

“In Hand” with Mike Bridges



2019 Dates: April 2-4 | Aug 6-8 | Sept 10-12
Time: 9am - 3:30pm Tuesday and Wednesday
8:30am - 12:30pm Thursday
Location: Medicine Horse Ranch, Tomales CA

Building relationship with the horse from the ground, "in-hand" as it has been known for centuries, is fast becoming a lost art. Whether schooling a young horse, or retraining horses with behavior problems due to poor foundations, in hand work provides integral training needed to advance the education of both horse and human.

“In Hand” sessions are designed to build relationship, communication and respect between you and the horse. In the course of our studies, we will be learning and teaching 16 different movements to the horse. The signals we are developing encourage the horse to move in the direction indicated as follows:

- Step by you
- Step around you
- Step between you and a barrier
- Stand in his/her own space

As we progress into gymnastic movements, we can influence the horse to learn more advanced work including:

- Shoulder In
- Shoulder Out
- Travers (Hip In)
- Turn Around (Inside Pivot Foot)
- Shoulder Out
- Counter Bend Circle
- Forward, Back up and Stop

Everything we want to teach the horse can be learned from the ground. Over time we will continue to develop all these movements into higher and more advanced levels with developing frame, enhanced balance and increased suspension in the gait. Working a horse in hand can be extremely rewarding in developing partnership, confidence, trust and mental and physical fitness.

In the event you do not own or have access to a horse, Medicine Horse Ranch may consider “leasing” one of our program horses. There is no additional charge to work with one of our herd members during the program. Please contact Alyssa Aubrey to discuss these arrangements.



About Mike: Mike Bridges is an internationally known clinician and bridle horseman in the California Vaquero Style with more than sixty years of making his living on the back of a horse.

He began learning the Vaquero tradition as a teenager from his grandfather, who advised him to seek out other vaqueros to deepen his knowledge. Mike set out to buckaroo on different ranches in California and Nevada where he learned from those who lived this old tradition. Today he is one of the few horsemen who can still build a traditional California Vaquero "turn at the touch" Bridle Horse.

Mike focuses his clinics towards people who have a basic foundation in soft, not harsh, horsemanship, these days often referred to as Natural Horsemanship. Mike puts on clinics in the United States and Europe on Seeking Refinement, Cow Working, the Hackamore and Bridling. In private clinics he shares more of the knowledge he has accumulated in over 60 years of working with horses and living the Vaquero style.

Mike is the author of “The Art of Making a California-Style Vaquero Bridle Horse” which explains Mike Bridges' methods for developing horses in the California Vaquero tradition – the book includes colt starting, working in the hackamore horse, the two-rein system, and finally "straight-up" in the bridle (the finished bridle horse). For more information about Mike Bridges, visit his website www.mikebridges.n

Cost: \$395.00, (for each series),

Limited to 12 participants

To Register:

Contact Alyssa Aubrey: 707-878-2440

email: office@medicinehorseranch.org