



VOL. 2 ISSUE 4 OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2025

# THE ROUND PEN

Official Newsletter of BondFire Ranch

## Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends,

As we close out 2025, our hearts are full of gratitude. This fall season has been one of momentum, mission, and meaningful connection. From celebrating community at Stars & Strides to expanding programs, opening our Training Room, strengthening partnerships, and caring for our incredible herd, BondFire Ranch continues to grow because of you.

This quarter reminded us that healing often happens in simple moments: a veteran finding peace beside a horse, a child catching their first fish, a family warming their hands around a fire, or volunteers showing up again and again with servant hearts.

Together, we are building a place where those who serve feel welcomed, wanted, and worthwhile. Thank you for riding alongside us in faith, fellowship, and purpose.

With gratitude,

*Brian*

G. Brian Eddy, Col (Ret), USAF  
Founder & President, BondFire Ranch

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to Build Connection**

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## Cowboy Boot Camps

### Building Confidence, Connection, and Camaraderie

On a cool October morning, veterans gathered in the arena not knowing exactly what the day would bring, but ready to show up for one another.

Cowboy Boot Camp returned on Friday, October 4, 2025, in partnership with the Birmingham Vet Center, welcoming eight veterans alongside staff, volunteers, and three steady horses who quietly set the tone for the day. From introductions to hands-on horsemanship, the arena became a place of trust, laughter, learning, and honest conversation.

Supported by Alabama Veteran and Norfolk Southern, participants explored leadership, communication, and awareness through guided horse interactions. A special farrier demonstration offered a behind-the-scenes look at equine care, sparking curiosity and meaningful dialogue.

The day closed with fellowship and a shared meal provided by Ya Betta Eat Cajun Smokehouse—reinforcing the camaraderie that defines Cowboy Boot Camp and reminding us that connection often grows strongest around the table.





# Homeschool Fridays & Wrangler Program Grow Stronger

Friday mornings at BondFire Ranch are filled with purpose.

Throughout the quarter, Homeschool Fridays continued to grow alongside the expansion of our Homeschool Wrangler Training days. Youth stepped into real responsibility, handling horses, caring for the barn, stewarding the land, and tending the pond, learning leadership through consistency, teamwork, and service.

December welcomed 2 new Wranglers, guided by 3 returning seniors who modeled responsibility and mentorship. What begins as a ranch day often becomes something more, a place where confidence builds, friendships form, and young leaders discover their ability to contribute meaningfully to their community.

Our next Wrangler session will be held on 9 January at 8:00 AM. We'd love to have you join the BondFire Ranch family!





# Behind the Scenes: Caring for the Herd

Much of the most meaningful work at BondFire Ranch happens quietly, away from the spotlight.

Throughout the quarter, our team remained deeply committed to the daily care and long-term well-being of the horses who make our programs possible. In October and again in December, Jodi, our farrier, spent time at the ranch trimming hooves, ensuring soundness, and keeping the herd healthy from the ground up. As he worked, stories were shared, questions were asked, and learning happened naturally.

In early October, our mare Beautiful received veterinary treatment for an eye irritation and showed steady improvement with attentive daily care.

December also brought continued bodywork sessions using the Masterson Method with Brave. While this was not her first experience with the method, familiarity did not lessen its impact. Brave once again leaned into the process, releasing tension and receiving the benefits of responsive, intentional care.

By caring for our herd behind the scenes, we ensure they are ready; physically and emotionally, to stand alongside us in every program.





# Partnerships & Outreach



## Connecting Across Alabama—and Beyond

Connection doesn't stop at the ranch gate.

This quarter was marked by meaningful relationship-building across Alabama and beyond. In October, we welcomed Rob from AL2LA to explore collaboration opportunities supporting military and veteran communities.

Our reach extended nationally as we participated in the Horses for Mental Health Open House Call, engaging in broader conversations around best practices and shared learning. During this call, we also learned more about the upcoming Horses for Mental Health Campaign planned for May 2026 and we have begun drafting an application to participate.

In November, BondFire Ranch supported the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs by promoting the statewide Veteran feedback survey as part of Alabama's Challenge to Prevent Veteran Suicide.

December brought continued momentum with meetings alongside the Central Alabama Marines Council and strengthened ties with Veterans K9Equine Alliance, Samson's Strength Sustainable Veterans Project, and Mustangs and Heroes. Also, we were given the opportunity to participate in Alabama Veterans Resource Center Non-Profit Roundtable discussion.

We look forward to 2026 and new connections!



# Community & Events



Also this quarter, the ranch was filled with music, movement, and moments of togetherness.

On November 1, more than 150 guests joined us for the 2nd Annual Stars & Strides Fall Festival, enjoying live music, horse interactions, local vendors, Veteran Service Organizations, and a silent auction. We also debut our First Cast Fishing Program with the help of our partner organization, the Coosa Riverkeeper.

We're already planning our 3rd Annual Stars & Strides Fall Festival!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7, 2026



A week prior to Stars and Strides, we had the pleasure of welcoming Quinn from Coosa Riverkeeper, who led an interactive “Learn to Fish” session that was equal parts education and excitement!

Our group of six homeschoolers eagerly learned how to cast a line, identify fish, and understand the importance of protecting Alabama’s waterways.

BondFire Ranch also proudly supported Operation Iron Ruck, serving as both a rest stop and active participant in the final miles to Jordan-Hare Stadium to raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention.

November was further anchored by moments of honor and remembrance, including Veterans Day, Military Family Month, and observances recognizing the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday.





# Major Projects & Milestones

Progress at BondFire Ranch is built one project, one volunteer, and one shared vision at a time.

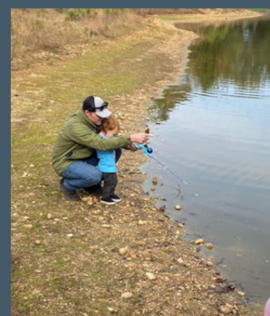
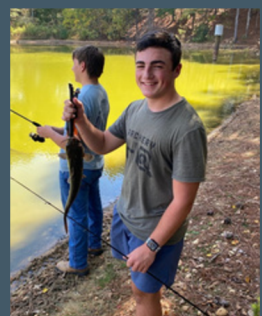
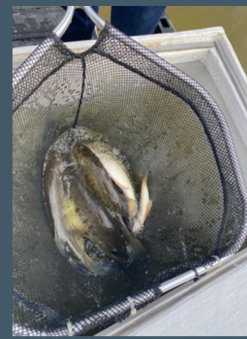
In October, two round pens were combined to create a 60' x 120' outdoor arena supporting future programming. November marked the opening of the new Training Room, made possible by the Alabama Power Foundation, and welcomed Scout Troop 28 for horsemanship training, a service projects, and fishing activities.

In December, volunteers gathered for Winter Ranch Clean-Up Day, preparing the ranch for the season ahead

This quarter marked the successful completion of the Pond Project. A final grant report was submitted to the Holle Family Foundation, whose generous support made our Fishing for Connection program possible—transforming vision into a living space for learning, reflection, and connection.



## Pond Project Completion



# Looking Ahead

As we look toward 2026, the fire continues to grow.

Plans are underway for expanded Homeschool Wrangler programming, new veteran fellowship opportunities, a Father–Son Camp, and continued regional collaboration with military and veteran organizations.

## Sponsors and Donors

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters.

The Holle Family Foundation provided both a 2025 grant; as well as an end-of-year donation , which will allow BondFire to provide...

- Free riding lessons for military members, veterans, first responders, and their families
- 48 Horsemanship Merit Badge opportunities for youth

The Alabama Power Foundation made our Training Room possible and served as the Lead Sponsor for our Fall Festival. Veterans

The K9Equine Alliance supported critical dental care for our herd, and donors from the Bale & Barrel Campaign ensured winter hay arrived when it was needed most with 25 round bales of hay.

Your support removes barriers, strengthens families, and keeps the fire burning.





# Thank you to our Sponsors & Donors



## Stay Connected

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