

# HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP

## Bit and Bridling Presentation

**February 17, 2015 7:30pm**

**Millstone Community Center 463 Stage Coach Road Millstone Twp, NJ 08510**



The presentation will cover:

- Am I riding my horse in the right bit?
- Do I understand how my bit works?
- How do I know my bit fits properly?
- What are the best options for me if I wanted to go "bitless"?
- People tell me I need a stronger/harsher bit, what does that mean?
- I'm only a trail rider...when or why would I want to switch the bit I'm using?
- Understanding accessories like running/standing martingales; flash/figure 8 nosebands etc.

**Attendees are free to bring their bits and bridles for the Q&A part of the presentation.**

Presented by: Joe McGowan

Born and raised in NYC into a family horse business. He has worked horses for over 50 years. Growing up he had over 75 horses in the business and they traded on average 2-3 horses a week, 50 weeks a year. Rented horses, gave lessons, boarded, bought, sold and traded as they say. Sold horses for pleasure, show, polo and being very close to the NY racetracks, a lot of lead ponies.

Primarily riding English before moving to California in 1981 for 4 years, Joe became acquainted with the California bridle horse. He was fortunate enough to associate with some great hands and learned about the hackamore (jaquima) and bridle bit process. After this short time in California he moved back east and settled on a small property in Chester, NJ with two California bred horses where he trained both in the Californio tradition and they each lived to the ripe old age of 33.

In the early nineties Joe got involved in team penning. He was the first president of the NJ team penning association and held a judges card from USTPA. Along with other members he was invited to exhibit team penning at the National Horse Show when it was housed at the Meadowlands.

Joe has worked with many horses over his lifetime. One of the most challenging was a 14 year old Standardbred mare that a customer inherited. The horse was very disrespectful, had never been started and couldn't be handled. Without a lot of stories he got her gentled and started for the lady. Another was a National Show Horse that had never been ridden out of the arena and sold for being unruly. He brought her home and after 60 days rode her in the local Horse Park Turkey Trot.

Joe is an admirer of any horse that is well balanced and moves nicely under saddle regardless of breed or discipline. And of course has the thought, "I'd like to ride that horse". Joe is available for group clinics as well as private consulting.

<http://www.hamt.org/>



Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township

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