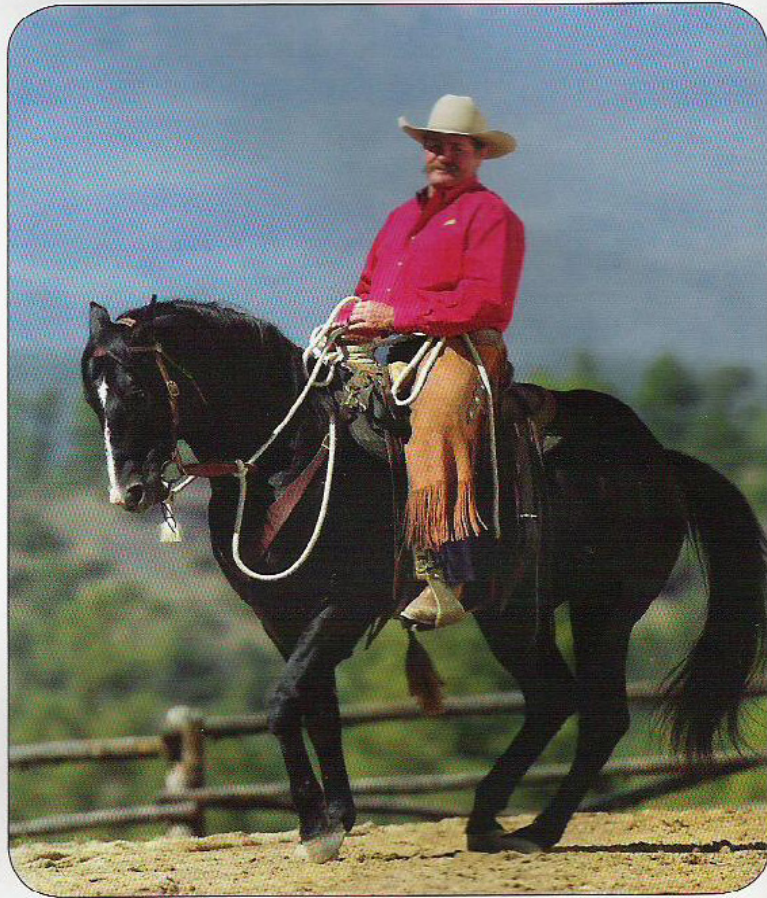


Pat and Linda



Pat and Magic Colorado

Parelli Natural Horsemanship

In this month's issue of *Welsh Rider*, the first in our new series with Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship, we find out a little bit more about the man himself and the events that have shaped his life and training methods and his vision for the future.

"If all I did was teach you to think like a horse and truly understand their psychology, you'd have the keys to be able to do whatever you want with horses, and to win their hearts."

Pat Parelli

Pat Parelli was obsessed with horses at an early age. He was born in California's Bay Area and hung around the racetracks and the stable yards just to be close to these magnificent creatures. From 9, he was a regular and reliable little worker, enthusiastically helping with whatever he could, ears and eyes

open for every nugget of wisdom. And the more he watched, listened and learned, the more he developed his own ideas about raising foals and training horses.

When he was 13, a strapper called Freddie Ferrera, who'd admired Pat's passion and persistence, decided to take him under his wing. In the long, hot, summer holidays Freddie would teach Pat how to be more natural with all God's creatures, and how to pay more attention to, and be more in tune with, the natural world.

At just 17, Pat launched himself into rodeos where his favourite event was the bareback buck. He was a natural! But he also had a good coach in John Hawkins, and won the

Bareback Rookie of the Year title in 1972, his buck off average just 4%. But Pat soon realised that rodeo isn't a career for a lifetime, and he wouldn't bounce forever. He saw how difficult it was for the older athletes to swap the adrenalin and applause for something more staid and secure. So he decided that he concentrate on training horses and began a business starting colts.

But both the horses and the customers were unpredictable, and equine and financial frustration soon set in and Pat was prepared to give up horses altogether. He hated the assembly line approach to breaking and making horses and very nearly gave the game up altogether.

Then three significant events changed his life:

- He met Tony Ernst
- He began to work under the tutelage of Troy Henry
- He became fascinated with the idea of training mules to be able to perform like horses.

To read about these significant events and how they changed Pat log onto www.welshrider.co.uk magazine click on the online magazine and turn to page 57. In our November issue we meet Pat's wife Linda.

If you want to improve the relationship with your horse, call 0800 023 4813 and ask for your free "What is Parelli" DVD!

Read more about Pat on page 52 - www.welshrider.co.uk