

BOB KING'S COWBOY SCHOOL

By Cheryl Lieurance, Dreamcatcher Stable

"Cowboy **WHAT?** You mean I could learn the Cowboy way of life in a Cowboy School? Now THAT sounds interesting," you may be thinking.

"I wonder what else I would learn at Cowboy School?" you might be asking yourself. "Probably roping and other ranch skills, but maybe my horse and I might develop a better relationship in the process. We'd sure have to learn to work together! That would be a bonus."

And your last lament might be, "But I can't travel clear out West in order to attend this school! I sure wish it was closer."

Well wish no more, because on October 6-15th, Bob King's Cowboy School is coming EAST! - to Dreamcatcher Stable in southeast Iowa!

Many years ago my husband Mark and I were encouraged by Buck Brannaman to

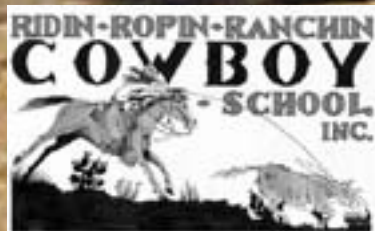
learn how to rope. We were told it would be good for our horses; that it would give them a job to do, and the leg and rein cues we had been teaching them would then make sense to them. So we ventured into the world of Ranch Roping, not knowing where it would lead us! We roped in clinics with Buck, and with The Californios, struggling to put it all together...especially me!! Then one cold spring day my friend Laura and I stopped in to watch a Bob King Ranch Roping Clinic. Bob strolled over to the fence, introduced himself to us and after visiting with us, offered us ropes to practice with on the roping dummies. The next day we loaded up our horses and went back to get some more of what Bob King had to offer! The next thing I knew, I had agreed to host Bob King's fall clinic at our arena!!

That was in 2005, and we have been privileged to host more Bob's clinics since then. For three years we hosted strictly Ranch Roping Clinics. But we discovered

what we really needed was to not only work on our roping skills, we needed to continue working on our horsemanship skills as well. We expanded our clinic format to include a Horsemanship class, and it was a great success! Bob uses the traditional Vaquero methods of working with horses that were taught to him by the best in the business; Tom Dorrance, Ray Hunt and Buck Brannaman just to name a few! We've also had a lot of requests for a Cow Working Clinic with Bob. So for the very first time, this October we will offer three days of Cow Working! We're really excited about expanding the opportunities for people to work with Bob. His small class size and teaching methods make learning easy as 1-2-3!

I could go on and on about Bob, but our past clinic participants say it all!

Laura Davis: Bob has the ability to break down every part of your swing and fix individual pieces if needed. His teaching



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style is very calm and he builds confidence. He teaches roping and makes sure the horse is right at the same time. He brings a calmness to the whole arena - horses, ropers, and even the cattle. It has been a fun experience year after year.

Ann Bennett: Bob King is a great teacher and horseman. His clinics are limited in size and go all day, with plenty of opportunity for demonstrations, discussion, reflection, questions, and practice. Bob is able to teach someone who has never handled a rope, how to build a loop, swing and catch heads or heels. He also teaches fine classical horsemanship and educates his students about the 5 rein aides, the phases of the flight of the hoof (including flight, landing, support and breakover), how to encourage self carriage in our horse, how to ride centered and balanced, how to use soft eyes, how to feel our horse through our seat and time the use of our aides, how to handle our reins with softness. He uses correct terminology and can teach you how to ask your horse for a turn on the forehand or a shoulder-in. Bob is kind and always aware of safety first so you are able to learn

without fear or anxiety.

Sue Vanmeter: Attending my first clinic with Bob this spring left me definitely wanting more. I was impressed with Bob's gentle strength. He has a way with horses that you don't normally have the opportunity to experience. I found myself totally engrossed with what Bob had to say and watching him work with our horses as well as his patience in teaching us how to do the same was amazing. I came away with a new outlook on my own horsemanship.

Hannah Muff: (Our youngest clinic participant, Hannah started riding with Bob at 13). I am very glad to have been able to participate in Bob King's horsemanship clinic. When I first got to class with my horse, Blaze, she had a real problem with kicking out when I would ask her to lope. It took a little time, but after Bob put the flank rope on her and roped her hind legs, she was cured! Bob's methods are humane and they work! I have been to four of his horsemanship clinics now, and learn wonderful new things each time. My horse and I have shown amazing improvement because of Bob.

Ranch Roping isn't a speed event. It's not a run and gun competition like calf roping or team roping. It's a low-stress style of roping that is easier on both the cattle and the horses. The ropes are softer and average 60' in length. This extra length allows the roper the advantage of 'sneaking up' on an unsuspecting calf that needs doctoring. As he releases his big loop into the air, it floats silently towards the calf as it stands beside its momma, and it drops quietly over the calf's head. The roper pulls his/her slack, and the calf is caught! The calf is brought out of the herd and another roper catches its heels. The calf is down, and the ground crew comes in to vaccinate after which the calf is released back to its momma. Most good cattlemen will agree, low stress - low weight loss. Add in the Vaquero style of riding and you have a beautifully artistic form of roping and riding.

Come join us! Your horse will be glad you did!

Details on the classes, dates, accommodations and fees are on our website: www.dreamcatcher-stable.com.



BACKGROUND PHOTOS: Cheryl Lieurance, roping at Bob's Cowboy School in Cochise, Arizona this spring. The rocky formations in the background are Cochise's Stronghold.

INSERT: Bryan Pierce, from Eagle River, WI, on his TWH Hunter. Throwing a 'turn-over' loop to head a calf.

