

American Azteca News

Volume 5, Issue 2 ♦ Bi-Annual

Winter/Spring 2007



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From the Editor

It's been slow coming (my apologies for that) but the winter edition of American Azteca News is finally here.

Please note that ongoing SPAM issues with the newsletter's email account has affected our ability to retrieve emails. Please accept our apologies if you have not received a response.

If you fail to receive a response to your newsletter or advertising inquiry, with 5 days, please contact the AAHIA main office at office@americanazteca.com

Tamara Neufeld – Editor

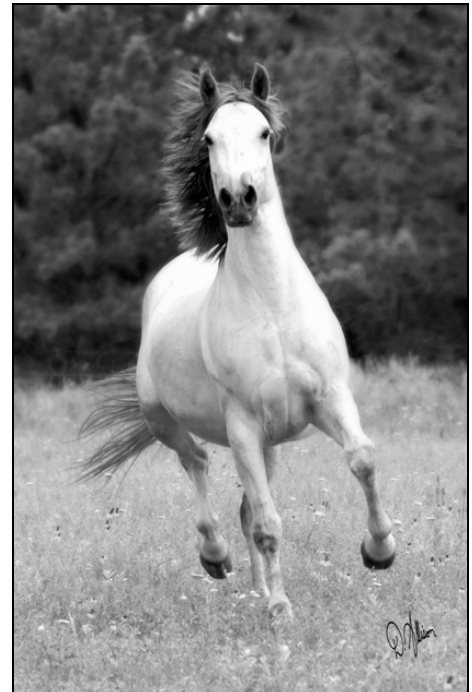
President's Message

Another year has come and gone and winter is here again. Horse activities come to a stop, no breeding or foaling, not much riding: sort of like a vacation actually!

We got a few inches of snow the other day so the ground is actually white right now, which is a rarity for us anymore but it got me thinking....

Picture this: a herd of horses standing in fresh snow. Some are grey and some colored but all are fat and covered with thick, soft, fluffy fur.

Trees are flocked with snow and frost. The sun makes them look like something from a fairy tale. Young horses are playing, kicking and rearing in mock combat having tons



Azteca 'A' mare "Spanish Wind", owned by Rita Greslin Ricard. Photo by Diana Allison

of fun in the new snow. Winter is not so bad, it sure paints pretty pictures and much hope for the future!

This brings to mind the song, The Rose. The last part of the song tells about winter and the impending bloom of spring. "Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow... lies a seed that with the sun's love in the spring becomes the rose".

If we think of winter or slow times like that, it can make a difference in our outlook. This association is in the winter or seed stage, but something really great is happening! Although the seed may seem dormant, when it's time

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Memberships are now due!

AAHIA Regions

- #1 West Coast: California, Hawaii
- #2 Northwest: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Yukon
- #3 Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Ontario
- #4 Rocky Mountain: Colorado, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, Manitoba, Saskatchewan
- #5 Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, Mexico
- #6 Northeast/ Mid Atlantic: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Main, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Quebec & Eastern Canada
- #7 Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia & Puerto Rico

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it will germinate and grow into the most wonderful thing. Remember that YOUR horses, the horses we are breeding, raising and using RIGHT NOW are those seeds. They are so important because THEY will create the future. THEY will be a part of history and you will too. YOU and YOUR horses will create a wonderful new breed that in the future will be greatly appreciated and sought after. Think the first people breeding Quarter Horses ever thought they would become what they are today?

I see the future of this breed. I see a growing, improving group of horses that someday soon will be a breed just as important as the great Quarter Horse!

It just takes time and going through a few seasons and it takes YOU: it takes your belief, your work and your help to make that seed grow.

Come and help us make this breed bloom ! Take up a genuine interest in the future of the American Azteca horse. Take it seriously, imagine the future and make it happen ! Put in some work and you will be so greatly rewarded ! You will be responsible for what this breed becomes !

Please volunteer, contact us and we'll tell you how to get involved .

Rita Greslin Ricard
 President

Registrar's Corner

It's that time of year. Breeding and foaling season are over and we now look forward to spring.

But wait... have you sent in your stallion report? This is a free service we offer our members. Just a reminder all American Azteca stallions but file a stallion report before the end of the year.

If you are standing an Andalusian stallion, we do not require that you file one with us. However we would really appreciate if you send us a copy of your IALHA stallion report, so we can better track the incoming registration applications.

This is a free as well.

I would also like to touch upon; we have been having major computer program issue, which has put me weeks behind. I am hoping all is worked out now.

I am also doing my best (between work, horses & family) to catch up. I thank you for your patience. If you have any questions please feel free to call the office.

Joyce Firkus
 Registrar



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Contact the AAHIA office to order:

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Quality Photos Needed!

Quality photographs of American Azteca horses are still needed for use in AAHIA promotional material (brochures, information packages & the website)

If you would like to share your photos with the AAHIA, please contact Tamara Neufeld at newsletter@americanazteca.com



Hobbling & Ground Tying: Some of the groundwork that goes on during the "Seven Perfect Rides"

Seven Perfect Rides

By Rich Jochim

I attended a motivational salesmanship presentation when I worked for the Wrangler Corporation back in the day. This fellow told us that if we could get a customer to say "Yes" to any six questions in a row, the seventh question should be "do you want to close this deal"? The seventh answer was supposed to be a big YES. The outcome was to be a 45-60% increase in sales. Well, it worked for me and I shot to the top of the Volume Sales Lists, somewhere close to \$1500/hour.

I got to thinking about that concept one day while starting in on a string of colts that came my way. I asked myself, is there a set of positive communications that I could use to get a young colt to say, yes-yes-yes-yes, yes-yes, YES! I believe there is. This really works with intelligent horses, like our American Aztecas.

If you haven't noticed, horses are jealous creatures. Feed or scratch one horse in the herd and others will soon push their way in for some attention; they will fight for human attention in a herd situation. This is the beginning of my technique to get the horses I am working with to start nodding their heads North and South. Borrow a friend's horse if you have to, but get your horse to start thinking, "there is my human and I need to get to him or her before some other horse does". The instinct is there, use it.

Ad a treat and some good scratching (not just brushing - really hit the itchy spots) to saddling and the first few mountings and your horse will come

running when you call, dive its head into the halter and try to crawl between your legs - now you have the "centaur connection" or the first 'Yes'. The rest comes exponentially.

During this methodology, ground work continues. This technique is seven days, not necessarily in a row but when you and your horse are both having good days; When the "planets are aligned" if you will. Not cold, not windy, not sick, no static electricity in the air, etc. . Give plenty of 'good boy' and neck scratching too.

Depending on the horse's forward thinking, the second 'Yes' may only be you sitting in the saddle, flopping around, scratching every reachable spot or a little walk around the corral. Let 'em go when they want and stop when they want. You just have to ad a late cluck and tap with your inside calf when the move off or the verbal whoa and light lifting of the rein when they stop. Don't worry about bend, inside or outside legs or reins, poll height, flexion, etc.

- you can't get your seven perfect rides trying to be, well, perfect.

"Sauce" (say Saw u say) on his seventh "Perfect Ride" - Getting up close to the cattle was natural and enjoyable, he learned quickly to push the calves, and at one point, he had to keep a neighbors one ton bull away from the herd. Big adventure for a four year old colt!

This is where the "quit while you're ahead" concept is important, don't go to a point where the horse has a chance to say 'No'! If it does sneak a 'no' in on you, you need to get any two or three 'yes' responses you can and get off. It may not seem like much, maybe only another version of the first 'yes', but it is a 'yes'.

The third 'yes' will probably be going both ways on the rail of your pen, corral or arena. The forth 'yes' might be a set of serpentines or figure eights crossing the arena on very light contact. The fifth 'yes' could be a nice little trot or a series of transitions from halt to walk or walk to trot. Any of these are interchangeable and there is no particular order - just get all "YES" responses to each ride.

Now we need one more 'yes' before we close the deal. What should it be? I try for a real confidence builder, where the horse really feels it is communicating with me. A test of all you have done so far may be the easiest, however, if you horse gives you something new with free and easy forward movement, take it and do something with it. Keep everything at the walk and trot and moving forward.

"What should I ask for" or "Closing the deal", for me, usually means going out to move cattle. This is a big reward for an intelligent horse and at the end of

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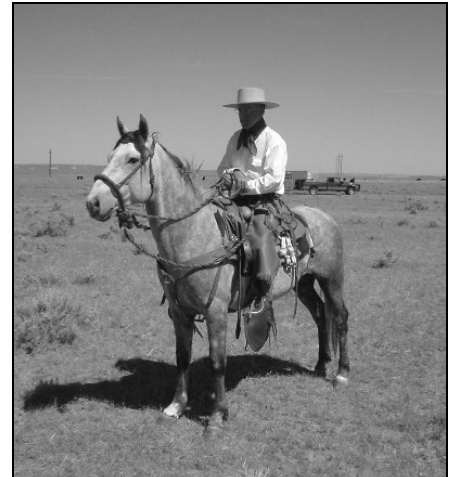
the day I get a big “YES” and “I love you man”.

Not everybody has cattle to move so a ride out side the pen or going for a little trail ride with another horse might be a good choice. The cattle or unfamiliar horses are great motivators for forward thinking. Don't get “bossy”, let your horse go with whatever motivation it has to go forward freely.

Set this one up to be perfect and inspiring for you horse. This is where I make the bond that can not be broken. If the horse has too many “friends” at the

barn that might distract it outside the pen, take it to another location so it is just you and your horse working together. There ya go, that's it - Seven Perfect Rides.

This system doesn't guarantee anything but I use it to start colts or new outside horses with great results, folks always say to me, “I wish my horse would run up to me like that, he's just like *Trigger* or *Flicka* or something”. With a little horse psychology, patience and timing; in the end, gettin' on is just gettin' on and movin' off is just that and when the canter comes along it is just a way to go a little faster – no big deal



Here is American Azteca A. Dakota Viente Sauce after his seventh “Perfect Ride”. He is tired but satisfied with his first ride outside. He is a little “parked out” in the rear from climbing up and down arroyos during the gather. He loped a little up hills and didn't mind the hard work. All my first cantering is up hill.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

American Azteca News is going high tech! Our next newsletter will be a full color online version. With the capabilities to reach a wider distribution & greater market, advertisers should take notice !!

Those of you who are unable to access the newsletter online, please contact the registry and let us know. We will see that you get a copy via regular mail if you are a member. Those of you whom we do not have your email address please make sure that you get that to us and everyone keep us updated on any changes in your email addresses.

-Rita Greslin Ricard-
President



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The AAHIA is an ALL VOLUNTEER organization. Below is a list of areas currently in need of volunteer assistance. For more info, contact Darlene Bagley at darlenebag@yahoo.com

Office manager: Duties include answering emails, making deposits and paying bills, working knowledge of the registry/association programs would be an asset. This person must have an e-mail address.

Newsletter Editor: Requires someone with a creative touch and skills in publishing software. Duties include formatting the bi-annual newsletter, securing advertisers, coordinating and gathering articles.

Web Master: Update the website as needed.

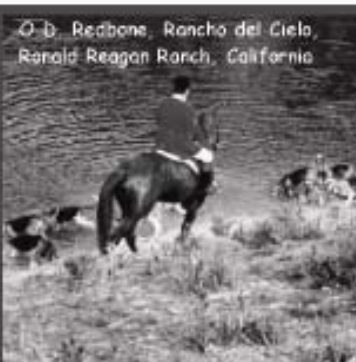
Advertising Manager - A person(s) that will contact potential advertiser for the newsletter.

Show Administrator - someone to assist with and administrate the development of a competition program.

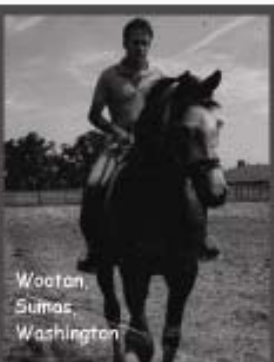
Area representatives - This requires that you are full member, and participate in the annual phone conference Board of Directors meetings.



Pluto Alemarina,
Chico, California



O.D. Beabone, Rancho del Cielo,
Ronald Reagan Ranch, California



Wooten,
Sumas,
Washington



Spade bit &
Wade tree,
1979

Sweet Bid Regalo,
Red Bluff,
California



Newsmaker One
Bella Vista,
California

Equestrian
Double for
Antonio
Banderas



Sally Good Un,
Santa Ynez,
California



Lasater & Watkins Beefmasters,
Goleta, California

The few times Rick was afoot,
he was still a Vaquero

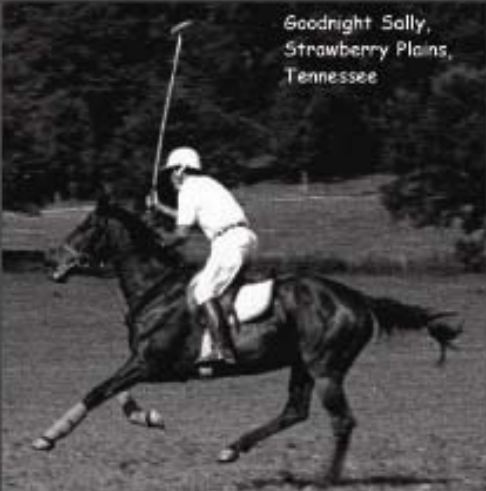


Rick riding
Pluto Duba
- one of
the only
Lipizzaner
stallions
able to do
all of the
"airs above
ground"



Pluto Duba's fans
want autographs

Rick has to sign for "Spock"



Goodnight Sally,
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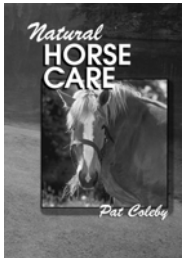


Rick Jochim, Riding Master, had been looking for an exceptional Azteca stallion to cross on his band of fine mares. He found "Sauce" on the AAHA web site while he was in Afghanistan last year. With next years foal crop, Rick becomes one of the leading breeders of American Azteca Horses. Watch for weanlings next year. Rick is again available for advanced horsemanship clinics. Are you ready to "Ride Every Stride"? Become a Centaur! It is hard work but once you have it, you will have it for life.

Spanish Creek Aztecas (Aztecas Del Arroyo de Española)
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A look at Nutrition Part 1: **Vitamins, Minerals & Their Role in the Equine Body**



The following article is a series of excerpts from the book *Natural Horse Care* by Pat Coleby. Reprinted with permission from Acres U.S.A., P.O. Box 91299, Austin, Texas 78709-1299 (512) 892-4400. Subscriptions: \$27/year. For a sample issue and free book catalog call 1-800-355-5313 www.acresusa.com

Many people are confused about vitamins and minerals, but the principles are really quite simple. Basically, if the minerals are in total balance, vitamin deficiencies should not occur; in other words, behind every vitamin shortfall there is a lack of minerals. It appears that the simpler - or more basic- the form of minerals in the diet, the better they are assimilated in the body.

Bone Building Minerals

Unless horses have sound bones, the whole operation is a waste of time. It must be remembered that four minerals and two vitamins are the bare essentials for healthy bones – and I am sure as we know more about animal nutrition, there will be others as well. The minerals are: calcium, magnesium, copper, boron, vitamins A & D.

Calcium

Calcium is required for the nervous and muscular systems to function normally, as well as for normal heart function and blood coagulation. It is also needed for bone growth. Calcium must, however, always be considered in conjunction with magnesium; the two minerals interact and must be kept in balance at all times. An excess of calcium will cause magnesium to be depleted and vice versa.

Excess calcium, both in the plant and animal world, is linked with a weakening of the cell structure and lowering of immunity to disease, especially disease of viral origin. Calcium should be found

in all feeds, alfalfa in particular, if well grown (i.e., without artificial and irrigation and with correct minerals). However, its presence depends on two factors:

1. that the original soil where the feed was grown contained adequate levels of the mineral and
2. whether or not artificial fertilizers were used as these reduce the levels of available minerals in the feed.

Conditions caused by lack of calcium are

arthritis, uneven bone growth, knock-knees, cow hocks, poor muscle tone leading to prolapse, poor teeth, a general lack of well being and susceptibility to cold and therefore respiratory problems.

Should an imbalance of calcium and magnesium be suspected, a soil analysis must be done. In Australia there are odd pockets where magnesium is higher than calcium, but they are rare. In the United States the reverse is true. It is important to remember that calcium (and magnesium) assimilation depends on adequate boron, copper and vitamins A & D in the diet

Magnesium

Magnesium deficiency appears to be rapidly becoming the biggest problem in modern conventional farming worldwide, possibly even in the US where it is almost universally high

...if the minerals are in total balance, vitamin deficiencies should not occur

(except for Florida and around the Ozarks.)

Magnesium appears to be more readily inhibited than calcium by artificial fertilizers. Early experiments indicated that a bag of superphosphate inhibited the uptake of five pounds of magnesium to the acre.

Both magnesium and calcium are rendered inert in the body by the sodium and fluoride used in our water supplies. This must be considered if horses are drinking water containing fluoride salts. Magnesium is needed for all enzymes, both gut and muscle, to function correctly. Seventy percent of ingested magnesium is needed for bone growth, the remaining 30 percent for

neuromuscular transmission, muscular health and a healthy nervous system.

The section on calcium shows how magnesium can be depressed by an excess of that mineral. It is also almost totally removed from the system by feeds high in nitrates, such as capeweed, variegated thistle and some broad-leaved plants. Conditions caused by a deficiency of magnesium (with calcium)

Calcium should be found in all feeds...if well grown

include grass, lactation and travel tetanias, mastitis, arthritis,

stringhalt, founder, warts (the virus that causes these prefers a magnesium-deficient host), uneven bone growth, as well as most conditions related to calcium deficiency. It should be remembered that overdosing with calcium and magnesium can lead to depletion of trace minerals and iodine.

Copper

Copper is needed for optimum health, resistance to disease (especially fungal origin), a healthy immune system, and protection against internal parasites. Failure to come into estrus regularly is possibly the most uneconomic effect of low copper from a financial point of view. Mares whose copper levels are right cycle regularly at the correct time.

Anemia, poor coat color, seedy toe, ringworm, mud fever, proud flesh, all herpes conditions, brucellosis, worms, wind-sucking, horses that chew fences and bark, and dark animals which are off color are all suffering from lack of copper. Without copper, iron cannot be assimilated.

Phosphorus

This mineral is essential for healthy growth and life. It should be kept in balance with calcium and magnesium, otherwise an excess of phosphorus will lead to bone fragility and many other problems of the kind associated with calcium and magnesium deficiencies. Phosphorus will not be lacking in healthy, well-farmed soils where organic matter and humus are in balance.

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Phosphorus deficiencies in horses appear to be fairly rare. Even when levels are extremely low, the situation where the horses are disadvantaged by the low levels does not seem to arise provided they all have access to the minerals they need, either in licks, in feed and or free choice.

Selenium

Like most trace minerals, selenium is equally dangerous in excess or deficiency. A small amount is needed for fertility, particularly of the stallion. The mineral is also needed for healthy muscles. Excess selenium can cause malformed fetus and/or poisoning.

Vitamin A – Retinol

Vitamin A is normally stored in the liver in amounts high enough to enable a horse as grass to cope with a prolonged period on dry feed – approximately three to five months. In a drought which exceeds that time, deficiencies will start to develop.

Vitamin A is particularly important for the health of the eyes. An outbreak of pink eye is a sure sign of a deficiency; so are worm infestations. A harsh, dry coat and runny eyes (both signs of worms and a copper deficiency) can also be a sign of vitamin A shortfall. Vitamin A is also susceptible to light; if a horse was left in light for 24 hours, its vitamin A reserves would be severely depleted. A period of

darkness is needed to preserve the normal functioning of the vitamin.

Vitamin D – Cholecalciferol

This vitamin is needed for bone growth, and the absorption of calcium. If it is missing, bone deformities will occur. Signs of vitamin D deficiency are unnatural bone formations and, in mild forms, a very harsh coat. Like vitamin A, this vitamin should be found in all properly grown green feed but the chief source of supply is sunlight, from which it is synthesized on the skin.

Did You Know

- Membership forms
- Advertising information
- Issues of **American Azteca News**

Are all available online at
www.americanazteca.com

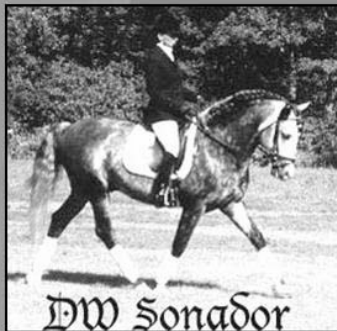
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Our mail is picked up by courier, sorted and then forwarded to the appropriate person. Please do not send signature required mail to our PO Box address, it will delay your mail reaching us. Also it is of no use to send Express or Priority mail. It will not get to us any faster...

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For more information on the horses above, contact
Joyce Firkus - K-J Hollow Andalusians
andalusians@kjhollow.com www.kjhollow.com

Wanted: Freelance articles of interest for future issues of American Azteca News.

The AAHIA newsletter is looking for submissions of original, interesting and informative articles that would appeal to American Azteca owners, breeders and admirers. Articles must be original work of the submitting author.

Topics could include (but are not limited to) health care & nutrition, breeding & sales, training, showing, traditional tack and attire, etc...

For more information contact newsletter@americanazteca.com or tamara_neufeld@hotmail.com

2006 Advertising Rates (per issue)

Full Page - \$115
¼ Page - \$40
½ Page - \$60
Sale Barn (3.5"x2") - \$30

***10% discount on Ad rates for full AAHIA members*

Classifieds
(Text only, 30-word limit)

Full Members - 1 free classified/issue
(\$10/each additional ad)

Non-Members - \$15/classified/issue

For more info on advertising with the AAHIA, please contact

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**AAHA
Membership Form**

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Our members are the backbone of this Association. We encourage you to join!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____

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Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____ **Website:** _____

Membership Fees (Annual membership based on a calendar year-All prices quoted in American dollars)

- Full Member - \$40.00 (Owners of Aztecas registered with the AAHA **must** have full membership and will have voting privileges)
 Associate Member - \$25.00 (Admirers and Enthusiasts of the American Azteca...voting privileges not applicable)

Payment Methods (Please check method of payment)

1. A check can be mailed along with this form to the AAHA address above
 2. Payments via VISA & MASTERCARD are accepted **online only** through the AAHA website at www.americanazteca.com

We are a member driven association and depend on our members for continued support and growth. Since we are a newly formed association, there is much to do and it takes a lot of people to make this association grow. We need volunteers to help us. If you have time or a talent to contribute, please check the box below.

We need you!

Yes! I am interested in helping. Please contact me with more information on volunteering with the AAHA