



January 2011

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## HIGH DESERT RIDERS, EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO

### Training Tip of the Week from Clinton Anderson

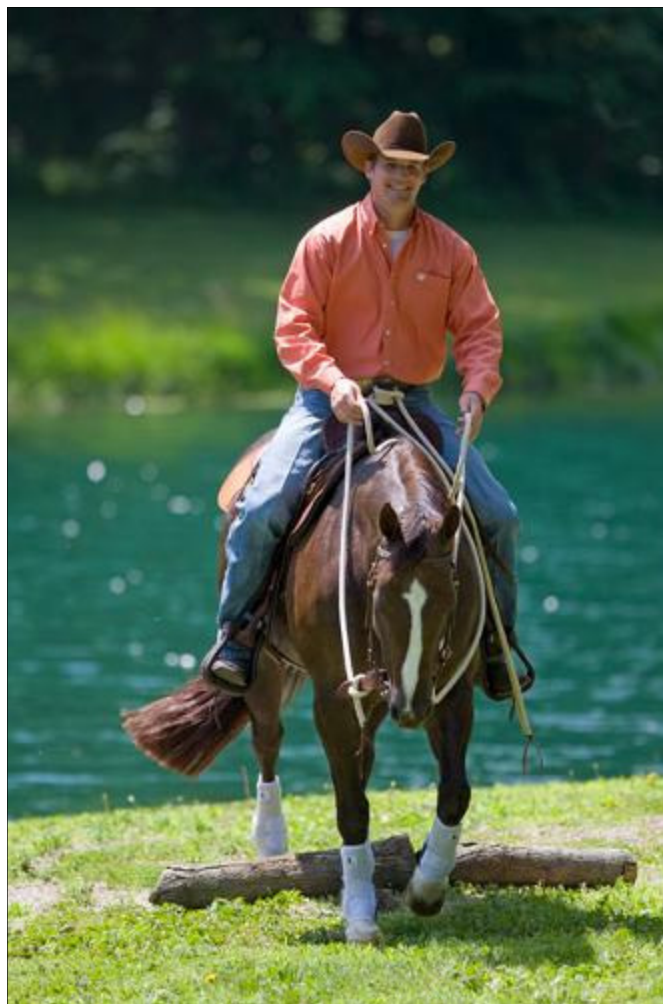
**Long rides, wet saddle pads and concentrated training on the trail.**

In order for a horse to be well-balanced, he must get an equal dose of long rides, wet saddle pads and concentrated training. It's no good to have only one or two. For

example, race horses get lots of wet saddle pads, but no long rides or concentrated training. I've seen trail riding horses go on ten mile long rides but come back with not a drop of sweat on them because all they did was walk the whole time. And I've seen

plenty of show horses that had lots of wet saddle pads and concentrated training, but never stepped foot outside the arena for any long rides. The trail is the perfect opportunity to work on all three and will keep your horse interested in his work. Don't just let him mosey down the trail, bend him around bushes, serpentine in and out of trees, sidepass down the trail – use your imagination.

*Learn more about Clinton Anderson and his training techniques at [www.downunderhorsemanship.com](http://www.downunderhorsemanship.com)*



The next High Desert Riders General Meeting is Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgewood Community Center

[www.HighDesertRiders.com](http://www.HighDesertRiders.com)

Thanks to our HDR Officers, Directors and Committee Leaders and Members who give their time to make HDR a success for all of us:

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## Members Report

Sunday, January 9th, a few of us went to ride at the Bosque. It was warmer that weekend than it has been in a while, but it was much warmer in Albuquerque, especially along the river where the trees and brush block much of the wind.

We had a great ride that afternoon. Mike showed up with his flashy paint gelding, Sheryl came with her gaited spotted saddle horse, Charito, and also brought her daughter Jacque and her friend Daica out for the ride. Our old friend Kit also joined us that day on her golden, gaited Poquito. Leonardo brought his new colt Dusty (just turned 6 months old that same day) and ponied him off his mare who is a half-sister to the colt. The little colt was very well behaved, even though he must have been awfully tired as that was the longest outing of his short life. Little Dusty was very friendly and jumps in and out of the trailer and ties just like a big horse should!

Melissa stopped by the trailhead before we left and wished us a good ride. She showed us a

photo that she had taken at the Bosque just the week before. She and her riding partners watched a great horned owl swoop down (in the middle of the day) and catch a muskrat from the ditch. She says they watched in amazement as the owl then held the muskrat under water until it drowned. The owl then proceeded to have a leisurely lunch on the ditch bank. The picture looked better on her



phone, but here's a copy of it here. You can see the owl well, but you may not be able to make out the muskrat in its claws.

There were quite a few people out hiking with dogs and on bikes, but as usual everyone was very courteous and stepped aside to let our horses pass. We also saw a lot of ducks that day.

Melissa also advised us that there are now more trails that we can ride over on the South side of the bridge. Hopefully we can get her to lead a ride soon so we can all see that area. I'm looking

forward to that—the Bosque is one of my favorite rides.

~Dana

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