

PERUVIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



# PACA PACA

VOL. 29 | DECEMBER 2021

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News about the PHAC's  
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## **ON THE COVER...**

### **\*MAA VALIENTE**

Imported from Panama, \*MAA Valiente is a dynamic chestnut stallion. He has been champion of champions breeding stallion at various regional shows in the competitive Panama show ring.

\*MAA Valiente is a very powerful horse, with a loose shoulder, excellent brio and presence, with a very correct function. He is passing his great structure, size and legacy to his foals. Look for them soon!

\*MAA Valiente is standing at stud to a limited number of outside mares. Please contact us for more information.

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# BOD LETTER

Well, this year didn't quite turn out the way that we had thought at the end of last year! COVID restrictions were reduced, enough that we could still enjoy our trail riding and horse camping, but not soon enough to enable cross-border travel and shows. There are several articles in this issue about our members' equine activities over the year, we hope that you enjoy them.

Our national show is planned again for 2022. It will be held in Stavely Alberta and the very patient Lionel Peralta, from Costa Rica, is still waiting to judge the show. Barring any COVID setbacks, the show will go on and we will be able to return to having our AGM on the National Show weekend. Our show rules were updated over the last year (Thank you Lynn Moker) so make sure you check out the changes on our website if you are planning on attending.

This year also saw the start of the Between the Ears Riding Program. There is an update on the program in this issue, but we would have to say that its first year was a resounding success and certainly exceeded all our expectations. If you have not joined, please check out the PHAC website for more information. Many thanks to Deb Cones for organizing and administering it over the year.

As in previous years, there is a beautiful 2022 calendar enclosed with the magazine showcasing our Peruvian Paso horses. Thank you again to Kelly and Andres from Paso LLano for providing the calendar so that we can mail it out to you.

We have a new director joining the PHAC for the next two years, Nancy Cox from Oregon. This will be her first time on the board so please join us in welcoming her. Chantelle Sawatzky finished her term in 2021 and we would like to thank her for her input over her term.

Also in this issue, you will find a membership renewal form for 2022. The primary mandates of the PHAC are to provide resources to owners, maintain the integrity of the breed registration process, and promote the Peruvian horse where possible. We depend on your support to do this and hope that you will continue as members.

Thank You to everybody that submitted articles and ideas for this issue. Special thanks though to Suzanne Brown. Suzanne retired this year as editor of the Paca Paca after many years of putting issues together. You have done a great job over the years and we really appreciate all the time and effort you put in.

Please stay safe as we close out 2021 and start a new year. Hopefully, we will be able to get together more in the future to enjoy this wonderful breed of horse.

Your PHAC Board of Directors ,

Rick, Jan, Cathie, Mimi, Nancy

# BOD CONTACT INFORMATION

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## WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://PHAC.CA/](https://phac.ca/)

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# 2022 EVENT DATES

## BC REGIONAL SHOW VERSATILITY CHALLENGE

June 10-12, 2022  
Judge: Julio Andres Ponciano  
Armstrong BC  
Contact: Rob Sjodin • 250-832-1188  
1353paso@gmail.com

## NORTHWEST PERUVIAN HORSE SHOW

July 29-31, 2022  
Judge: TBA  
Evergreen Fairgrounds, Monroe, Washington

## GOLD RUSH CLASSIC DOUBLE SHOW

June 24-26, 2022  
Judges: Julio Andres Ponciano  
& Rolando Garcia  
South Point Equestrian Centre, Las Vegas, NV  
Website: [goldrushclassic.com](http://goldrushclassic.com)

## PHAC NATIONAL SHOW

August 26-28, 2022  
Judge: Lionel Peralta  
Silver Slate Arena  
Stavelly, AB

# INTRODUCTION TO WORKING EQUITATION

BY ROB SJODIN



September 22-25, Jan and I attended a Working Equitation Clinic/Competition at the Armstrong fairground. We brought along RSTD Sonador, excited to attend some sort of competition (had been a long time since the US National Show in 2019). Working Equitation competitions always consist of three different components: dressage, ease of handling, and speed trials. Each component has different levels of difficulty.

Thursday morning, we helped set up the obstacles for the ease of handling clinic with Jill Barron, who also would be the judge for the actual competition. I had chosen to only audit the clinic and realized later that this might have been a mistake, as RSTD Sonador would not be allowed to practice any of these obstacles prior to the competition.. going cold turkey.

Friday morning started with the dressage tests. I don't know a whole lot about the finesse of dressage but did manage to get the test pattern memorized and was ready to go.

I felt like I had good ride even a trot was required and all I could do was gait. The judge still scored me and commented on how nice our tack and attire was.

Friday afternoon was the ease of handling competition. Even though going cold turkey, RSTD Sondador handled it like an old pro!! Unfortunately, I was disqualified at the very beginning of the course (rider error) so did not get a score. Several others made the same error so did not feel too bad. I did get a sixth place overall ribbon. The show was well organized and we enjoyed ourselves. Great show and great people.

Photos by Faye Plant







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Videography  
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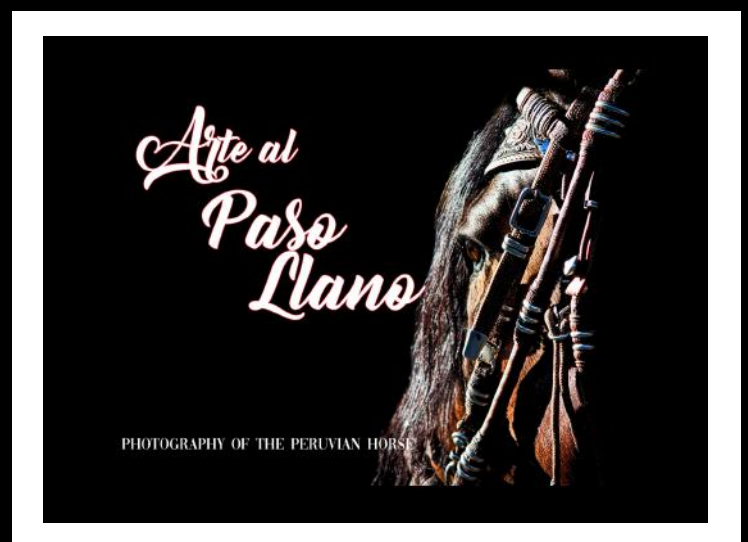
# ARTE AL PASO LLANO

*Photography Book of the Peruvian Horse by Kelly Powers*

A stunning coffee table book of 120 photographs of Peruvian horses. The images celebrate the majestic power and beauty of this magnificent breed. C

The photographs were taken by photographer, Kelly Powers, throughout her travels across the Americas at events and visits to breeding farms.

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# BETWEEN THE EARS

## RECREATIONAL RIDING PROGRAM



### BY PHAC

With the cancellation of horse events and shows over the past 18 months due to pandemic, the PHAC saw an opportunity to try something new and different. We had several goals in mind when considering what to do and how to do it. First, we wanted to motivate people to get out riding and to try new things. Second, we wanted to place more emphasis on recreational riding. Third, we wanted to bring more exposure to the breed. The Peruvian horse has a reputation as being a show horse often advertised as “looking like they are always on parade”, instead of a desirable and capable trail horse. And lastly, we felt it was important to give back to the membership.

The Between the Ears recreational riding program started up in January 2021. Currently, we have forty registered participants who have logged roughly 1,000 hours .... Not bad for its first year.

The rules are simple. You must be a PHAC member in good standing, you must ride a PHAC or NAPHA registered horse(s) and you must own a watch. Each rider may log hours using a maximum of four horses(s) and may use a horse that does not belong to them. This is not a competition and there is no time limit ..... everyone goes at their own pace. Participants can log hours spent on trail/pleasure riding, arena and groundwork, clinics, demos and parades, and even ranch work. Some had ridden in parades and gave Working Equitation a try.

Participants come from Alberta, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Wisconsin, the most senior being 73 and the youngest, only 4 years old. Milestones are designated at 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, and 1000 hours, prizes are awarded as each is achieved. Right now Nancy Cox of Oregon is out in front with 250 + hours so far. Riders who have logged 100+ hours are Andrea Batchelor, Glen Cox, Rick Cones, Coral Stafford, Erin Crawford, Deanna DeCosta, and Cathie Taggart.

If you haven't signed up for the BTE yet and would like to, visit [www.phac.ca](http://www.phac.ca) for more information, rules, and registration forms. If you have questions, send us an email at [info@phac.ca](mailto:info@phac.ca) and we will get right back to you. And for those already registered, let us know your thoughts on the program, or if you have any suggestions for improvements.



We would also like to send our thanks to all the program sponsors, whose generosity made the BTE a reality.

Suzanne Brown  
Crescent Moon  
Northwest Peruvian Horse Club  
Moffat Veterinary Clinic  
Paradise Ranch  
Paso Llano Magazine/Red Mane Creative  
Peruvian Horse Club of AB  
Peruvian Horse Club of BC  
Lauren & Raul Risso  
Ringstead Ranch Ltd.  
Stoneridge Peruvians





# BETWEEN THE EARS





# MEMORIES OF THE FIRST PERUVIAN HORSE SHOW

FROM AUGUST 24, 2019 - 40TH ANNIVERSARY CANADIAN NATIONAL PERUVIAN HORSE SHOW. THIS TRIBUTE TO OUR EARLY FOUNDERS, WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR PERUVIAN HORSES IN CANADA, WAS A CEREMONY TO RECOGNIZE FIRST SHOW COMMITTEE.

**BY MIMI BUSK DOWNEY**

Welcome and thank you all for coming we want to celebrate our 40th Anniversary Show by honouring the first show committee.

To get some perspective on how long ago 1980 was, I will speak of some of our current mainstay exhibitors who are here tonight. Catherine Dawson started showing in 1980 Mark Van Diest in 1983, in 1986 we gained Rick and Bonnie Matheson, Dave, and Jan Burdega, Lauren Carter Riso. In 1988, at the National show held at the Stampede grounds in Calgary, my boyfriend Dale Downey showed his first Peruvian horse. (And he's still my boyfriend although we are married over 30 years.) In 1993 we gained exhibitors Pedro Cantaro from Peru, and Rick Cones, Suzanne Brown, and Sharon Fisk. Ben Sawatzky, family, and crew began showing in 1996. Gil and Teresa Loyd came to their first Canadian show in 1998.

I will also mention that we have all four of the announcers from our 40 years of show history here tonight. They would be Verne R. Albright, Ken Severson, Mark Van Diest, and Louise Burton.

Among us old-timers, Louise was at 39 of the 40 shows and had horses at many. Personally, I have shown horses at 39 national shows including the 1980 show, where I was expecting my first son, and in 1983, when my second son was nine days old.

How long ago was 1980, the year of our first show? Well, our honourable and knowledgeable judge for this year, Mr. Chris Austin, was born that year. Yes, it was a long time ago, and we have a few people to honour here with some special memories. I will just add that I had a lot of fun writing these down and I am blessed (or cursed) with a semi-identical memory, so I remember a lot of what is said to me. I am aware that not everyone remembers things from 40 years ago, so at one point when I was writing I thought, "I could probably say just about anything I want and they will not know if it really happened." However, I have tried to stick to true tales about things that actually happened at our shows.

The first person I will talk about is Verne Albright, who was our first announcer. Verne has been known for decades as “Mr. Peruvian Paso”. He imported hundreds of Peruvian horses and made at least 65 trips to Peru. He came to announce our first show which was held in Calgary, Alberta, at Spruce Meadows, which was a brand-new facility at that time. Verne asked the show committee for the recordings of the national anthems so he could play them for the opening ceremonies. Being a new show committee, no one had thought to round up national anthems. Spruce Meadows had a facility manager from Germany, who graciously provided Verne with a phonograph record with all the national anthems, and he marked which selections Verne should play. Verne played the first selection, and we all stood at attention. Then we heard the USA’s “Star-Spangled Banner”, and following that we heard Canada’s national anthem, “Oh Canada”. Later, in conversation, Verne found out that when the first that was played, the Peruvian people present thought it was Canada’s anthem. The Canadian and US people thought it was Peru’s anthem. In actual fact, we had all raptly stood at attention for the national anthem of Saudi Arabia.

Many thanks to Verne for all the education he has provided through announcing and in writing your fantastic articles and books about Peruvian Horses. Verne has recently published two novels that feature Peruvian horses, *Playing Chess with God*, and *The Wrath of God*, both available on Amazon and I think any aficionado will enjoy them.

Earl and Lynn Moker have been breeders, exhibitors, promoters, Board members, and hard workers since that first show. They have attended most shows, and also have been barn managers at more than 10 of them. My memory of Earl at the first show was running in a halter class with him and Bob Mullock in the same class. When we lined up, they were huffing and puffing worse than me -- and I was five months pregnant at the time. I remember Bob looked at Earl and me and asked, “why can’t we just put number on their butts, turn the foals loose in the ring and let them run around?”







I didn't have a story about Lynn, but she shared her "most embarrassing moment" with me. It was at the second show and she was showing her mare Realeza in a class, but the mare had a foal back at the barn. I don't know how many of you have ever tried to show a mare with a foal at side but it is very problematical. All of a sudden the horse just planted in the arena and refused to move no matter what Lynn did. She told me that the ringmaster finally had to lead her out of the class. Thanks to Lynn and Earl for your years of hard work.

Bob Mullock and his wife Betty bought a Peruvian mare in 1979, and other soon followed. He came to every clinic, many parades, and of course the first show. He and Betty became partners in Circle M Peruvians. Bob brought his friend Ron Moat to that first show, and helped him decide to buy a 4 year old gelding named Su Jacinto. Ron hemmed and hawed throughout the show and didn't make the final decision until the horse was loaded into the front of our four-horse straight haul trailer, to go home. At that point, Ron pulled out his checkbook, so we had to unload all four horses to give Ron his new gelding. They became an inseparable pair, and Su Jacinto lived past age 25.

My best story about Bob Mullock is from the second show. In those days, the pleasure classes had no set maneuvers, and the judge just asked for anything that he thought of. I don't know if you've even heard of a Figure 6, but suffice it to say it is an advanced reining maneuver. It is not currently included even in the most difficult performance classes. In 1981, Bob came out of his first pleasure class looking shocked. He said, "The judge asked for a Figure 6, and I think I only got a 4!"

Betty Mullock has also worked hard at so many shows. I don't have a funny story about Betty, but she has been a mainstay always with cheerful and encouraging words. She was partners in Circle M Peruvians, which included Bob's sister Gladys, Ron Moat and the Mokers. Betty served on several Board of Directors and helped host many events. One event I remember was a trail ride or in Spanish a Cabalgata, where 16 riders rode from our ranch to the Mullock's ranch, and the event was to end in a barbecue of Bob's delicious steaks. There was an incident along the way where Sherry Rosia's saddle slipped back going up a hill, and her horse bucked her off. Rick Cones rather heroically snagged the horse as it ran by, and Dale corralled other riders, as Sherri's horse kept bucking and tack flew off the horse, since the saddle was acting as a bucking strap. Sherri had landed rather hard, so Bob and Betty brought a truck to take her to the house.





All seemed well, but later, it was Betty who noticed that Sherri was not quite sure whom that man was, sitting next to her. It was her husband, Wayne. Betty got Sherri to the hospital where she was treated for a concussion. Thanks to Betty for all of the caring actions and kind words over the years.

Ken Severson is a former breeder, exhibitor, promoter, and announcer. Ken was my first contact for the first show because he was tasked with calling everyone to ask how many horses they would bring. We told them we would bring eight horses. He said did not believe this, because we only had a four-horse trailer and no one would make two trips over the Rockies to show horses, so he said he would put us down for 4 horses. However, we did bring 8, and as Gus McCollister would later put it, "all of us brought every trained horse on the place".

Ken was very encouraging to all new people, and he coached a few people to get them showing at that first show. I remember Des Hollox, who had taken up horseback riding late in life, and it had bought a young gelding named Su Mando, that he fell in love with at the 1977 Calgary Stampede. This was a well-trained gelding that never went out of gait normally, but Des' first class was a disaster. He was so intimidated by the ring, that he froze and dropped the reins to hold onto the front of the saddle. The horse trotted through the class and he got last place. Des was discouraged but had one more class to try, so Ken gave him a pep talk and got him up on the horse at the arena gate. He told Des to collect the reins up good, and as the horse went through the gate, Ken gave Su Mando a mighty slap on the croup! The horse's head shot up, Des held on for dear life, and they went through the gait class on autopilot – the result, a First Place ribbon! Thanks to Ken for the great promotion of the breed and so much help over the years.

Alty and Gus McCollister were the first breeders of Peruvian horses in Alberta and you can read in the show program and newsletter, Paca Paca News, about Gus's incredible dedication to promoting the breed in the Calgary Stampede. Alty and Gus promoted, showed, bred horses and had trainers. Their years sharing the services of don Sixto Chavez, a maestro chalan, brought many stories and somehow Alty could converse with him on farming and horses, even though Alty spoke no Spanish, and Sixto no English. Alty's Spanglish was a bit legendary in pronunciation. Once, a judge told Gus that Alty was saying one of their horse's names strangely, and it sounded like an item of ladies' underwear. They also named a horse what should have been "Elegant Long Stocking" and it came out "Thick Boot Sock.

I have to say, Gus was a bit of a slave driver on those early show committees. I was Show Chairman for 1983 show, August 1st, and I also had a baby on July 21st. Gus called me that same day, barely 8 hours later, to coordinate several important details. There were no cell phones back then, so I had to walk down to the nurses' station to take the call. I said, "Gus, I had a baby last night." She said, "Good going, congratulations! I suppose you thought you would get a day off?" Thank you, Gus and Alty for your many years of incredible dedication to the Peruvian breed.



In closing, I want to tell you about a very important Canadian invention in the world of Peruvian Horses. At the first show one trainer, named Ron Griffith, showed horses for Gus and Alty's Prairie Diamond Farm. Ron's nickname was the Englishman or just English for short, but he was actually from Wales. In those days we had Breeding and Gait classes and those both qualified for Breeding Division Championships. Toward the end of the first show, English asked, "When is the gait championship?" Well, there \*was\* no such thing, and there had not been a Gait Champion in North America since the beginning of Peruvian horse shows in the USA in the 1960's. English thought this was crazy: it's a gaited breed after all, and the shows needed a Gait Champion. So, for the second show in 1981, Ron sponsored an award for the best gaited horse of the show and explained it to the show committee to put in the Premium List. The show committee figured that people would not necessarily know to put the best gaited horse into a gait class, since the breed was so new in Canada. And some of the horses were too young to be in a gait class, such as halter and bozal horses. Our judge in 1981 was don Raul Risso, who is here with us tonight. The committee told don Raul about the award and asked him to keep notes throughout the show, and then pick the winner of the award from all the horses that were shown. As it happened, when he picked the winner of that first Best Gaited Horse of Show award, it was a two-year-old halter colt named so Soberano. Don Raul, always an innovator, thought that this award was such an important idea, that he took the concept to Peru, and presented it to the ANCPCHP. The following year the Association in Peru sent a beautiful silver and velvet Best Gaited Horse of Show award to all the shows held in North America. The innovation has become a tradition. Isn't it strange, that the Best Gaited Award was the brainchild of a Welshman living in Canada! And many thanks to Don Raul, for your many innovations and the education you have provided as a judge over the years.

*Note: As I tidied this verbal presentation for the 2021 Paca Paca Magazine, I have had the sad news that we had lost one of our early breed founders. Ken Severson passed away on November 19, 2021. Since 2018 we have also sadly lost Bob Mullock, Ron Moat in 2019, and another long-time exhibitor Keith Richardson, in November of this year.*



# Peruvian Horse Association of Canada

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# STALLION DIRECTORY

## STONERIDGE PERUVIANS

### \*CCMV Mochero

CMV REHEN X JR ARREBATADA



Mochero is a direct import from Peru. He was chosen for his size, correct conformation, and outstanding gait. He has surpassed what we dared hope as a sire. Mochero adds all of his own attributes and his foals are fantastic to work with. Calm easy personalities and sweet dispositions. Mochero is available for Live Cover or Shipped Semen. FEE: \$2,000 Mare care additional. Offspring available for viewing.

### SRS Espartaco

EL CAUDILLO EC X SRS SAHARA



Espartaco is Stoneridge's young and up and coming sire. He has been chosen for his outstanding versatility and wonderful disposition. This guy will eat up the trail and show his finer points in competition. Shorter more compact build than Mochero with good bone and liquid smooth gait. He holds many generations of outstanding bloodlines. Offered by Live Cover only in 2022. FEE: \$1,200 Mare care additional. Espartaco's first offspring are due Spring 2022.

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Canadian National Champion of Champions Performance Stallion  
Regional Champion of Champions Breeding Stallion

### \*SRV Ministro

MSCRL MARIA TEMBLORES X WF EMBAJADOR



Canadian National Champion Breeding Stallion

# STALLION DIRECTORY

## RINGSTEAD RANCH

### **\*MAA Valiente** AV EJECUTIVO X LV ACTRIZ



Imported into Canada from Panama in 2018, Valiente is a multiple Champion of Champions Breeding Stallion. He consistently passes his size, structure, beautiful neck, and head on to his offspring. He has power, function, easy execution, and brio.

### **RSTD Gustavo++** ERM ESPONANTEO X JRU SABRINA



Gustavio is a Canadian National Lauredo Breeding Stallion who is also a Canadian National Champion of Champions in Performance. Gustavio has won numerous Best Gaited Horse of Show awards. He is also the sire of RSTD Brilloso who is a Canadian and US National Luxury Gelding. Gustavio possesses brio, temperament and pisos.

### **RSTD Farrucco** MLM MAGICO ET X RSTD MADONNA++



Farrucco is a stunning deep bay stallion. He was unbeaten in his last year of showing winning Champion of Champions Breeding Stallion at both the Canadian and US Nationals. Farrucco has pisos with lift & termino, temperament and elegance.





# Introducing "Between the Ears"



*A recreational riding program brought to you from the PHAC*

**FREE Registration for PHAC Members!**  
Horses must be PHAC or NAPHA  
registered to participate

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# BETWEEN THE EARS IN THE OKANAGAN VALLEY

BY DEANNA DECOSTA

Seeking solace in a second pandemic summer in Vernon BC, led me to explore around the Okanagan Valley on horseback. From Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park to the Garnet Valley rangelands in Summerland, and Wells Grey Provincial Park to the Okanagan Hills of Oliver, I was able to log 100 hours of riding within a few hours of home.

A spectacular backyard favorite and frequent day ride is at Kalamalka lake park. From the main parking area, you can ride the “Comin Around the Mountain” trail through to Cousens Bay. This trail wanders through the forest above Coldstream and comes out upon grassland with a stunning view of Kalamalka lake. The trail is about a 15 km round trip and is a climb at times, with primarily good footing, a wooden bridge to cross, a beautiful boat access beach with picnic tables, and a hitching post provided by the Back Country Horsemen. It is a truly beautiful place to try a swim with your horse or just enjoy some time at the beach. The area is also very popular with hikers and mountain bikers so be prepared to be frequently asked what kind of horses you have as people find Peruvians fascinating. A good ride around the park is 3-4 hours of well-spent time.

Monte Lake area is a great place to ride for the day with access to Paxton Lake through trails on crown rangeland. A friend, also a Peruvian aficionado, has introduced me to the area and we have enjoyed many rides along the woodland trails with a gorgeous view over Monte lake. Paxton Lake hides above the cutbacks and is a pretty spot to stop for a lunch break before you ride the loop around the lake. Sadly, this summer the White Rock Lake wildfire heavily damaged much of the area but has made for some really interesting scenery in the scorched forests. Burned tree roots make the forest itself too dangerous to traverse, but there are still lush, forested patches that leave you wondering how fire decides to travel the way it does with some areas completely blackened and others untouched. Moose tracks along the path are reassurance of the resilience of nature. It is a humbling experience reminding us that one must always be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.



A new favorite day area of mine is the rangelands in Garnet Valley outside of Summerland. Access is via Wild Horse Road and opens up to a parking area at the Summerland Outdoorsmen Club where a few trailers are able to park. Alternatively, I was also able to park overnight at the Wild Horse guest ranch which has BnB style accommodation and a paddock available to rent. There are miles and miles of hiking and horse trails leading out from the parking area into the vast grassland range. Boots for the horses are helpful as there are areas of rocky terrain and if you bring dogs, look out for cactus surrounding the trail, but it's as close to the "wild west" I have experienced in the Okanagan area. The Fur Brigade Trail can be accessed for a long ride toward Garnet Lake or you can ride along the mountain ridge for spectacular views overlooking Okanagan lake. Even the mountain goats are below you! There is a breathtaking viewpoint to stop for lunch and watch the clouds sail by over Peachland and Kelowna in the distance. The opportunities here are endless and you could easily ride for a few days exploring new areas. Be sure to bring your camera and a jacket for the wind as it can be cool in the spring and fall.

Wells Gray Park near Clearwater BC was a new adventure inspired by the Backcountry Horsemen Rendezvous a few years ago. I was able to go in late May and again in August with the BC Peruvian horse club. It was quite cool and rainy in the spring and some of the trails were a little too wet to brave a rapidly ascending climb, but the Blackwater trail was a nice long ride through the lush forest. Camping at Wells Grey golf and the RV park was very nice with a few rustic sleeping cabins available. There are many wondrous waterfalls in the park, so when the horses needed a break, it was exhilarating to hike into Moul Falls and experience the spray of a fall very up close and personal! Helmcken Falls is absolutely stunning, the fourth largest waterfall in Canada and an absolute must-visit if you are in the area. Other falls include Dawson and Spahats Falls- each with its own unique personality.

Hideaway Horse Camp in Oliver BC is a great destination for riding out in the Okanagan highlands near Mount Baldy. I have spent the last 3 July long weekends here and have enjoyed up to a week of camping and riding. The camp is run by the very welcoming Anna Maria Robinson who has spent many hours clearing and marking the riding trails for people to enjoy. Her base camp area has 4 sites available for dry camping and has a cute outdoor covered hut area with a neat outdoor hot shower. The corrals are meticulously clean and expected to be left in the same shape, but all the cleaning is worthwhile as the trails up the mountain are some of my absolute favorites. There is soft footing with wide open meadows, mountain and valley views and if you are lucky you will stumble across the wild horses along your way.







It has been a fun adventure to bring along a camera in hopes of catching some of the fantastic splashy paint horses in the herd and on one exceptional day, I managed to capture five of the most stunning horses as they watched us from a ridge above. Balancing rock is a very cool site where a massive boulder sits on the edge of a bluff. Treasure trail was a lot of fun as Anna maria spends hours painting cute rocks to hide along the trail for her guests but be sure to just keep one! With wildfire, the theme in BC this summer, the Nk'mip fire burned through some of the areas in August, but Anna Maria is planning to be out again in spring to assess and clear the trails and plans to be open to guests next year. If you hope to visit, be sure to book early as she is already reserving for next summer. You won't be disappointed.



Finally, my adventures led to Timberridge Trails in Lumby BC. Hosted by Darlene Wolney, Timberridge is the mecca of outdoor weddings and horse camping with beautiful timber frame structures including an outdoor kitchen where you can order up a homemade breakfast to start your day off right. Corrals are provided and there are indoor washrooms and showers. The riding at Timberridge can be as little or as much as you like with varied terrain, so shoes or boots are a good idea. A good day ride will take you up the red and blue trails to viewpoints over the Harris Creek Valley and Camels Hump. There are some big hills to climb, so horses need to be conditioned, but you can also stick to some of the green and pink trails which are a little less challenging and still just as pretty. For a low-key or fun day, there is a riding arena available and on weekends throughout the summer, you can also sign up for "Arena to Trail Transition Clinics" to prepare your horse for mountain trail obstacles. You can't beat Darlene's homemade turkey dinner at her annual Thanksgiving poker ride so try to count this in for your plans for next year and bring your friends!



Overall, it was an amazing time of horseback riding adventures shared with family and friends. I am forever grateful for our amazing Peruvian horses, BDS Mi Confianza, RSTD Tango, and RSTD Aragon for the wonderful friends we have made through our connections to the BC Peruvian horse Club, and for such a beautiful area to call home.



# TO BUY A PERUVIAN HORSE

BY FERNANDO RISSO MONTES

Any aficionados have experienced the purchase of a horse at some point in their lives. The aim of this article is to guide, from my experience as a buyer, certain steps essential to not regret the purchase decision in the short, medium, or long term.

## 1.Objective: Why do we need a Peruvian Paso Horse?

It may be to breed, for pleasure or competition in shows, or your purpose may be to purchase to enjoy the three activities together, two of them or just one.

1.1 Pleasure and Trail Riding: In the case of pleasure and trail riding the ideal horse to buy is a gelding or mare without the purpose of reproduction. You can also purchase a stallion, but it can be more difficult to deal with a stallion in the presence of mares while riding in groups. It is important to look for animals that come from genetic lines which have already been used for trail riding and that are proven lines for longevity. They must also always be smooth to ride and have a good temperament. It is essential to have a veterinarian do a pre-purchase exam to see its health state, as well as a lack of a previous injury.

1.2. Competition in Shows: Purchasing of horses for competition it is essential to a veterinary pre-purchase exam to rule out any health issues or previous injury. Also, it is always a good idea to review if they have competed previously in good condition with several judges and have obtained good positions with several of them, and not only in some isolated cases. Undoubtedly they are from good lines, healthy, and that these are competing with good results.

1.3. Aging: When buying animals for breeding should always be to emphasize that they have produced offspring and also that their ancestry comes from horses who have been champions and transmit their virtues for generations, nor come from horses who have suffered or transmitted weaknesses. To buy a horse for breeding is different to than buying for pleasure/trail riding or purchasing for competition. Purchasing for breeding is to evaluate the long-term results so you should be wary of hasty decisions, fast, and lacking in analysis. A bad decision can lead to a loss of time and as you know the only thing you can't buy now is the time.



## 2. Budget:

How much do you want to spend? I have always maintained that the cheapest part of this whole adventure, is the purchase of the horse, which is the first step. We know that the fixed cost of having a horse is very high and more if you want to compete and raise, to prepare a horse professionally (training, vitamins, food, veterinary care, entry to competitions, and equipment) is very expensive. Not to mention the purchase of stud services of the best stallions, paying veterinarians for pregnancy or embryos. On the other hand, having an animal to ride is cheaper, as you are not breeding, so you only need a good feed with trimming and other standard care. The preparation and training we can do ourselves if the horse has previously been trained. The only requirement is having a caregiver provide food and be present before any illness or colic is sufficient.

We are aware that every weekend we will have to put our hand in our pocket to pay for our horses, so we need to choose the best way to not regret the purchase in the short term of our decision.

## 3. Warranty:

We know that we have no guarantee of success and more when you buy living animals, but it is important to follow five (5) steps to bring us closer to having a relative safety of what we are going to buy:

- 3.1. If you do not have experience or knowledge must start to read articles, books, watch videos, attend horseback rides with a borrowed horse, you must also attend competitions to have a pretty good idea of what type of animal is the one whom you will love.
- 3.2. Supports your initiative to purchase with any successful breeder who can offer good animals. We are still a small breed and the results of success are shown in the results of shows and events, or by the advertising of the National Association of Breeders and Owners of Peru.
- 3.3. Don't buy the first thing you see! Don't despair and look at three (3) to five (5) options. Then take a decision. Look at more options to see which best fits your need.
- 3.4. Draw up a contract of sale purchase after the veterinary report so that everything is in order and not have future claims by both parties.
- 3.5. Do not change the routine of the horse in any sense. Be sure to talk with the caregiver to see their food, deworming, training, and physical status, as it may be out of shape.

## Conclusions:

1. Learn all about what is the Peruvian Paso Horse, its facets through literature, and its representations such as horseback riding, exhibitions, seminars, competitions, etc.
2. Define if you want to have a horse for pleasure and trail riding, for breeding or to compete. You can make one, all together, or two. You decide!
3. Define how much you want to invest and schedule your monthly expenses so that it does not become an issue with budgeting.
4. Walk hand in hand with professional people in both aspects as advisors to guide you as well as a professional veterinarian. Lean on experienced friends to introduce you to the owners of the horses that may be of interest to you. There are serious advisers with enough credibility to help you find the appropriate horse for your needs.
5. Get excited! We need more people and aficionados to help this breed continue to grow.

***“Remember that the horses are like friends. You don't need to have many, but the best”***



# TRAIL RIDE AT WELLS GREY

BY ROB & JAN SJODIN

July long weekend we ventured to Wells Gray Provincial Park area, northwest of Clearwater BC. Rick and Deb Cones traveled in their motor homes with a four-horse trailer in tow and we pulled our fifth-wheel three-horse, LQ trailer. The weather was hot and the air was smoky when we left Kamloops heading up Hwy 5 to Clearwater. We arrived at our destination of Wells Gray RV Resort and checked in. We had to cross a very narrow bridge to get to the horse corrals.

The horse corrals were about 15 ft square and bordered the creek, from which we had to haul water. Once the horses were tucked in, we drove back across that same bridge to get to our campsite. Our sites backed onto the creek and had water and power. A huge golf course was across the road from us. It was about this time that Rick suddenly realized he had forgotten to pack any wine.. thus an emergency trip to Clearwater to remedy that situation, and of course stop for ice cream.

The next morning, we saddled up and headed out to explore the trails. The footing was generally good, a bit gravelly on the old logging roads. About an hour out the temperature had risen enough to wake up the horse flies.. all of them.. We were literally swarmed.. the horses wanted to travel with their heads in the tall vegetation on the side of the trail. All of the horses did well despite the situation.

We gave up riding for the day and went hiking to see several of the waterfalls for which Wells Grey park is well known for.

We returned back to the same location for the August long weekend as we had a BC club trail ride planned. It was still hot and smoky and very worried about the horse fly situation, so doubled up on fly protection, masks and blankets. Turns out they were not a problem at all. The first day we rode out on the Smith lake trail. The footing was soft in some spots and after some steep, very rocky (small boulders) switchbacks we got to some higher ground. First stop was to find a hoof boot, luckily it was found not too far back down the trail.



A lot of the trails were grown over with brush, but no complaints as the sun was shining and there were little to no bugs. About two hours later we were at Smith lake and stopped for little rest..

When the horses were cooled out and we all managed to get back on, it was back down the trail on an old logging road.

Partway back we found a nice place for a photoshoot

Riders left to right: Jackie Evans, Jan Sjodin, Rob Sjodin, Chris Wellman, Leslie Remme, Les Brogden , April Christensen, Deanna Decosta  
Photo by April's dad Carl Christensen



Sunday we started the morning with 15 people in camp for club-sponsored breakfast. Then headed back out on the trail for a short ride that ended up about 4.5 hours and the last hour was in the rain.

Photos by Deanna Decosta and Rob Sjodin





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