

Ranch Horse Performance Riding Clinic

Saturday, March 6
Saturday, March 27

Session 1 (Performance Riding) = 9 – 11:00 a.m. - \$20
Session 2 (Foundation Maneuvers) = 11 – 1:00 p.m. - \$30
Session 3 (Cow/Horse Dance Steps) = 2 – 5:00 p.m. - \$40

Sign up for one or all of the sessions!

What is Performance Riding?

Many riders new to versatility ranch horse have come from other horse events such as trail riding outdoors, western trail class, both English and western pleasure classes, hunter jumper, or other events – where the rider is most effective sitting upright and/or forward on the seatbones.

Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) requires the rider to sit down and back in order to accommodate the lateral movements that are made doing cattle work.

Additionally, the cues and use of reins are influenced by how real cowboys do their daily work. The *Performance Riding Clinic* will help both the rider and the horse re-position to successfully perform the VRH skills and maneuvers.

Why learn and practice the Foundation Maneuvers?

Foundation Maneuvers are excellent for all disciplines and events – western or English. An ability to control the horse's body parts separately results in better quality movements and responsiveness.

Foundation Maneuvers are for both the horse and the rider. The correct use of the rider's seatbones, legs, hands, balance (including eyes) assists the horse in doing his/her part of the maneuvers.

The Foundation Maneuvers provide the "dance steps" that make up the "cow/horse dance" – required in both the Ranch Cutting and the Working Ranch Horse classes. It also is required to succeed in the Ranch Trail and Ranch Riding classes.

What is the “Cow/Horse Dance”?

The “Cow/Horse Dance” is the term used in the Barnes Ranch VRH Skill Building Program to denote the maneuver that the horse makes when turning a cow – whether that is in the Ranch Cutting or Working Ranch Horse classes.

The Foundation Maneuvers are sequenced so that the horse’s body (including hip) is in the correct position while being parallel to the cow. When the cow turns, the horse is back on its haunches, sweeping across, and putting the required amount of pressure to send the cow in the desired direction at the chosen speed.

The three sessions of this clinic build on one another to produce the type of performance riding necessary for this event.