

TBR News & Notes

PO Box 1266, Deming, NM 88031 ■ tierrablancaranch.com ■ 575-544-1340

from the Saddle

by Scott Chandler, Director

Back in the 90's, a good friend of ours named Dale sold his ranch. He had a pair of Catahoula dogs to work cattle in rough country. Dale gave the pair to my dad to work on our ranch. Smokey was the lead dog and was professionally trained. Since Smokey was getting on in age, we decided to get a pup and have Smokey train the pup for us. We had used this technique successfully before, but this pup we got, named Rowdy, would prove to be different. Most cowedogs are born with the natural instinct to do their job; it is our job to channel their talents. Rowdy at the start showed no interest in cattle. He came from a guy known for his great cattle dogs, but Rowdy could care less. He wouldn't even follow a horse, ran away at the sight of cattle and was hard-headed. My dad and I were pretty frustrated with him. Rowdy knew what the basic commands meant and what we were asking him, but would choose to disobey no matter the consequences. We knew most cow dogs worth anything are ornery and a big hard-headed, so they can withstand what wild cattle throw at them, but Rowdy was a little over the top. On more than a few occasions we considered getting rid of him; however, we Chandlers don't give up too easily. Eventually Rowdy began to show interest; in fact, he became obsessed with cattle, which was great, but we still hadn't quite gotten control of him. He would start out on a cattle round-up doing really well and then screw up the whole works because we couldn't get him to stop. At that point, it would have



A group of TBR kids gather to weigh the pecans they gleaned at Bill and June Halsell's farm. The Halsell's allowed TBR to glean their pecan orchard to help raise money for the Bataan 15.2 mile marathon.

been easier to leave Rowdy at home, but we knew if we wanted to turn him into a good dog, we had to work him. One windy day we were working cattle, and Rowdy got on to some cattle, but because of the wind we couldn't locate him or the cattle. Rowdy injured a calf really badly by the time we found them. It was a critical time for Rowdy; we had invested many hours and thought we were getting to the point he would be an asset to the ranch. This was no minor setback. Again we considered Rowdy's fate and chose to continue forward with his training. The days of frustrating work by my dad and me finally began paying off. We eventually had a cattle dog that exceeded our known expectations of what a cowedog could do. Rowdy could find cattle 2-3 times further than any dog we had seen. He made locating and stopping wild cattle nothing but routine. The hours he saved us searching and chasing those cattle were impossible to calcu-

late. What I want us to see is although it can be hard, frustrating and tiring, we can turn the tide for someone by investing what is needed to grow a productive member of a family and society. I tell our kids at the ranch that by them being at the ranch it shows that their parents haven't given up despite some critical set-backs. They are getting some help because they know if they can outlast and get the proper training in their child, then a unique, talented person will emerge. There are other lessons we can learn from Rowdy. First, Rowdy wasn't interested in anything useful (how many times have you felt or said that?). If we show a person how to live a good, productive life, eventually they will want to as well. Remember Smokey at the beginning of this story; he kept showing Rowdy how cool it was to be a good cowedog (it really does matter who they hang out with). So even if they don't

continued on reverse side

from the Boys Lodge

A series of storms in December and January put the TBR cattle at risk for sickness; the efforts of Dustin and the boys kept losses to a minimum, and the boys helped Scott sort the cattle and prepare them to be shipped off for sale.

A new student at the boys lodge sent the group up for an extended hiking/camping trip to get to know the newcomer. The trip was cut a little short by a mountain snowstorm that forced the group to vacate the campground for warmer territory.

Seven of the boys continued their running training with staffmember, Emily Campbell and Colette Chandler. They are in training for a 15.2 mile half-marathon in memory of the Bataan death march. The runners spent several days in January gleaning the pecan orchards



Emily and 8 of the boys toast chocolate milk (their after-every-run tradition). They are training for the Bataan 15.2 mile marathon fundraiser.

owned by Hatch residents Bill and June Halsell. The Halsell's graciously paid the group market price for the pecans they picked as a fundraiser for the upcoming marathon.

The boys joined Emily in a mission to slaughter Romeo, the ranch rooster, who had sealed his fate by becoming aggressive towards humans. Romeo made a

tasty meal for TBR.

In addition, staffmember John Wills, took the three senior boys to a classic car show in Albuquerque. **ZX**

Quotes
*//Saran wrap does not make a
 very good
 sleeping bag.//*
 ~ Tim

Creek Ranch Highlights

January marked the start of a new semester for the boys and girls of TBR. Jerry Mayeux, a chemist and neighbor of the TBR, has graciously opened his home and lab to the two girls and three boys taking Chemistry this semester. The students are now able to do all of their labs with the supervision and expertise of Mr. Mayeux.

The approach of Valentine's Day heralds in a busy season at Chandlers Flowershop, owned by Kay Chandler, Scott's mother. Staffmembers Emily, Colette and Tracy and the girls spent the week prior to Valentine's at the flowershop - making deliveries, creating bouquets, blowing up hundreds of balloons and helping customers find



Jerry Mayeux helps Kaitlyn and Alex with their chemistry lab.

the perfect romantic gift.

The ranch also received a gift of T-shirts and paint - one for every student at the ranch. The boys and girls spent an afternoon decorating their shirts. with some very creative results. **ZX**

Rowdy cont...

appear interested...keep showing them. Second, as I mentioned earlier, the best cowedogs are a little hard-headed and ornery. Look at who Jesus picked out for his early disciples - rough, ornery fishermen who weren't known for being mild-mannered and meek. He knew the "wild cattle" they would get into would test them greatly. So with the right channeling and training, they were able to fulfill a great purpose. If we had given up on Rowdy at one of the difficult points we would have missed working with one of the most gifted dogs who truly loved his work. I enjoyed Rowdy and was amazed at what he could do. That said, we were constantly teaching and correcting him. Auto pilot doesn't work on dogs, horses, cattle or people. Cowedogs or people, some are more difficult to train. Everyone hopes their child chooses not to learn everything the hard way, but if you see a correlation between your child and Rowdy don't give up! It might be tough, and I admit I wasn't fond of the process it took to get Rowdy to his greatness but in the end it was well worth it. **ZX**

Thank You's

To Cindy Peake

Thank you for donating a new crockpot to the girls at the Creek Ranch.

To Iola Alvarez

Thank you for sending a package of T-shirts and decorative paint to all the

youth at the TBR. Everyone enjoyed decorating their shirts.

To Ruddock MFG

Thank you for your donation of pocket constitutions, hats and cold weather headbands.