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May's Message

My Dear Friends:

At the moment of this writing I'm in Germany and opening the very first European *Mountain Trail Course* by Mark Bolender. The excitement and enthusiasm of the people here is palpable, and the Mountain Trail community is beginning to come together around this course. And believe me, this is one beautiful course! The Baumbachs have spared no expense to build the premier site from which all others will be modeled. **See a lot more on page 2!!**

- Happy Trails and Bolender Blessings! - Mark

Mark's Training Tip of the Month

Using Poles to Train for Trail Obstacles

I use poles to both teach a horse to think and to teach it how to navigate logs. For the most part riders are amazed that their horse can learn to navigate logs so quickly when they get out of the horse's way.

Start by driving the horse over a simple set of poles. They help the horse concentrate on where their feet should go. I often use two, three and four foot spacing in my clinics before I start on the "scrambled

puzzle". The scrambled puzzle is a great way to work on foot placement. It's essentially many poles laid over each other in a relatively random fashion. They're easy to construct and give a horse a good sense of what might be found on the mountain trail by simulating downed logs and branches.

I've often been told by clients that their horse does not put its head down since it is not bred that way. I tell them that I

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Check the Dates!

The 2011 Premier Events Calendar is posted on Page 4. Be sure to check the dates for all Clinics and Expos this year.

We'll see you there!



Gold Rush Classic Peruvian Horse Show

June 24-26, 2011
Las Vegas, Nevada

See Mark's Unique Horsemanship
Demonstration and Clinic
June 24, 3-5:00pm, Main Arena

Western States Horse Exp



June 10-12, 2011
Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

Mark will be a Presenting
Clinician at this exciting event.
Don't miss the fun!
(Mark's dates TBA)

Hello From Germany!

The grand opening of the very first European *Mountain Trail Course* by Mark Bolender has finally arrived.

We've been working closely with Andrea and Hardy Baumbach for months. After a lot of planning and battling the elements, the course is finally open to enjoy. This is both a visually beautiful course and perfect for Mountain Trail training. It has 18 obstacles spread strategically over two hectares (about 5 acres).

Each obstacle is meticulously crafted and a lot of planning went into making the course blend into the gorgeous German countryside of Herbstein.

We're giving two clinics and one show during our stay. The clinics have attracted people from as far away as Switzerland, attesting to how the sport of Mountain Trail is catching on in Europe.

So imagine perfect spring weather, a field carpeted yellow with dandelions, and enthusiastic people out on an "ideal" Mountain Trail course, with a 1700's German village in the background. It looks as good as it sounds. Add the wildlife, like rabbits, deer and storks flying overhead and it looks like a movie set.

The German people are warm and hospitable, and the Mountain Trail

community is growing fast. Andrea and Hardy are the best hosts you can imagine, and have our sincere thanks for an unforgettable time. ◇



Coming out of the water obstacle.



Mark negotiating the balance beam.

Mark is in the rock field that's adjacent to the log field. Note the quaint little village on the hillside in the background. →



Beautifully constructed suspension bridge.



Coming down off the *Baumbach Peak*.

Ask Mark Bolender!

Do you have a question for Mark?

Your Q&A may appear in next month's newsletter!

Submit your question to:
info@UniqueHorsemanship.com

Anna Baumbach asks...

"I want to score well at the trail show so what is a straight entry and exit into and from an obstacle?"

Mark says...

"In order to score 2 points for an obstacle entry or exit, you must enter or exit a distance of at least 1 horse length. It should be straight and centered before entering the obstacle. The horse must drop its head to acknowledge the obstacle. If you're not straight, an automatic 1 point deduction is given. These are easy points to keep, so maintain your focus and ride each obstacle to the finish."

Get Certified In Mountain Trail!

Bolender Horse Park and Unique Horsemanship offer a unique and exciting Apprenticeship Program. This is a 3 day intensive course of training that will lead to Certification in Mountain Trail.

Program fee is \$850 and includes 3 nights of lodging, 12 hours of lessons from Mark, stall with bedding — plus dinner with Mark and his staff!

For more information about this fun and exciting opportunity, please contact Lee Sampson at 772-215-3989

Using Poles to Train for Trail Obstacles (continued from page 1)

have yet to see any horse of any breed, size or age that does not want to put its head down and inspect an obstacle if it's allowed. Instead, what I see is many riders trying to force the horse through obstacles without allowing the horse time to think. That results in a tight, high headed horse - of any breed. This is not natural for the horse but shows a lack of understanding from the rider's part. Do not remove this natural curiosity/instinct by hanging onto the bit and not letting the horse make decisions based on what it thinks. The end result is the horse will inspect the obstacle upon approaching and then move through in a nice forward motion and in a safe manner and will exit the obstacle in the same way.

So don't overlook poles as a tool for training a horse. The more poles you use and the bigger the random mess the better for training. Start with a few poles and add as the horse grows more confident. Finally you can build up to the scrambled puzzle. All of this will help you get ready for the more difficult trail items such as logs and rock.

Happy trails and Bolender Blessings!

- Mark



The poles above are laid out in a single layer. You can also scramble the poles in two or more layers for a much greater challenge.

2011 Premier Events Calendar

Expos and Shows

May 6-8, Horse and Tack Expo, Eugene Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR
May 20-22, Eugene Horse Show, Eugene Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR

June 10-12, Western State Expo, Sacramento, CA
June 24-26, Gold Rush Classic Peruvian Horse Show, Las Vegas, NV

July 21-24, AQHA Region One Championship Horse Show, Langley, British Columbia

October 1-2, Celebrate the Horse Expo, Linden, WA

Unique Horsemanship Clinics & Shows

May 13-15, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Cle Elum, WA (full)
May 20-22, Eugene Oregon Horse Show, Eugene, OR
May 27-29, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Bolender Horse Park, WA

June 17-19, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Rush Springs Ranch, MO

July 8-9, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Cle Elum, WA
July 15-17, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Bolender Horse Park, WA
July 10, Show Cle Elum, WA
July 29-31, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Corvallis, OR

Aug. 5-6, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Cle Elum, WA
Aug. 7, Show, Cle Elum, WA
Aug 12-14, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Bolender Horse Park, WA

Sept 2-4, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Bolender Horse Park, WA
Sept 23-25, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Faith Equestrian Center, Custer, WA
Sept 2-4, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Bolender Horse Park, WA

Oct 28-30, Unique Horsemanship Clinic, Bolender Horse Park, WA

Would you like to host a clinic?

It's fun and easy!

**For details, just contact
Lee Sampson at 772-215-3989**



Host a Clinic

Hosting a *Unique Horsemanship* clinic is easy and fun. As more and more people are interested in this sport, clients will come from miles to learn from Mark. His presentation style and proven training methods have made his clinics extremely popular attractions.

To guide you through the Clinic Hosting process, and for more information, just contact

Mark's Manager,
Lee Sampson at
772-215-3989.

Join Our Community Free!

Join our wonderful Unique Horsemanship community free until May 1, 2011.

For details, contact
Mark's Manager,
Lee Sampson at
772-215-3989.

Bolender Horse Park Membership

The idyllic setting of BHP is also home to the finest Extreme Trail/Mountain Trail courses in America. A \$50/mo Membership fee gets you unlimited riding in 2 arenas, 2 mountain trails, and a whole lot more! Visit us in person or on the web at www.UniqueHorsemanship.com



People Helping Horses

Press Release

Mark Bolender and his Unique Horsemanship will be at Celebrate the Horse 2011!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arlington, WA. January 25th, 2011- People Helping Horses is pleased to announce that Mark Bolender of Bolender Horse Park has committed to [Celebrate the Horse 2011!](#)

A FREE PUBLIC EVENT



Mark made his first appearance at Celebrate the Horse in 2010, with RAVE reviews and an enraptured audience. We are pleased to have Mark back with us in 2011.

Mark will participate in Saturday night's VIP Dinner/Auction as well as staying over into the following week for a clinic at the Northwest WA fairgrounds; details are still in the works, but as soon as plans are solidified we will let you know. The clinic will be open to both riders and auditors.

Mark Bolender's Unique Horsemanship

Mark Bolender is a nationally recognized horseman and instructor. He is also the country's leading expert in the sport of *Extreme Trail*, *Mountain Trail* and *Competitive Trail* and a three time National Grand Champion in the sport.



Mark at Celebrate the Horse 2010

Mark combines his vast experience as a horseman and trainer with a stimulating presentation style. As a former professional speaker, Mark entertains and informs his audience about this growing sport and his new twist on horse training. Central to Mark's training method is that, "*Good horsemanship is not about domination but leadership, and having the horse volunteer for a partnership with the handler.*"

Mark owns and operates *Bolender Horse Park* in Washington State. He also has designed and built *Extreme Trail* courses across the nation, each of which sponsors clinics. Mark's most recent course is operated by the Washington State Horse Park. Every one of Mark's courses is designed to challenge the horse and rider of any skill level within the sport. Mark has been invited to design and build the very first *Extreme Trail* course in Germany, which is a testament to the sport's growing popularity in Europe as well as Mark's leadership in the discipline.

Fun Fotos — From Germany!



You've heard of Mark's *Kimberly Peak* in Washington? This German version is the *Baumbach Peak*.



Anna and Lea Baumbach.



Lee lay'n some love on the Baumbach's 25 year old horse, *Moritz*.



Lee and Hardy in the old village of Lauterbach.



Andrea out for a stroll.



Mark and Hardy in Lauterbach.

