

HANDS-ON CLINIC **THE VARIAN WAY**

Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 2017

Program & Clinic Guide

V A R I A N A R A B I A N S
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W W W . V A R I A N A R A B I A N S . C O M



WELCOME

Welcome Friends,

We are so pleased you are able to join us for the Hands On Clinic - The Varian Way. This exciting weekend offers unlimited educational opportunities and is your chance to experience a weekend full of great clinics and outstanding clinicians.

We are continually asked, “Why are the Varian horses so gentle to handle on the ground and train so well under saddle?” In her 60+ year career, Sheila developed her own style and techniques for getting the results that have made Varian horses so sought after and celebrated both in the show ring and as personal riding horses.

This year, Lester Buckley will be joining us once again to guide us through horsemanship skills The Varian Way. Lester is now an inextricable part of the fabric of Varian Arabians through his and Mary’s deep friendship with Sheila, along with his ranch training on Major Mac V. Guests rave about his gentle, nurturing spirit with both horse and human students. Guests continually rave about his ability to communicate the language of the horse in easy-to-understand ways. We are thrilled to have him back once again.

Along with Lester, we have guest trainers and demonstrators Brett and Marjie Becker, along with Varian trainers Jaime Hernandez and Mike Perez and Sheila’s friends and fellow horsewomen Lisa Thompson, Audrey Griffin and Kristin Reynolds who will share years of experience, technique and knowledge during this two-day event. Participants will have all of the guidance and tools they need to be able to better communicate with their horses and get the results they want both on the ground and under saddle.

We hope you’ll enjoy a fun weekend at Varian Arabians with wonderful horses and great friends.

And we hope you walk away refreshed, rejuvenated and inspired in your horsemanship “The Varian Way.”

– *Angela Alvarez*

***Sharing your special pics on Facebook or
Instagram from this weekend?
Tag them with our event hashtag
#PowerOfTheV***

LESTER BUCKLEY

Lester Buckley – Legendary Horseman & Head Clinician

Lester grew up immersed in the historic horse and cattle culture of Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science in Equine Science from Sul Ross State University, where he received the honor of “Outstanding Horse Science Student”. During these years and the years to follow he had the privilege to ride with and study the approach to horsemanship of Ray Hunt. The next two years after college Lester went to the Rocky Mountains in Northern Canada where he trained completely untouched, mature feral horses far from civilization.

For the next seven years he was the assistant trainer to NCHA Hall of Fame Willie Richardson before training for the King Ranch, the largest ranch in the world. Over the last decade, Lester has been riding and studying Classical Riding and Sport Jumping in Germany, earning his Trainers License C for Horse Sport from the German Federation Equestre Nationale. He is the only Western trainer to have this German License for Sport Horses.

Lester and his wife, Mary, currently breed Sport Horses and Arabians in Germany and Kentucky. Lester teaches and trains Nationally and Internationally, and was recently featured with Major Mac V in the acclaimed short film “The First of Many.” They reside in Shelbyville, KY.

www.BuckleySportAndRanchHorses.com



INSTRUCTORS



JAIME HERNANDEZ & MIKE PEREZ

Jaime Hernandez and Mike Perez are well respected trainers for Varian Arabians. Jaime has been training Varian horses under saddle for 26 years and Mike has been halter training Varian foals for 22 years. Both have been trained by Sheila in the Varian Way and bring their own unique knowledge and years of experience to the barn.

Jaime came to Varian Arabians in December 1991, speaking little English and cleaning stalls as his first job at the farm. Working his way up, he is now Varian's Head Performance Trainer. His soft hands and wonderful equitation set him apart in any crowd. Jaime works in every aspect of performance training, from starting young horses to finishing older ones, and in every discipline. Jamie has earned his reputation as one of the best, and is a true success story.

Mike started at Varian Arabians in May 1995, speaking little English and not knowing "The Varian Way" of handling horses. Through hard work and a willingness to learn, Mike is now responsible for all the training of the halter horses. He represents yet another example of Varian's reputation for encouraging its staff to achieve any level of skill they are willing to work for.

Mike's soft and gentle way of respecting the horse makes the Varian line of horses "halter ready" while still retaining their natural sparkle and love for people.

& DEMONSTRATORS



BRETT & MARJIE BECKER

Concentrating on Arabian and Half-Arabians, Becker Stables specializes in all major divisions with an emphasis on the Western, Hunter and Show Hack disciplines. Brett and Marjie have accumulated countless National championships through their hard work and training. Creating a legacy that will make history, their amateur program boasts some of the best riders today. Located in Grass Valley, CA. www.beckerstables.com



LISA THOMPSON, AUDREY GRIFFIN & KRISTIN REYNOLDS

Accomplished horsewomen and great friends to Sheila Varian, Lisa, Kristin and fellow Cowgirl Hall of Fame inductee Audrey will also be helping out at the clinic. With years of experience and countless miles of trail riding, these three will offer an invaluable perspective and ability to assist our clinic instructors and demonstrators.



SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

- 8:00 – 9:00 am Gates open, continental breakfast
- 9:00 – 9:15 am Bring personal and assigned **IN HAND** horses to Show Arena
- 9:15 – 11:45 am Explanation of objectives, why we teach horses the things we do here at Varian Arabians.

Handling and teaching your horse with clear intentions: walking, stopping, backing, turning hips, shoulders, neck, lowering head, handling the lead.

Sounds easy – Wont be as easy as you think!

Instructors Lester Buckley, Brett & Marjie Becker, Lisa Thompson,
Kristin Reynolds, Mike Perez and Jaime Hernandez

- 11:45 – 12:45 pm Lunch provided – **STALLIONS PRESENTED IN HAND**
You may also request to see individual sale horses at this time.

- 12:45-1:00 pm Under Saddle Clinic - **SADDLE THE CLINIC HORSES and meet in Show Arena**

- 1:00 pm Explanation and demonstration what we teach our horses and why it is important for you and your horse.
Instructors - Lester Buckley, Brett Becker, Marjie Becker & Jaime Hernandez
Assistants - Lisa Thompson and Kristin Reynolds
OBJECTIVE: To teach you and your horse how to communicate together;
The progressive steps of skills and your horse.

- 4:00 pm Request to see sale horses you are interested in. All horses available for sale will have “Available for Purchase” signs on their stall or pen. See Angela for more informationn.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

- 8:00 –9:00 am Gates Open, continental breakfast
- 9:00 –9:15 am Bring personal and assigned **IN HAND** horses to Show Arena
- 9:15-11:45 am Continuation of Saturday – **TEST**
- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch provided– **STALLIONS PRESENTED IN SALE ARENA**
You may also request to see individual sale horses in Sale Arena at this time.
- 1:00-1:15 pm **SADDLE THE HORSES**– meet in the Show Arena
- 1:15 pm Continuation from Saturday – adding more steps – **TEST**
- 4:00 pm (approx) Request to see sale horses you are interested in.
SPECIAL EVENT BREEDING FEES will be available throughout the weekend.
See Angela for more details.

– SALE HORSE INFORMATION -

***As this weekend is entirely dedicated to education, we will not be actively presenting sale horses. However you are most welcome to inquire on available sale horses at any time with Angela Alvarez. Clinic horses with red ribbons in their mane are available for purchase. You'll also find horses for sale throughout the farm if they have an "Available for Purchase" sign on their stall or pen.
Feel free to walk the barns and peruse horses at your leisure.***

These two days will be as intensive as we can make them. We ask that you concentrate and have an open mind. The steps we are going to work hard to teach you are the very steps that make Varian horses such pleasures to own. Remember, horses need and want good instruction. Enjoy, learn, and return home refreshed and inspired as you continue your lifelong horsemanship journey. Thank you for choosing to spend your weekend with us here at Varian Arabians! – *Angela Alvarez*



IN-HAND

GOALS: IN HAND

“Your space” is the bubble of respect and safety.

The horse should never encroach on your space

UNLESS YOU INVITE HIM TO.

In hand requires the horse to stay out of your space.

Your body and your hands mean everything to the horse.

Body language is the horse’s form of communication; you must make things very clear and understandable to the horse.

On the ground is where the horse learns about you and what you might be expecting of him. This is where he learns to trust you, or respect you, or fear you or to take over.

As you practice these exercises we are going to give you, Brett Becker, Marjie Becker, Jaime Hernandez, Mike Perez, Kristin Reynolds and Lisa Thompson will be close by and available to help you.

NOTES:

IN-HAND

UNDERSTANDING “SPACE”

In hand, working with the horse on the ground, “space” is important, under saddle, it’s “the wait” that is important.

How the horse thinks, reacts, responds.

The horse needs to be paying attention in a relaxed but attentive manner.

When and why to add a “psst” or kiss (sound)

Why a stick (whip) is helpful as an extension of your arm. Both ends of the stick are helpful.

Second day: review/test

NOTES:

A horse that does not respect your “space” and pushes on you is comparable to a stranger that has barged into your house unannounced, and helped himself to your refrigerator. Since the intruder weighs 1,000 pounds, it’s rude, it’s unsafe and it’s unacceptable.

UNDER SADDLE

GOALS

I want the Hands On attendees to learn these exercises so that if/when they have a problem in the future, they will be able to go back through these exercises and identify where the problem is. They will know how to figure out their solutions on their own.

I want them to learn under saddle or in hand, how to keep the horse and themselves safe.

Everybody is going to learn the importance of “the wait”. If you never learn this, you will never learn how to work in unity with your horse. If you don’t wait, the horse gets confused. By waiting after an individual move, the lesson becomes clear to the horse.

The horse is a willing partner. It is our job to make instruction clear and concise.

I want the horse to know comfortably what you are asking so you don’t confuse or unsettle him.

Horses think slow and react fast.

Although these training exercises seem very simple, this is what we are about; the slow and simple steps are the beginning of everything. You might think you know all of this, perhaps you do, and perhaps you don’t. Either way, let’s practice.

WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS WILL DO

Although people don’t think the walk is important, since all horses can walk, this is where you and the horse start to become partners. Walking is your time to study your horse. Does he walk fast, slow, straight, crooked. Does he look side to side, looking for things to concern him, or does he pay attention to you? Is his body relaxed or balled up? How is YOUR body, are you relaxed? Are you enjoying this thinking/together time with you and your horse? Is it meaningful time? Are you listening? The horse is listening to you.

Dont expect every horse to advance at the same rate.

UNDER SADDLE

Dont expect the same horse to be in the same state of mind every day.

Tuck that information away that your horse has given you during this initial time together for you to remember for the rest of this ride as well as whenever you ride. This information will change from one day to the next. You need to be aware of this and to adjust to the horse's state of mind on every day.

UNDERSTANDING "THE WAIT"

"The Wait" is the beginning of mutual understanding between you and your horse. You are letting your horse absorb what you just told him. If he frets, he is insecure. You may have picked this up when you were walking, but if you didn't, he is now telling you loud and clear that he's not had enough of "the wait". Remember, this is a two-way partnership. Horses need the opportunity to learn. "The wait" is crucial for any horse. If you are listening, you can feel when your horse, in "the wait", gets it.

"The wait" for a fretful horse, takes time. It doesn't happen until he stops being fretful and relaxes, if it's a minute, it's a minute, if it's five, it's five, whatever it is, and you need to wait for it. Patience is key.

If your horse is so relaxed that he seems to be asleep, obviously he doesn't need that much of "the wait." He does that already by himself. If this describes your horse, you need to encourage more life into his body. You will need to be more assertive.

You will also learn how to "Go with the flow", or to put the pieces together in a fluid movement.

Have you ever spent time with someone that never stops talking? Notice how you eventually stop hearing a word that person says? That's what your horse does without "the wait"; it all becomes a jumble of nonsense to him.