

Whitney's husband Patrick Brice shares her love of horses. His passion is roping and ranch riding. Whitney started his coming-three-year-old Quarter Horse. They often trail ride at their facility with Game Of Thrones (Whitney, up), Abalone and miniature horse Too Short



Whitney Anderson has opened her Anderson Stables at Hazy Meadow Ranch in San Diego, California. She is the granddaughter of Saddlebred and Hackney royalty Bob and Nancy Anderson.



Anderson showed Clairece, owned by Joanne Weiner, to sweep the park division at Diamond Jubilee in 2018 while working at Rockridge Farm.



Abalone was a star in the academy division at this year's Labor Day Classic with Riley Julian, Jordyn Olson and Makenna Olson.

## Anderson Stables

## YOU KNOW THE NAME, SHE KNOWS THE GAME

BY LEEANN MIONE

Whitney Anderson Brice has hung out her shingle and is ready to carry on the Anderson family's legacy in the saddle horse business. Introduced to American Saddlebreds by her grandparents Bob and Nancy Anderson who owned and showed many top Saddlebreds and Hackney ponies, including world's champion CH Pacifico's Standing Ovation and many times world's champion of champions CH Callaway's Pretty Penny with Hollow Haven Farm, she is no stranger to equine greatness in the show ring.

Whitney started riding lessons at six years old with Bob Griffin at the Durant's Bell View Acres in Illinois. When Griffin started Northern Tradition Farm with trainer Tom Thorpe, Whitney and her first show horse, Meadowsweet, followed him.

"As soon as I started showing, I was hooked," said Anderson. "Like many little girls do, I dreamed of having my own barn and show string. I can't explain it any other way but as a calling. There were careers that sounded interesting throughout my schooling, but no profession could hold my interest like horse training could; probably because it was such an important part of my childhood and my family's history."

Anderson rode with Griffin and Thorpe throughout her junior exhibitor career and earned several world's titles with CH Titleist Symbol. She also had the opportunity to show Bob Anderson's pony Super Spy to a world's championship. She rode in the 10 and under equitation division but it was performance, especially park and five-gaited, that she truly loved.

Griffin and Thorpe gave Whitney her first job. She worked a few horses and helped start some colts under their direction. She then headed to Atherton, California to work for Jennifer Dixon. She spent five years there before heading to southern California [San Diego] and Rockridge Farm, owned by Bill and Debbie Tomin. "Bill is meticulous in his work, especially with colts," said Anderson. "I learned so much about starting one from the ground up. He challenged me to be better while never letting me get in over my head."

The time has come, even in this most challenging year, for Whitney Anderson Brice to make the leap. Anderson Stables, located at Hazy Meadow Ranch, is located in San Diego County right in the San Diego Riverbed. Anderson found the facility when searching for a place to keep her lesson horses. The owners are a family of horse lovers but had never heard of American Saddlebreds or saddle seat riding. They had just purchased the farm and welcomed Whitney and her horses with open arms. Two of the daughters now ride with her and have even been to a couple horse shows already.

With a 20-stall show barn, several outdoor corrals, six pastures, a jogging track, large arena, dressage arena, two bullpens and 12 acres with direct access to miles of trails, the facility is a dream come true for Whitney.

She currently gives about 25 lessons per week and will expand that program in addition to adding more openings for training horses in 2021. She has Saddlebreds, Morgans, a Friesian and an

Arab and loves the diversity. She would like to add Hackneys and Dutch Harness Horses to the mix as well. "My passion is the performance and pleasure divisions of saddle seat and driving but I have recently been able to show a couple of hunt seat Morgans for trainer Tom Tornatore which I loved doing.

"I hope to build my training operation enough to hire an assistant/instructor and bring respectable, quality strings of horses to as many shows as possible."

Young trainers in this industry face a bounty of challenges as they set about starting their businesses, perhaps none so much as those in California. "I think we all know the broader challenges in our industry start with visibility and accessibility, but I think that in California especially, these are much more difficult to improve," said Anderson.

There are many challenges being faced by Anderson and any young trainer looking to start a new business but she believes that putting herself and her horses in the spotlight at as many local events as possible, introducing new riders to the sport regularly and supporting local shows religiously is what she can offer for now. "I will continue to preach the superiority of our breeds for their heart, versatility, personalities and the community they build.

"I always look back on my childhood and remember the positive, supportive environment at Northern Tradition Farm and strive to create that same place for the next generation."