

ON THE TRAIL

WITH KAREN



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Dear Friends,

I truly hope your summer has been as rejuvenating as mine! Much needed time with Berg & Deb, writing the final chapters of two books, and regular exercise in the high country of Snowmass CO has been a real blessing for me. My gracious hostess at Moon Run Ranch, Holly McLain, has been the icing on the cake! A woman owning and operating a ranch in the high country for over 35 years is one to be admired!

Now, let's get caught up! – Karen & Gherkin (♥)



*Karen, Gherkin, Bergante and Debutante
on the trail at Moon Run Ranch*

Back on the Road!

It's time to get the big rig rolling again and back out to clinics and expos. I look forward to reconnecting with folks I've had the good fortune to meet in my travels as well as meeting new people and their horses. I like the old saying... strangers are just friends we haven't met yet!

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event! (♥)



Sept 6	CO Cowboy Heritage Festival Grand Junction, CO
Sept 12-14	Horsemanship Clinic Grand Junction, CO
Sept 19-21	Rocky Mountain Horse Expo Ignacio, CO
Sept 26-28	Horsemanship Clinic Maple Park, IL
Oct 3-5	Horsemanship Clinic New Castle, IN
Oct 10-12	Horsemanship Clinic Sunbury, OH
Oct 24-26	Horsemanship Clinic Sisters, OR

Got Questions?

Who hasn't had questions after watching an instructional video or practicing at home after attending a clinic? A brand-new format being launched this October will provide you with the answers you've been looking for!

By simply submitting your question via email, yours may be one of those selected as one of the topics on the new "*Can We Talk?*" free monthly teleseminars.

It's like visiting with a group of your favorite horse friends from the comfort of your home, and as with all my educational formats... the guys are always welcome!

Every second Wednesday you can dial in to the live discussion addressing the most asked questions for that month. I'll cover as many questions as possible in the hour we have, and it already seems like too little time!

Submit your questions by email to canwetalk@karenscholl.com. Folks whose questions are selected will be notified in advance and can participate with talk

capability if they wish, while others will have listen-only access.

This is a real-time, live discussion of some of the most common and provocative questions people have with their horses. Because it can be a challenge to find an hour for yourself in the middle of a busy week, we hope to have these discussions recorded and available for a nominal fee to cover expenses, but there's no promise of that right now... just know we're working on it!

Watch for the reminder email for more details how to dial in with the time specific to your area. The first "*Can We Talk?*" seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th. Be sure to mark your calendar!

When you need a little help with those questions that come up after the clinic or while studying the videos, dial in for a dose of inspiration and fresh ideas to keep your horsemanship progressing!

I'll 'talk' with you then... invite a friend! (♥)

More Library Additions

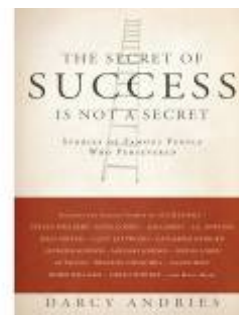
It's one of the most motivational books I've read in a long time! *The Secret of Success is Not a Secret, Stories of Famous People Who Persevered* by Darcy Andries is a true inspiration for anyone who reads it.

It's natural to become discouraged or feel frustrated, inadequate or incapable at some time or another, especially when wanting to live our dream with horses! This book contains the most wonderful examples of ordinary people achieving extraordinary things in their life simply by not giving up... ever!

The mix of people is my favorite part... current, historical, authors, actors, inventors, and more.

Sometimes the book most helpful to advancing our skills with horses isn't a horse book at all!

This is one of those books... enjoy! (♥)



View and order this and other recommended books through the web site!

Do You Have... 'Soggy Rope Syndrome'?

After attending a clinic or two, it's common to observe people develop a habit I affectionately call the 'soggy rope syndrome'.

In the early stages of learning, it's natural for people to think that holding a 'death grip' on the lead rope or reins would be a logical way to control a horse. Beginning to learn 'psychology based training' by video or clinic, it seems almost miraculous when people can let go of their 'death grip' and begin to have a real sense of *trust* with their horse.

After this initial stage, however, there's a strong tendency for things to swing the other way. People begin to avoid putting *any* feel on their lead rope or reins, promptly getting 'stuck' in the soggy rope syndrome. Why, people can be struggling with this without even knowing it, and it can go on for years!

Here's an easy way to tell. While holding your lead rope or reins, if you can move your hand in any direction without the horse feeling any change of pressure, your feel is definitely soggy!

Another indication is when you haven't seen much progress in your horsemanship lately. Your horse seems bored or disinterested and it seems like the things you enjoyed so much in the early stages are becoming more like a chore rather than the fun and engaging interaction they started out to be.

If you suspect you may be under the influence of this debilitating 'syndrome', a few simple concepts can help.

First, keep in mind that, regardless of the activity, we're ultimately teaching horses to follow our communication of direction and speed through physical feel.



Ideal length of lead rope for this distance, not too short nor too long!

The most valuable question to use when you're out there with your horse... what does *your* feel feel like to the horse?

The ideal feel is similar to that of a skilled dance partner. Not too firm or abrupt, but not too flimsy, wimpy or predictable. Dancing, like horses, is for the ultimate enjoyment of both parties, so expanding our skills in feel and timing is truly appreciated by every horse we 'dance' with!

This is why I teach people how to find and hold an 'effective feel' on the lead rope or reins as a habit. The rope/reins are held long enough so there's no pressure on the horse when they're doing the right thing, but short enough that the horse would feel a change in pressure when your hand moves.

Horses *want* a feel to follow. They want to be challenged and are craving the type of interaction with us that is both engaging and enjoyable. Experiment with this concept, whether it's new or simply a reminder of what you already know.

There is one other way I know of that will greatly accelerate your skill of feel with horses. Do you really want to know? Take dance lessons! (♥)

Plan a Retreat... With Your Horse!

Every relationship needs reconnection now and then, and your horse is no different! The 2009 Southwest Winter Camp at Bumblebee Ranch in Bumblebee, AZ has been scheduled for February and is now open for early-bird bookings.

This is the fourth year of the SW Winter Camp, and every year is unique and expanding. Two one-week courses are scheduled. The first week is for the foundation group, and the second week for the advancing group.

Several folks prefer spending the entire two weeks since one week doesn't quite seem long enough when you're making great progress with your horse!

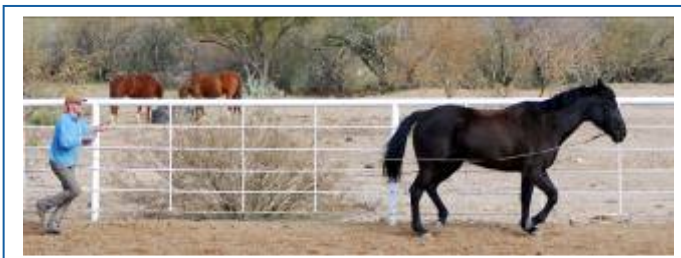


With a big, comfortable house to stay in and wonderful meals (pre-dieting is strongly recommended!), these two weeks of intensive horsemanship study goes fast!



Even the lunch, dinner and evening discussions are all around our favorite subject... the horse!

Past attendees agree that the total immersion environment gave them a huge jump in their horsemanship, with plenty to take home and practice!



If you've been thinking about what you've been missing from the past Winter Camps, now's the time to commit to gaining the level of skill you've been dreaming of.

Consider it an investment in your relationship with your horse! (♥)



"Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity.

Don't fight them.

Just find a different way to stand."

- Oprah Winfrey



*Enjoy your journey with horses!
- Karen & Gherkin*