

BACA HORSE NEWS

January 2017

Happy New Year! 2016 was a fortuitous year for the Baca Colonial Spanish horses when a small group of amazing women came together to help preserve this wonderful breed. Our Baca Alliance currently consists of Stephanie Lockhart, Virginia Baca, Carla Bleicher, Renee Clark, Kelly Crockett, Annette Gonzales, Carol Powell, Linda Zimmerman and Marina Bigongiari. I would like to thank everyone for all the help and information that you have given me so that I can keep the Group updated. 2017 will be a very promising year for our Bacas and I am so excited to be a part of it.

I am starting this newsletter with Stephanie's report. I have copied it in its entirety – it was too good for me to paraphrase!

THE CENTER FOR AMERICA'S FIRST HORSE
JOHNSON, VERMONT

By Stephanie Lockhart

Looking back on 2016 it sure has proven to be a big year for the Baca horse project. The Baca horses who call The Center home were very busy with all of my little girl students who spend time with them. We spent a full week riding on our miles of trails and dirt roads, logging in 17 hours of riding in 4 days, covering about 30 miles total. Never once did the horses or the kids look weary. Four to five hours a day is just a warm up for these Colonial Spanish horses and the kids who range in age from 10 to 15.

In addition to the trail riding, all of our Baca horses shined brightly at local schooling dressage shows over the summer of 2016. Augustine, the least experienced of the group with his rider Maggie, 12, really rose to the occasion and everyone was so proud of what these two have accomplished in the last year. Not only are they a great pair in the show ring but trail riding has proven to be fun too.

Augustine was diagnosed with a possible tumor in his left eye in the fall of 2014, and it was removed promptly. He spent a few months recovering before Maggie started taking lessons on him again. Over a years time he has put his trust more into Maggie than he did previously. With his one eye now she has learned how to communicate with him from that side so he understands more clearly what is asked of him. She is the one that so patiently first introduced him to trail riding and helped him feel confident with the obstacles we came across on the rides.

Never once would I have known he was without an eye by the way he took everything in stride. We crossed a lot of deep mud, creeks, jumped over logs, wended our way up and down steep hills and Augustine led the way often. The future is looking good for this pair and I'm excited to see what more they do in 2017.

Ringo, Chispa, and Morado were also busy in the show ring and on trails this year. Ringo was awarded year end training level champion at our local dressage show series. This was quite an accomplishment for him because he really prefers a less structured job in his life. He has been a steadfast participant of our summer camps for the last five years and enjoys packing the little kids around. At 14 years old I figured it was time to develop his training a bit more so the more advanced kids could learn from him. He stepped up to the plate begrudgingly at first, but then he figured it wasn't so bad and was really fun to take to shows. He's so easy to take places with his relaxed personality. Everyone asked about him, impressed how a little 14 hand horse can have such big, lofty

gaits. Such a Baca trait!

Morado has also been impressing the dressage crowd with his style. The Baca horses are beautiful, balanced movers, making work in dressage come natural for them. Although he was highest scoring horse at one of the shows, it has been his development in dressage that has impressed the trainer I am now working with, a Hungarian classical dressage instructor. Morado's quality of movement, his attitude and work ethic are the traits that Miklos reveres in him. The level headedness of the Baca horses in all situations and surroundings are what attracted me to them from the very beginning. I'm very proud of how each and every one have grown into such useful and reliable horses for not only myself, but for my programs at The Center.

Although we are entering the coldest days of winter here in Vermont, my students and I are inspired by our Baca horses daily, learning so much from them and enjoying growing together with them. Stay tuned for more updates!

Thank you so much Stephanie for this informative letter. It sounds like the Bacas are doing very well there, despite the weather! I hope this letter reaches out to many experienced and novice horse people.

Carla Bleicher:

Carla is one of our biggest cheerleaders. She is always so pleased to hear about Catalina and Coloradita, who she just loves!

Renee Clark:

Renee and her daughter Allison are under the name Waha Ranch. Renee's two horses were sent to Carol's for breeding purposes (which was highly successful). Renee is attempting to get Annabelle registered with HOA. As soon as the rain subsides in California, Carol will try to get pictures of her to send in. Renee's second Baca, Relampago, is one of only two Baca stallions remaining. He is doing well. I am sure that both horses are looking forward to going home later this year, hopefully with Annabelle bred back to Savache and in foal. Once they return home, Waha Ranch will be a new preservation site.

Kelly Crockett:

November of 2016 brought much sadness to our Baca family with the loss of El Rosio. Our thoughts are with Kelly. We are very thankful that Kelly was able to send in hair pulls from El Rosio and he will forever be a part of this research. Looking at Facebook, Kelly appears to be keeping herself very busy with Windhorse Path. We are thankful for her support. We can all be grateful that El Rosio's daughter, Corazon, is in foal with Savache and is due early this summer.

Annette Gonzales & Virginia Baca:

I am giving a big Thank You to Virginia, Annette and her brother for all the wonderful information they sent to us to copy. I have been talking to both Virginia and Annette regarding Joty Baca's life and the history of the Bacas. They sent us newspaper articles, awards and a stack of pictures providing us with much background information. We appreciate all their help and look forward to more!

Ann Petrone-Smith:

Carol has been in touch with Ann Petrone-Smith from PA who owns the 2nd Relampago (son of Lindita and Comanche). He unfortunately is gelded but Ann has pulled hair samples to add to our DNA analysis collection and has sent us pictures of her gorgeous Baca. We are so appreciative of her help and participation.

Carol Powell:

Carol received name approval by the state of California: Blue Oaks Center for Equestrian Arts and Education. Blue Oaks will now function in 2017 as a division of Charis Youth Center, an organization that Carol founded in 1984. All of the Baca mares and stallions are doing fantastic (to give you an idea: in my next life I would like to come back as one of Carol's horses!). They are up to date on all brood mare medical needs and their wormings. With FIVE Baca mares in foal, she is now busy setting up nurseries and pastures for the moms and babies. Here are the due dates:

April 15 – Cori

May 30 – Adelina

June 4 – Corazon

June 8 – Coloradita

July 10 – Annabelle

Linda Zimmerman:

Linda was one of the first to respond to my request for information. She provided details on all of her horses and has agreed to do hair pulls. She also very graciously has offered her mare, Sonora, that we may want to breed!

We are trying to get in touch with the Garcia family to gather information on the three horses we believe are with them: Sierra, Mariah and Mariposa. No luck so far.

Another request: does anyone have information on El Pinon?

Lou Gonda and his manager, Christy Reich are a part of the Santa Cruz Island horses. Lou introduced us to Amy McLean and in July the three of them travelled up to Blue Oaks Center to perform the initial hair pulls and take measurements of our Bacas. Lou spoke of having a Summit Meeting to bring all our minds together. We hope the Summit will happen this year. We are very thankful for the support that Lou has given us.

Our biggest news for 2016 is that we have been blessed and encouraged by the support from Dr. Sponenberg, Dr. Cothran and Amy McLean, PhD. They are helping to facilitate all the DNA received and are collaborating with a vet researcher in Madrid, Spain. We are so fortunate! Dr. Sponenberg labeled these horses as RARE Colonial Spanish horses. This is why it is so important to get hair pulls on as many Bacas as possible, including geldings and mares that are not considered for breeding. Nice job everyone for getting the hair pulls in!

More good news: we are back in the Livestock Conservancy! The Bacas had been taken off due to concerns that active breeding was no longer occurring. Carol explained our preservation program to them and the Bacas were put back on the list. If you would like to take a look, go to www.livestockconservancy.org and look under Priority Conservation List then Horses, Spanish, Baca.

I hope that in the Spring everyone will have exciting news to share. Keep notes because I will be asking you! I am planning on doing a quarterly newsletter so please email me at any time you have news you would like me to include.

As you know, I am new to the horse world. Your help and support is so appreciated. Seeing your dedication and love of these amazing horses has been an inspiration to me. I truly believe that together, we will make a difference.

I would just like to end this letter by acknowledging the efforts given to us by Dr. Cothran and Dr. Sponenberg. All of us would like to give them our sincerest THANK YOU.

Happy Baca 2017!

Sincerely,
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