

PCHA

March 2022

*Foal Season Has Arrived!*

*In this issue:*

*2022 Show Schedule*

*Embracing the Suck*

*A Way to Develop "Feel"*

*We Need Your Help*

[@http://dscphotography.net](http://dscphotography.net)

**Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association**

# 2022 Show Dates

**May 7 & 8** - Keystone Horse Center, Bloomsburg, PA

**June 18 & 19** - Keystone Horse Center, Bloomsburg, PA

**Sept 17 & 18** - *Memorial Cutting* - Keystone Horse Center, Bloomsburg, PA

**Oct 21 - 23** - *Appalachian Circuit Finals* - Dream Park, Logan Twp, NJ

*Register for PCHA shows online at [pchacutting.com/showinfo](http://pchacutting.com/showinfo)*

*On-site registration is also available*



## PCHA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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AND  
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IS A WAY OF LIFE

**Barb & Sandy both have clinics & retreats.  
Sandy's judging schedule is also posted on her website.**

*SandyCollier.com*



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*It may seem a little odd to write about the Corona virus now, but this article from John McElroy is timeless - sharing something we all need.*

Josh McElroy is a Best Horse Practices Summit board member and horse trainer. Living in Kentucky, he'll be instrumental in helping with the coordination of the 2021 Summit in Lexington. Josh is also an Army veteran and is a Medical Operations Section Chief for the National Guard.

McElroy writes:

As we enter the 10th month of this global pandemic, the world can feel like it is spinning out of control. There is no such thing as a schedule. There are people who are losing their lives and livelihoods. The political climate is tenuous and contentious. But there are moments, even days, of peace available. You just have to have the right perspective. And maybe a horse or two.

Josh works with a young horse

I have had the privilege of saddling up horses in -20 degree weather to break ice on water tanks for thirsty cattle. I have branded hundreds of calves in dust so thick you couldn't see a man on his horse 30 feet from you. I have had the privilege of being wet and cold for days on end. I have cleaned the blood of my friends from my hands and washed it from vehicles and aircraft. I have had the privilege of going 50 hours with no sleep. I have waded through hip-deep snow hoping I didn't trip an improvised explosive device. I have had the privilege of literally fighting for my life. I have had the privilege of seeing the worst that humanity has to offer.

Now, if none of the things listed above sound like privileges, then we have different perspectives. I was taught long ago to do what is called "embracing the suck". It's a military term that establishes that the current situation is bad and the only positive option is moving forward. We not only accept that it is bad, but find a worse situation or experience to compare the current situation to. It is a form of gallows humor. It forces you to focus on your reaction to the situation and not the situation itself.

Josh on deployment abroad

The simple act of "embracing the suck" has gotten me through many, many hard days. It has also given me the mindset to know that as bad as things seem, they could be worse. It is why I can see all those seemingly terrible experiences as privileges. Without them, I might not see the current world situation as "that time when everything sorta sucked for about a year." But I was alive to watch my kids learn and grow, to be a husband to my wife, to be horseback most days, and maybe make someone else's day or week a little better.

Since the pandemic has rearranged the world, I have also had the privilege of getting quite a few young horses to start. Now I spend most days focusing on how to make progress with each one in their own way. Some days require saddling and riding three or four horses. Others require standing with a single horse until he can feel a little comfort in a situation that has caused him trouble in the past. Or, I might be helping someone see how they can be better for their horse and possibly see things differently in themselves.

Josh and his son recently

I do not discount that the stress of current times has affected me and my mental health. But I've found that the connection I seek with the horses has insulated me from the majority of the stress and uncertainty swirling around us.

When I see anxiety in the horse before I touch them, I know I am allowing the outside world intrude. It allows me the window to focus on what is important and what is good. I know if I don't, I will ONLY see what is undesirable and bad. If I take the time to connect with the horses where they are, it gives me the ability to remain sane and centered. This can happen if I focus on the right perspective.

This year has given me the chance to work on perspective as well as mental health. I've had the chance to refine my communication with my training horses and the humans I interact with. Without the pandemic, I would not have had the chance to really work on these things in a meaningful way. I know what my limitations are and what I can affect in the world around me. I do not have control of anything except my own reactions. I must own the consequences of those reactions. That thought could either be terrifying or liberating — depending on your perspective.

daily thoughts to bring out your best with your horse

*just for today ...*

- with barbra schulte

*This quote resonates with me.*

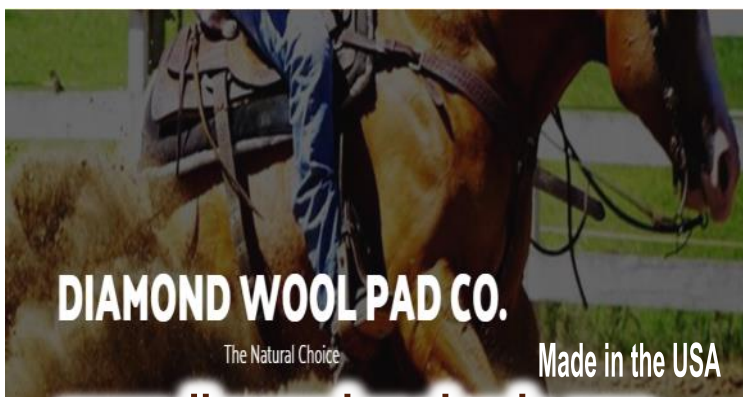
*It embodies one of the noblest reasons why we enjoy our horses so much.*

***"At its finest, rider and horse are joined not by tack  
but by trust.***

***Each is totally reliant upon the other.***

***Each is the selfless guardian of the  
other's very well-being."***

*~ Author Unknown*



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

Over the years, I've heard this comment a lot. "You can't teach 'feel' with a horse. You either have it, or you don't." I don't really subscribe to that opinion.

I believe feel is a phenomenon of clear perception combined with sensitivity in back-and-forth communications.

I think feel exists in our body via a softness in the saddle, movement with our horse, and how we use our eyes, breath, seat, and hands.

And last week I learned one more way of looking at the elusive concept of feel.

That's what the video at this address is all about. <https://barbraschulte.com/a-way-to-develop-feel/>

Over the years, I've heard this comment a lot. "You can't teach feel with a horse. You either have it, or you don't."

I don't subscribe to that opinion. I do think some riders are born with an extra shot of physical talent, like balance and coordination, but I don't think that determines "feel." I think it helps their balance and coordination. (-: Others would say that only experience teaches you feel. I agree that experience is necessary and certainly helps - but - I've seen those who have tons of wet saddle blankets under their belt, and they still don't have that elusive quality of feel. I've also seen others who have a relatively short amount of time in the saddle and have lots of feel.

I believe feel is a phenomenon of clear perception combined with sensitivity in back-and-forth communication. It's a willingness to see how the other sees the world from their perspective - and how they best communicate. And then, they do everything possible to facilitate a mutual language back and forth that builds confidence.

I think feel exists in our body via a softness in the saddle, movement with the horse, and how we use our eyes, breath, seat, and hands.

Last week I learned an additional way of looking at feel.

I enjoyed attending the Excellence in Horsemanship event in Las Vegas hosted by Andrea Fappani's Along for the Ride podcast.

Andrea, Nick Dowers, and Shawn Florida (plus other great horsemen from different disciplines) demonstrated horsemanship and reining maneuvers - and shared ideas about how they approach teaching a horse, preparing them to show, etc.

Nick Dowers spoke on several occasions about allowing a horse to "follow the feel." To me, it was a great way to express a rider (or person on the ground) who methodically cues a horse, is patient to wait for the horse's response, and then allows the horse to follow through on their own, whether it be moving their feet or connecting to a cow.

[Barb demonstrates a back-up on Nic.]

Now, I'm not positive that I'm interpreting what Nick said in the exact way he meant it, but that's what I understood.

Be clear about what you want. Communicate the 'ask' with your horse. Give them time to interpret your cue, and allow them to follow the feel of the ask, which is also a release of pressure.

If they don't respond, don't crank on them (for lack of a better description.) Communicate again with more energy in the cue or additional energy with your feet.

The key is to set it up so the horse feels the communication and has time to respond. The rider's attitude is not to demand but to know how to set it up and allow it to unfold.

The 'know how to set it up' part can be something you don't always know, but that approach and attitude will help you discover feel over time.

And it's not about being timid, either - or settling for sloppy responses. It's about knowing how to see things from the horse's viewpoint, be consistent with your cues, and allow the horse to 'find the feel,' which means giving them a moment to respond and follow through. When they do, the rider then rewards them with a pause or a rest.

Thank you, Nick, for that perspective, and I hope I represented it accurately.

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# WE NEED YOUR HELP

To all our PCHA members:

Our PCHA cuttings cost quite a bit of money to produce and as you know inflation is being seen everywhere. As a club, we would like to continue holding quality shows as well as offer added money classes, but **WE NEED everyone's help..**

As you know, we offer \$500 added money classes each day in the Open & Non-Pro, \$300 added in the 25K NH, 5K NH and the 5K NH NP as well as \$200 added in the 50K Amateur and 25K NH NP.

**However, we will not be able to continue doing so if we don't receive your help finding generous sponsors. The future of our PCHA club depends upon it.**

Most recently, we had a group of members who graciously sponsored year end awards allowing us to extend recognition to Runner-up winners as well as Champion and Reserve Champion. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has sponsored us in the past, and we would love to continue growing our PCHA community!

We need all of our members to do their part by asking their farriers, vets, suppliers, friends, local businesses, etc for a sponsorship. It can be any amount as it all helps to cover expenses to hold our cuttings.

You can help PCHA grow our sponsor network by...

- Reaching out to businesses you think would benefit from having their name in front of avid cutters, and horsemen.
- Sponsoring a class show by show or for the entire year.
- Grabbing a few fellow members to jointly sponsor a class together.
- Sponsoring a class in honor of the memory of someone who inspired you – or inspired some of our cutters throughout PCHA.

We offer a variety of sponsorship packages providing visibility and access to our PCHA events and members. This can include banners hung up at shows, social media shout outs (*we have over 1.95k followers on Facebook alone*), class naming rights, show announcements, or logo displays on the website and in our monthly newsletters.

For more information, please see the Sponsorship deck on our website, which outlines the various Corporate and Individual sponsorship levels as well as a sponsorship form that can be filled out and returned to Treasurer, Bill Stein.

Please refer to this sponsorship deck when asking for any type of donation.

Thank you all for your continued support of this sport we love!

We CANNOT do it without you!

Michelle Sterner McNutt, PCHA Director

-on behalf of Dave Phillips, PCHA President & the Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association Board of Directors

Check out the various sponsorship opportunities and sign up to become a sponsor @

<https://www.pchacutting.com/sponsor-info>



## PCHA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing this form, I am committing to being a PCHA sponsor for the following:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and receive the advertising benefits this  
sponsorship entails. I understand that advertising benefits will not begin until the sponsorship  
commitment is paid in full to PCHA.*

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## BILLING INFORMATION

Amount of Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: (check a circle)

Check Included. Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (check payable to PCHA)

Invoice Me

Cash

Send to: Bill Stein, PCHA Treasurer, 495 Schell Road, Turbotville, PA. 17772  
Email: [hws711@gmail.com](mailto:hws711@gmail.com) with any sponsorship questions.



# PCHA

Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association

**2022**  
Membership &  
Nomination  
Application

To help ensure we have accurate information, please complete the entire contact section.

Name:		Date:	
Address:			
Primary Phone:		Alt. Phone:	
Email:			

**Membership Applications**     \$25 per adult

\$15 per youth\*

NCHA # Adult 1		NCHA # Youth 1	
NCHA # Adult 2		NCHA # Youth 2	

All nominations include rider and all horses shown by PCHA member. Award recipients must participate in 40% of the PCHA approved classes. The rider and owner of any horse must be a PCHA member for points to count for year end awards. Only money won after paid nominations will count toward year-end awards.

*NOTE: Youth are required to be PCHA members for points to count towards year-end awards, but the owners of horses they ride may be non-members.*

**Nominations**     \$75 per adult

\$25 per youth

Adult 1:		Youth 1:	
Adult 2:		Youth 2:	
Adult 3:		Youth 3:	

**Newsletters:** In an effort to reduce cost, newsletters will be electronically shared through email, Facebook, and our website. Click on the link at the bottom of the membership page of our newsletter to subscribe to our email list.

**My signature below confirms** all information, nominations for year-end awards, and my donation to the PCHA.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed forms to Bill Stein:**  
495 Schell Rd, Turbotville, PA 17772  
or hws711@gmail.com

Qty	MEMBERSHIP:	Amt
	Adult(s) @ \$25 each	\$
	Youth(s) @ \$15 each	\$
	<b>NOMINATIONS</b>	
	Adult(s) @ \$75 each:	\$
	Youth(s) @ \$25 each:	\$
	Donation to PCHA:	\$
	Total Enclosed:	\$

Thank You!

<b>Office Use Only:</b>	Payment received:    ___ On Settlement    ___ Cash    ___ Check # _____
	Received by: _____ Date: _____