

www.CoventryEquestrianCenter.com

Indoor Arena has been sprayed with some natural mineral salts to hold down dust. And it is working wonderfully! This is so exciting because I was watering three times a week! Now I have an extra three hours for newsletters - aren't you lucky!

Please let me know if you plan to attend any of these shows and or Ryan Yap clinic.

Sept 4th - Mingo Hunter Show

Sept 10 - Cindy Syndor Dressage Symposium - I have paid to go to this clinic at UpHill dressage.

Sept 25th Castle Farm Dressage Schooling Show September 17th WPDA General Membership meeting at Rocking V in McDonald, Pa. Guest Speaker Ann Guptill (www.foxledgefarm.net) and Dana Fiore 630 - 7pm WPDA meeting, then speakers...

Dana - Using your Aids to influence the horse Ann - The Training Scale Sept 30th - Oct 1 & 2 - Ryan Yap at Rockin V October 15th - Equine massage clinic at Coventry

Every now and then I get of picture of me riding. Here is me and Brach last Tuesday. And, yes I purposefully wear blue when I ride him! We need blue boots! Watch out Robyn!



Interesting websites: http://www.bighorsedreams.com http://www.horseradionetwork.com/

## Gymnastic Training of the Horse

All trainers have a system. Well here is a briefing of mine. When training a horse we want it first Relaxed, Rhythmic & Round (contact) ~ The Three R's. We estab-

lish this on the Training Wheel of Training, which is the twenty meter circle. All the while working on the rider's correct position so the aids are used in clarity when riding. Developing the The Three R's also includes "positioning" the horse on the circle so its spine is traveling on the arc of the circle.

When we have mastered the Training Wheel then we venture off of it to the straight line, or "Off the Wall Riding" on the quarter line. When we can keep our horse's horizontal body straight with our vertical body (thank God we are riding a quadruped and not a centipede) we then develop the sitting trot on ten meter circles combined with leg yielding. Out of our sitting trot and perfect leg yielding keeping our Three Rs we then go into shoulder in.

Once we can coordinate all that using our aids in timing with the horse's rhythm, we go back to Training Wheel of Training and develop our Three R's at the canter. Both directions are mastered as we are training our horses to go equally on both sides of its body! Welcome to my world! Of course each horse and rider combination has variations to the theme! Bon Appetite with the riding! And happy holiday weekend...

I forgot to mention in the last newsletter, that the horse is straight on the straight line & the circle.

Figure that one out! More on that later....stay tuned ©

## **Straightness**

Basically the straightness of a horse refers to the 'line' following his spine from poll to tail.





