

Spanish Barb Horse Association



Summer 2020

A Word from the President

Hello to all of you Spanish Barb enthusiasts.

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the extra time with your horses that many have due to the unusual circumstances thus far in 2020.

First I want to say Thank You! to everyone who has renewed their membership this year, This is how we keep supporting the horses.

Sadly and with great reluctance, the Board has decided to cancel our Annual Meeting at the NAN Ranch this year due to the pandemic. We plan on being there in 2021!

We will have an Annual Meeting as per our bylaws but the details are yet to be worked out. We will keep the membership updated as soon as things are finalized.

At this time there are no plans for further events in 2020 but we are working on maybe something in the fall.

We will keep you all updated as soon as we know. Keep watching your email!

The Horses Thank You!
Beth Mendivil



Beth Mendivil & Lorenzo



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ELECTIONS ARE APPROACHING



If you are interested in being on the Board please contact Beth Mendivil at royaldomino@hotmail.com.

Seeking a Member who would be willing to research Grants for the Preservation of Critical horse breeds. Please contact Beth Mendivil at royaldomino@hotmail.com or 520 990 8414.



Bonnie Buntain



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AmazonSmile has donated \$52.00 to the Association so far this year. Thank you, Beth



If you would like your Newsletter via email which would save the Association dollars let Beth Mendivil know at

Royaldomino@hotmail.com. Thanks!



SPANISH HORSE COLORS

The following terms make no pretense of constituting a comprehensive list, but they will serve to illustrate the consummate brevity and minuteness of detail to which color nomenclature has been reduced:

Alazán--sorrel

Alazán tostado--chestnut sorrel, a color greatly esteemed

Alazán roán--golden-maned, light sorrel

Andaluz--yellow, with blondish mane and tail

Apumado--bay, dun, sorrel or black, with small white markings resembling feathers. Very rare.

Azulejo--dark blue roan

Barroso--smudgy dun

Bayo--dun

Bayo azafranado--light, bright dun of saffron cast

Bayo coyote--see Coyote

Bayo tigre--dun, with tiger stripes of black on the legs, often a stripe on the shoulders, generally a stripe down the back

Blanco--white

Canelo--blue and red roan mixed ("cinnamon-hued")

Cebruno--dark brown

Champurrado--chocolate brown

Colorado--bay

Coyote--dirty dun, with black back stripe, black mane and tail; i.e., with cabos negros---black points, or ends

Golondrino--dark brown with golden-brown flecks ("swallow colored")

Grullo--extremely dark gray, almost black; real gray, not a mixture of black and white hairs; mouse-colored, the word grullo meaning sand-hill crane. Does not change color with age.

Güero--albino, pinkish skin under white hair, pink eyes

Manchado--white, with large patches containing sparse black hairs, not enough to constitute gray, but sufficient to give a discolored appearance ("soiled" or "spotched")

Melado--white, applied usually to old grays who have lost their dark hair with age. True white, i.e., white from birth is blanco.

Mojino--dark brown, almost black

Negro--black

Obscuro--dark bay

Palomino--golden dun; highly esteemed in the American West but considered of little account in Mexico

Pinto--spotted; a general term--red on white, white on black, dun on white or vice versa; "calico"

Prieto--black

Retinto--bright bay

Rocillo--roan

Rocillo azul--ordinary blue roan

Rocillo picado--white with red roan flanks

Rusbayo--light dun with dash of gold

Sabino--piebald

Tordillo--gray ("thrush-color"); iron gray

Trigueño--from trigo, wheat; light brown

Zaino--bay with light markings of any kind

In addition to the above basic colors, the following terms denoting minor peculiarities of color and markings are common:

Cabos negros---black mane and tail

Carablanca--blaze-face

Casquinegro--black-hoofed

Coliralo--sparse-tailed

Colicorto--short-tailed

Coludo--long-tailed

Criniralo--sparse-maned

Crinudo--long-maned

Cruzado---cross-marked on forehead

Estrello--star on forehead

Picoblanco--white-nosed

Rabicorto---short-tailed

Rabón---short or bob-tailed; refers to actual mutilation, not to short hair

Rabicano--tail and mane dark, with white hairs intermixed

Zarco--"glass-eyed," either one or both

White foot markings are described by convenient combinations with:

Albo--white

Cuatralbo--four white feet

Tresalbo--three white feet

Dosalbo--two white feet

Manalbo--white forefeet

Trasalbo--white hindfeet

Patablanca--one white hindfoot

Manoblanca--one white forefoot

Source: Mustangs and Cow Horses, Published 1940 by Texas Folklore Society

Juanita

By Silke Schneider



Juanita in May of 2019. I rode her and also ponied Josefina off her. Juanita seemed just fine. She was 25 years old at that time.



In June of 2019 she seemed a little bit off on her front left foot.



I took her to our local vet office. They suggested that it was just some arthritis and prescribed some bute. We took her front shoes off the next day. I just had that feeling ... and we found a huge separation of the hoof wall. It seemed to go way up too.



I took her to Dr. Jenson's Equine clinic in El Paso. He x-rayed Juanita's front feet and we found this ... I almost fainted ...



The coffin bone in her left front was headed straight down towards the sole (right picture). The left picture is an X-ray of her right normal front foot.

Dr. Jenson, Dr. Turnbull, and Doug the farrier diagnosed Juanita with severe Whiteline Disease. The fungus had separated the hoof wall and caused the coffin bone to rotate. Had we not found it at this time, the fungus would have attacked the coffin bone and that would have been the end.

Juanita

By Silke Schneider



It was decided to trim off all the dead hoof wall.



We left Juanita in boots rather than shoes because of the severity. I soaked her foot in 'White Lightening' three times a week and changed her boots twice a day. I took her back for x-rays and mini trims every 4 to 5 weeks until December 2019.

Amazingly Juanita was sound during the whole ordeal. In boots of course. I started to take the boots off at night when she was in her barn with shavings. During the day she was on the rocks with her friends in boots.



The last X-ray was taken in El Paso in November of 2019. The coffin bone looked almost completely normal! Unbelievable!



Slow progress from the beginning. Frequent, correct trims and soaking in White Lightening three times a week



Juanita's foot in November. Almost completely normal! Note: the heel was lowered over time, a little at a time, to re-align the coffin bone.

Thankfully Juanita has fully recovered. She is back to light riding. We put front shoes back on her. The hoof wall has completely regrown. I mostly pony her out on the trails. She is now 26 years old. What a miracle girl! I am very grateful for Dr. Jenson's Equine clinic and team for not giving up on her!

SBBA HISTORY & HORSES

By Peg Frietag

The SBBA was founded by two individuals, Peg Cash and Susan Field, who were devoted to the Iberian/Barb descended horses which the Conquistadors brought to the Western Hemisphere. Both individuals had been involved with the Spanish Mustang Registry (SMR) but found their philosophy did not coincide with the goals of the majority of the people in that registry. At the time, the founders of the SMR seemed content to preserve and perpetuate the horses as they were found in the late 19th, early 20th century. The founders of the SBBA desired to carry the goal one step further by not only preserving and perpetuating, but breeding to restore the horse closer to the original. Time and circumstance had wrought changes in the horses and the SBBA founders desired to try to recapture some of the original characteristics.

Susan Field was the individual who selected the foundation stock for the SBBA as she was the experienced horsewoman and had been closely associated with Bob and Ferdinand Brislawn and the McKinleys, all breeders of Spanish Barbs. She also furnished the more contemporary history on the horses because of this association. Peg Cash handled registry business and was also the individual responsible for researching the history of the horse before it reached this hemisphere. She then compiled and put together the promotional material for the new registry.

The first stallion to go into the new registry was a horse named *Scarface* (*Red Ant* x *Canada*) from one of the McKinley ranches. The McKinleys were cattle people who purchased a New Mexico ranch from the D.D. Romero family in the early 1950s. *Scarface* was not an unknown quantity. Both he and his sire, *Red Ant*, were registered with SMR (*Red Ant*, SMR-82; *Scarface*, SMR-118). A McKinley Ranch advertisement circa 1967 stated "Our horses have run on a ranch owned by one Spanish family for 140 years. Prior to this, the land was Spanish Territory dating back to Coronado's conquest. Come and see them or write for information. Our stallion, *Scarface*, is standing at stud." *Scarface* would prove himself to be a very prepotent sire, one that could be successfully crossed with all the bloodlines to follow, as well as one that could be successfully line bred.

The second stallion to go into the Registry was a Gaskin bred horse named *Rawhide*. His pedigree was straight Belsky blood. *Rawhide's* ancestors were bred by Ilo Belsky, a rancher well known for breeding excellent using horses of Spanish descent. Ilo referred to his horses as "Spanish Cowponies" and he devoted his entire life to producing quality Spanish Cowponies. The Belsky line was the first to be inducted into the Registry with a history of selective breeding by a rancher. While these horses were selectively bred, it does not mean they were not free to roam thousands of acres on his Phantom Ranch located along the Nebraska and South Dakota border. It means

that Belsky determined which stallion ran with a certain band of mares. Belsky stock has come under fire from some corners and been questioned as to its purity. This has resulted from the fact Ilo Belsky was such an honest man. He readily admitted to having crossed some of his cowponies on draft horses. One must remember there was not the heavy farm equipment of today available back then and men like Ilo Belsky would be the last to avail themselves of it even when it did become a part of farming and ranching. He used his crosses to form work teams. He likewise would go on to tell anyone that those crosses to be inferior to the pure Spanish cowponies. He was an eccentric man in many ways but is known to have always been honest and a man who did not misrepresent his stock. *Rawhide* was not registered with SMR but other horses of Belsky breeding were registered in SMR before the SBBA came into being and Belsky elected to register his horses with the SBBA. This decision also marked the beginning of certain allegations being made by other associations against the Belsky stock.

The next horse to be inducted into the Registry and to become the third foundation bloodline was a mare named *Coche Two*. *Coche Two* had been registered with SMR as *Coche II*, SMR-88 and she was a granddaughter of *Buckshot*, SMR 1 on the top and *Ute*, SMR 2 on the bottom (*Cochise*, SMR33 x *Cola*, SMR-18). Her grand-sire, *Buckshot* (*Monty* x *Bally* SMR 35), was bred by Monty Holbrook and foaled in 1943. *Buckshot's* dam, *Bally* was *Monty* x Roan appaloosa *Ute* mare. *Coche Two's* dam, *Cola*, SMR 18 was *Ute* SMR 2 x *Penny*, an unregistered mare used in the SMR breeding program. *Coche Two's* grandsires (*Buckshot* & *Ute*), top and bottom were full brothers and both those horses were products of having bred sire to daughter.

The fourth horse to be inducted and to be the basis for the fourth foundation bloodline was a mare named *A-ka-wi* (SMR-87). *A-ka-wi* had likewise been registered with SMR, having been bred by Shane Brislawn and foaled in 1961. *A-ka-wi's* sire was *Choctaw*, SMR-66 and her dam was *Shawnee*, SMR-31 and she was a granddaughter of *Yellow Fox*, SMR-3 on the bottom. *Yellow Fox* was a buckskin stallion that according to the SMR Studbook was foaled in 1952, sired by a Cheyenne Indian buckskin stallion and a Cheyenne Indian pinto mare. *Choctaw* SMR 66, according to the SMR Studbook was a chestnut stallion foaled in 1956, Feral Spanish stock x Feral Spanish stock.

Scarface, *Rawhide*, *Coche Two* and *A-ka-wi* became the original four bloodlines within the SBBA Registry. Each of these individuals had documented breeding for at least one generation. They were assigned the numbers Permanent Foundation 1, PF-2, PF-3 and PF-4 and were

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about as diverse in their breeding as was available at that time. SMR 1 and SMR 2 were full brothers and SMR 3 was off a Cheyenne reservation so neither of the mares were related nor were they in any way related to *Scarface* or *Rawhide*.

Several years later a fifth bloodline was established with the inclusion into the Registry of a horse named *Sun*. *Sun* had been registered in the SMR registry by his owner Ferdinand Brislawn under the name of *Sioux Chief*. He was an own son of SMR 4, *San Domingo*, a horse that had been obtained from the Santo Domingo Pueblo. His dam was a daughter of *Ute*, SMR 2. *Sun* became P-20 after having proved himself by consistently producing horses of Iberian/Barb phenotype. While the *Sun* bloodline is considered one of the foundation lines, he did not carry a PF number due to his entrance into the registry later than the other foundation numbered horses. It would be almost 25 years before another strain, the Wilbur-Cruce Mission Horse, would be included in the SBBA Registry and even then, the strain would be kept in a separate division for observation of production and awaiting it being crossed with the other strains. When one is embarked upon preserving and restoring a breed which: a) does not have continuous written documentation; and, b) is known to have '--- degenerated somewhat from the original, one must pay close attention to phenotype in the early breeding efforts. Every horse is a result of his genes and his environment. In other words, GENOTYPE (the genes inherited from both parents) + ENVIRONMENT (conditions and elements which make up the surroundings and influence the development of the individual) = PHENOTYPE (the visible and measurable appearance of an individual which results from the interaction of his genotype and the environment). The question then becomes, is one satisfied with the phenotype of the remnants of the Iberian/Barb horse or does one aspire to work to regain as close as possible the phenotype of the original Iberian/Barb horse brought to the New World?

For those who question or seem to have a problem with the SBBA's goal to try and restore the remnants to more closely resemble the original in both type and inherited ability and characteristics, one might ask "why not" do so? Was the original Iberian/Barb horse not so exceptional that he was coveted and sought after to improve horses in cultures throughout the world? Does anyone consider the original to have been somehow inferior to his 20th century descendants, that original horse upon whose back this country was settled; that horse which survived sailing to the New World, then survived in a vastly different and often hostile environment. Would it not be rather presumptuous to ignore that heritage and not aspire to recapture as much of it as we can?

The SBBA took five strains to work with and endeavored to form a gene pool which could produce horses closer

to the original Iberian/Barb horse as depicted in the history and art of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. Each of the strains contributed to the whole, some maybe a bit more than others, but all contributed and likewise, the use of all five strains served to keep a healthy gene pool. One of the cofounders was so enamored with one strain that she inbred and close line bred that strain, using the other strains only very sparingly. Indeed she produced some excellent individuals, but at the time she was setting those desirable genes, she was also setting some less desirable recessive genes, which reared their ugly heads later on.

Culling is necessary in any breeding program. The SBBA carefully looked at each foal and followed it's progress to maturity. If a stallion or mare lacked the ability to consistently produce foals that would mature into the mediocrity, one ends up breeding mediocrity to mediocrity and what can the future hold except more mediocrity? If horses are referred to as a breed, then that group of related animals should show certain inherited characteristics that separate them from other members of the same species.

The SBBA and it's horses have over the years remained a bit apart from the other organizations breeding Spanish descended stock. This is partly because the early years were a time when brood stock was not sold to anyone who did not commit to become a breeder. There was work to be done, horses that needed to prove themselves through breeding. In later years, the SBBA continued to monitor production through inspecting each horse applied on for registration. Just because a foal was produced by a SBBA registered sire and dam did not mean it would automatically be registered. Each foal had to stand on it's own merit and it's application passed before official inspectors. It was much easier for someone to register horses in the SMR, a registry that would register any horse produced by a horse already in it's registry or other individuals who met their Inspector's approval. One might register with the SSMA, a registry that registered almost any horse even thought to be of Spanish heritage, using no system of checks and balances. Gilbert Jones relied heavily on his "eye" even though he was a life long student of Iberian/Barb descended horses and knew what they should look like. He tended to register anything which came down the pike.

It has been of interest to me as I have networked with the other registries that without exception they seem to admire the SBBA's work and feel that we did a good job in achieving our goal. I visited with Gilbert Jones back in the 1980s and he told me he thought we had done a wonderful job with our program and our horses. He went on to say that he would have joined Peg Cash and Susan Field when they formed the SBBA had it not been that he had sold horses of a lesser quality than the SBBA was

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going to accept. He felt he owed it to the people he had sold horses to not join and have to tell them their horses were of a poorer quality than what they thought and were unlikely to make it into the SBBA Registry. He was very candid about the early years and I felt privileged to have been able to have dialogue with him about it. I had heard the SBBA side of the story for years and was curious to know what people from SMR and SSMA had to say about the SBBA, going "way back when." The Brislawns were never open to much exchange of dialogue about the SBBA's "road less traveled" but I found it interesting that they were going back to McKinley's for stock as late as the 1980s and that some of their breeders began to selectively breed in later years.

Over the years I have found no reason to doubt my original choice of opting to become involved with the SBBA. I have sought to continuously avail myself of any and all opportunities to add to my education of the Iberian/Barb horse. I have traveled to Europe and would have made it to North Africa had the Gulf War not occurred the year Judy Smith and I were scheduled to go. I attended the first annual meeting of North American Barb breeders and owners in Germany and was lucky enough to see my first North African Barb horses in the flesh. Spain, Portugal, Peru, Argentina, Germany, all occasions to study the Iberian/Barb descended horses in the flesh and have an exchange with breeders in those countries.

SBBA members Jim & Lynn Graziano were in attendance at the first international meeting of the Organisation Mondiale Cheval Barbe in Algiers, Algeria in 1987. The SBBA was the only association in the United States breeding Iberian/Barb horses to receive an invitation to attend that meeting. Jim Graziano presented a paper on the Spanish Barb and both his paper and the photo album of our horses were well received. Later that same year the SBBA horses were invited, along with the Andalusian, Peruvian Paso, Paso Fino and Iberian Warmblood, to participate in the Festival of Spanish Horses in Culpepper, Virginia. This was to be the first time our horses would be judged by accredited Spanish judges and our horses received very high marks. We were complimented on our efforts to breed true to the original Iberian/Barb horse and were spared the scathing remarks directed at some Andalusian breeders whom the judges felt were not paying enough attention to breeding to keep shorter backs—a principal and highly valued characteristic of the original Iberian/Barb horse.

There are any number of choices available to individuals interested in the Iberian/Barb descended horses of the Conquistadors. I believe the last time Phil Sponenberg mentioned a number to me there were at least 13 of them. It then becomes a matter of investigating/studying the various registries/organizations and their horses, weighing what you learn about them and their goals and then deciding where you choose to be.



NEW HORSES

Bonnie Buntain, Tucson, AZ

- *La Milagra de Mogollon*

Richelle Valenzuela & Family, near Arivaca, AZ
Found out about the horses from reading Eva's book.

- *La Terrera Rocilla*
- *Dona Tomaza de Mogollon*
- *Luisa de Mogollon*

Wendy & Robert Fancher, Sahuarita, AZ
Found out about the horses from Richelle Valenzuela.

- *Fletcha de Mogollon*
- Lozan

Sandra Esposito, Trubuco Canyon, CA
Long time owner of Spanish Barbs

- *Matador Yates*



Spanish Barb Horse Association



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