2003 Annual Meeting Highlight

JEB: Junctional Epidermolysis Bullosa

Ugly, horrible, dread, or JEB—whatever you want to call it, it's BAD. A disease that previously has been basically in the Belgian world, has now hit the American Creams. Imagine going out to see your beautiful new foal and finding a baby with patches of no hide, or missing its hooves. Once you recover from the horror, there's nothing you can do but put that poor baby down.

Dr. John Baird of the U. of Guelph, Ontario, in association with UC Davis, has developed a test to discover if your American Cream is carrying the DNA for this ugly disease. Through the ACDHA, you can have your horse tested, and the Association will then stamp your registration paper with either "carrier" or "non-carrier", (or "deceased"). The herd book will also be coded with this information. If you have a "carrier" animal, this is not the end of the world. You can still breed this animal—just NOT to another carrier. If you have a "non-carrier", this info on the registration paper will help Cream owners in selecting for healthy foals. You can help the breed become free of this disease by having your Creams tested for JEB. It's $40 vs. such a loss.
American Cream News is a benefit of membership in the American Cream Draft Horse Association, published tri-annually, as of 2003. American Cream News welcomes articles, pictures, letters, and classified ads dealing with American Creams, other draft horse breeds, and equipment and events dealing with draft horses.

Nancy Lively, Secretary:
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Hello, I’m Nancy Phillips. I have been invited to produce a newsletter for the Association to see if my work will suffice once Colonial Williamsburg ceases production. I produced a monthly 12-pg newsletter for an organization in TN for about 14 months on a word processor. Now I have a fancy computer with appropriate programs for making a newsletter, so I hope you like my first edition. Feel free to contribute or contact me (info above.) See you in Colonial Williamsburg in October 2004.

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My Adventure

What would possess a 45 year old woman from California to spend the second week of December driving to Montana and back when she should be getting ready for the holidays? Why, the thought of getting a new American Cream Draft Horse, of course!

2003 was an eventful year at Miller’s Cream Draft. On May 9th, our stallion’s (J.D.’s Will’s Pride, aka “Joshua”) first foal arrived. Unfortunately, we lost our wonderful mare “Belle” (Jumper’s Elvira) after foaling, leaving us with an orphan filly (soon named “Annabelle”), to raise. Did you know an orphan draft foal can drink 22 quarts of goat’s milk/milk replacer a day? Neither did we... Anyway, by September, Annie (as in “Little Orphan”), was weaned and we were in the process of moving from Atascadero on the central coast of CA to Grass Valley, 300 miles north. (Our place was 10 miles south of Paso Robles—now I know that I was right to have earthquake insurance all those years!)

By this time, Lynn Anderson of Bozeman, MT had decided to sell her team of mares, #312 Danny Boy’s Honey and #396 John/Ann Acres Danny Boy’s Brandi. Lynn and I started negotiating, but I just couldn’t rationalize buying both, after the move. Right before Thanksgiving, Lynn decided to keep the older mare, Honey, to help train her coming 3 year olds. I could do that... So, with new front tires on the truck, and weather forecast checked, I hit the road on December 6th.

From Grass Valley, I took state highway 49 S. to Auburn, then east on 180 toward Reno. Within 60 miles, highway signs informed me I’d need chains on over Donner Pass. I could do that. At Nyack, I pulled over and put the chains on the outer dually tires. A highway worked informed me the trailer would have to have chains, too! Argh! Let’s just say you don’t want to know how much it costs to buy chains at a service station in the boondocks in a snowstorm. The $20 to install and adjust them was insignificant by comparison (Lesson #1).

An hour later—back on the interstate. It was time for lunch by Reno. I was making good time. In CA, if you’re pulling a trailer, maximum speed is 55mph. In Nevada, it is 75. With clear roads, I made it across NV and north to Twin Falls, ID by 8 p.m. Total miles Day #1: 533.

(Lesson #2: Get room on side away from highway).

On the road early—east to Pocatello. (Lesson #3: Fill tank at half mark unless you want to explore some really small towns. Did you know some bars sell fuel in MT?) On 190 in MT, and I arrived in Bozeman by mid-afternoon. Day #2: 440 mi.

Lynn had left a gate open so I could park in her front pasture. (Unfortunately, it was unusually warm and the top few inches of soil had thawed. (Lesson #4: Two wheel drive dual packages do poorly in mud.)

After making sure the truck was indeed stuck, Lynn invited me in and then on a tour to meet her horses. Honey, Darby, and Dillon were out to pasture. I couldn’t tell Darby and Dillon apart. They’ll make a great team some day! Then we went to the barn to see Brandi—where she was being kept keep dry and clean. (Why do Creams love to roll in the mud? Is it so their human servants will brush them?) Brandi was very nice—a pleasant head, square legs, good feet and a kind & willing personality. Even though she did not like being locked in the barn away from her buddies, she let a stranger pick up her feet and handle her.

We retired to the house to strategize on getting my truck out. The easiest course of action was to just leave it there until the ground refroze that night. Lynn invited me to spend the night; I gratefully accepted.

Prior to leaving CA, I had contacted Wes Ropalski about coming to see his horses. Hey, it was only a couple hundred miles away from Lynn’s—when else would I ever be in the “neighborhood”?! So I called Wes and made arrangements to go see him the following day.

The drive to St. Ignatius was scenic. There was snow and ice on the roads in places, enough to cause a few accidents, mostly the single-vehicle kind. I got to Wes’ after lunch. It took 4 hours. His place is in a valley, on an Indian reservation, surrounded by majestic mountains. I jokingly told him our place in CA was more rural than his—his mail is delivered to his driveway. We have to drive to the end of our road to get ours!

Wes introduced me to #282 Clar Ann Dick’s Major, his stallion. He is a well-built dark Cream. He is steady enough for Wes to use him in his carriage business (his vis-à-vis is impressive). Then I got to see two weanling colts, a gelding, and an assortment of mares and fillies. Wes shared the history of his horses—which he’d bred, where he had purchased the others and his breeding philosophy. He is concerned about the detrimental affects of inbreeding and the overabundance of Belgian blood. One of his colts is out of a full sister to Major and by a Clydesdale stallion. Even though his colt is only eligible for tracking registration, Wes hopes he will develop into a good stallion for out-crossing. (Yes—he’s cream-colored and has pink skin.)

Wes also has an eclectic mix of animals: Creams, a Nigerian Dwarf Goat, an emu, pigeons, chickens, and various rare breeds of turkeys. To protect the animals, he has several large dogs, including two Great Pyrenees. Wes showed me a fence damaged by a bear! (Maybe his place is more rural than ours!)

After visiting for several hours, it was time to go. It gets dark by 4:30 p.m. up there. The drop in temperature results in icy roads—I knew it’d take longer to get back to Bozeman. Sure enough, I hit my first patch of ice right after dark. It sure got my attention! It served as a reminder to slow down over mountain passes. Thankfully, the rest of the trip back to Lynn’s was uneventful.

On Tuesday I was ready to head south. The local weather forecast expected a storm to be moving in that night. Boy, it was cold that morning! I wished I had a scarf to cover my face. We even brought Brandi’s leather halter into the house to take the chill off of it. Lynn and I got Brandi and two bales of hay loaded up. I had a bill of sale, her health certificate, and her brand inspection card. (Brand inspections are required in all western states. Lynn said that that — Cont. on Page 4)
From the Driver’s Seat

First, I would like to thank Nancy Phillips for taking on the task of editing, publishing and mailing the newsletter. Secondly, a tip of the hat to Keeli, Marilyn, and Terry Precord for taking over the calendar project. You will note in Marilyn’s report that she has fewer than 30 left. If you have not gotten one, please help the Association by buying at least one. Remember this is our only fund raiser. A special thanks to all of you who supported sales by taking some on consignment. With all of the positive comments, there was only one member who was displeased.

The testing for JEB is progressing slowly. If you own a stallion, or you are breeding to an untested stallion, you should have the stallion or mare(s) tested. We can wipe this out now with a little effort and expense.

The Annual Meeting will be here before you know it. Karen has done a great job of planning a very interesting get together. Stage giving some thoughts now about possible agenda items.

We continue to grow slowly. In the past week, I have been contacted by people from Alabama, North Carolina, and Montana for information and animals.

Captian’s Barnabus Gold

This stallion has worked hard since arriving at Cream Acres Ranch in 1989, showing in halter before he was a year old. His produce have gone on to win Grand Champion stallion titles, Grand Champion Mare titles, Best of Get, Produce of Dams out of mares of his. More importantly, he has worked our ranch with ease and a manner anyone would be proud of. He imparts into his get his wonderfully easy nature and flash of gait, not to mention his 1" thick hoof walls, which have never seen shoes because he does not need them. From the late 80’s through 2001, he has been exhibited in the show arena with his mares in single competition cart classes, winning 6th at the Grass Valley Draft Horse Classic, 2001, out of a field of 31 participants from some of the biggest show hitches in the nation. This is a big feat for a conformationally correct American Cream Draft, as at 163 H, it takes a very good smaller horse to win against the taller bred hitch horses of today. He has also shown in team, 3 abreast, and was part of the lead team of the first American Cream Draft Horse 4up to show in the professional show arena since the 40’s having the honor of bringing John Lyons into the arena at the Northwest Equine Expo in 2001.

Now Barney’s get have gone on to complete our show hitch, which this year will be a 6up of the wonderful genetic package he has passed down. We have retired him from the show arena, and will soon retire him from outside breeding. He is a part of our family, and we will make these decisions based on what is best, and safest for him. Breedings will be taken on a case-by-case situation from this breeding season on.

When I sent in the paperwork to Karene Bunker-Topp to register Barney, she called to tell me at the time, this young stallion possessed the best lineage she had seen since registering Creams. At that time most horses papers came in, which were very infrequent because we only had 20 some registered horses when Barney was registered, and the breed was considered virtually extinct with at least one of the parents being “unknown” and most of the grandparents being “unknown.” Karen told me Barney was the first horse she has registered in decades she could trace back 5 generations.

It has been our goal at Cream Acres Ranch to give back to America the breed it almost lost, true to what C.T. Rierson envisioned as that stamp of a true American Cream Draft, and to that end we feel because of Barney, with the 45 foals he has sired, we have accomplished the task we set out to do so many years ago.

Contact Cream Acres Ranch for stud fees and breeding arrangements. 541-382-6201
creamacres@hotmail.com

by Frank Tiscel

friend of hers learned the hard way that the fine for not having one is $5000. We said our goodbyes and I was on the road again by 9 a.m.

It was a beautiful drive south through Montana to Idaho. The scenery was awesome. I even saw a Bald Eagle fly and land next to the highway. Many ponds were frozen and the rivers had ice building up along the banks. I-15 had snow and ice also, but chains weren’t required. I went over the Continental Divide for the fourth time this trip, then crossed into Idaho. The roads were drier and the driving faster the farther south I went. Every time I stopped, I offered Brandi water and replenished her hay. I prefer hauling horses loose whenever possible. She hauled wonderfully, no fussing or misbehaving.

I wanted to get as far south as I could Tuesday while the weather was favorable. I figured the sooner I got Brandi to her new home, the better. I made it to Nevada, then to Elko, where I stopped for dinner. I decided I could drive for a little bit longer - Elko was just an hour to the west.
Owners: Donna & George Miller - Grass Valley, CA
  donna@millerscreamdraft.com  530-477-7687
  $250 Creams / $400 non-Creams
  shipped semen available
  Height: 17.1  Weight: 1800#

Joshua (JD's Billy 273 x Hockett's Sara 249) has one filly on
the ground, Annabelle, and is expecting his second foal in April
2004 out of Dan Ackerman's Lightning's Bridger #465.

Owners: Janet & Brad Brehm - Tigerton, WI
  arab@frontiernet.net  715-754-5575
  $300 Creams / $350 non-Creams
  shipped ...........
  Height: 16.3  Weight: 1500#

Swede (Ead's Prince 242 x Dolly unreg. Cream) won 1st Place
and Grand Champion in his first show. He has a charming per-
sonality, a smooth as silk action, and fabulous conformation.

Owners: Carol & David Pshigoda - Bend, OR
  creamacres@hotmail.com  541-382-6201
  Private Treaty
  shipped semen available
  Height: 16.3  Weight: 1800 #

Barney (Ead's Captain 209 x Hockett's Barbie Doll 212) was
Oregon St. Fair Gr. Ch. Stallion over all Drafts for 10 yrs. He
has sired 45 babies, many that have become Chs. and Gr. Chs.
STALLIONS STANDING IN 2004

Owners: Nancy & David Lively - Bennington, VT
livery@sover.net 802-447-7612

$500 Creams / $500 non-Creams
A.I. / shipped semen available
Height: 16.0  Weight: 1600 #

Trouble (Rebel 295 x Jumper’s Elvira “Belle” 324), [T-shirt model], he passes on his easy-going demeanor, has sired 7 foals, and is a joy to work with—loves everybody!

Owners: Leslie & Tim Beavers - Culleoka, TN
tbeavers.1@netzero.net 931-270-7790

$ free Reg. Creams & Trackers
$200 other Drafts / $500 light horses
shipped cooled semen $250 + breeding fee
Ht: 15.3  Wt: 1500+  #  Mare Care: $5/day

Luke (Abbott’s Constable’s Tommy x Ostella’s Blondie) has sired 7 foals, (2) 1st’s in Stallion Halter, passes-on gentle disposition.

Owners: Frank & Paula Tremel - West River, MD
rosehillcreams@aol.com 301-261-5327

$100 Creams / $200 other Drafts / $300 light horses
Mare Care: extra  A.I. not available
Ht: 16.3  Wt: 17-1800  #  JEB POS

Sorry, no photo available

Jerry (C.W. Cream of the Crop 231 x C.W. Rich & Creamy 232) light Cream, white mane & tail, pink skin; has sired foals in MD, DE, CA, CO, and IA.

# 284 C.W. Cream of Wheat (“JERRY”) 1993
Colonial Williamsburg - October 15-16, 2004

Our Editor of several years, Karen Smith, has made some great arrangements for our next annual meeting at the Woodlands Hotel & Suites. Rooms will run (with taxes) about $110 [or if you must, a luxury suite will sleep 4 and will cost you $147/night.] There will be a per person $15 registration fee and this helps cover a reduced room rate, breakfast on Friday, a visit to the stable and farm at Colonial Williamsburg, and helps C.W. defray some of their costs. There are a limited number of rooms set aside for us, so book early! Karen also asked about the things we’d like to do while we’re there, and the whole weekend promises to be filled with loads of fun and information. Call Colonial Williamsburg at 1-800-822-9127 to reserve your room for the annual meeting on Oct. 15-16, 2004. More info later.

This Cloud Had a Cream Lining

It was the worst trip I'd been on in a long time. We left Crocker, MO about 8 a.m. on Saturday morning. We had a simple plan - take the back roads to Jefferson City, pick up 63 N, and follow it to Waterloo, Iowa. In Waterloo, the National Cattle Congress was winding down, and Jeff had a date with a buxom blonde named Belle.

Jeff battled the wind and rain for the first four hours. That got us to an intersection about ten miles inside Iowa, where 63 turns right and follows Rt. 218. I took off then. Jeff promptly went to sleep, while I battled the wind and rain for awhile. While he should have done was stay awake to keep me on track, since my attention was divided between the hydroplaning and the ditch I was trying to avoid. Had someone been watching the map, I wouldn't have missed the left turn Rt. 63 took about 2 miles down the road. By the time we realized this, we were about 30 miles out of the way, and a lot closer to the next major highway north.

So, finally we were headed north again on our new path, Rt. 218. Somewhere up the road, we would pick up Interstate 380 and head into Waterloo. Jeff let me know the next major city I'd come to, and rolled over to nap again. This time, I neglected to notice that 218 and 380 split for awhile. Thinking that I was still on the dual highway, I continued to follow the 218 signs. Well, this was twice I had missed the road I needed. Jeff woke and picked up the map to see where we were. He sighed. I'm still trying to keep the truck from hydroplaning, and he says I'm not on the right road again.

Buried in the map, Jeff tried to guide me back to 380. You'll never guess what happened then. A detour. At this point, I was ready to cry. A six hour trip was going to take about eight or better, but finally, we made it back to 380. We thought we were actually going to make it into Waterloo without another incident. Yeah, right. As we neared the town, I realized I had not brought the directions to the hotel. Actually, I wasn't even sure which hotel I had booked. We stopped twice to get directions, and after about 25 minutes of touring lonely Waterloo, we made it to our room.

A quick potty break, a change of clothes, camera in hand, and we were off to the Cattle Congress. Once there, we made a beeline for the second building. There she was! Rather broad in the rear, a neck any wrestler would die for, a set of shoulders any football player would die for, a head that seemed a bit large, really long wavy white hair (white, just how old is this gal?), but, gosh, she was beautiful! Hockett’s Belle (#235). And there she stood, graciously accepting a pet from every man, woman, and child who passed within arm’s reach. She loved every minute of the attention, and was even seen backing up to keep within reach of a couple of little boys who were walking past.

It took me about 2 seconds to know I wanted her. Wendell Lupkes was showing her for his Dad, Merlin. We talked for several minutes, and then he allowed us into the pen to take photos. I felt so special. But, after several pictures, we politely got out of the pen and I went on down the aisle to take pictures of the pigs and goats. Jeff came running up to me and whispered, "Well, aren't you going to tell him?" So we went back to make arrangements to take home that beautiful mare.

At last! We finally have an American Cream (which allows us to join the list of "beautiful people" with no "A" in front of their membership number), and we now have the horse I've wanted for pulling that antique surrey that's sitting in our garage. YES!!! Oh, the trip home! It was the most beautiful day! The temperature was about 58, a light breeze was blowing, and there were puffy white clouds on a bright blue sky, but one of those clouds had a Cream lining.
My Adventure con't.

I made it to a Motel 6 where I could park the horse trailer in front of my room. Mileage: 620. I slept quite well that night. I guess I was tired.

I called about road conditions first thing in the morning. Chains were required over Donner Summit (again). Crossed my fingers and hoped that the requirement would be lifted by the time I got there. The drive to Reno was uneventful. A few more flurries, but the road was dry and clear. I fueled up in Reno and heard the bad news - it was snowing in the Sierras and chains were still required. Radio reception is awful in the mountains and I'd already listened to all the tapes and CDs I'd brought with me, so I purchased a Nora Roberts book on CD. It was a great diversion for the rest of the trip.

Chain controls started 20-30 miles west of Reno. I put the cables on the truck but opted to pay the $20 to have them put on the trailer. I watched, in case I'd have to do it myself if there is a next time.

It was snowing heavily over the pass, and by the look of the road, had been doing so all night. I mostly stayed in the slow lane, following the big rigs at 25 m.p.h. I wasn't worried about Brandi getting cold - compared to a Montana winter, this was probably warm.

Finally, on the west side of the Sierras, the chains could come off. An hour more and the CD book was finished. Another 15 minutes and I was home! It was 2 p.m., Wednesday, December 10th. Today's mileage: 350. Total trip mileage: About 2300. Times asked for health papers or brand inspection: 0. Flat tires: 0. Mishaps: 1 (getting stuck in the mud).

Well, I totally enjoyed my adventure - visiting fellow Cream owners and buying a new horse, but I was glad to be home!

Postscript: Brandi has settled in well. She'll be bred to Joshua this spring along with our tracking mare, Cinnamon. I can't wait to see their 2005 foals!