



MSFTA Fun De-Spook Clinic - June 13th, 2010 - 10:00AM Salisbury Park

Join us for a fun day of desensitizing/ De-Spooking your horse. Obstacles are only limited to your imagination.
R.S.V.P to: Susan Herzberg 303-564-9543 ~ foxtrottinsue@msn.com This is a **Freebie** clinic for Members!

Location: Salisbury Park - Parker, CO 9200 N Motsenbocker Rd, Parker, CO 80134

Bring a sack lunch and be prepared for a ride following the de-spooking clinic on the Cherry Creek trail, which can be accessed from the equestrian center. **Absolutely no dogs!** Also, you may want to bring a chair!

Hank Roberge is a new member for us, but, with greatly varied and rich horse experiences. I am proud to be able to work with him on such a fun day. Hank writes:

"I was introduced to the horse world when I bought my Fox Trotter Mare in 1992, and an old cowboy, Jim Wright and his wife who taught me to ride (the old cowboy way). At that same time I joined the US Marshals Posse that was active in the Front Range, and participated in their parades and patrolling of venues after the parade. We did such things as the Pike Peak Hill Climb crowd control, Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade, Grand Entry to the Rodeo, and Douglas County Fair parade and Patrol etc. We also ran pistol shoots for the sheriff departments monthly with the horses in attendance. Part of the requirements to ride with the Marshals Posse was to get your horse through a SPOOK session annually in the early spring. The SPOOK clinic consisted of a series of stress conditions for the horse and rider to prepare them for what they might encounter in the parades and patrol work. These conditions were sort of dramatic and to a degree much more challenging than what one would normally find on the trail. The MSFTA clinic will be directed to the more mundane factors that might be encountered on the trail. I also got involved in working for an outfitter, packing for camps and clients, guiding to hunting camps. As a charter member of the Four Corners Back Country Horsemen in 1994, I had the opportunity to ride the trails of the San Juan Mountains and live part time in Pagosa Springs and ride with the San Juan Back Country Horsemen.

One of the most enlightening times on Horseback, was when I lived in Florida and worked with a Dressage schoolmaster. I did not realize what a terrible rider I had been until that time and finally learned to ride with my seat and legs on a fabulous 15year old Dutch Warm blood that I had purchased. I hope to bring, patience, safety and understanding to

this clinic."

Objectives of the Clinic:

- To help develop trust between the horse and the rider.
- De -sensitize the horse to perceived common threats which may occur while riding, in any environment. By de -sensitizing, it is meant that the horse, although he may still be somewhat spooked by a perceived threat, will not react violently and will provide a safer option for the rider.
- The overriding objective is to provide a safe gentle environment for the horses and riders when a potential hazard is encountered while riding

Anyone who has ridden on the trail or in an arena setting has encountered situations where the horse has become wary or scared or perhaps may have bolted to something; a noise, a rapid motion of a dog or cow, big rocks, downed trees, equipment moving by etc.

Approach to be Used

The methodology is to introduce the horse to the challenge and walk him towards the hazard. The rider must show confidence. Everything is done slowly and deliberately, giving the horse plenty of time to become accustomed to the situation. If the horse resists, immediately take the horse away from the "threat" and, after a short breather, bring him back to face the hazard again, hopefully coming closer this time. This is the same form of pressure and release used in ground work. Do this several times. Allow the horse to do his best without kicking or spurring; using gentle leg and rein pressure only. After several attempts, when no further progress is apparent, call it good and move on to another situation. You have started to develop a trust in the horse. I think that it helps to talk to your horse and praise him for his effort.☺