



## My 4th Anniversary With Horse Directory Magazine

By Tim Hayes

It's my fourth anniversary writing this column for *Horse Directory*. I want to thank its owners/publishers and my friends Doug and Lorraine Dittko. I want to thank all of you, and all of your horses for letting me share my knowledge and love of Natural Horsemanship. It has made a profound positive difference with my horse. I have been told by a great many of you it has made the same profound positive difference with you and your horses as well.

People usually call me when they need help making a change with their horse. Sometimes they want to improve something. Most of the time it's to eliminate something. I say to them: "don't tell me about the problem show it to me." The problem is usually some type of resistance from their horse. I explain that the resistance is actually their horses' way of saying: "what you're asking me to do is not in the best interest of my self-preservation." Horses are prey animals so survival is considered in every choice they make. Since horses don't speak English, their physical behavior is the only way they know how to communicate this to humans.

Without the ability to read the horses' body language this resistance make no sense to a person. The resistance however makes total sense to the horse. Furthermore it causes the horse to question why his human "partner" is asking him to do something that threatens his survival. This in turn diminishes the quality of their relationship.

To cause a positive change in your horses' behavior you must first be able to "Read" the subtle yet important differences in his behavior. For example, if your horse is resisting your request, you must know and recognize if his resistance is being caused by fear or disrespect. Not only will the correct response bring a positive change in your horse, it may save you from getting hurt by responding to his resistance incorrectly.

These are just some of the ways my clients have told me their horses have been telling them to do things differently: not standing quietly for grooming or saddling, lifting their head to avoid being bridled, not allowing their feet to be picked up to be cleaned or shod especially the hind quarters, difficulty paste worming, walking into and over people, invading personal space, won't stand still when mounting, won't lead well, pulls or walks in front of human, won't lunge, biting, bolting, kicking, bucking, rearing, tail swishing, won't go in the trailer, won't stay in the trailer, charges out of the trailer, goes into the trailer at home but won't get back in after the show, spooky and over reactive, is good at home and difficult

at shows, won't stop consistently when asked, won't go forward, balks, changes gait without being asked, difficulty leaving the barn or leaving his other horse friends, jigs on the trail, hard to catch, afraid of water, resists being clipped, difficult to bath, pins ears or turns his butt when human enters his stall, and food aggressive with other horses and humans. Please add any I've left out. Natural Horsemanship makes it possible to eliminate all of these by using communication and not force.

I would like to thank the people who have called me for help with these issues, kept an opened mind and have been willing to look at their situations from the horses' point of view. It has been wonderful seeing the joy in their faces and the relief from their horses as both discovers they can actually "talk" with each other. With this new ability to communicate they begin to truly understand and teach each other. Everything becomes fun again

One of my most rewarding experiences last year was helping people discover how much can be done with their babies and yearlings. A number of my students have learned that by spending small amounts of quality groundwork time and using proper Natural methods they are able to begin creating relationships with their foals within weeks after their birth. Establishing love, trust and respect when a horse is small and therefore more manageable to handle creates a full grown horse that becomes a calm, respectful, confident and safer willing partner when it's time for his first ride.



*Thanks, everyone, for four great years. Love, Tim & Austin. Photo courtesy NYTimes*

In addition to working with humans and horses in many areas throughout Long Island I had two wonderful experiences in the town of Northport. One was a symposium for about 80 members of the Northport Public Library for which I would like to thank Mary Ellen Moll. The other was a Clinic for the riding instructors at the HorseAbility therapeutic riding organization founded by executive director Kathleen McGowan. The Clinic was held at Ketcham Horse Farm. Established in 1760 it is the oldest operating horse farm on Long Island. I would like to thank Dana Grimaldi the equine director of HorseAbility and Ketcham Farms for making this event possible.

This was also the second year of my website [www.hayesisforhorses.com](http://www.hayesisforhorses.com) which is proving to be not only a powerful educational source but an example of the growing desire of horse people everywhere to learn the principles and methods of Natural Horsemanship. In addition to Long Island, I was invited this year to conduct clinics in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Vermont. In May 2008 I was honored and grateful to conduct my first international clinic in Ontario Canada.

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You Go West Girl by a neck in the Yaddo, held on the inner turf in spite of rain. "I knew the track was soft, but I didn't want to move too soon," said jockey Javier Castellanos. Trainer John Hertler said of his filly, "She likes Saratoga."

Grand Couturier became a back-to-back winner of the 1-1/2 mile Sword Dancer Invitational Aug. 16 on the turf, joining El Senior, who won 1989-1990 and With Anticipation, 2001-2002. "What do we do next year?" quipped trainer Bobby Ribaudo. "It's not going to be easy, but we intend to come back next year." Alan Garcia rode a commendable race to beat Better Talk Now, second, and Interpatation, third. Red Rocks, who defeated Curlin in the Man o' War last month at Belmont, was scratched. The Sword Dancer qualifies Grand Couturier for the Breeders' Cup Turf Oct. 25 at Santa Anita.

Proud Spell won the 1-1/4 mile Alabama Aug. 16 over Music Note and Little Belle, who finished one-two in the Coaching Club American Oaks in July. "I don't think there's any doubt that she is the leading three-year-old filly," said trainer Larry Jones. Jockey Gabriel Saez called it "an exciting finish." Saeed bin Suuroo, who trains Music Note and Little Belle, said, "It was a great race."

Intangaroo made her debut at Saratoga by winning the 7-furlong Ballerina Aug. 24. She now qualifies for the Breeders' Cup filies and mares sprint in October. It was also the first Saratoga win for jockey Alonso Quinonez.

The New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase on Aug. 28 over a 2-3/8 mile course of national fences was won by Dark Equation owned by Beverly R. Steinman and trained by Paul Fout. The rider was Matt McCarron, nephew of retired Hall of fame jockey Chris McCarron, who said, "What a phenomenal spin! My horse is a deliberate jumper. He would be a good show jumper."

The New York Turf Writers presented their annual awards Aug. 18 at a dinner at the Saratoga National Golf Club. The Secretariat Award went to Curlin and the C.V. Whitney Achievement Award to Rags to Riches. The two-legged award recipients included IEAH Stable (Alfred G. Vanderbilt Award), "First Saturday in May" documentary film makers John and Brad Hennegan (the President's Award), trainer Larry Jones (Red Smith Good Guy Award), New York breeder Albert Fried, Jr. (Big Apple Award), trainer Bill Mott (Fourstardave Award), jockey Cornelio Velasquez (Eddie Arcaro Award), trainer Kieran McLaughlin (Woody Stephens Award), Zayat Stables (Paul Mellon Award) and Adena Springs Farm (Ogden Phipps Award).

Edgar Prado, 41, was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame this summer. The Peruvian-born jockey rode his first winner in 1983 and came to New York in 1999. Although he is forever identified with 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, Prado has won countless titles and awards, including a 2006 Eclipse Award. In 2004 he rode Birdstone to victory in the Belmont Stakes, denying Smarty Jones a shot at the Triple Crown.

The late Louis Olah was honored Aug. 11 when the silks room at Saratoga was dedicated to his memory. Olah, who was once a jockey himself, died in March at age 79 after many years of caring for the New York jockeys' silks.

Racing ended at Saratoga on Labor Day and is now back at Belmont Park. The Jockey Club Gold Cup will be run Sept. 27, and Oct. 18 is New York Showcase Day. For information call 516-488-6000.

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popped in a field on a Hanoverian breeding farm to baby-sit the weanlings. The old adage "that the young ones will keep him fit" most certainly did not apply to Dubby. You could roll a marble down his spine between the fat pads on his rump. Thank goodness it took almost a month to organize shipping, giving the seller enough time to take him off grass and make him slightly less "bowling ball - esquiene".

When Dubby arrived on Long Island Linda was working with Gail Fields. All he could do was walk with a little bit of trot work. He wheezed like an "overweight person who smoked way too much," according to Linda. It took weeks for him to be able to trot for at least five minutes. I'm telling you, that must be SOME walk. Oh, and the canter? Well, there wasn't one, initially. Like I said, that must be SOME walk. Two years ago Linda

moved Dubby to L & L Farm (formerly Windsound) and began training with Ginger Kent. Together they have discovered that not only is Dubby "big-boned", not one of them is "bad". He simply doesn't do anything inappropriate. This is one pony who doesn't live up to the evil reputation of the little people... with one GIANT exception. Beware, coffee drinkers. Dubby has a very powerful obsession, no, fetish, yes, that's the word, for plastic cups. Okay, so he is slightly mischievous. If you have a drink and put it down anywhere near him... look out, that tongue will come sneaking out! He has a particular need for lemon flavored bottled water, which Linda dutifully fetches for him and pours down his throat like a good little human. Ah, the joys of motherhood.

Meanwhile, the pair progressed from wheezing trot to such great, big movement that "sometimes he shakes the fillings out of my head!" Perhaps it was their work program that created such a spring in Dubby's stride. He has a thick, thick neck, so Linda works him down, down, stretch, stretch, counter-bend, stretch...you get the idea.

Now, the boy is fit, fit, fit. They regularly broke 70% in Intro and Training Level. The canter is progressing beautifully. Hey, aren't the canter and the walk related? Hmm, I think Linda knows how to pick 'em. This summer Linda was afflicted by some very serious health issues, but Dubby motivated her to get up and go. Every morning she thought about NOT sitting that huge trot, not surfing those big gaits. But she always left the farm feeling so rejuvenated, so happy. Next season the pair will tackle Second Level.

So say hi to Dubby when you see him out, but be ready to sacrifice your drink! — Dale Gifford

*Hampton Classic continued from page 23*

The day before his bluhammock win on Lady in Blue, Dello Joio won the \$7,500 1.35m Open Jumper Class aboard the same horse. An 8-year-old Selle Francais mare, Lady in Blue created a buzz among other riders the moment she stepped onto Hampton Classic show grounds earlier in the week. In all her rides, the horse demonstrated that she has the three "S's" essential for a top-flight jumper: scope, style and speed.

Dello Joio has justifiably high hopes for the horse, which was purchased in Mexico and has been in training with him for a year-and-a-half. "We believe she could be a prospect for major international competitions," he said, among them the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Ky.

He described Lady in Blue as a very "above-ground mare with beautiful balance and a clean head," the latter being a factor in his jump-off strategy in the bluhammock. Dello Joio said he "decided to take aim at Todd's time because the mare has a good brain. I knew she could handle it and that she'll come out [for her next class] on Saturday and be the same horse."

Dello Joio, who rode four horses in the class, won with his final ride and placed fourth with another horse, Acertijo. "He gave me a wonderful ride," he said. "I wasn't trying to win with him. My goal was to use the course to increase his confidence." He said the course was perfect for that.

Course designer Conrad Homfeld, he said, "he has a wonderful way of creating a series of courses that build the horses' confidence as the week goes on." Dello Joio felt the course was most difficult toward the end, where it was tight, as was the time allowed. "You had to gallop to the end and keep control of your horse. It was a true test."

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Finally as always, let me publicly thank and acknowledge my number one teacher Austin (and as I lovingly refer to him) The Wonder Horse. Once I learned to communicate in Austin's language he taught me and continues to teach me everything I need to learn to be a better horseman, a better human and a better teacher. There is never a time when he doesn't take the opportunity to let me know: "Tim, you might want to think about doing that again differently." Thanks Austin, thanks everyone and for those of you I have yet to meet, I am looking forward to the years ahead, helping you to create a rewarding new relationship with your horse. c.Tim Hayes2008 "BE A BETTER HUMAN...BE A BETTER HORSE" VISIT: [www.hayesisforhorses.com](http://www.hayesisforhorses.com)