

Four Week Colorado Horse Training Course

John Moore Equine Development ♦ P.O. Box 1464 ♦ Cortez, Colorado 81321 ♦ U.S.A.

Course Outline

Dates: June 1 through June 30, 2011.

Curriculum

This comprehensive four-week (30 day) course is designed for the student who wishes to learn and practice the numerous details of horse training in a “real world” environment, as opposed to a strictly “arena” environment available to most European students.

In this course you will be riding and training a horse that is suitable for your level of riding. Some riders may be starting a young horse and others may be training a horse that has been started but needs training. The idea is that you gain horse training experience. This is not a “dude ranch” arrangement for strictly recreational riding. You will be training your horse in the round pen, arena and obstacle course, and also in the wilderness areas of Southwest Colorado. You will train your horse to work cows, cross rivers, allow you to rope from its back, and many other “real world” experiences. During this course, John will probably be starting some young wild-raised colts. This will be a unique experience, very different from starting colts that have been raised around people.

The main areas you will study in this course will be:

1. Round Pen Work. This will be where you put the first foundational experiences into a horse’s brain. Respect starts here. Although having been in a clinic is not required to join the course, your groundwork experience gained at John’s clinics will serve you well in the round pen. John will work with each student on the fundamentals of round pen work, then help them transfer the respect started in the round pen into building a better relationship in the saddle and in ground work.

2. Riding and Training Instruction. This is the main focus of the course. The old saying that “*Horses seek the level of their rider*” is very true. The idea in this course is to raise the level of the rider and therefore raise the level of the horse. Horse training will never improve unless the rider improves. You will have the time to really get into the details that matter, and you will have lots of time to practice and develop your skill in a way that is not always possible in an arena or in shorter courses.

Your riding and training instruction will include:

a) Catching, Bridling, Saddling. You may think you already know these things. But, we will be going through each topic and look at the best ways to do each task that maintains good ground manners in the horse and sets the stage for further learning. Many bad habits can get started with these seemingly simple tasks, so we want to get them right, from the beginning.

a) Developing your riding seat through developing your center of gravity, and learning to maintain it during the movements and maneuvers of the horse.

b) Developing your rein and leg cues.

c) Learning to take the concepts you will be studying and see how they apply in the real world. For example, your horse can cross a plastic tarp in the arena, but now you must use the same training methods to teach the horse to go in-and-out of the trailer several times per day, to cross a river, to allow you to load a pack on its back, or drag firewood, among countless other things.

d) Roping and rope handling. This is a topic we are never able to spend enough time on during regular clinics. The better you can handle your rope, the better you will be able to use it as a tool for training horses. This includes using the lasso and the lead rope.

3. Hoof Maintenance. You will study hoof trimming to maintain hoof balance and health. This part of horse training is often over-looked, but it is vital to training. A horse with poorly shod, unbalanced feet cannot perform athletic maneuvers well and will develop early-onset arthritis when used hard in the real world.

4. Riding horses in rough country. This is not intended to intimidate anyone, since we will not ask you to do anything you feel truly uncomfortable doing. However, riding and maneuvering horses through rough wilderness country is a skill, and it takes time and training to gain the experience to do it safely. It is important to the welfare of the horse (and you) for you to know how to cross a river safely, climb and descend steep mountainsides safely, avoid cactus and rattlesnakes and other trail hazards.

5. Trailer Loading. Trailer loading is a necessary part of using a horse in the real world. We will do it a lot. However, your horse will learn it quickly, and may already be good at it. So, trailer loading may be something we spend time on at the beginning, but not so much later on, as the horses become good at it.

6. Selecting a prospect. This is another area we can't spend enough time on at clinics. Selecting the proper horse to buy for the job you want to do is a necessary skill in order to get the maximum return for your training time and financial investment. We will study horse conformation and disposition, and look at a wide selection of horses for comparison.

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BASIC INFORMATION

Cost

The cost for the four-week course is \$4200. This includes your room and three meals per day*, a horse for you to ride and train, all of the saddles and other equipment you will need and transportation to and from the airport.

Schedule

The course will be on a five day per week schedule - you will be training five days and have two days off per week to rest, go to town (on days when we are going), explore the surrounding area, etc. Each course day will begin at approximately 10:00am and end at approximately 5:00pm. However, your actual day will begin earlier since you will need to eat breakfast, feed, groom, saddle and otherwise prepare your horse for the day. This schedule needs to be flexible to accommodate changing weather and training opportunities that may arise that could keep us out late the night before or require us to start early on some mornings.

We prefer to leave our options open as to which days we take off during each week because of weather considerations, horse issues, etc. and also to take advantage of training opportunities that may arise, such as helping neighbors move cows for example. The majority of our training will be done at our home place. However, we will spend lots of time on rides designed to expose you and your horse to “real life” experiences that will build confidence and practical skills.

Transportation

We will pick you up at the airport when you arrive and take you back to the airport when its time for you to go home. We will also transport you wherever you need to go for any class activities. We will be going into Cortez or other towns from time to time to buy groceries, etc. and you will be welcome to join us on those trips, provided there is enough seating in the vehicle for everyone who wants to go. Of course, we will be glad to take you where you need to go in case of medical emergencies or other valid urgent needs.

On your days off, you may wish to rent a vehicle for weekend trips to sight-see in the area, or join together with other students to save money. We will be glad to assist you in making those arrangements. If you think you may want to rent a vehicle, be sure to check

with your auto insurance company, before you leave home, about whether your policy will cover a rental car in the U.S. Also, many credit card companies provide free auto insurance when you use their card to rent a car. So, be sure to check on these things since insurance costs extra when you rent a car, and can substantially raise the cost.

Housing

You will be staying in our bunkhouse here at our place, and possibly in other bunkhouses at other ranches if we happen to be riding there and need to stay overnight. You will be sharing a room in our bunkhouse with another student of the same gender. There is a full, private bathroom – shower and bathtub, toilet, sink and mirror. The bunkhouse dining room is also the living room, with a DVD and VHS player and a selection of movies and horse videos you can watch in the evening. We are slowly adding finishing touches to the bunkhouse, so we ask for your understanding if we come in occasionally to do a little work..

Food

Breakfast will be self-serve in the bunk house. Breakfast food, such as yogurt, bread, boiled eggs, cheese, tomatoes, milk, cereal, etc. will be kept in the bunkhouse refrigerator for you to prepare yourself. There is also a microwave and toaster.

Lunch will be prepared for you each day and served at the dining room table in the bunkhouse, or packed in a bag for you to carry in saddlebags if we will be gone on a ride all day.

Supper will also be served for you in the bunkhouse dining room, or occasionally purchased for you in a restaurant if we are returning from a ride too late to eat at home. Restaurant food allowance for each student is \$12, but you are welcome to order a \$20 steak if you pay the difference!

*If you choose to be away from our place at meal time on a class day or on your days off, you will be responsible for purchasing your own meals. Let us know in advance if you have any food allergies.

Internet & Telephone Service

We have wireless internet service here, so you should be able to use your laptop computer online while you are here. We ask that you do not use web cameras, as our internet service plan does not include their use - it will create a very large cost if you use a web camera. However, using Skype with just your voice is no problem.

Your mobile telephone may or may not work here. Our U.S. mobile telephones work at our place, although some service providers work better here than others. We have our

regular telephone here that is available for urgent calls if you need it, although we ask that you reimburse us for the cost of over-seas call. The best option may be for you to purchase a calling card at Wall Mart in Cortez, which will enable you to make calls on our regular telephone or on any other telephone by paying in advance.

Facebook & Other Internet Sites

We expect that you will want to post photos of your visit on social networking sites like Facebook while you are here. Because of the fact that many photos may not accurately portray the realities of what is actually happening in a training situation, there is the possibility they could create a misunderstanding by some people of the training methods being taught in the course. This is why we don't allow photography or filming at the training clinics. This event, however, is so much more than a clinic, so we support your wish to take pictures and post photos of your adventures on the net. However, any photos of training sessions must be okayed by us before being posted on the internet.

Insurance

Each student is required to have a supplemental emergency health insurance policy in case you become sick or injured while you are away from home and need to see a doctor. This is usually provided to you as part of your home owners insurance policy to cover you for up to 45 days while traveling abroad, but you should verify this before you leave home.

Something you may wish to do...

The last day of the course is June 30. However, our local town of Dove Creek has a big, and very fun July 4th celebration (American Independence Day) that is very unique, and we think you would really enjoy seeing this aspect of American life. And John's band will be playing for the big country dance as well as the fireworks display at night. The celebration lasts for 3 days, and you are welcome to stay in our bunkhouse as our guests during that extra time, free of charge. Let us know if you'd like to stay for this celebration and we will work with you to arrange your return flight in order to make it happen.

Flight Information

Your flight needs to be booked into Durango, Cortez or Montrose Colorado (depending on best prices and scheduling) to arrive May 31, 2011. We will need to coordinate the travel plans of students, if possible, so that they arrive at approximately the same place and time. This will enable us to pick everyone up together before we drive to our place. It's a good idea to take a look at flights now, but we request that you not pay for your flight until we have confirmed with you that your arrival time and place will work for us. Your return

departure date will be July 1, 2011, unless you wish to stay around for 3 more days for our big Dove Creek July 4th celebration.

What To Bring

Bring along your riding clothes, plus boots, a hat to keep the sun off, gloves, a helmet if you wish to wear one, etc. If you don't have all of these items or would like new ones, they can be purchased in Cortez for a good price, and we would be happy to take you shopping. It's also a good idea to bring some casual clothes for the days off when you may go sight-seeing, or to just get comfortable in after a long day and a shower. Also bring along any personal items and prescription medication you may need. Anything you may forget or wish to purchase here can easily be found nearby in Dove Creek or Cortez. We will be happy to drive you there. We usually have great weather that time of year, with cool nights and warm days. However, there is a chance of bad weather, so it's a good idea to also bring along some clothing that will keep you warm on cold days and nights. There is no need to bring bedding or towels – they will be provided for you.

Surrounding Area

We are within easy driving distance of five National Parks, including the Grand Canyon. We are also very close to the Navajo and Ute Indian reservations. There is great shopping in Cortez, Durango and other area towns.

Questions?

Please feel free to contact us either by telephone or E-mail if you have any questions or have any special needs that we can help you with. Our contact information is:

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