

# BACA HORSE NEWS

June 2020

During these trying times, Carol, Stephanie, Linda and I want to reach out to all our friends (both 2 legged and 4) to make sure everyone is doing ok. We have all been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic – be it the virus itself, the sense of isolation or just the issues of our suppliers being out of stock or closed. The Friends of the Bacas supporters has grown significantly. This provides us with a huge network of friends and family that we can turn to for help in finding new sources, gathering ideas, etc. If there is anything that we can do to help you, please email me and I can put out a request to our Baca group. As a note, we are changing this newsletter to biannually. I apologize for getting this edition emailed late.

On to happier news ... the Shelter in Place mandate allowed me to live at Blue Oaks Center for over a month (thank you Carol!!). I was able to spend a lot of one-on-one time with the Bacas and the experiences I had were priceless. Each one has such a unique personality and they are all so appreciative of the time you spend with them, even if I was just detangling their mane! Herd dynamics were very interesting especially when a mare went into heat. Of course Savache is the most vocal in what he wants but there are also 4 more males: the 3 year old (Esteban), the 2 year old (Sevillano), the 15 month old (Rocky) and the 1 year old (Legado) who all want in on the action. I so enjoy watching the girls take off across the pastures with manes and tails flying! I would love to take them all home with me, but our suburban home with its postage stamp backyard just won't work! Time for me to find a new house ... ranch house!

## I. Center for America's First Horse (Stephanie Hayes)

News from The Center for America's First Horse  
by Stephanie Hayes

As with the rest of the country, so many plans are put on hold due to COVID19. There is one event however that isn't cancelled...the birth of Santino's first offspring in early June! Maya, a beautiful grulla mare who has been one of my top horses at The Center is expecting very soon. This will be her second foal and we are very excited to see how Santino will stamp his offspring. She looks fantastic and is enjoying maternity leave. After weaning her foal, she will return to being the main ride for one of my junior riders.

I'm honored and happy to announce that The Center for America's First Horse was chosen for The Livestock Conservancy's Northeast Micro Grant for 2020. The award funds are allocated to pay for semen collection, testing and frozen storage on Santino and any remaining funds will be used for breeding expenses. I'm grateful to the Livestock Conservancy and its donors to allow me this opportunity to further the preservation efforts.

Last month The Spanish Barb Horse Association approved registration for Morado, Santino, and the mare Eliza. Santino will be eligible for the Permanent Division once he matures and is of full size. Any offspring of Eliza or Santino's will be eligible for SBHA registration. These three are the first Baca horses to be presented and passed for registration with the SBHA and I am looking forward to working with them to help promote the breed.

Hope everyone is staying well!  
Stephanie

Check out all the activities that are happening at The Center for Americas First Horse on her web page:  
[www.CenterForAmericasFirstHorse.org](http://www.CenterForAmericasFirstHorse.org)

## II. Blue Oaks Center (Carol Powell)

Big strides were made at Blue Oaks Center when the youngest colt was put to pasture with the 3 other colts. Esteban remains our little guy although at 3 years old he still maintains control over the other 3. Sevillano is very impressive with his grey base coat and black and white mane. At 2 years old, he is growing into the exact characteristics of what we are looking for in a Baca. Raquero (Rocky) is 14 months old and has been with his older "uncles" for a while. He is very friendly and gentle and is always the one who wants to be next to people. Raquero has turned out to look similar to his full brother Santino but built more like Savache, his sire. Our baby, Legado, is 11 months old and was just turned into this colt pasture. It is such a pleasure to watch him running along with the others and although shy at first, he is right up there wanting attention.



Esteban, Sevillano, Raquero and Legado





El Sevillano  
(Sevillano)



Estebandro  
(Esteban)



El Raquero  
(Rocky)



El Legado  
(Legado)



The BOC Baca Breeding Plan did not schedule any new foals for 2020. The Plan for 2020 is to focus on placement of the 2 and 3 years old into foster preservation sites. We are looking for partnerships in raising, handling and performing with these very dedicated horses. All the colts have been approved for collection and will be gelded. Gelding will allow these fine 2 and 3 years old colts to grow to full maturity and excel in their performance whether it be Trail, Working Equitation, Dressage or in Equine Assisted Learning Programs. In addition, several of the Baca horses will be retired this year and are looking for loving homes to see their senior years out in comfort and dignity. Please contact us at Blue Oaks Center, if interested. We would love to work with you!

This city slicker turned cowgirl was super excited when I got to pick up my saddle the beginning of April. Mitch Chyczewski (Chyczewski Saddlery) is a world renown custom saddle maker and made this saddle specifically for the Baca frame. Note the Blue Oaks logo on the fender. It is beautiful as well as comfortable and we couldn't wait to put it on Adelina. We want to thank Mitch for his contribution of the incredible tooling. Our next step is to begin practicing Working Equitation.



For more information about BOC or for past copies of our newsletter, please visit our website:

[www.BlueOaksCenter.org](http://www.BlueOaksCenter.org)

### III. Sandhill Center (Linda Zimmerman)

One of this year's additions to the Baca preservation was born at Sandhill Center on April 10, 2020. A gorgeous colt was born to Sonrisa (Larga x Savache) x Relampago (Motita x El Rosio). If you go on Sandhill Center's Facebook page, you can watch a video of this active little guy at 4 days old as he plays with his mom.



Sonrisa 6 months pregnant



Sonrisa colt born April 10



11 Days Old

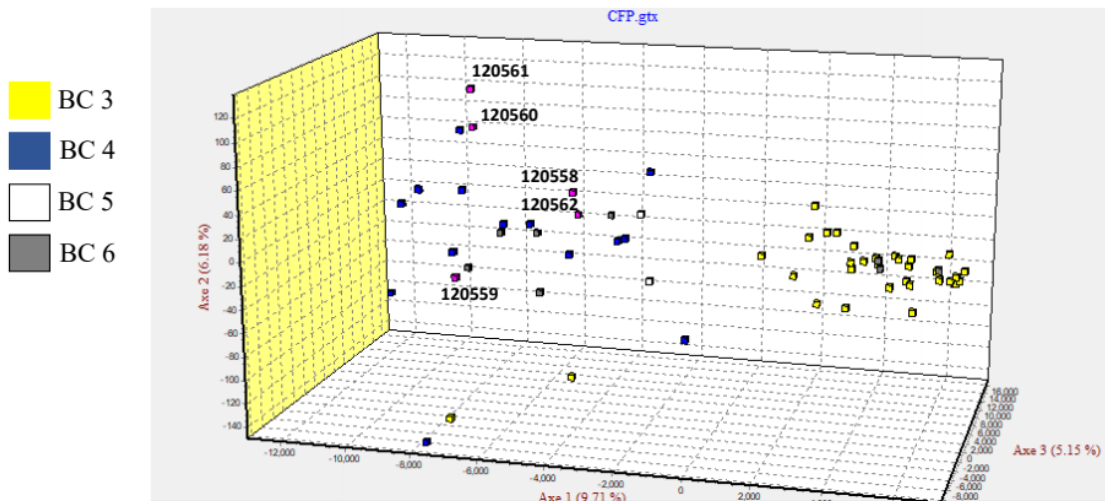
You can find out more information at [www.sandhillcenter.org](http://www.sandhillcenter.org)

## IV. Breeding Program

This year we experienced an expansion of breeding at two other Baca Herd locations: The Center for America's First Horse and Sandhill Center. This has been an exciting development as herds find expanded Breeding Centers. Congratulations to Stephanie and Linda! Blue Oaks Center will remain the main breeding and research Center for the Bacas.

We have spent most of this year at Blue Oaks Center gathering two more herd samplings of Barb Horses in Europe and Algeria. To date, our European samplings from 2019 appear to be the closest in confirmation, character, trainability and DNA Scatter Plot results. In addition, several breedings in Europe have taken place, with the European horses sought to be closest to the Baca Genetics. We are excited to learn if the cross breeding of these horses will result in an even closer DNA alignment with the Bacas. Following is one of the Scatter Plot graphs that shows how close the Bacas DNA aligns to the selected Algerian Barbs found in Europe.

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Blue – selected 2019 Algerian Barbs tested in Europe  
Yellow – Baca Herd



There has been some progress in identifying specific Baca mares to be outcrossed to the identified Barb Strains in Europe. More will be learned as we go along in the remaining months and look forward to an exciting 2021 Breeding Season for the Bacas. In addition, we will be considering some line breeding with selected Baca horses. Last, we are striving to collect our foundation stallions and several 100% foundation colts to place with the USDA Semen Depository and Tissue Samples deposited at Texas A & M for permanency of the Baca Herd. While 2020 has been a real challenge for all of us, the Bacas are resilient and continue to thrive and look to a great year in 2021.

## **V. The Universities Progress Report**

Carol Fuller Powell from Blue Oaks Center is providing us with this update:

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Cothran and his assistant Rytis Juras of Texas A & M for their work and guidance over the past couple of years in developing a solid and research-based Preservation Program for the Baca Strain Horse. These two Researchers have been instrumental in the Baca Horse Strain going forward. Through their efforts, we have gathered DNA samples from around the world and analyzed the significance of our Baca Herd here in America to their descendants from North Africa and Europe.

The preservation of this strain is crucial. Not only do they have historical significance, with their versatility they are making an important impact on our communities today. With their mild temperament, uncanny ability to sense human emotion and their smaller stature, they are amazing therapy horses. Currently two of the Centers are using them in Equine Assisted Learning for at-risk youth and having great success. The Baca Spanish Barbs are also excelling at Working Equitation and Dressage, winning ribbons in all categories. Several Universities (UC Davis, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech) as well as an International Algerian Barb breeding site in Belgium are working with us for DNA testing to assure the standard of the breed and establish diversity.

Sincerely,  
Carol Fuller Powell  
Founder, Blue Oaks Center

## VI. General Information

- Information from Google: Why are horses so important?  
“The adoption of the horse was one of the single most important discoveries for early human societies ... Horses were used in war, in hunting and as a means of transport. They were animals of high prestige and importance and are widely represented in ancient art, often with great insight and empathy.”
- It wasn't long ago when the Baca horses were near extinction. This is the reason that this Preservation Program is so critical. We would like to thank you for your continued interest in the Baca horses. We hope that you will consider donating to help prevent them from ever returning to “extinction”. All donations are welcomed and 100% of your money will be used to support the Preservation Program. You can donate through our website ([www.blueoakscenter.org](http://www.blueoakscenter.org)) or you may contact me at 510-673-5000.
- Would you consider sharing this newsletter to one new potential Friend of the Baca who might enjoy learning more about this strain? The Baca Herd thanks you.
- Please note that a copy of past newsletters can be found on our website at:  
[www.blueoakscenter.org](http://www.blueoakscenter.org)

Happy Trails,  
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