



Achieving Success Informal Meeting:

July 13, 2023 at Coopers BarBQ

A small group of BACH members met at Coopers BarBQ for some food and companionship. The roundtable discussion included how members got started with horses, talking about an “aha” moment in regards to training and another “aha” moment about living with horses.

Interestingly, most of the attendees had a love of horses as very young children and none had the means or parental support to easily access riding lessons. Most stories included a lot of sacrifice and work on their part to be able to be around horses in any capacity.

Some of the highlights of the discussion:

- Schoolmasters: have an important part in rider education but they cannot really teach you how to train. Almost any horse can be a schoolmaster but some are more limited in what they can teach.
- Schoolmasters: are usually produced by knowledgeable and consistent riding by riders who have had the opportunities to make many horses along with access to instructors who already understand the training scale.
- Showing: Showing is hard work and is a specialty. Performing all the movements of the test is a start to successful showing but only part of it. Knowing what the horse thinks about being away from home, distractions and warm up preferences are some of the many facets of a successful show. Do we plan enough for the horse’s learning to relax and increase his confidence from one show to another? What sort of rider are we? Do we use the show as a measure of our training or is it irrelevant to our relationship with our horse?
- Gratitude: We all have a particular horse or person to whom we are very grateful for the opportunities that they gave us and made a big difference in the advancement of our riding.
- Non-riding opportunities: Access to being able to watch a knowledgeable trainer on a daily basis and watch his/her consistent methods that lead to the horse’s understanding and clarity about the job has been a big boon to some of the attendees.

The time flew by and we wished we had more of it. What could be better than talking with friends about horses!

