

# HOOFBEATS



Monthly Newsletter from the Jester Park Equestrian Center

February 2015 • Issue II

[www.polkcountyiowa.gov/equestriancenter](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/equestriancenter)

## GOLIATH

LESSON HORSE OF THE MONTH

Goliath has been a member of the JPEC lesson horse string since November of 2013. He is not as big as his name implies, but he has a lot of heart, and a sweet personality. Goliath is a 12 year old Appaloosa cross gelding. He is a pretty bay color with a pattern of white spots called snowflakes over his back and rump. Goliath has previous experience as a lesson horse and worked at a hunter/jumper barn before making his way to JPEC, but he also rides very nicely for western lessons as well. He is a valuable member of our team, an excellent mount for intermediate to advanced level riders, and because he has very nice manners on the lunge line he works well for beginner riders in lunge line lessons. Goliath has a nice trot that is easy to sit or post, and a steady lope. He is smart and can alternate between having a big motor and lots of go, to being down right lazy on occasion! Goliath has settled right into his job here at JPEC - our students enjoy him and so do we! We look forward to many more years of lessons and fun with him!



## FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Dog Training Seminar
8 Dog Training Seminar	9	10	11	12 Sweet Heart Sleigh Rides	13	14
15 Sweet Heart Sleigh Rides	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Volunteer Training Session	23	24	25	26	27	28 ACTHA Trail Event
	M	A	R	C	H	

- **Special JPEC Sponsored Events**
  - Sweetheart Sleigh Rides
  - Volunteer Training Session
  - Jester "Winter Wonder" AOC ACTHA Indoor Trail Challenge
- **Outside Events**
  - Canine Performance Dog Training Seminar

Find a detail calendar of events of all the happenings at JPEC on our facebook page!

## HORSEY TERMS

### "Tack":

(Ta-ack)

Tack can refer to anything a horse can wear. This can include any type of saddle, bridle, harness, or halter. When used as a verb, to tack up a horse means to put any of this equipment on a horse. At the beginning of each lesson, the instructor and student will work together to tack up the horse with a saddle and bridle. At the end of the lesson, they will take this equipment back off. This process is called untacking or detacking.

## EVENT OF THE MONTH • JPEC WINTER WONDERLAND AOC

Jester Park Equestrian Center is hosting its first ACTHA AOC on February 28th, 2015. What is ACTHA? ACTHA is the American Competitive Trail Horse Association, and is an organization that helps facilities such as JPEC host rides for all levels of riders interested in competing in trail obstacles and on trail rides. What is an AOC? An AOC is an ACTHA Obstacle Challenge- an event held in an arena that showcases horse and rider's abilities to navigate simulated obstacles, similar to those you might naturally come across when out trail riding. How does it work? Held in an arena (indoor, outdoor, covered) or in a field; 8 to 16 ACTHA obstacles (depending on the format chosen by the local host), 2-4 judges; Riders enjoy an opportunity to further their horsemanship skills in an enclosed setting by completing a set of 8 obstacles along an obstacle course. Riders can bring multiple horses. Enjoy lunch and awards following the competition. Ribbons and ACTHA Bucks will be awarded for Open, Pleasure, Scout, and Junior Divisions 1st thru 6th place. Come out on the 28th and watch a great trail competition at JPEC!

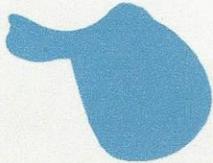


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## WHAT "SEAT" DO YOU RIDE?



When you first start riding horses, the big question you may come across is do you want to ride "western" or "english". But how do you decide when you don't even know what english and western style riding is. Well lets break down the basics.

### English Seat

*(Hunt Seat, Competitive Jumping, Saddle Seat, etc.)*

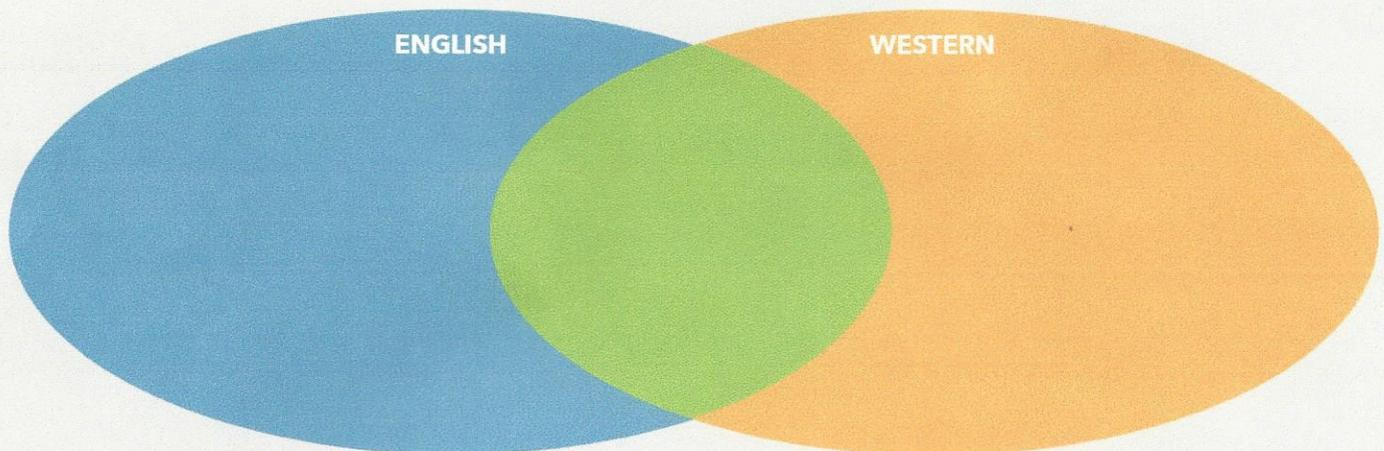
What you would first notice about someone riding in an english seat is the smaller saddle, the way they hold their reins, and the type of clothes they wear. The English seat is historically developed on the other side of the pond in Europe. The saddle is designed to be small and close contact as to allow the horse the maximum freedom of movement so when they were out in the field and had to jump fences or brooks, the tack would not interfere. English riders ride with "contact", or they keep their reins short and have a soft "feel" of the horse's mouth so they can quickly and smoothly direct the horse. You'll see english riders wear "breeches" or "jodhpurs", a type of fitted riding pants, and tall boots so the saddle doesn't rub on the rider's leg.

### Western Seat

*(Working Ranch, Reining, Western Showing, etc.)*

What you would first notice about someone riding in a western seat is the larger saddle and the way they hold their reins. The Western seat is historically developed in the Americas when ranchers had to ride long hours doing work on their land. The saddle is designed to be larger so the rider's weight is spread out over the horse's back and it is comfortable to be ridden for hours on end. You'll also find a "horn" on a western saddle which was a tool for ranchers to be able to rope cattle to doctor or attend to the animal on the range. Western riders ride with a fairly loose rein, and for well trained horses and riders neck rein where the horse moves off the weight of the rein on their neck. Western riders wear good quality denim jeans and cowboy boots.

**Write down some differences between the two riding seats but then challenge yourself to find some similarities! There are more than you may originally think. Ask your instructor more about the the different seats at your next riding lesson.**



### OUR JESTER PARK EQUESTIAN CENTER PHILOSOPHY

We believe in creating well educated horse people from the ground up, focusing on not only riding, but many aspects of horse care and handling. Our students are encouraged to ask questions, set goals, and actively participate in their equine education.