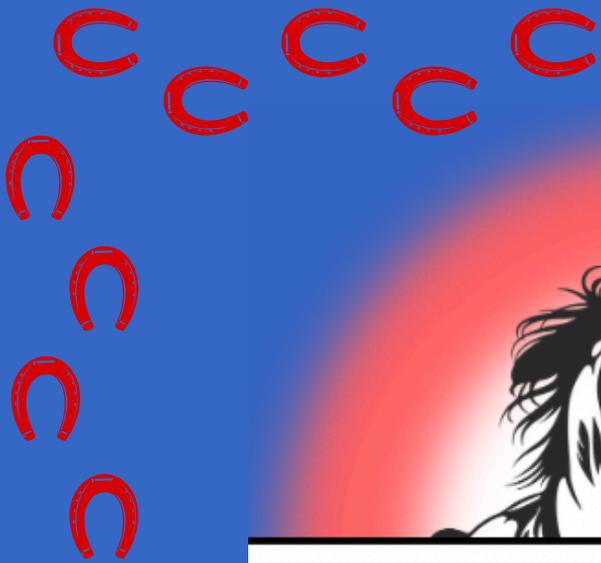


Organized by "Lucky 7  
Horse Rescue"



**BATTLE OF THE BEST  
TRAINING COMPETITION**

**LET THE BATTLE OF THE BEST BEGIN!**

**July 26th, 2025**

**Isanti County Fairgrounds, Cambridge MN**

***Open to the Public!***

Doors open at 10:00 AM!

12 PM: Technical Class

~4 PM: Freestyle Class

Horses sold at event in silent auction!

Ages, breeds, and skill levels all  
ranging!



Follow "K&K Horses" on  
Facebook for updates

# ABOUT THE BBTC

The Battle of the Best (BBTC) is a competition featuring trainers from all over the Midwest. These trainers have from April 5th to July 26th to work with an unstarted horse and train it to the best of their ability. Then it's time to compete against all other trainers in a battle to find out who is the best.

This is our 2nd year running the BBTC. There will be 4 divisions for horses and trainers. Division 1 is for unstarted horses shown at the walk, trot, canter. Division 2 is for unstarted 3 yr olds shown at the walk and trot. Division 3 is for horses that have been started but need more training or can benefit from more training. Peewee Division is for horses under the age of 2 that cannot be ridden yet.

The horses in the BBTC come from rescue situations or horse breeders and their backgrounds are all different. These horses were taken in by Lucky 7 Horse Rescue in Isanti, MN to be in the challenge and are offered for sale following a brief approval process.

All horses except those in the Peewee division will be available for sale at the event! Starting bid is \$2000!

All horses at time of sale will be up to date on vaccines, have had their teeth recently floated, be dewormed, and carry a current negative Coggins test. Each horse was vet checked for soundness and overall health in March.

# MEET OUR

# JUDGES



## Robin Secrist

At K&R Ranch you will find Robin Secrist hard at work. Robin has trained horses since he was a child. Robin has two specialties, (1) training young horses and preparing horses for endurance trail riding and (2) training horses with problems so their owners can leave with the animal that they want to take home with them. For Robin, training horses comes as naturally as breathing. His hard work ethic and fearless attitude makes him one of the most sought-after horse trainers in the area.

Over the past 45 years Robin has probably trained in the neighborhood of 4,000 horses. Ideally horses learn basic lessons at an early age (too young to be ridden) so when they are old enough to be ridden they will already be trained to understand their role; and be able to handle a range of activities that might 'spook' an untrained horse.

Robin believes in understanding the psyche of each individual horse and providing individualized training through kindness and repetition to get the horse to willingly submit to the owner's requirements



## Kaitlyn Fedewa

Kaitlyn Fedewa, owner of K&K Horses, is a horsewoman through and through. She has worked with horses her whole life, and begun learning about training at the age of 12. She has participated in three trainer's challenges herself in both Minnesota through MHARF and in West Virginia in the ATFO. In addition to training, she also has experience judging. Not only did she practice judging through 4-H, but she was also on her collegiate judging team at the University of Minnesota Crookston where she got a Bachelor's Degree in Equine Science. Most recently, she helps organize and judges the Battle of the Best Training Competition. She has been all over in her pursuit of working with horses, including New Jersey at the Standardbred Retirement Foundation, and Kentucky at a breeding farm called Willowbank.



## Anna Biffle

Anna has studied natural horsemanship for over 20 years. She owns Longstocking Stables in Zimmerman where she teaches primarily kids about horsemanship. Her favorite thing to do is play at liberty with her horse and when she's not teaching she's with her two young kids who also love horses.



## Kendra Putzke

Kendra, the other K in K&K, has been riding for over 15 years with lots of her experience being in the show ring. Her first horse was a free, green pony mare she trained all the way up to a successful show mount. While studying at the University of Minnesota Crookston, she rode for the equestrian team, got judging experience, and started a young, Gypsy Vanner stallion. The Fedewa's got her interested in helping rescue horses, and she went on to intern at the Standardbred Retirement Foundation in New Jersey retraining and adopting out Standardbreds. Since graduating college, Kendra has trained horses with Kaitlyn, got a golden retriever puppy, and moved to Florida to work under Adrienne Lyle for the show season. Now she's been home this summer training her own horses, driving the Fedewa ponies, and hiking with her dog.

# OUR SPONSORS



**\$500**

Mixed Forage Farms  
Dan and Shelly Carroll



**\$100**

Pony Trail Blazers



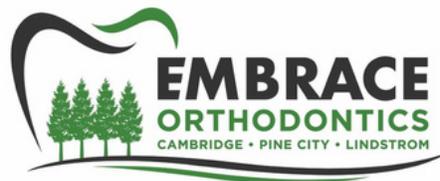
**\$500**

Anoka Equine  
Veterinarian Services



**\$100**

BarnumGate  
Companies

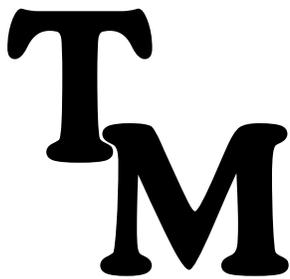


Embrace  
Orthodontics



**\$100**

NorthWind  
Farm Shelters



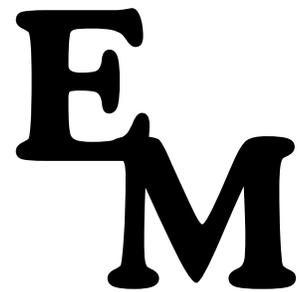
**\$100**

Theresa Meyer



**\$100**

DW Companies LLC



**\$50**

Ed Marx



# SCHEDULE

Doors open at 10:00 AM

Bidding starts at 1:00 PM

Technical Walk-through for trainers: 11:30am

## 12 PM: Technical Class

### **Pewee Division**

Puzzle	Saydi Sweet
Popcorn	Leah Ward
Jigsaw	Blayne Sweet
Orion	Jen Egge

### **Division 1**

Lyra	Sarah Erickson
Soko	Hailey Germain
Tempest	Dawson Alme
Aztro	Terri Marken
Whisper	Anne Senger

### **Division 2**

Fiesta	Beth Dahlberg
Omni	Andrew Meyer
Ranger	Katie Livingood
Doodle	Ally Pink
Jitterbug	Emily Christensen

### **Division 3**

Finale	Hannah Germain
Paladin	Erica Sireno
Ninja	Jen Egge
Belle	Elli Kramer
Dazzle	Isabella Anderson



# SCHEDULE

Bidding starts at 1:00 PM

~4 PM (when Technical Class is completed): Freestyle Class

## Division 1

Soko  
Tempest  
Whisper  
Aztro  
Lyra

Hailey Germain  
Dawson Alme  
Anne Senger  
Terri Marken  
Sarah Erickson

## Division 2

Omni  
Fiesta  
Doodle  
Jitterbug  
Ranger

Andrew Meyer  
Beth Dahlberg  
Ally Pink  
Emily Christensen  
Katie Livingood

## Division 3

Belle  
Finale  
Dazzle  
Ninja  
Paladin

Elli Kramer  
Hannah Germain  
Isabella Anderson  
Jen Egge  
Erica Sireno

Bidding ends 15 minutes after the last Freestyle performance

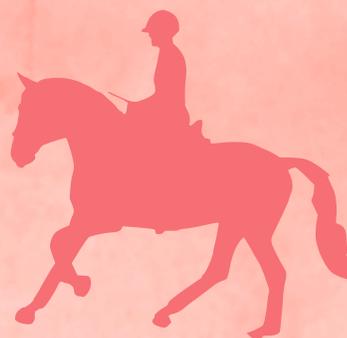


*Division 1*  
**UNSTARTED ADULT HORSES SHOWN AT THE W/T/C**

*Division 2*  
**UNSTARTED YOUNG HORSES SHOWN AT THE W/T**

*Division 3*  
**STARTED ADULT HORSES SHOWN AT THE W/T/C**

*Peewee Division*  
**YOUNG UNRIDEABLE HORSES SHOWN ON GROUND**



# TRAINERS & HORSES

## DIVISION 1

Dawson Alme & TEMPEST  
Terri Marken & AZTRO  
Anne Senger & WHISPER  
Sarah Erickson & LYRA  
Hailey Germain & SOKO

## DIVISION 2

Andrew Meyer & OMNI  
Katie Livingood & RANGER  
Beth Dahlberg & FIESTA  
Emily Christensen & JITTERBUG  
Ally Pink & DOODLE

## DIVISION 3

Jen Egge & NINJA  
Hannah Germain & FINALE  
Elli Kramer & BELLE  
Erica Sireno & PALADIN  
Isabella Anderson & DAZZLE

## PEEWEE DIVISION

Saydi Sweet & PUZZLE  
Leah Ward & POPCORN  
Blayne Sweet & JIGSAW  
Jen Egge & ORION

DIVISION

1

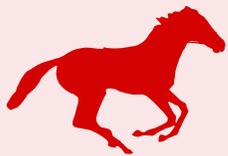


## BBTC Trainer: Dawson Alme *Alma, Wisconsin*

My name is Dawson Alme, from Nelson, WI. I'm an electrician by trade, but my passion is horse training. I was introduced to horse training at the age of 16, by an experienced trainer. I learned from him for four years and have been training on my own for the past three. Through these years of experience, I have gained valuable insights into working with different types of horses and the complexities of their individual needs. Some unique experiences I have been a part of are training horses in Ireland and wrangling cattle in Montana.

I find enjoyment helping horses find their right path in life. Correcting learned and undesired behavior or preparing the horse to accept a rider. I strive to find the needs of the horse and rider to have the best possible relationship. I willingly accept all challenges to continue learning.

I'm especially grateful for this training challenge and the chance to collaborate with and learn from a diverse group of trainers.  
Best of luck to all.



## BBTC Horse: Tempest *9 yr old Morab Mare*

Tempest has already defied the odds, and she deserves a chance at a life without fear of her future. Tempest showed up in Ryon's Kill Pen in June of 2022. A generous lady bailed her from the pen, but didn't have a place for her to go. We then offered to home her after quarantine. Tempest was bailed with two other horses, and they all struggled immensely. One horse that had been rescued from the pen previously had just died of pneumonia, so people were desperate to get these horses out of there.

This small herd wasn't lucky either. They too suffered from pneumonia in quarantine. At one point, Tempest even went down. Administering medicine was extremely hard because she was untouchable and traumatized. All medications had to be given through the shoot, and that caused such a panic that she went down. Luckily, she pulled through. A friendly, emaciated Arab she came in with wasn't so lucky. The herd of three was down to two, even after fighting extremely hard.

After quarantine, Tempest was still extremely terrified. Just to get a halter on her, Robin Secrist (one of our judges) trained her for a month to get her halter-broke and handleable.

She has since been decompressing and learning from our other horses how to be a horse and not be terrified all the time. She has become a lot friendlier and will make someone a wonderful partner after being given a chance with some training.



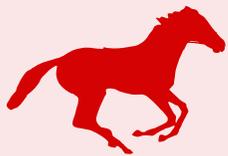
DIVISION

1



## **BBTC Trainer: Terri Marken** *Baudette, Minnesota*

Hello, I am Terri Marken. I live in Baudette, Mn and the proud mama of 4 children and grandmother to 5. Growing up on a farm in Cass Lake, Mn my family had a number of horses that we would just jump on and ride. I have learned owning and riding horses is so much more than that. Fifteen years ago I bought my first horses for my daughter and myself. When she outgrew hers we got her a step-up horse. School and sports took over her time so I used her new gaming horse to teach me gaming, traveling around to local game shows. Never overlook those older horses, they can teach you so much! I have fallen in love with liberty work the last few years, it creates a connection with your horse that is like no other. I recently bought an untouched 5 year old Arab and training her has become one of the most rewarding things I have done. A 2 year old and a 1 year old were also added to my herd last fall thanks to Carter Acres Quarter Horses. I graduated from the Michelle Jerry Horsemanship Accreditation Program a few weeks ago and have so much more knowledge to help me train horses and share with others. I am looking forward to this new adventure working with Lucky 7 Horse Rescue.



## **BBTC Horse: Aztro** *4 yr old Araloosa Gelding*

Aztro came from a wonderful Minnesota breeder, Spotted Elegance, hoping to start the Araloosa breed (achieving a horse with 99% Arabian genetics that has appaloosa spots). Aztro has been well-cared for his entire life, and has a wonderful personality alongside a cute appaloosa blanket. The owner of Spotted Elegance lost his trainer to an injury, so we wanted Aztro to be a part of the BBTC. Aztro also comes with paperwork to be registered Half-Arabian.



DIVISION

1

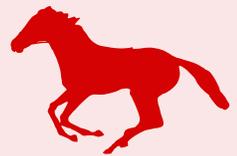
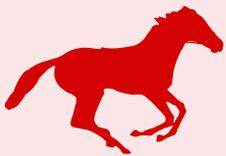


## BBTC Trainer: Anne Senger *Isanti, Minnesota*

My name is Anne Senger and I live in Isanti, MN. My grandma got me into horses at a young age. I mostly just rode around the yard and played around. When I was about 14 I got into 4-H and that's where my passion for riding and training horses blossomed.

In my last year of 4-H, I was given the amazing opportunity to work with the Fedewa's through the training project. That's where I found how much I loved working with rescue horses and teaching them what it is to be loved. This is my second training competition. I competed last year in the first year of the Battle of the Best Training Competition and fell in love with this organization and all the amazing work we trainers put in to help these horses find loving families.

Thank you all for the opportunity to compete in this competition again. I can't wait to meet everyone, build connections, and make a difference in the horses life I draw!



## BBTC Horse: Whisper *8 yr old Arabian Mare*

Whisper came out of Stroud, Oklahoma in November of 2024. She and another Arabian mare were posted running around in a pen, scared of people. They had old wounds from halters digging into their faces and we're skittish around people. Because we were already getting two others at that point and no one was willing to take them, we said load them onto our trailer!

When they got to quarantine, they had a respiratory illness that they were treated for. It's a very common thing we see with these kinds of rescues.

Whisper was the more confident of the two, and we were able to make more progress with her first. She accepted the blanket in a relatively short session, and that relaxed her a lot. She started to see us as the "good people" and now she is friendly and will come up to you in the field and even allow you to catch her.

She shows a ton of potential, and we hope we can show her how great people can be!



# DIVISION

1



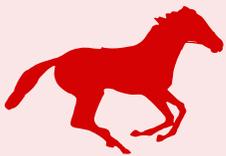
## **BBTC Trainer: Sarah Erickson** *Spring Valley, Wisconsin*

Sarah Erickson has been around horses all of her life growing up in Isanti and relocating to Western Wisconsin after college. She started training horses when she got an abused Arabian for her first horse. After quickly outgrowing him, she bought her horse Flower and trained her through the Isanti County 4-H horse training program. She won 5 trips to the Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show, placing every year she went. This year after having Flower for 30 years she passed away at age 31.

Sarah has been involved in many areas of horses. She showed 4-H as a youth and attended UW-River Falls getting her B.S. in Animal Science - Equine Business. Sarah has also competed in Rodeos and endurance racing, tried Fox Hunting and a pentathlon, and now competes in Dressage, Eventing, and Hunter/Jumper. Sarah has been a volunteer for St. Croix County 4-H in western Wisconsin chairing Dressage and Hunter over Fences and also helping out with Trail and Pleasure shows. In 2020 Sarah and her daughter Lana, took the long trip to Scottsdale Arizona to participate in sport horse, dressage, and jumping shows at the Arabian show with a horse out of her endurance mare.

Sarah has worked with a lot of horses that have needed to have behavior modification to become safe horses for their owners. Sarah works with the horse to relieve stress and tension. Sarah became a certified Equine Massage Therapist to understand the mechanics of a working horse and to pamper her training horses. She treats all the horses she trains as her own, spending quality time with them outside of riding. She believes a horse needs to be pushed at a rate the horse can accept the training and to keep it interesting so the horse doesn't get bored. She likes to cross-train her horses so they can do a lot of different events.

Sarah is not particular to any breed but prefers taller horses. She currently owns 3 Arabians, an OTTB and a Holsteiner. Sarah looks forward to participating in the Battle of the Best Training Competition to test her skills with a bit of a time crunch.



## **BBTC Horse: Lyra** *7yr old Grade Quarter Horse Mare*

Lyra came from Stroud, Oklahoma after being found in a kill pen. She was a beautiful mare with so much potential in her. She has a brand on her hip that is believed to belong to a Mexican breeder in Texas that breed youth rodeo horses. She also came in with a two year old stud colt, who just happened to be Paladin.



After quarantine, she was trained in the 4-H Training Project for Level 1, which includes leading, picking up feet, and tying. During the training, we noticed that she wasn't going into heat, and that her belly was getting quite round, which we thought was from much needed weight gain at first. Then, surprise surprise, it turns out she was pregnant! By winter, it wasn't a question anymore. She was definitely pregnant... and Paladin was the father. She gave birth to a beautiful, healthy colt and now that he is weaned, she is ready to abandon motherhood and find her true calling of riding!

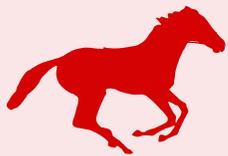
DIVISION

1



**BBTC Trainer: Hailey Germain**  
*Stacy, Minnesota*

My name is Hailey Germain. I am from Stacy, Minnesota. I have loved horses for as long as I can remember and got my first one in 2018. My twin sister Hannah who is also in the competition and I graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls in 2023 for equine management. We took the colts in training class and loved seeing how they progressed. After that we knew we wanted to train. We opened our own business called H&H Equine Services and run it out of Timberlein Ranch in Stacy MN where I am also one of the barn managers. I am super excited as this is my first training competition and to learn things from my horse as well as the other trainers!



**BBTC Horse: Soko**  
*7yr old Registered Appaloosa Gelding*

Soko is a registered Appaloosa gelding ("Something Chocolate") that recently came to be in the BBTC! This boy is not a rescue, but we are partnering with his past owner and breeder to help him get a great start! He is a big beautiful boy with fantastic movement and the bloodlines to make a serious barrel horse, though he's so nicely put together that he could do anything!

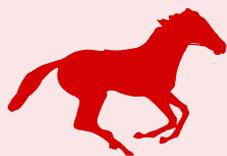


DIVISION  
2



**BBTC Trainer: Andrew Meyer**  
*Glencoe, Minnesota*

I was born 1986 in Rapid City, SD, raised by my grandparents in McGrath, MN logging and being my neighbors' farmhand. Was around cattle and horses growing up on a daily basis. Moved to Glencoe in 2024 and started helping my fiance with her family farm and learning everything I can to train and show horses in several classes and absolutely loving it.



**BBTC Horse: Omni**  
*3 yr old Registered Arabian Gelding*

Omni is a purebred registered Arabian that was bought in a livestock auction for goats. He showed up on the night of the auction and was thrown right in with the goats. A man bought him and helped him gain weight before we bought him to be in the BBTC in November, 2024.



His sire was an English show horse, so he is built a little more thickly than halter-bred Arabians. He will be a very fancy boy!

**DIVISION  
2**

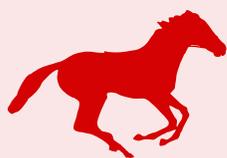


**BBTC Trainer: Katie Livingood**  
*Dodge Center, Minnesota*

Hi! I'm Katie Livingood of Dodge Center, Minnesota. I have owned and ridden Tennessee Walking Horses all my life, with a wide variety of other opportunities on an abundance of breeds. I now also own two Icelandic horses along with my TWHs. I was a certified therapeutic horsemanship instructor for about 10 years and am a certified Icelandic riding instructor.

I teach and train at Illuminated Equestrian, where my goal is to help people better understand their horses so they can work together to improve their partnership and meet their goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to challenge my training in another way and to help shape a strong equine citizen to be the next partner for a lucky rider!



**BBTC Horse: Ranger**  
*3 yr old Tennessee Walking Horse Gelding*

Ranger came from the Stroud, Oklahoma kill pen in May of 2022. He was extremely skinny and very unhealthy. There was a point where he was completely hairless because his skin and coat was in such bad condition. A 4-H youth started working with him after quarantine to prepare for the 4-H Training Project at the Isanti County Fair. There, they showed in Level 1, which includes leading, picking up feet, and tying. Ranger has since been growing and waiting until he is old enough to find his calling! He is a very gaited boy with the most adorable roman nose! On the rare occasion he is not gaiting around, he has a wonderful big fancy trot. He isn't overly friendly right now and still needs to warm up to people, but when he decides he likes you, he really likes you!



# DIVISION 2



## **BBTC Trainer: Beth Dahlberg** *Solon Springs, Wisconsin*

My name is Beth Dahlberg. I'm blessed to have been born into a horse family with both of my parents having gotten their first horses when they were teenagers. I'm twenty two years old and I've never known anything but horses. I've been riding since before I could walk and for a stretch when I was three years old I would only answer to the name "Horse."

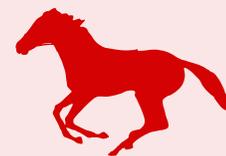
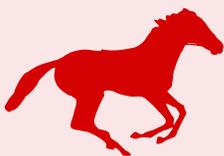
My family and I are very active in the carriage driving community and local harness club. We compete in both combined driving and pleasure driving shows throughout the US. I also love to help other drivers be able to compete and I frequently groom and navigate for other competitors at events.

My mom and I, together, train horses and ponies for clients in both driving and riding from our farm in Solon Springs, Wisconsin.

I have played around with many different saddle disciplines, but my favorite is a bareback trail ride with family and friends.

I currently own three of my own ponies. Little Joe is my 21 year old Percheron/Hackney/Arabian gelding who is now mostly used for giving riding and driving lessons. Merlin is a coming three year old Saddlebred/Hackney colt who I bought as a yearling to raise and train. Lastly is Violet, a six year old pony cross mare, who came to me this last summer needing lots of work.

This will be my first official training challenge. I'm looking forward to it because I love working with horses at whatever level they're at, building a strong connection with them as they blossom into hopefully being able to be good citizens with a solid career.



## **BBTC Horse: Fiesta** *3 yr old Arabian Mare*

Fiesta was transferred to us from UPAWS Animal Rescue in Marquette, Michigan in June, 2024. She had gone through the Southern Michigan Kill Pen a year prior to ending up at the rescue. After being surrendered to UPAWS, she was then transferred to us to be in the training competition.

Fiesta has a known history of having to fight for food and water, so she is protective of her space and can get pretty big with both people and horses.

She has shown much progress in this aspect after being in a herd of other horses that don't have to fight for every scrap. She is a very fancy girl and she can go very far in life if given the chance.

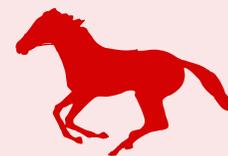
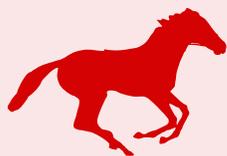


DIVISION  
2



**BBTC Trainer: Emily Christensen**  
*Squaw Lake, Minnesota*

Hi I'm Emily Christensen, I live in Squaw Lake MN. I have had horses my whole life. My family is mostly a trail riding family but I did join 4-H, I mainly did games and trail class. I also was in our 4-H drill team, when I aged out I became an assistant coach. I have always wanted to train horses, so I just kept teaching my personal horse new things until I could buy a project horse. I have trained 2 horses, one I sold and I decided to keep my last horse I trained. I like seeing the horses personalities start to grow once they get comfortable. I fell in love with ground work training. I like seeing how what they learn on the ground and how that can help you in the saddle. I am so excited for this new opportunity.



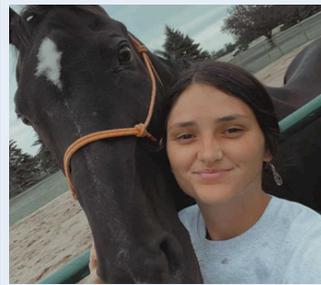
**BBTC Horse: Jitterbug**  
*3 yr old Tennessee Walking Horse Mare*

Jitterbug came from the Stroud, Oklahoma kill pen in May of 2022. She was extremely skinny and very unhealthy. A 4-H youth started working with her after quarantine to prepare for the 4-H Training Project at the Isanti County Fair. There, they showed in Level 1, which includes leading, picking up feet, and tying.



Jitterbug has since been growing and waiting until she is old enough to find her calling! She has gotten to be a very friendly girl and though she is gaited, she also trots around with the rest of the herd.

**DIVISION  
2**

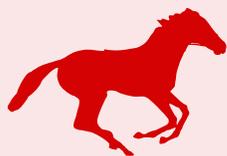


**BBTC Trainer: Ally Pink**  
*Hutchinson, Minnesota*

Hi! My name is Ally Pink, I live in Hutchinson MN.

I am so fortunate to have gotten my first pony when I was 5 years old. From there my passion only sparked!! As I kept finding my step up horse, I joined the local 4-H program and showed in western pleasure, games, and trail classes. While in high school, I joined a small drill team and continued to ride in WSCA shows. I have ran barrels at many surrounding Jackpots for a few years. When I'm not doing all those fast events I'm trail riding or engaging in clinics and other trainings!

I have taken my passion and began sharing it with others when I created a lesson program last summer! I will continue my lesson program and working with others that might need more support with their horses. I have also recently completed an accreditation program with Michelle Jerry at Hearts and Hooves to expand my knowledge and am so excited to use all the tools that are now in my toolbox to take on this competition!!



**BBTC Horse: Doodle**  
*3 yr old Arabian Cross Gelding*

Doodle came to us as an unhandled stallion from Peabody, Kansas in May, 2024 as a 2 year old. He was friendly but scared. After making it through quarantine, Doodle began learning all about what a gentle hand can bring. He learned very quickly how amazing scratches were. He would lean into your hand and bob his head trying to itch himself.



After that, he became very friendly. Very quickly, he was ready to be taken off site to a castration clinic for vet students in September. There he was gelded and had his wolf teeth extracted.

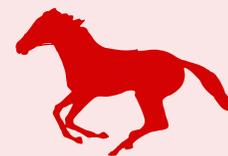


# DIVISION 3



## **BBTC Trainer: Jen Egge** *Isanti, Minnesota*

Hi, my name is Jen Egge, I live in Isanti, MN. I've always had a love for horses. As a kid, my passion grew when I met my childhood best friend whose family had a variety of breeds. We would spend countless hours riding, working, and taking care of them. When I was 14, I got my very first Arab mare, whom I put a lot of work into shortly after I got my second horse. It has been a couple of years since I have had any horses. I thought this would be a great way to get back into the equine world and apply my horsemanship skills in the peewee division. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be part of the BBTC this year and I look forward to meeting everyone!



## **BBTC Horse: Ninja** *8 yr old Tennessee Walking Horse Gelding*

Ninja was found in the Stroud Oklahoma kill pen in August, 2024 as a stallion. He was listed as an Arabian/Tennessee Walker Cross but sometimes the kill pens will say a horse has Arabian in it because they know there is funding out there for Arabians. Ninja has always been friendly and well-behaved, even as a stallion. After quarantine, where he fought through various skin conditions, he was then gelded in October, 2024. He makes friends with our geldings and had no stud behaviors other than the occasional squeal. After a riding eval, he proved to be a gentle guy that didn't care about riders on his back.

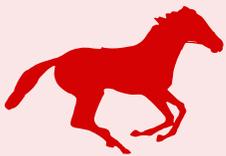


DIVISION  
3



## **BBTC Trainer: Elli Kramer** *Laporte, Minnesota*

Hi my name is Elli Kramer. I live in Laporte Minnesota. My parents had horses when I was born, but my passion started when we moved back to the farm when I was 8 years old and got a Standardbred for my golden birthday when I turned 9. Since then even despite my family not having the same interest. I've been everything horses. From doing 4h, WSCA shows, giving pony rides, horse camps/clinic, endurance rides, out of state trails and shows. And have been around different breeds all shapes and sizes. I've had horses of my own 2011 and currently have 5 and 2 ponies. I'm very excited to be apart of this training competition, and thought this would be a great way to learn even more!



## **BBTC Horse: Belle** *16yr old Branded Standardbred Mare*

"Inaugural Belle" is a Standardbred that came out of Stroud, Oklahoma in November of 2024. She was advertised as mare that was possibly pregnant. Lucky 7 Horse Rescue took her I'm to be in their pregnant mare & foal program and their Standardbred program.

Belle came to us in a herd of four (all others are in the challenge too!) and she has always been very nice and calm. She immediately started gaining weight and once she was done with quarantine, we had her preg checked.

No baby, just the figure of a mare that's had many.

She is a very promising mare and we love Standardbreds so we decided to put her in Division 3.

Upon initial vet check, we found that she had extreme problems in her mouth that needed to be fixed. She had extreme sharp points, a cracked tooth, and two teeth total that needed to be removed. She underwent dental surgery and has the all clear to join the BBTC!

This mare is truly amazing because even though she was in so much pain, she didn't show it at all. She was gaining weight, super friendly, and had no noticeable bad habits other than a funny way of chewing (which has since been fixed!)

She deserves a great future and furthering her training will help do just that!

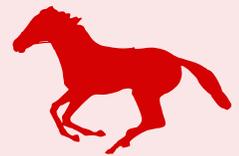
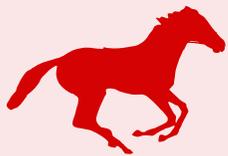


# DIVISION 3



## **BBTC Trainer: Hannah Germain** *Stacy, Minnesota*

Hello, my name is Hannah Germain and I am from Stacy MN. Horses are my number one passion. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls equine program in 2023, am currently one of the barn managers at Timberlein Ranch, and I own H&H Equine Services with my twin sister Hailey. I took the Colts in Training class in college and loved getting to bond with my colt from start to finish, and see him progress. That's mostly what I am looking forward to in this training competition.



## **BBTC Horse: Finale** *14 yr old Quarab Gelding*

Finale is part of a much bigger story. Last year, there was news of a huge herd of race-bred Quarter Horses going to a low-end auction in Minnesota. Multiple people were reaching out to the person who was supposed to take them to the auction, warning them about what might happen to these horses. Luckily, the Quarter Horses were turned over to a much safer place where they would be rehomed without worry of where they may end up. This ultimately resulted in the auction house missing out on the money they would have made. When it came time for the auction, where Finale was in the back and covered in burrs, they made a huge speech about how the horses at the sale get into great homes. Two days later, Finale was posted on the Southern Wisconsin kill pen page in Columbus, Wisconsin.



In the video they posted of him, they said he was trembling. He was so scared.

After fundraising with the Arabian Feedlot Rescue group, Finale was picked up that weekend. He didn't tremble once; he knew he was safe.



He has since gained a bunch of weight and is totally healthy. He has since been started under saddle. He has been on trail, and ridden in the arena at the walk, trot, and canter. He tries his hardest and has such a sweet nature about him. Every now and then he will get nervous and expect a heavy hand, but he is truly a sweet boy.



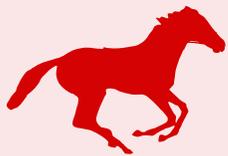
DIVISION  
3



## **BBTC Trainer: Erica Sireno** *Isanti, Minnesota*

Hello! I am Erica Sireno. I am a blessed mama with 3 children ages 8, 10, and 19. I grew up in Maple Grove for most of my life other than 5 years in Oregon from the ages of 5-11 which is where I started riding. I begged my parents to allow me to start taking lessons when I was 9 and they thought a week at horse camp would cure the itch to ride, however that completely backfired on them! My obsession only grew from there! I started taking lessons at the age of 10. When we moved back to Minnesota I started taking Dressage lessons at Brandywine Farm where I was given more opportunity that I ever dreamed was possible. My parents finally bought me my first horse when I was 15 and the rest is history! I trained and showed up until I was thrown from a young horse in 2015 which resulted in snapping my humerus in half and a plate and pin being placed to join the bone back together. My daughter was only 9 months old at the time so I decided to step back from training full time and work with just a few very long term clients and my own horses to which is what I continue to do today with hopes of going at it full time again in the near future now that the kids are a little older.

I am very excited for the opportunity to work with one of the horses from Lucky 7 Horse Rescue and look forward to seeing where this adventure leads!



## **BBTC Horse: Paladin** *4 yr old Arabian Gelding*

Paladin was found in the Stroud, Oklahoma kill pen as an unhandled two year old stallion in May, 2022. He was extremely fearful and flighty, and had very low self-preservation skills because of that.



He was posted with a gray mare, who we also saved and that mare is Lyra. This save was possible through the Arabian Feedlot Rescue Group. They were together in the pen and through quarantine and though Paladin was terrified and didn't act like a stallion yet, he sired a baby out of her named Orion, which is the name we almost called him!



The mission to get him gelded was long and hard. He was too hard to handle safely and so terrified that even when given IM sedation, he fought through it and it didn't affect him at all. After giving him time to decompress and still failing to get anywhere, we made the decision to send him to trainer Robin Secrist and Dawson Alme. Together, they got him gelded and even got him riding! He has since been ridden walk, trot, canter, and thrives on trails. He will make an EXCELLENT endurance horse because he can go miles without getting tired. He is still nervous with new people and not quite confident around people, so he needs the wonderful trainers in this year's BBTC.



# DIVISION 3

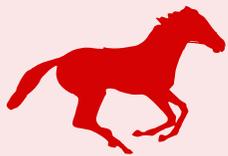


## **BBTC Trainer: Isabella Anderson** *Bemidji, Minnesota*

About me; I'm an Equine Veterinary Technician with D.H. Vet from Bemidji, MN. I graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston with a Bachelor's in Equine Science. I have also been nurturing my lesson and training business on the side - Pine Hollow Equine. I have been teaching lessons for over four years on my own horses and client's horses. I own two horses, a 27-year-old Quarter Horse named Taco, and my Holsteiner BWP show mare Felicia. I spend my summers working, teaching, training and competing.

I have many years of experience in various disciplines having grown up trail riding and showing in 4-H, competing with IHSA in college up to Zones, and going to state privately for showjumping. My preferred disciplines lately have been Eventing and USDF dressage.

I believe when in the horse industry, it's very important to work with a team, which is why I have an amazing support team of coaches, trainers, an amazing vet and farrier, all of whom are dear friends as well. It's important to have different perspectives, input, and ideas when it comes to furthering a horse's progress, no matter what the background or goal. My team and I are very excited to be a part of the BBTC training competition this year. My training horses are treated like family, so we are essentially expanding our family for the duration of the competition. We are looking forward to spending time with whomever we come home with!



## **BBTC Horse: Dazzle** *18 yr old Saddlebred Mare*

Dazzle is a chestnut Saddlebred mare who came from an auction in Wisconsin from the Amish this spring. She was an Amish buggy horse and came in with harness rubs and a shaved mane for the harness. She has continued to be a sweet, loving mare with the perfect amount of spiciness.

Dazzle would love to find her perfect partner go continue to go on adventures with. She could thrive as a trail horse, potentially try out some show rings, or simply be the perfect horse to plod around on.





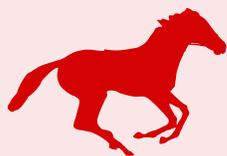
## BBTC Trainer: Saydi Sweet *Sauk Centre, Minnesota*

Hi! My name is Saydi!

I have been the typical horse crazy young gal ever since I can remember. I live in Sauk Centre, MN but grew up in Montana. I started out with only summer camp in Ekalaka, MT, learning how to ride and rope cattle, but then shifted into showing miniature horses. Once I got my own full size horse, I slowed down showing minis and focused on training my halter broke filly. That filly has turned out to be one of the best horses in my herd.

In high school and college I competed in rodeo and studied equine science. I did small tune ups on horses as a side gig during that time. When we moved to MN in 2016, I met a great friend who rescued horses from down south and brought them up to MN. She would rehab them if needed, evaluate and train them as needed. Whether it was finding the gaps that were missing or completely starting over. She took me with her on a few trips down south as well as sent me on a solo trip to get some horses. Once the horses were suitable for rehoming, we would find them homes to best fit their needs. I acquired a few horses during my time with her, 4 to be exact. I am currently working with my most recent one.

My friend unfortunately passed away in November of 2022, so doing this challenge is in honor of her and continuing what she loved doing. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to make a difference in a horses life! I look forward to getting to know everyone and watching their progress and learning from everyone!



## BBTC Horse: Puzzle *2 yr old BLM Mustang Mare*

Puzzle is a BLM Mustang out of the Pancake herd in Nevada. The BLM was holding an online auction and we decided to bid on two horses. After hours of scrolling through the yearlings that were available, we stumbled upon Puzzle.

We clicked on her video and saw a beautiful mover with a curious personality. We made one bid in the online auction and she was ours. Next we just had to wait for the pickup day in Cedarburg, WI to arrive.

When it did, we signed the last bits of paperwork and loaded her into the trailer. She was born in a holding facility, so she never truly got a taste for being wild. Though untouched, she was never scared of people.

When she got home, she walked off the trailer like she owned the place. She was very confident and bossed the other horses around, she was definitely the leader.

In the following days, she was haltered and taught to lead. She was an extremely quick learner. She has since been left to grow on the property and is one of our friendliest horses. She is always breathing down your neck if you're out in the field. She is ready to learn more of the basics so she can be a fantastic partner for someone when she's ready.



PEEWEE  
DIVISION



## **BBTC Trainer: Leah Ward** *Stanchfield, Minnesota*

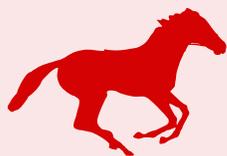
Hi. My name is Leah Ward and my family and I moved to Stanchfield, MN in August 2023 and opened up a horse boarding facility.

My husband and I just celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary this past September and we have 3 beautiful daughters.

I have loved horses my entire life. When I was little, I wanted to be a jockey when I grew up and win the Triple Crown I have only ever really trained 1 horse and that was when I was 15 so I am far from being a professional trainer.

I joined this challenge because my kids “own” all our horses and I wanted to have “my own” project horse to work with. I chose the peewee division because I thought it would be a good starting point to get my feet wet in the training world.... Plus, I fell in love with one of the two-year-olds. Hopefully I get the horse I want!

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity and I’m really looking forward to April!



## **BBTC Horse: Popcorn** *2 yr old BLM Mustang Gelding*

Popcorn is a BLM Mustang from the Clan Alpine herd in Nevada. Unlike our other two BLM Mustangs, he wasn't one we bid on in an online auction. Instead, we went to the BLM event to pick up our other two (Jigsaw and Puzzle) and couldn't walk past his own without staring. The sheet pinned to the corral said that he didn't have a home and in that moment, we knew.

He was a shy little guy, but he had the color and the beautiful build. He was born on the range, so people were new to him. He'd prefer to hide behind the other geldings he was in with.

Because we had two Mustang friends for him to be with, we decided to add him into our trailer... we had the room and what's another horse, right?

Once home, he was still shy, but beautiful. He's what we expected all the Mustangs to be like, but the girls had other agendas, mostly involving getting scratched.

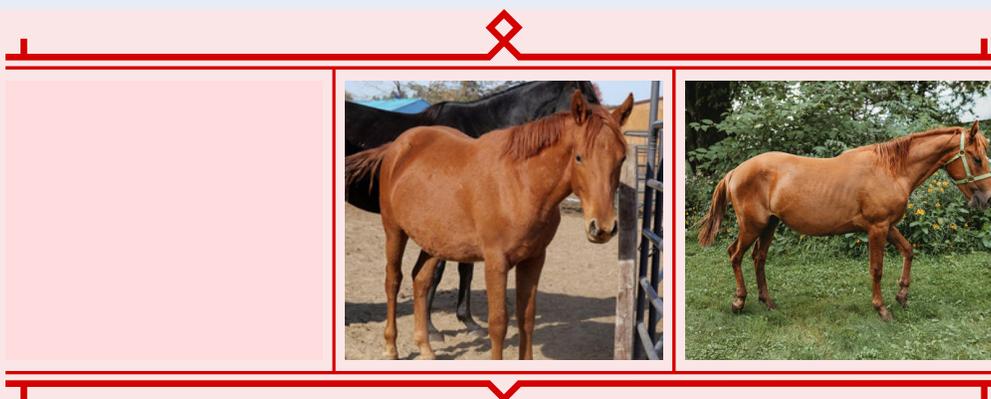
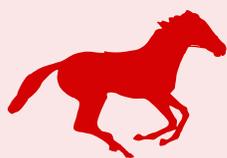
Popcorn liked things slower. He didn't want to be haltered as quickly and wasn't so sure about people. The idea is still in his head but since being let out with our herd, he's learned that people aren't that bad. He's not one to come up for scratches, but he lingers while the others get theirs. He's a calm boy, but he just needs to be convinced that people are good. Once he realizes it, he's one that is going to stick to your side like glue.





**BBTC Trainer: Blayne Sweet**  
*Sauk Centre, Minnesota*

Hi everyone! I'm Blayne and I have joined the 2025 Battle of the Best Training Competition after seeing this little horse not getting picked during pick up day. While I am usually behind the wheel with real "horse power", I am going to try my hand at some actual HORSE power. This is Jigsaw, my training horse that I will be working with. She is a 2 year old mustang. She was born on the range but was brought in when they did a round up. She is very willing to do what you ask already and I feel this will be a fun challenge for both of us.



**BBTC Horse: Jigsaw**  
*2 yr old BLM Mustang Mare*

Jigsaw is a BLM Mustang from the Palomino Buttes herd in Oregon. The BLM was holding an online auction and we decided to bid on two horses. Jigsaw was the first yearling we truly looked at and if we weren't certain on bidding, we certainly were after we saw her. We made one bid in the online auction and she was ours. We then picked her up at their adoption event in Cedarburg, WI.



At first we thought she was born in a facility, but recently discovered she was actually born on the range. The BLM workers were in love with her as they loaded her into our trailer and said we had made a great pick.



Jigsaw made her way back home and immediately accepted her new life. She was the first to accept the halter and on her first lesson, decided she might as well be fully halter-brokr. Day one ended with her being led over tires and bridges and even the very beginnings of being able to lunge. She was fine with being scratched all over and really loved attention.



She has been growing up with our herd, but she is extremely friendly. Walking through the pasture might as well be a hike with her trailing behind you and begging for scratches. If you pull a wagon with you, she's one that will try to hop right in it.



Her curiosity and friendliness is going to translate well into her training and help her turn into a fantastic partner for someone.

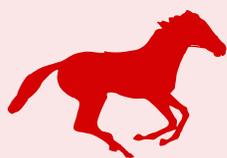


PEEWEE  
DIVISION



**BBTC Trainer: Jen Egge**  
*Laporte, Minnesota*

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**BBTC Horse: Orion**  
*1 yr old Arabian Cross Stud Colt*

Orion is a coming yearling stud colt (due to be gelded this fall) with a special story. Both of his parents are in the challenge this year as well! Lyra is his mother and Paladin is his dad! Both Lyra and Paladin were in the auction cycle together and that led to the creation of Orion! Paladin has since been gelded and is learning how to make a good riding horse for someone. Orion is also joining the adventure for education!



# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

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## VOLUNTEERS

Lucky 7 Horse Rescue - Providing Horses

Michelle Fedewa - Organizing Event

Sharon Hahn - Emcee

Mitch Fedewa - Photos and Videographer

Rhea Fedewa - Music

Todd Luttmann - Bidding Table

Mike, Cassie, and Chris Fedewa - Ring Crew

Yvette Peters Hutchins - Tack Sale Organizer

Anoka Equine Veterinary Services - Health checks, Coggins, and  
Teeth Floats

Kaitlyn Fedewa, Robin Secrist, Kendra Putzke & Anna Biffle - Judges

Colette Bulera & Kaitlyn Fedewa - Program Design

THANK YOU



**Battle of the Best  
Training Challenge**