

Mary Hadsall, Hayden Corn and Cliff engaged in a conversation.

Hayden's Voice

Conversations with Hayden Corn, a Camelot Rider

Written by Michelle Guerrero, Director of community relations & riding instructor

Hayden has a great sense of humor. He's also sarcastic, witty and more than happy to get into a battle of the minds with anyone willing to put on boxing gloves. He has been riding at Camelot since 2005 and is a bit of a local celebrity, as photos of him have been featured in several promotional pieces, as well as on our website and Facebook

page. He's also performed in multiple riding demonstrations on Camelot's behalf, such as the musical quadrille performed for PATH Intl. members at a therapeutic riding conference held at the ranch. Additionally, he's ridden for our guests at Hooves & Heroes events.

The following dialogue was recorded over several weeks of conversations with Mary, his riding instructor, and

me. Hayden, who has Cerebral Palsy, mostly talks via a complex communication device that consists of 144 keys. He types out sentences, and when he's ready, he hits a button so that a man's voice speaks, conveying the sentence Hayden typed. It's time consuming for him to answer questions like these thoroughly, but his answers were well worth the wait. It's time the man on the horse is heard. He has more than a few things to say!

Q: How long have you loved horses?

A: I have always loved animals growing up. I wanted to be a vet. I picked up the phone and called Camelot because I wanted to see what it was like to ride. I realized I liked horses my first day here.

When I came for my first interview, Mary was very clear about the program. I remember that day well. Michelle and Eileen came up driving Sandy [a miniature horse in the program]. Eileen wanted baking soda or powder to make scones. She [was holding] a spoon in her mouth, that is when I knew I found the place [for me].

Q: How does your heart/soul/spirit feel when you ride?

A: Free.

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Hayden's Voice *(Continued from page 1)*

[I remember] the day that you and Mary turned me out to ride on the property trail by myself with a fellow student. She was nervous, so I rode behind her on my horse. When we got back, she was excited. She did it! I was excited too, because I had to trust in myself that I could do it.

Q: What are your greatest Camelot memories?

A: I have three: 1.) My first trotting experience 2.) Trail riding alone with another student 3.) My last ride on Bravo, the retirement ride during Hooves & Heroes 2008.

Q: How has riding changed your life?

A: Bravo, my horse, taught me to trust in him and myself.

I never thought I would be riding a 1,400 pound horse. It is not hard to take risks. You have to look inside yourself if you want to be somebody.

You [referring to Mary] allow me to take risks. You don't say no.

Q: Do you get that often in your life?

A: No. No.

Q: How do you feel about the SureHands Lift that was donated to Camelot?

A: The lift has been wonderful for ev-



Hayden Corn is trying out the SureHands Lift for the first time. He's mounting Cliffy.



Mary Hadsall (Gepetto) & Hayden Corn (Pinocchio) at the Ames' 2012 Halloween party.

erybody. It has made my mount safer, easier and quicker. It means I can ride which horse I want to ride, without you lifting.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Camelot?

A: I love the people that work here because they care about me as a true friend does. I say this because of you. I was on my way home to South Carolina. I got a text from you saying, "Sorry to hear about your dad. If you need to talk, just call."

Q: If you had the opportunity to tell Camelot supporters one thing, what would it be?

A: They are the best! Please support Camelot. They will put the funding to good use.

Q: What is your current horse dream or goal?

A: To keep riding.

Q: If you had the opportunity to talk to future Camelot students, what advice would you give?

A: They should go for it!



In Memory of

Gloria Bitsoff

Bravo

Barbara Fagan-Bruce
In memory and honor of

Roger Gammon

Morris Hazan

Kadence

Anita Prouty

Steve Stone

Loretta Szychowski

Ted Szychowski

In memory and in honor of his birthday

In Honor of

Lou & Sharon Goldman

Michelle Guerrero

Ken Kalina

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Jan Miller

Edna Pindler

In honor of her 90th birthday

Eileen Szychowski

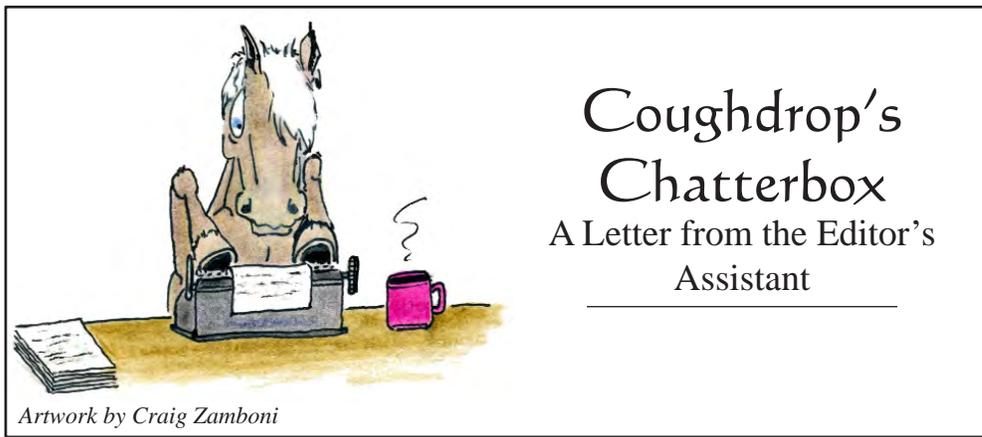
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Editor: Michelle Guerrero



Coughdrop's Chatterbox

A Letter from the Editor's
Assistant

While sitting here at my desk, working on my latest Camelot Chronicles piece, a smoking hot article landed at my hooves, too good not to share with my fans. This article was originally published in the *Bridle & Bit* newspaper, and written by Whiskey, a fellow horse reporter (as in, he has four legs, hooves and a tail too). The article is about me.

Well, I suppose it's not really about me, but rather, I'm interviewed about my experience at the Scottsdale Police Mounted Unit's desensitization fundraising clinic (also referred to as a bomb-proofing clinic). It was held here at the ranch in May, and horses and people from all over the Valley came to train with real police officers, raise funds for Camelot and meet me. So kick off your shoes and relax those hooves, grab yourself a bag of carrots and happy reading!

Proof You Should Come to Camelot's Next Bomb-proofing Clinic

By Whiskey Ranch-Horse

As a ranch horse – which I myself rightly am – I was raised to believe the most important job a horse could ever have was workin' cattle. But since I have come to live here around the County Island, I have learned

that there's far more to it than that.

Of all the many things I've been exposed to in my new life as a mostly retired pet pleasure horse, I learned that the most valuable job a horse can have is helpin' people. And the place where I've seen many good horses help people, and many good people who are kind to horses, is called Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship (<http://www.camelotaz.org>), which is in a place the people call Scottsdale, Arizona, but which I call the place I go visit in the rollin' white horse-box, down the road a long ways, and hang a right.

On May 17, 2013, I went to Camelot to work with the humans who train horses to be police — that's right, horse police! They're called the Scottsdale Police Mounted Unit (<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Police/about/usb/mountedunit>).

Their officers are some of the most horse-friendly, kind and knowledgeable teachers this horse has ever met.

So I figured I'd let everybody and every horse know about what a bomb-proofin' clinic is, in case maybe y'all want to go to one at Camelot in the future. First off, there's NO bombs! If you're a horse, don't even bother spookin' yourself over that.

I've got an entire story about my recent adventures at the bomb-proofin' clinic, over at the County Island story-blog I write by my own horse self, in case any of y'all would care to check it out. And I also got a story about the first time I went to get bomb-proofed at Camelot, called "The Horse Police," which y'all can also read at the County Island.

And to show you how any horse can excel at bomb-proofin', I done conducted an interview with the littlest clinic participant, with the biggest heart and the most courage of any horse I've ever met, Coughdrop of Camelot:

Whiskey: Hey Coughdrop, so what did you think of the bomb-proofin' clinic?

Coughdrop: I thought the clinic quite exciting, and found it hilarious that many of the oversized mounts found me as terrifying as the tunnel of doom that the

(Continued on page 4)



Ann Ezzell, a Camelot volunteer, and Coughdrop explore the cut-out horse in the arena.



Whiskey instills confidence in his human, demonstrating that the tunnel of doom really is safe.



Sgt. Weston Brown, Whiskey and Lisa Wolters-Broder

Bomb-Proofing Clinic *(Continued from page 3)*

officers set up! I was rather impressed with myself and how I handled the various obstacles my handler escorted me over and through.

Whiskey: Do you have any words of wisdom for horses and people who might like to come to the next bomb-proofin' clinic at Camelot?

Coughdrop: I would tell other horses that it is their responsibility to their people to convince them to attend these clinics. I see riders all scared and freaked out in the beginning, worried that their horses are going to either be naughty or terrified, when it is the riders themselves who are naughty and terrified! These clinics build the riders' confidence as they are taught first and foremost that they are the leaders/boss mares. <cough, cough, we know that I am truly the alpha in any herd — not my person — just don't tell her!>

Whiskey: Don't worry. I won't tell a soul.

Coughdrop: I would also like to say that in addition to having a fun and safe

clinic, it is so wonderful inviting new people to my ranch. We (my fellow four-legged instructors) love sharing the work we do at Camelot for our community, and these clinics help us spread the news about our challenging and important work.

The full text — which is a high-falutin' way to say the whole, entire conversation — of my interview with Coughdrop, along with my story about my day at the bomb-proofin' clinic with the Scottsdale Police Mounted Unit officers will be online at countyisland.wordpress.com. And don't forget to look me up on Facebook, at Whiskey Ranch-Horse.

And please also look up my wonderful Camelot friends and learn about all the good things they do for humans with horses, at camelotaz.org, or on Facebook at Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship. They're always up to somethin' good at Camelot! ☐

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship Presents



Saturday, November 2, 2013
6:00 -9:00 PM

The Scottsdale Plaza Resort
7200 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Dinner, Silent & Live Auctions

Guests speakers from the Camelot family

Single ticket \$125, Corporate (10) tickets \$1000

Buy early for our **OneTen thru Ten/Ten** special
(Single tickets are \$110 if purchased by October 10th)

For more information and to purchase tickets,
visit us at CamelotAZ.org/StarryKnights



CAMELOT & UNITED WAY

2013



Maddy riding Cayanna on the Camelot trails.

Last year,
many of you
helped us raise more than
\$2,660
by donating to Camelot through
United Way!

Thank you
for your support!

~

"For one to fly, one needs only
to take the reins."

Melissa James

~

CamelotAZ.org

Every dollar makes a difference, especially during challenging economic times. One way to lend a helping hand is through the United Way Donor Choice Program that begins every **September**.

A great way to simplify your life is by having your charitable donation deducted regularly from your paycheck. Remember, no amount is too small to make a big difference!

This fall marks Camelot's 31st lesson season, and we continue to offer all services at no cost to riders. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through programs of horsemanship and outdoor education, which develop self-worth, independence and active participation in the community.

Q&A

Is Camelot a United Way member?

Camelot is not a member agency, which means we do not receive United Way funds generated by their fundraising efforts; however, qualified non-member agencies, such as Camelot, have the opportunity to receive donations from you, through the Donor Choice Program.

What's Camelot's Valley of the Sun United Way number?

Camelot's Agency Number is 1003642.

What's Camelot's mailing address?

23623 N. Scottsdale Road, D3-259, Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

Can my family out of state donate to Camelot through United Way?

Those not in the Phoenix area who wish to have Camelot as their Designated Donor Choice recipient can receive more information about signing up from their United Way staff member or local United Way agency.

What's Camelot's Tax ID number?

It is 86-0444470. Camelot is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

If I'm not in the position to donate, but would still like to help, what can I do?

Please make copies of this form to share with others! Request a PDF of this flyer by e-mailing Michelle@CamelotAZ.org. Thank you for helping!

Ground Lessons



Claudia is painting Scout.



Claudia is grooming Coughdrop.

Camelot offers a well-rounded horsemanship education. Students learn to ride and/or cart drive, as well as receive several ground lessons (lesson while not in saddle) throughout the year. They may learn from their curriculum, which encompasses a wide variety of horse-related subjects such as safety and behavior. Other times, a ground lesson can be used to master skills that take time, such as grooming, tacking or leading. Frequently, our riders' biggest accomplishments, and epiphanies, happen during ground lessons.

Students are also assigned homework. Claudia, a nine-year-old Camelot rider, shared that she enjoys writing. So to support her budding writing career, she was asked to write something for Camelot's newsletter, as a way to give back. Here are the words she wanted to share with you! C

Horses are my dream, They're
so soft and pretty. Some are
black and some are white. But still
horses are my dream.

Claudia



Welcome to our new students: **Joseph C., Maddy D., Jesse F., Stacey G., Kelly K., Bernadette L., Lynn R. and Peggy W.**

Welcome to our new volunteers: **Jace C., Tammy D., Karen M., Leslie M., Shannon P., Gary S., Moriah S., Leigh T., Diane W., Fred W., Julie W., Kelsey W. and Amber Z.**

Camelot is proud to announce our new Board member, **Geri Wright.**

It takes a community to keep Camelot fiscally strong! A hearty thank you to the following major contributors, foundations, corporations and organizations that have taken a seat at our Round Table in their support of our program services: **American Fence, America's Horse Cares program through the American Quarter Horse Foundation, Ames Construction, Amritam Foundation, Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation, Ron & Ginger Barry, Amanda & Michael Boggs, Bruce Brown Catering, Davignon Charitable Fund, Desert Foothills Community Association in conjunction with the Cave Creek Pro Rodeo, Muffy & Andy DiSabatino, Go Daddy, Grainger**

Foundation, Grainger Matching Gift Program, Harold's Cave Creek Corral, K2 Adventures Foundation, Knights of Columbus Councils 13286 & 11116, Chip & Susie Mulloy, PetSmart, Curt & Gerry Pindler, Pinnacle Peak RMS Group, Special Forces - Chapter XXII "Desert Rats," Spine & Orthopedic Specialists, Verdoorn Foundation, Western Refining, Barry & Amber Zito.

Drum roll please for our 2013 Horse Sponsors! Thanks so much for supporting Camelot's therapy horses: **Lillian Brogan Trust, Shirlee & Tim Callahan, Foster Family Foundation, Shirley A. Lowman, Bret, Kristi, Raine & Jorja Michaels, Harrison Moore & Family, The Strickstein Grandchildren (Larry, Emma, Nora, Seth, Kiera & Jacob), Soren, Isabella & Rhys Trowbridge.**

Camelot is grateful for the financial support from the following fundraisers and clinics: **Starry Knights, Pampered Chef, James Shaw's 6th Annual Ride From Within Clinic, Sandie Miller's Animal Communication Workshops, Hooves & Heroes, Harold's Cave Creek Charity Golf Tournament, Scottsdale Police Mounted Unit Desensitizing Clinic, Sarah Carey with Premier Designs Jewelry and Josephine Joseph's Drumming Circle.**

In March we installed two large arena mirrors alongside the railing of our covered arena thanks to a generous donation from the **Valley Anesthesiology Foundation.** The benefits of these visual aids are multifaceted. Students can work on correcting body alignment for themselves, as well as their therapy mounts!

We are excited to announce that Camelot's program expansion is underway. We have begun offering monthly **Play Dates** for children and their families affected by autism and other neurological conditions. Play Dates offer a multisensory barn experience, geared towards fun, communication and socialization.

We want to thank **Ava Eskin** for generously offering a TTouch workshop for Camelot students and volunteers.

Thanks so much to Ron with **Estrella Horse Blankets** for continuing to donate your services to Camelot!

Camelot is grateful beyond belief for the recent installation of our new **SureHands Lift!**

Congratulations and thank you to **Erin Wilson** for completing her five week Clemson University internship with boundless energy. C

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.
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Scottsdale, AZ 85255
(480) 515-1542 ~ CamelotAZ.org



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Save the Date: Nov. 2 '13



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and at CamelotAZ.org!

A Heroes' Hero ~ Ann Ezzell ~

Web goddess, graphics wiz, computer genius, life saver, word smith, sign language interpreter, photographer, videographer and now awesome riding instructor are just a few of the titles we've crowned Ann Ezzell with here at the ranch! She's multitalented and always willing to utilize her skills to share the story of Camelot through technology, videos, words and music.

If you've seen one of our event programs or our most recent videos that made you reach for a tissue (sometimes because you're laughing, other times just because her pieces move you to tears), you have seen Ann's handiwork. If you've visited our website or Facebook page...also Ann's work. She has become an invaluable member of the team and her generosity of spirit is greatly appreciated!



Ann Ezzell, Sara Larson, Michelle Guerrero and Mary Hadsall at one of the Scottsdale Police Mounted Unit Desensitization fundraising clinics for Camelot.



Horse Boy Method™ I 2-Day Introduction Workshop

Utilizing animals, nature & movement
to educate, play & connect with
children on the autism spectrum

28-29 September 2013

at the Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship facility in North Scottsdale
6250 E. Jomax Road | Scottsdale, Arizona 85266

For more information or to register, visit
CamelotAZ.org/autism or call 480.515.1542



Family member/Volunteer—\$79.00
Professional—\$199.00
Rider—\$499.00
Only 8 riding spaces are available