the reins just causes more resistance from the horse. Horses can't move forward quickly and crow hop at the same time. These horses usually have excess energy. Pulling on the reins is counterproductive. Think of a tube of toothpaste. When you put pressure on the tube (squeezing) the toothpaste (energy) has to go somewhere. If the lid is on the tube (the rider pulling back) the energy has to go somewhere (out the back legs-BUCKING!) Moving the horse forward strongly is again the best solution. Also making the horse turn and change directions can help quiet this behavior. During any sort of behavior from your horse, make sure that you are sitting in the center of the horses back, hands squeezing back right or left with your heels down for stability.

Nobody wants to be on a horse that's bucking. However, knowledge is power and knowing how to prevent a buck and how to correct a buck will take some of the anxiety out of this equine behavior.



**Final Show Results from the rest of 2010!**

**EKAHA SHOW:**

**Lilly Fleming and "Winnie"**-Trail 3<sup>rd</sup>, QH Halter 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure 17 & Under 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jr. Exhibitor Western Pleasure 5<sup>th</sup>, QH Western Pleasure Open 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jackpot Western Pleasure 6<sup>th</sup>

**Lillian Hanning and "Britches"** – Qtype Halter 5<sup>th</sup>, Showmanship 17 & Under 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jr. Exhibitor Western Pleasure 6<sup>th</sup>

**Andy Sharp and "Winnie"**- Leadline 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Jordan Hayden and "Pie"**- Showmanship 17 & Under 5<sup>th</sup>, W/T Beg. Rider 6<sup>th</sup>

**Ki Ressel and "Wildfire"** – Qtype Halter 6<sup>th</sup>

**SALINA CHARITY HORSE SHOW- what a way to end the season!!!**

**Jordan Hayden and "Pie"** - W/T Western Pleasure 6<sup>th</sup>, .W/T Western Horsemanship 18 & Under 3<sup>rd</sup>, W/T Trail 5<sup>th</sup>, WT Huntseat Pleasure 1<sup>st</sup>

**Ki Ressel and "Wildfire" and "SouixZQ"**- Showmanship 18 & Under 6<sup>th</sup>, Paint Halter 3<sup>rd</sup>, WT Western Pleasure 3<sup>rd</sup>, WT Western Horsemanship 5<sup>th</sup>, WT Trail 4<sup>th</sup>, Walk/Whoa 2<sup>nd</sup>, WT Huntseat Equitation 2<sup>nd</sup>, WT Huntseat Pleasure 2<sup>nd</sup>, WT Huntseat Championship 6<sup>th</sup>

**Andy Sharp and "Winnie"**- Leadline 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Emma Andres and "Oscar"**- QH Western Pleasure 6<sup>th</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Sr. Horse 4<sup>th</sup>, Western Pleasure 18 & Under 5<sup>th</sup>, Western Horsemanship 18 & Under 4<sup>th</sup>, Show Hack 2<sup>nd</sup>, Versatility 1<sup>st</sup>, Trail 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat Equitation 18 & Under 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure 18 & Under 4<sup>th</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Open 3<sup>rd</sup>, Superhorse 1<sup>st</sup>, Huntseat Equitation Championship 1<sup>st</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Championship 6<sup>th</sup>, Western Horsemanship Championship 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Lillian Hanning and "Britches"**- Showmanship 18 & Under 4<sup>th</sup>, Paint Halter 1<sup>st</sup>, Paint Huntseat Pleasure 2<sup>nd</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Sr. Horse 3<sup>rd</sup>, Western Pleasure 18 & Under 3<sup>rd</sup>, Western Horsemanship 18 & Under 6<sup>th</sup>, Show Hack 3<sup>rd</sup>, Versatility 3<sup>rd</sup>, WT Open Huntseat Mares 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat Equitation 18 & Under 5<sup>th</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure 18 & Under 2<sup>nd</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Open 5<sup>th</sup>, Superhorse 2<sup>nd</sup>, Huntseat Equitation Championship 2<sup>nd</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Championship 5<sup>th</sup>, Western Horsemanship Stake 4<sup>th</sup>

**Caitlin Raw and "Gator"** –WT Western Horsemanship 18 & Under 4<sup>th</sup>

**Lilly Fleming and "Winnie"**- Showmanship at Halter 18 & Under 1<sup>st</sup>, QH Halter 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Sr. Horse 2<sup>nd</sup>, Western Pleasure 18 & Under 2<sup>nd</sup>, Western Horsemanship 18 & Under 1<sup>st</sup>, show Hack 1<sup>st</sup>, Versatility 2<sup>nd</sup>, WT Western Mare 2<sup>nd</sup>, Trail 2<sup>nd</sup>, WT Huntseat Open Mares 2<sup>nd</sup>, QH Hunter Open 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat equitation 18 & Under 1<sup>st</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure 18 & Under 3<sup>rd</sup>, Superhorse 3<sup>rd</sup>, Huntseat Equitation Championship 4<sup>th</sup>, Huntseat Pleasure Championship 3<sup>rd</sup>, Western Pleasure Championship 6<sup>th</sup>