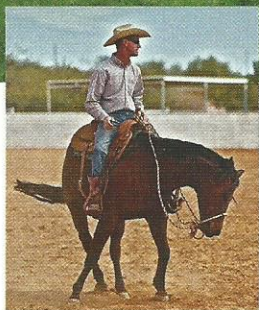


BRIAN BAUSCH | ONE GOAL IN MIND

BY HEATHER HAINES PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAULA BAUSCH & BRIAN ANTHONY



COWBOYS ARE ROMANTICS at heart. By definition they are disposed to a feeling of excitement and mystery. They live a life more rare and

delicate than the average person and the conversation they hold with their horses is a lifelong dialogue, seldom understood and rarely duplicated. However, every once in a while we encounter a person who strives to pass that excitement and mystery on to those around them. A person like Brian Bausch.

Bausch grew up in Kansas and recalls horses being present in his earliest memories. “My father had a ranch horse and I wanted to spend all my time with him! From that point on, I followed around every horse I laid eyes on. I watched them, got to know them and I started to understand how every horse was different.”

He was given his first colt at the age of eight. “I got Hobie as a gift. When I first saw him, I wasn’t too thrilled. He looked like a donkey because he hadn’t grown into his body yet. He had this long nose and ears and his head was sort of big. I was kinda disappointed. I thought I’d been given a mule.”

However, Hobie was no mule. At the time, Bausch had no idea how many gifts his first horse would bestow upon him. The horse wasn’t trained to ride, thus began a career in colt starting. Bausch continued to develop this skill as he trained horses for his older brother. “I was surrounded by lots of horses that weren’t ready,” Bausch explained. “I spent a lot of time with those animals and tried the things that I’d taught Hobie. Those were fundamentals that I’d been taught by a family friend. Fundamentals I still prescribe to today.” ▶



WELL KNOWN TRAINER

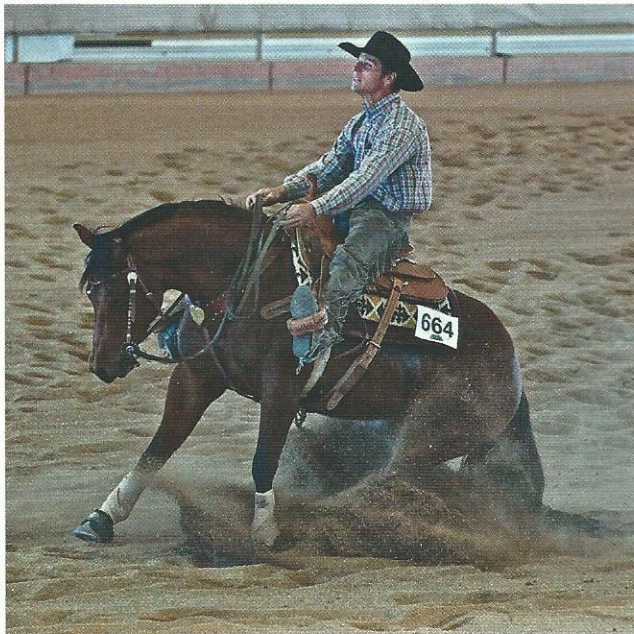


Photo: Mike Lipsey

Hobie also helped instill confidence in his young owner. “He started me into driving with horses, natural horsemanship, riding without a bridle and bareback. He got me into roping, cutting and mounted shooting, jumping and so much more. I knew he would help me cut a cow even though I didn’t know what I was doing. He’d help me take a jump even though I was probably gonna fall off.”

Confidence. That’s the cornerstone to Bausch’s teaching and training today, but it’s not what keeps him going. “I never got to make a choice about what I was going to be in life. There was always this overwhelming joy I had when I was horse back. I just recall riding Hobie up this hill in a long meadow and from the top you could see if cattle were out or what the neighbors were doing. I remember thinking man, I could do this for the rest of my life! I was nine years old. Even then, I knew. It wasn’t a choice. I was meant to help other people feel the same way.”

Years later, the little boy in the meadow has accomplished his dreams of helping others. He teaches horsemanship at the Orme School in Arizona, where he can work with the next generation of equine enthusiasts, helping them get their confidence level to a place that is comfortable and safe for both horse and rider. He helps coach the youth in his charge to their

own personal excellence. He gives seminars and clinics, does some trick riding when called upon but through it all, he has stayed focused and grounded.

“I’m forty years old. I have two children and am living the life of a very proud Dad. My little girl is just two. She attended her first National Finals Rodeo this year and watching her take it all in from her Mom’s lap.” Bausch sighs with content. “I can see her having a future in rodeo. I want to help develop whatever competitive avenues my kids choose, with or without horses.”

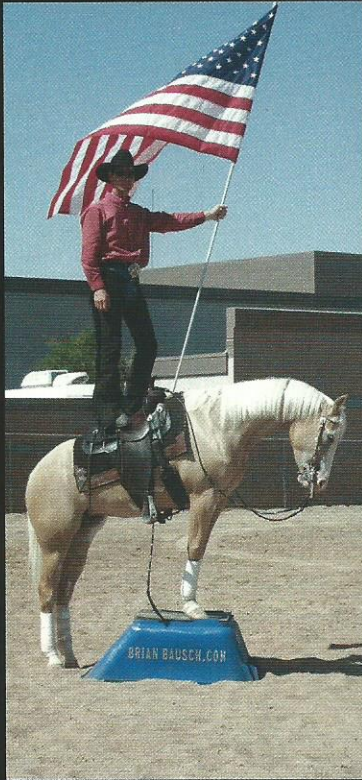
It’s the gentle reminder of the next generation, like his daughter, that keeps him motivated today. He still

“I never got to make a choice about what I was going to be in life. There was always this overwhelming joy I had when I was horseback... I remember thinking ‘man, I could do this for the rest of my life!’”

has the same priorities and goals he had when he was younger: increase the joy people feel with their horses. “The industry is so amazing these days. I’ve always been focused on creating safe and relational horses while expecting a high level of performance. My priorities are spiritual-based. I want to follow my purpose for helping people. And as much as I love horses... it’s about building character in the rider.” 🐾



Brian Bausch will be joining the Western Shooting Horse team as a contributing writer in 2014. Look for his tips on training in upcoming editions!



BRIAN BAUSCH: *Bragging Rights*

2002

MI state calf roper, top ten
 USTRC Champion Heeler
 High Money Team Penning
 CMSA Rifle Champion IL, IN
 CMSA World Eliminator Top 10

2003

CMSA Overall World Champion
 CMSA CO Grand Am. Men's Champion

2007

SASS National's Reserve Champion

2008

Team Roping Jackpot winner, heading
 CMSA Mid Mt. Regional Overall
 CMSA Colorado State Overall
 CMSA Kansas State Overall
 MSA Reserve National Champion
 MSA World Champion

2009

MSA National Champion
 MSA World Champion (overall & 20 extreme)
 MSA World Champion Rifle, lever action

2010

MSA World Champion Res. Overall
 MSA National Champion Res. Overall
 CMSA Texas Regional Overall Champion
 CMSA World Champion Overall Mens 5
 CMSA World Champion Overall Double Down Winner

2012

Project Cowboy Res. Champion Pomona, CA
 NRCHA Hackamore Money Earner

2013

MSA Res. Champion Northern
 Colt Championships

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