

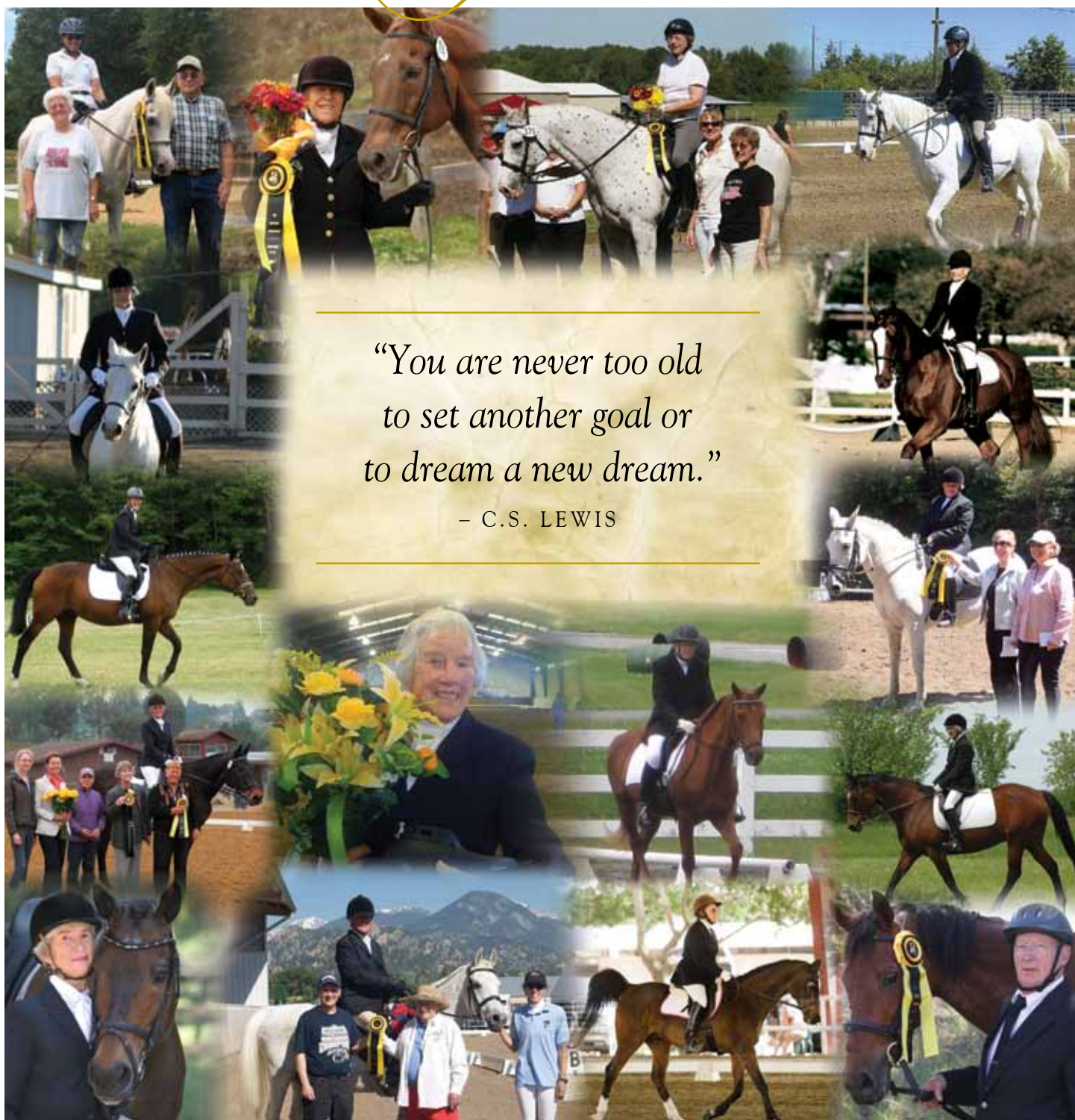
A regularly issued letter  
to and about the members of  
The Dressage Foundation's  
Century Club.



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Team #52

# THE *Century Club* NEWS

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# *Celebrating 15 Years* of reaching new goals and turning dreams into realities!

## *More About The Dressage Foundation...*

LOWELL BOOMER founded The Dressage Foundation in 1989, and its Mission is "To cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of dressage." Simply stated, the business of The Dressage Foundation is to raise money, manage it, and give it away.

Through generous donations, we are able to fulfill our Mission to provide grants and scholarships to young riders, adult amateurs, breeders, judges, instructors, dressage clubs, and high performance teams.

Donations to The Dressage Foundation come in all sizes—small, medium, large, and extra-large. Each contribution is important and does make a difference!

For more information on charitable gifts and estate planning, contact Melissa Filipi, Development Director, at 402-434-8585.

I receive calls and messages on a regular basis from riders who have the goal to become a Century Club member. "If only I stay healthy... if only my horse is sound next year..."

These riders have set a new goal – they have a new dream. It is never too late to accomplish something big, as the Century Club riders featured in this issue show us. Several of them – humans and



horses – have overcome obstacles to bring them to this point in their lives. Many Century Club riders have had some wonderful accomplishments in life – with their careers, families, volunteer

work – yet they aspire to something more. A common theme among all is that becoming a member of this special group was a new goal, a new dream, which was realized.

In 2011 we celebrated 15 years of honoring senior dressage riders and horses. It is amazing to think that in 2012, we will reach another milestone – our 100th member! Congratulations to all who have brought us

to this point, and congratulations to all of our new members – Welcome to the Century Club!

*Jenny Johnson*

Jenny Johnson  
 TDF Administrative Director

*To see more photos of this year's members,  
 or to read about teams from previous years,  
 visit [www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org)*

TEAM #81:

# Mary Grace Davidson and Adrenaline Rush



As a trainer, competitor, and judge, Mary Grace Davidson brings with her a lifetime of experience with horses. A native of California, Mary Grace graduated from the University of California at Davis back in the days when it was a true agricultural campus, majoring in general agriculture. She had a successful career as a technical editor in the budding aerospace program, but always kept a busy side life of riding and training. Eventually, she opted for working full time with horses, purchasing eight acres near the budding community of Walnut Creek in Northern California. Now, over 40 years later, she and her husband, Clyde, still run their Lucky Acres as a small dressage training center amidst a neighborhood of upscale homes and boutique wine vineyards.

Mary Grace's dressage career started in the late 60s, nurtured by the opportunity to host many of the best clinicians, including Hilda Gurney (who taught monthly at Lucky Acres for 10 years), Melle van Breugen, Gerhard Politz, and Dennis Callen. She has trained five horses to FEI levels, is a USDF bronze and silver medal holder, and a long-time student of Willy Arts. One of the most success-



ful older riders in the early days of dressage, Mary Grace has won eight USDF Vintage Cup first awards on four horses, from Training Level through Grand Prix, as well as USDF Masters Certificates at all levels.

Mary Grace is a USEF "S" level dressage judge, with over 30 years of judging experience. Still an active judge, she has officiated at major shows throughout the United States and Canada,

including many USDF Regional Championships. Her competitive career was capped on her 75th birthday, when she received a score of 62% at Intermediare I on her horse, Marquis.

Mary Grace planned to ride Marquis for her Century Club ride at Yarra Yarra Ranch in Pleasonton, CA, on March 13, 2011. Marquis was three when Mary Grace fell in love with him, and they were a great team for the next 16 years. Tragically, just one month before the Century Club ride, Marquis was fatally injured in a trailer accident. Mary Grace's friend, Valerie Case, offered a ride on her Argentine Thoroughbred, Adrenaline Rush, who was also 19. Mary Grace said, "He was the right age and certainly looked the part, but had never been to a dressage show. Not one to quit, I said, 'Let's do it!'"

Mary Grace continued, "More grooms than I could count, friends and family jamming the ring, little flashes from many cameras, several bouquets of flowers, and a horse that was overwhelmed with excitement. All this and I still remembered to sit up straight, keep my shoulders back, and remember the test. It was truly a day to remember."

TEAM #82:

# Barbara Cleveland and Valentales



Barbara started riding at age 9 in Poulsbo, Washington. Besides being active in 4-H and showing in a variety of horse show events, Barbara started and trained two of her own horses. While she attended Washington State University, where she majored in Interior Design, she trained and showed her Arabian stallion.

In 1964, Barbara moved to Hawaii, where she started her career as an interior designer. Sailing and diving took the place of horses her first 20 years in the islands. However, when she and her husband moved to the Big Island in 1986, she discovered that the Hawaii Preparatory Academy had a great adult riding program that included dressage. That's where the dressage seed was planted in her heart.

Barbara and her teammate, Vali, have a long history. Starting in Hawaii in 1989, Vali, an Appendix Quarter Horse that had won the Snaffle Bit Maturity Championship as a 4 year old and a Cutting Horse Championship the following year, seemed a dubious dressage prospect. The 16.2 hand gelding, however, was out of a great line of Parker Ranch Thoroughbreds and by a racing AQHA stallion named Tell n' Tales. Several weeks after she bought Vali,



Photo credit: Jeff Lawton



Photo credit: Tass Jones

Dorothy Maxwell, the daughter of Lazelle Knocke (who was the first Century Club member) traveled to Hawaii from New Jersey to judge a dressage show and conduct a clinic on the Big Island. Barbara and Vali ended up winning their Training

Level classes. Dorothy felt that Vali had the potential to do well in dressage with his great attitude and work ethic. So at age 49 Barbara became immersed in the world of dressage.

In 1991, the Cleveland's decided to return to her husband's home in Santa Barbara. As soon as they arrived, Barbara began working with the local trainers. Her goal was to earn the USDF Bronze Medal, which she did in 1999. After she had ridden several 4th level tests, she decided that the pirouettes and half passes were just too much for her senior horse.

Barbara has been active in the Santa Barbara Chapter of the California Dressage Society for some 21 years, serving on the board as chapter chair, vice chair, social chair, and newsletter editor. Nevertheless, Barbara was overwhelmed by the warm and generous support that the chapter gave her and Vali for their Century Ride, which took place on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at Santa Barbara's Earl Warren show grounds. Hilda Gurney, renowned trainer and Olympic medal winner, was the judge. As Barbara had worked with Hilda 10 years before, it seemed apropos that she judged her Century Ride.

TEAM #83:

## Ellen Newman and Diana



In 1939, when she was nine, Ellen got a pony. She learned to post from a ditch-digging crewmember alongside a gravel road near Holland, Michigan who called to “Quit bouncing—Go up-down-up-down!”

At age 11, she got her first horse and was befriended by Margaret McLean Lashua, who had Thoroughbred hunters and taught Ellen to ride and jump. Soon, her family moved to East Lansing, Michigan, where she was invited to ride and show Col. Gerald Peterson’s horses at the ROTC Cavalry Unit at Michigan State University. While there, she showed successfully in hunter and jumper classes and was privileged to ride and show horses for others. At 13, Ellen was given a 13-year old steeplechase horse, Cornels Court, who had been imported from Ireland by Charlie Piece of Detroit. Cornel would only run when he felt like it, and taught Ellen to ask, not tell. On Cornel, Ellen won an invitational steeplechase over brush. With the \$20 in prize money, she bought a new girth and pommel pad. At 17, Margaret gave her a Thoroughbred colt by Coq d’Esprit. Although



the Maryland Hunt Cup had been Ellen’s long-time ambition, it was out of reach because, at that time, women were barred from most sports including horse racing and eventing.

Ellen met her husband of 60 years at Michigan State University, where, as a student, he earned his room at the cavalry stables, caring for the horses there. Ellen attended Michigan State University and won the Michigan State Block and Bridle Horse Show Equitation Championship in 1950. She graduated in 1953. The Newman’s have three children all of whom are supportive of their mother’s horse activities.

In 2001, Diana was purchased as a 9-year old off-the-track Thoroughbred who had just foaled.

Diana replaced Ellen’s Thoroughbred partner of 25 years, who died at age 29. Ellen says that Diana is sensitive and willing, learns more quickly than her rider and, like her predecessors, is patient and forgiving, while keeping her rider focused and alert. Ellen is the sole caretaker of her two Thoroughbreds and rides every day on their Wisconsin farm, weather permitting.

Ellen feels deeply indebted to those many horses and people in the past who have been kind beyond reason—from P.T. Cheff, Master of the Battle Creek Hunt Club, who, in the 1940s, sent Ellen gas ration stamps from his business so she could show—to Lynne Miller, in the present, who coached Ellen, patiently, for the Century Ride, convincing her that a rider will not fly off if she’s not in a forward seat. Lynne also showed her that there is a lot more to halting at X than stopping.

Ellen and Diana’s ride took place at a schooling show on May 21, 2011, in Custer, Wisconsin, where they performed Training Level Test 1. They are the first team from Wisconsin!

TEAM #84:

# Robert Mayne and Romeo



Bob, a second-generation rancher, has been riding horses and raising cattle for most of his 73 years. His riding was mostly Western style (reining), but 10 years ago, he discovered dressage. He finds dressage a good process to train a horse for a complete performance and ease of gaits.

He is also a published cowboy poet; his small book with its 68 poems expresses some of his many experiences during his ranching life. Eight years ago, he retired from his work as an elevator engineer, which was on the construction (in high buildings) and the inspection sides of elevators. At that time they lived in Sanger, California. They bought Bob's team partner, Romeo, in Fresno where they found him living in a chicken pen, not tall enough for him to raise his neck or head. The owner told them that he was a Quarter Horse, but he stands 17.2 hands, and is built like a Thoroughbred. Also, his inner lip is tattooed (as are Thoroughbred race horses). When they got him home, he became the boss horse



*Photo credits: Lisa Jewell*

of his herd. Romeo often packed them into the mountains for a day of trout fishing.

Upon his retirement, Bob and his wife, Katie, bought a quarter

section of land in north central Oklahoma, where they raise Black Angus cattle and cut and bale their own hay every summer. On their ranch they have a string of mostly Thoroughbred brood mares. When these mares are bred to their Quarter Horse stallion, Lean Pickins, a son of Doc O Lena, the result is Appendix Quarter Horses that he notes are quite suited for mid-level dressage.

In Oklahoma, Romeo has been to many dressage shows, winning reserve champion in Introductory Level at the state schooling championship a few years ago. Romeo thinks he has to keep all their horses in order, as well as being boss of the cows. Bob still rides a short time every day, except in the winter when the temperature can get to minus 20° F. Also, the Oklahoma show season takes a break during the humid summer, but that is also their best haying time anyway. Bob

and Romeo's Century Ride was on June 25th at the Valley View Equestrian Center near Stillwater, making them the first Century Club team from Oklahoma.

TEAM #85:

## Penelope Miller and Applause



Born Penelope Hoover on July 10, 1931, in St. Louis, Missouri, Penny got her first horse when she was seven. With Sinbad, she would grab his tail and climb his hocks to mount, or she would swing a leg over his lowered neck, which he would then raise to let her slide onto his back. Later, as a teen she showed hunter/jumper on her second horse, Passport.

Then there was a long non-horsey period when Penny went to college and, immediately after graduation, went to Europe. In France she met her husband, had two daughters, and the family lived in Italy. Penny took up riding again and loved the pleasure of riding through the Italian countryside.

After her husband's death, she returned to the United States, settling in New York City where she started a catering business and a small bed and breakfast in her upper west-side town house near the Museum of Natural History.

Through friends in the Hudson Valley, she began riding with the Windy Hollow Hunt on her new



horse, Apple, and later moved to Goshen, New York.

But when she turned seventy-five, she decided the hunt was just too risky and gave it up. Apple became a therapy horse for disabled children.

Penny thought her riding days

were over until a friend, who owned Applause talked about how much she was looking forward to joining the Century Club in three years when she would be 72 and Applause 28. Well, thought Penny, Applause may be only 25, but I'm 79, so we could do a Century Ride right now!

So, even though she had always ridden hunt seat and disliked riding in an arena, Penny embraced the challenge and trained with Corey DeMala at Amity Equestrian Enterprises in nearby Warwick, New York, where Applause is kept. Their Century ride, a Training Level test, was ridden in June 2011 at the Windy Hollow Hunt Show in Sussex, New Jersey.

While she and Applause go on occasional trail rides with old friends from the Hunt, she now loves dressage. Dressage provides

her with a safe and healthy way for her to continue her life with horses. Penny notes that dressage has improved her breathing, her posture and her coordination, so she plans to continue doing it for the rest of her life.

TEAM #86:

# Linda Lester and Seyvilla Baskella



As a teenager in the late 1950s, Linda began riding hunt seat at Mrs. Dillon's Full Cry Farm in Vienna, Virginia. After a long break for college, marriage and two children, the family was back in Virginia where Linda took lessons in Glenn's Falls and bought her first horse, a Morgan Quarter Horse gelding named Sandy Man. In 1972, the family moved to the Panhandle of Florida, and as Linda was expecting another child, she sold Sandy Man. Several years later, a new neighbor moved in with a small herd of Arabians. Linda was hooked again and bought a four-year-old chestnut Arab mare named Sassie Lassie. And Linda says, "She did live up to her name!" When the Emerald Coast Chapter of Deep South Dressage was formed, Linda and Sassie tried this new discipline. Unfortunately, Sassie never really wanted to be a dressage horse, so their competitive history was less than stellar.

When Linda finally realized that her favorite movements in a dressage test were "A down centerline, X halt, salute," they gave up competing in favor of helping organize and secretary local recognized dressage shows. First, she worked at dressage shows on the Emerald Coast;



later at Blue Angel Dressage. Her next step to stay involved was to become a dressage Technical Delegate. She has greatly enjoyed serving at shows from Houston to Atlanta to Gainesville and many points in between.

About four years ago, Linda retired Sassie at 25 due to serious joint conditions. Linda had always hoped to perform her Century Ride on Sassie, but sadly, that was not to be.

However, she did buy another mount—an amazing 13'3" Connemara pony she named Eeyore. His only real fault is that he doesn't really have a work ethic (hence the name), which is fine

for her. They trail ride, have ridden in a parade, and he doesn't even mind being dressed up in costumes. A talented teenager with strong 18-year-old legs shows him for Linda and qualified him for the 2011 Region 3 Championships.

For Linda's Century Ride, a friend offered her a 34-year-old Arabian mare, Seyvilla Baskella, a really amazing horse. She was shown as a 4-year-old, but then she became a broodmare with the barn name of "Mom," as she had 19 (yes 19) foals; all of them are registered pure-blood Arabians. Mom also became a therapeutic riding mount, as well as a backyard riding horse for her owner's grandchildren.

Linda started working with Mom about three months before the Century Ride, and it was quite a project. Mom had not had a bit in her mouth since she was four, so they worked on the basics, e.g., steering, and figures, and as typical for the breed, Mom was a very fast learner.

Linda reports: "We felt very privileged to perform our Century Ride for one of our favorite judges, Bill Woods. Also a very special thank you to Ben and Linda Smith who allowed Mom to return to the show ring, thereby making my dream come true."

TEAM #87:

## Mary Faith Urquhart and Dominick



Mary and her Thoroughbred gelding, Dominick (Domee), competed at the April Dressage Concours in Venice, Florida on April 9-10, 2011 at Second Level, earning Mary a second Century Award. (In 2005, Mary and Tajcheba McCoy were team # 33.) It was also Dominick's second Century Ride, as he was part of team # 64, when Mary Phillips, their trainer, rode him.

Domee is 25 years young and spends his days helping disabled children and adults in the Horses and Handicapped Riding Program that Mary helps run in Seminole, Florida. He also teaches the ins and outs of basic horsemanship and dressage to the 4-H students in Mary's club. But in his spare time, he and Mary like to sneak out for an occasional schooling or recognized dressage show.

Having been raised on a farm and around horses all her life, Mary feels very fortunate



*Photo credit: Patricia M. Macfarlane*



*Domee at the 2011 Special Olympics - County Level*

to have been able to retire from her teaching career in public schools into her hobby where she continues sharing her love of horses with others. For the past 13 years Dominick has been her partner in sharing that love and knowledge with the Girl Scouts and 4-H members that come through her program. In 2008, she feels they were blessed in receiving a grant from Pinellas County to build a new facility/home for the horses and the handicapped-riding program (sponsored by the Kiwanis of Seminole). Her Girl Scout/4-H club provides the care for the program horses. As volunteers in the program, they, in turn, get the opportunity to love and work with the horses. Even though most of her time is spent helping others, Mary still has a personal goal of earning her bronze medal. However, Domee isn't sure yet that he likes those flying changes; but they're working on it.

TEAM #88:

# Norm Brown and Amie Phoenix+



When Norm Brown, along with daughter, Trisha Swift, volunteered to help rejuvenate the Estes Park Arabian Horse Show, he didn't realize he was to become one of the star attractions. While working together, Trisha, an FEI level rider, told her dad that he should perform his Century Club Ride at the show. It didn't matter that Norm had rarely ridden, nor had he ever shown in an under-saddle class before, let alone perform a dressage test. In fact, Norm had no idea how to post the trot!

After initially balking at the idea, Norm warmed up to it, and plans were made. Unfortunately, Norm's chosen mount for the momentous ride—25-year-old Mt. View Fantasy—passed away unexpectedly a few months before the show. Trisha volunteered her 28-year-old Arabian gelding, Amie Phoenix+, to partner with Norm, age 79.

Amie Phoenix+ is a homebred Arabian, and was Trisha's dressage mount for many years. He was twice a champion at the Arabian Region 8 Championships in Training Level dressage; he also competed through First Level. When he was 19, the gelding even learned to jump. Phoenix, who still



loves to work (and indeed, gets depressed when he's not ridden regularly) is currently used as a lesson horse.

Norm grew up on a farm in northeastern Pennsylvania. Workhorses were used to plant, harvest, farm, and cut ice out of the near-by pond in the winter. While he did not have extensive riding experiences, he was always involved in agriculture. Norm graduated from Penn State University and got his Masters Degree from Colorado State University. His career for the most part was with the Agricultural Extension

Service. He currently works on the horse farm/ business that he and his wife own, along with daughter, Trisha, and son-in-law Chase.

As Norm married into an Arabian horse-owning family, he racked up plenty of hours caring for horses and working with them on the ground. Also, 30 years ago, he rode one of the stallions in a western saddle. However, learning to ride dressage for his Century Club Ride was like starting all over again.

Norm diligently worked at memorizing his test (Intro Level Test A). He also learned to post the trot and participated in a Ride-a-Test Clinic before his ride on July 2, 2011. On that day, in front of a rather large crowd, at 9:07 in the morning, Norm performed his test at the Stanley Park Fairgrounds in the beautiful mountains of Estes Park, Colorado.

Daughter Trisha was extremely proud of her father for not shying away from such an undertaking, and Norm has certainly proven that it truly is never too late to start riding.

He has even expressed interest in continuing riding lessons with his daughter, but it will have to wait until he is done irrigating the hay fields and fixing the tractor.

TEAM #89:

## Marion Grady and \*Edyl



Marion has been riding since she was 5 years old and has continued for 65 years! Her first riding lessons were just after WWII, in Surrey, England, where she got her first pony and soon advanced to more experienced mounts, competing successfully in equitation, jumping, and gymkhana. At 12, she was chosen to represent her Pony Club in a combined training competition. Even though she was still 12, the program said she was 13, as that was the minimum age for the event.



Photo credit: Beatrice Rosenbaum

In 1953, when the family moved to Darien, CT, Marion rode at the Ox Ridge Hunt Club, where V. Felicia Townsend took her under her wing, while George Morris also helped her tremendously. She schooled Jet, his niece's Shetland pony. As nothing seemed to faze her, Marion was asked to exercise many horses; in particular, to remove the high jinks before their owners rode them. Riding multiple horses proved to be an excellent experience. She continued to ride at the Club until she was off to Vassar College to major in music. When she met and married Jim, they moved to New York City, where she got a Masters in Library Science at Columbia University.

Later, she and Jim lived in Weston, CT, for 10 years raising their two children. During this time, she taught piano and English and got to ride a friend's horse.

Tiring of the eastern winters, the family moved to Irvine, CA, where Marion enrolled her children in riding lessons, and where, in 1986, \*Edyl (aka Amir) came into their lives. Amir had been all but abandoned by his owner and, while well fed, he looked extremely scruffy. Still, his papers showed that he had been imported from Poland by Sheila Varian, of Varian Arabians, and had impeccable breeding. Amir had lots of energy, so Marion decided she'd better ride him before her

children did, which she enjoyed thoroughly.

Amir did it all, from jumping to dressage, trail work, and gymkhana. Marion's daughter, Jennifer, competed on Amir at the 1990 Scottsdale Arabian show, where she won 2nd in an equitation class of 40.

Between 2008 and 2010, Amir suffered several serious setbacks, including a suspensory injury, colic surgery, a corneal ulcer, and a bad fall on a concrete street. However, Amir came through it all to be sound again. But then in

May 2010, Marion suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery. Nevertheless, she was back in the saddle within 6 weeks! When Marion heard about the Century Club and realized that their combined ages added up to 101, they had a new goal! However, because she had just started her third career, her practice time was very limited. With only a couple of brush-up lessons, they did their Century Ride at a recognized California Dressage Society show in San Juan Capistrano. Amir rose to the occasion, and they scored 62% in their Introductory Level, Test C; Marion loved the judge's comment: "Well presented!"

TEAM #90:

## Marilyn Lee Smith and Katydid



As a teenager, Lee dreamed of owning a horse. Sometimes, on Saturdays, she would “borrow” her mom’s car and sneak to a local barn where she could ride. But she had to wait until she was 34 to purchase her first horse.

In the 1970s, when watching her daughter in Pony Club activities, Lee became interested in jumping and dressage. She bought a potential dressage horse, Barry, and had good fun with him. But when she turned 55, she got serious about dressage and began looking for a Warmblood. She found a 4 year-old, 16-hand, untrained Trakehner mare named Katydid (Kate), who was in foal.

Lee and Kate began their dressage career and were doing well, but in 1991, Kate was diagnosed with Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM). Because of weakness in Kate’s back legs, she was laid off for an entire year. After another year of recuperation, Kate, with some more training (by Lee) was well enough to compete in New England’s dressage circuit.

But then, the day before Christmas in 1993, Kate stepped on a nail and damaged her coffin joint. That Christmas Eve was



spent in a freezing trailer traveling to Concord, New Hampshire, for emergency surgery. Because of the chance of infection, the veterinarian cautioned that Kate may not survive, and would almost certainly be permanently lame. Meanwhile, while Kate was recovering at the clinic, Lee’s 57-year-old husband suffered a massive stroke. Lee spent the brutally cold winter running between the barn and the house caring for Kate, who required many bandage changes, and her impaired husband at home.

After her injury, the only option for Kate seemed to be as a brood mare, and she did produce a beautiful filly. Then, one day, when Lee was watching Kate and her filly trotting around, it seemed

Kate was showing no sign of lameness. She appeared to be sound again, so Lee re-started her dressage training.

In 1995, Lee and Kate went to the state of Maine All Breed Show, where Kate won Grand Champion, while her yearling filly won Reserve Champion. That same year, Lee took Kate to a New England Dressage Association show, where they won their class.

After that, dressage showing had to come to an end as Lee focused on the full time care her ill husband needed until his death.

Lately, Lee has been spending winters in Florida, returning to Vermont in the summer to be with Kate. They ride the hills and scenic mountains in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Lee became an active member of the Catamount Riding Club, where friends encouraged her to perform a Century Ride and presented her with a monogrammed saddle pad. Despite the fact that Lee and Kate had not performed a dressage test in over 17 years, their Century Ride at Long Shadow Farm, Morrisville, Vermont, represented both Lee’s and Kate’s overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles and beating the odds to make a lifelong dream come true.

TEAM #91:

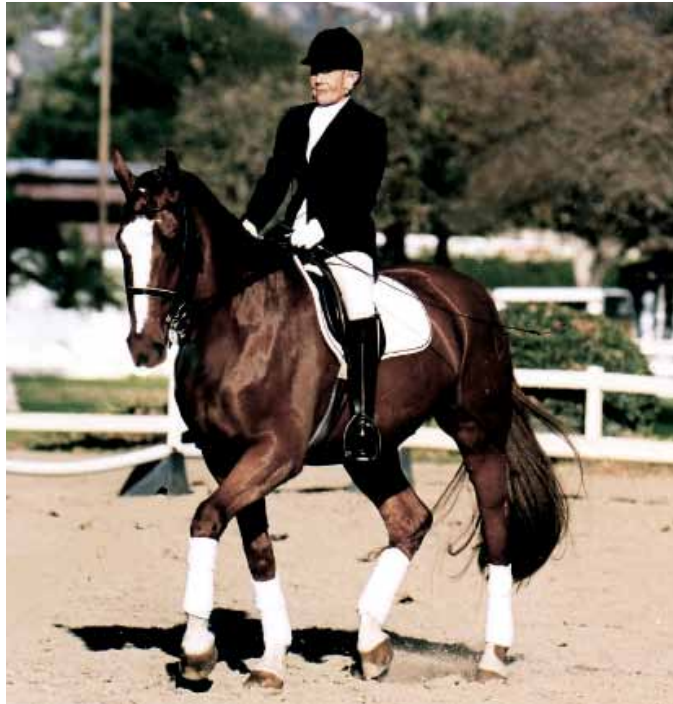
## Margaret Stout and Ilion



Raised in Wisconsin, Peggy writes that she was a typical horse-crazy child, riding any and every available horse or pony. She reports that as a teenager, she nagged her parents to send her to a school in Arizona where riding was as important (to her) as were any of the classes or grades received.

College and marriage followed, as did five children, making it impossible to continue a horse life and raise a family at the same time. But when her youngest child was finishing high school, she felt that she finally had the time and the money for a horse. Now it's been 30 years ago that she bought her first horse and took jumping lessons. After that, for many years, she showed a lovely gray Thoroughbred hunter named Equity (Robbie) at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center.

Her husband, Bill Stout, was a newsman at CBS. They were in the process of buying a weekend house in Montecito, California, when



he suddenly passed away. She and Robbie, along with various dogs and cats moved to Montecito. There was a wonderful trail system out from the house, allowing Peggy and Robbie to get to the beach in a few minutes. She also learned to trailer and joined the Santa Ynez Hunt Club. Another fun experience was the over-night treks with "The Sage Hens," a ladies riding group. While in Montecito, she added to her animal menagerie a miniature donkey, a goat, a Vietnamese pig, and a pony,

which she learned to drive. She considers all this a dream come true for an animal lover.

However, the lure of children and grandchildren in Los Angeles (they were so near, yet so far) became too much, so she moved back to L.A. As Robbie was getting a bit long in the tooth, she retired him to a peaceful life in Santa Ynez.

But then, what to do? Being in her sixties, and mindful that "mature" bones break, she didn't

want to take chances on a young hunter. Instead, she started dressage training with Jaye Cherry, who found her a big, chestnut Dutch Warmblood named Ilion (Billy). After 13 years of dressage lessons, she feels as if she has just scratched the surface.

Peggy is now 82, and Billy is 21. As they are both healthy, they still ride four or five days a week. Peggy and Billy did their Century Ride (Training Level Test 2) at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center on August 27, 2011.

TEAM #92:

# Patty Smith and Westerly



Born in Los Angeles, Patty, a “California Girl,” has always loved horses. She grew up in Los Gatos; when she was eight, her mother sometimes took her to Bay Meadows to watch the racehorses exercise at 6:00 AM. Finally, the family went horse shopping for horse-crazy Patty, then nine. They had very little knowledge of what they were doing and bought a small, attractive, chestnut mustang; however, he was truly mean. He would run with teeth bared and rear to try to strike out at little Patty. A lot of kindness simply could not win him over, so he was given away to somebody who, hopefully, had better luck.

Her next horse experience was as a teenager. While hanging around the barn, a nice man befriended and encouraged her to ride. She ended up owning an American Saddlebred mare that was five-gaited, and a three-gaited gelding. In those days, showing was mostly Western, but Patty did well with her Saddlebreds, up until it



was time to concentrate on college. Then came marriage and children, so it wasn’t until she was in her 60s that she got the horse “bug” again.

Patty’s friend had a Paint needing exercise, so she asked Patty to ride him regularly. While happily riding Paunch, Patty spotted another horse, Westerly. It was love at first sight. She’s a half Arab, half Oldenburg, and a really pretty white horse. Her owner was having trouble with Westerly, in that the horse would only go backwards, not forward. Patty gave her a try. There was a dressage trainer of sorts around the barn who gave Patty some tips. When Westerly became hers, Patty trained under Heidi Gaian whose barn was in Hollister. They got along famously.

When Westerly was 26, Patty’s friend, Zana Donnelly urged her to go for the Century Ride. Patty agreed and worked hard to get ready. Friends and family were all present when the ride was performed in San Juan Batista, a beautiful area. Patty and Westerly performed Training Level Test 1 on August 27, 2011.

TEAM #93:

# Kay Gale and Clear Creek Slim



Kay had a period of trail riding as a teen. While she was an avid regular rider, Kay had no formal instruction; she just traveled on the country roads and through the woods on horseback. Then Kay had a long hiatus from riding, as college, graduate studies, further training, marriage, five children and her career filled all her time.

After her youngest daughter finished college and got interested in eventing, Kay became a horse show mom and a part-time groom. This was her first exposure to dressage. Then, a week at a Wyoming ranch that included all-day trail rides, led to Kay choosing to have riding become part of her life again. Dressage seemed both interesting and challenging. Her daughter offered some basic instruction on a borrowed horse. This was enough to convince Kay that she was ready to get her own horse, and the search for an appropriate mount began.

At age 60, Kay found Slim, who had been competing at 2nd Level in dressage. Slim knew his way around a dressage court; he was a “been there, done that” kind of horse. Slim had an



imposing ring presence, and was kind of a show-off. It was clear that he thought highly of himself. He would regularly lengthen his trot down the centerline on entering the arena – almost as if he were “mugging” for the judge. Their partnership started at first with the help of Kay’s daughter until Kay met trainer Nancy Sobba. Kay has continued with Nancy’s patient instruction and support ever since.

Slim is a playful horse. He chews leather, likes to lick & nibble & try new foods. He has accepted offers of French fries from a child who wanted to share with him. He also likes lemon drops and Gatorade. At one show he ate hay belonging to his next stall neighbor, thoroughly cleaning it up, which the other horse’s owners

thought was cute and funny, saying “he’s just so charming.”

As a member of the Arkansas Dressage Society, Kay on Slim earned her USDF rider performance awards at both Training and First Level. Throughout this time, Slim has been an amazingly forgiving and reliable companion. As an example of his calm nature, he watched a lawn chair blow past the dressage arena during warm up—flipping end over end—right next to him, without his even blinking.

Slim is 16.2 hands tall and wide as an aircraft carrier, which took some getting used to. But given his consistent performance and personality, he has been well worth it.

Both horse and rider have gotten older and somewhat arthritic, which has interfered with their riding when either one or both of them were “lame.” So, for the past year or more, they have not competed. But this year they are back on track. As Slim turned 26, the team’s combined ages added up to 100+. They qualified for the Century Club on September 11, 2011 at a schooling show at Lucky Acres Stable in Jacksonville, AR.

Their partnership is continuing.

TEAM #94:

## Barbara Middleton and Snowy River



Other than renting a horse a few times as a teenager, Barbara had very little experience with horses. Before her retirement, she was the court appointed guardian and/or conservator for incapacitated individuals. She also volunteered with Special Olympics track and field. She thought that volunteering for C.A.N.T.E.R. (Cochise Area Network of Therapeutic Equestrian Resources), a handicapped-riding program, would be a good fit for her, having worked with the handicapped, elderly, and disabled for so many years. And it has been, as she still loves her volunteer work at C.A.N.T.E.R.

In May 2010, C.A.N.T.E.R. started up a new riding program called Silver Saddles, which provides riding classes for people over 60. So, at age 68, Barbara decided to learn how to ride a horse. Barbara's friend, Susan Fawcett,



suggested that she ride her half-Arabian, Snowy River. Snowy River had already been on two other Century Ride teams—Team #40 when Susan's husband, Russell Fawcett, rode him in 2006, and Team #50, when Susan rode him in 2007. As Snowy River had turned 31, and Barbara would be 69 in the fall, they realized their ages added up to 100, and they could do a Century Ride.

While Snowy River had participated in many events over his lifetime, this would be Barbara's very first dressage show. She began working hard with Susan and her riding instructor, Ann Alden, to prepare for the October show.

On October 8th, at Rocking J.P. Ranch in Palaminos, Arizona, Barbara and Snowy River became the 94th Century Club Team. Barbara says that the show was one of the best days of her life!



TEAM #95:

## Joan Shapleigh and One in a Million



Joan has always loved horses. As a child growing up in the suburbs of New York City, she dreamed of having a horse, but her family was of modest means, so horse ownership was impossible. She did occasionally ride at a local hack stable on an hourly basis. Without any instruction, she simply rode the trails on a Shetland pony in a Western saddle.

In her late 40s, the family moved to a farm in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, where she promised her six-year-old daughter, Sandy, she could have pony. By coincidence, Joan saw an article in her local newspaper that a Pony Club was being formed. Although she had no idea what Pony Club involved, she did know they would be getting a pony. Sandy joined the club, and in spring 1963, they bought a sturdy red and white pony called Tinkerbelle. Joan rode only very occasionally, as her focus was on helping her daughter and the club. When Sandy graduated from high school and went off to college, Joan stopped riding completely as she was involved in her career as a social worker and in volunteer work.

Shortly before she retired, Joan decided to leave the farm and



Photo credit: SMG Photos

move to a smaller home that just happened to be next door to a riding and training stable, Infinity Farm, owned by trainer Gail McCormack. When Gail had her indoor arena built, she encouraged Joan to join her adult riding group. But as Joan had reached 68, and it had been many years since she had ridden, she was quite hesitant. Nevertheless, a wonderful group of people, who were very supportive, encouraged her and got her riding on a regular basis. So, all winter long, she rode in the indoor arena. In the spring, Joan rode her first dressage test at the Farm's "Spring Fling," with a score in the 40s. Over the next few years, she rode a variety of horses, but a couple of falls shook her confidence. Then, she was given a chance to ride an

older horse, a 23-year-old Quarter Horse owned by Dottie Hadler, "One in a Million," who was a great confidence builder. Together she and Million rode in a number of dressage shows.

Joan began to ride other horses and compete at Training Level; however, she still rode Million every so often. Both she and Million had been getting older; in fact, Joan realized their ages added up to 100. At the same time,

she saw an article in *Dressage Today* about the Century Club and immediately decided that she and Million should join. Everyone enthusiastically agreed. Plans were made, and the test was practiced. So on October 16, 2011, at Infinity Farm in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, they rode Training Level Test 1, achieving a score of 66.67%. That score was the final one of a number of 60% or above Joan had achieved, allowing her to qualify for a Bronze Medal from the Maine Dressage Association. Joan thanks all of her friends, who over the years have encouraged her and who cheered for her and Million at their Century Ride.

Joan and Million are the first team to join the Century Club from Maine.

TEAM #96:

# Marilyn Cantey and Cameo Leia



Even though Marilyn was horse crazy from her earliest memories, her parents had absolutely no money for horses, not even to rent one now and then. Every dollar was dedicated to sending their three daughters to college. In 1947, thinking that the Los Angeles smog was getting too bad, the family moved to a farm in Arkansas. That Christmas when the presents were opened, there was nothing for Marilyn. But then her parents pointed to a picture of a horse pasted in the window; it was of Brownie, an aged mare they had found for \$25. What a thrill! Not knowing how to adjust the stirrups, Marilyn quickly ruined the Western saddle that came with Brownie. So after that, she had to ride bareback. It was Marilyn and Brownie's chore each evening to herd Baby Doll, the Jersey cow, in for milking.

After a year of neither electricity nor water in the house, her parents pulled up stakes and moved the family to Tulsa, Oklahoma. That was the end of horses for Marilyn for a long time.

Then, when she was 55 and her boys were grown, she saw an ad



Photo credit: Joe Pallas

for an "elegant grey Arab mare" named Cameo Leia. At 8 years old, Miss Camy was far too much horse for a beginning rider, but Marilyn could never part with her. It was 20 years ago that Marilyn learned to sit Camy's plant-your-feet-at-the-canter-and-jump-sideways-6 feet spooks.

When Lockheed Martin trans-

ferred Marilyn's husband, Dalton, to Orlando, Florida in 1995, Camy came along. Marilyn, now 60, showed Camy in Hunters for three years before they returned to California.

When she turned 70, Marilyn thought it might be wise to switch to dressage instead of jumping. She and Camy showed in dressage for about a year, but then Camy developed laminitis. For some two years, Marilyn didn't think Camy would make it. But thanks to her veterinarian, Charles Kessinger, who was generous with plenty of visits, advice and x-rays, with her farrier, Jim Kotecki's careful shoeing and long years of experience, and with her trainer, Dee White, who has such a good eye and supervised bringing Camy gradually

back into shape, the much hoped-for Century Ride finally took place. Marilyn thinks she deserves a little credit, too...she wrote the checks!

Marilyn and Camy rode down the centerline on October 23, 2011, at the Seven Oaks Dressage Extravaganza in Portola Valley, CA, to become members of the Century Club.



# We are so proud of all of the *Century Club Members!*

CENTURY CLUB MEMBERS 1996 - 2011

TEAM #	YEAR	NAME	CITY	HORSE	TEAM #	YEAR	NAME	CITY	HORSE
1	1996	Lazelle Knocke	Deceased	Don Perignon	49		Susan Fawcett	Sierra Vista, AZ	Iron Cloud
2		Dr. Max Gahwyler	Darien, CT	Prinz Eugen	50		Susan Fawcett	Ride #2	Snowy River
3		Dr. John Bland	Deceased	Bay Flint	51	2008	Chester V. Braun	Osprey, FL	Secret Ice
4	1997	Charles A. Chapin	Chatham, IL	Chicaro Cocoa	52		Carole Nuckton	Bend, OR	Zeb
5		Charles A. Chapin	Ride #2	Piroshka	53		Annis Buell	Dallas, TX	Wally
6	1998	Ruth Fanton	Honeoye Falls, NY	Little Once	54		Joann Fletcher	Lexington, OH	Vice Versa
7		Patricia Metcalf	Koloa, HI	Fleur de Lis	55		David Keiser	Medford, OR	Othello
8		Nan Agar	Rocky Hill, NJ	Skipper	56		Shirley Jones	Napa, CA	Dust Buster
9	1999	Charles A. Chapin	Ride #3	Touche (Fred)	57		Theresa Stephens	Penrose, CO	Cal
10		Jean P. Naukam	Phelps, NY	Chell-Win-Sahib	58		Mary Lou Harper	Monroe, WA	Flashee Starshine
11	2000	Charles A. Chapin	Ride #4	Zeus	59		Carriellen DeMuth	Franktown, CO	Arc
12	2001	Cynthia (Cinch) Schell	Lander, WY	Rudy Van James	60	2009	Ellie Metelits	Ocala, FL	Justa Enuff Sun
13		Dennis Trettel	Deerfield, IL	Boulder	61		Sally Chionsini	Willis, TX	Bert
14		Peter Lert	Deceased	Legere	62		Annis Buell	Ride #2	Poco Fisty's Kid
15		Elizabeth Stich	Jacksonville, FL	Southern Jewel	63		Martin T. Sosnoff	New York, NY	Montalban
16		Eugene Dueber, Lt. Col. USMC ret.	Port Orchard, WA	VP Medley	64		Mary Phillips	Ocala, FL	Dominick
17	2002	Edalee Harwell	Ramona, CA	Mr. A	65		Barbara Ramsay	Los Alamos, NM	Danish Manners
18		Charles A. Chapin	Ride #5	Beezie	66		Jeremy Beale	Chester Springs, PA	Casual Water
19		Roxanna Jones	Sonoma, CA	Hekla	67	2010	Susan Maire	Naples, FL	Continuum
20		Cynthia (Cinch) Schell	Ride #2	Mystique's Baby Blue	68		Lillian Floyd	Wellington, FL	Law and Order
21		Virginia (Ginny) Wegener	Canon City, CO	MHR Handsome (Sam)	69		Norma Talburt	Roseburg, OR	Lady of Fame
22		Marion Benedict Sindorf	Palmer, AK	Suavicito	70		Virginia (Ginny) Wegener	Ride #2	RT Loki
23		Dr. Max Gahwyler	Ride #2	Dresden	71		Cynthia Dunoyer	Denver, CO	Casanova
24		Edwin Sayre	Los Gatos CA	Pee Wee	72		John Claridge	Erie, PA	Clockwork
25	2003	Maria Beek McFadden	Oxford, MS	Permian Way	73		Barbara Larson	Grants Pass, OR	Lynx N Willy
26		Charles A. Chapin	Ride #6	Ask Mikey	74		Carol L. Morehouse	Ferndale, WA	Batiste
27		Anne Barlow Ramsay	Fernandina Beach, FL	Fridjoff	75		Jane Rutlege	Monument, CO	Gandalf the Grey
28		Evelyn Wallis	Kailua, HI	Somer's Dream	76		Dr. Jorge Gomez	Okenos, MI	Semik
29		Ruth Peckham	Deceased	Madonna	77		Stayner Haller	Lansing, MI	LGM Challenger
30		Cynthia (Cinch) Schell	Ride #3	Leonard	78		Josephine Rodgers	Houston, TX	Hershey
31	2004	Zena Ervin	Reno, NV	Deelite	79		Barbara Ellis	Woodford, VA	Probable Cause
32		Peter Klopfer	Durham, NC	Mondavi	80		Susan Fawcett	Ride #3	Doctor Doabunch
33	2005	Mary Faith Urquhart	Seminole, FL	Tajcheba McCoy	81	2011	Mary Grace Davidson	Walnut Creek, CA	Adrenaline Rush
34		Ted Z. Plaut	Madison, CT	Vista Gee Whiz	82		Barbara Cleveland	Santa Barbara, CA	Valentales
35	2006	Mary A. Towsley	Durango, CO	Zico	83		Ellen Newman	Omro, WI	Diana
36		Audrey E. Evans	Philadelphia, PA	Robin Hood	84		Robert Mayne	Deer Creek, OK	Romeo
37	2006	Carol Stratton	Hartland Corners, VT	Galloping Sofa	85		Penelope Miller	Goshen, NY	MB Applause
38		Edwin Sayre	Ride #2	Carmel	86		Linda Lester	Fort Walton Beach, FL	Seyvilla Baskella
39		Russell Fawcett	Deceased	Iron Cloud	87		Mary Faith Urquhart	Ride #2	Dominick
40		Russell Fawcett	Deceased	Snowy River	88		Norm Brown	Wellington, CO	Amie Phoenix +
41		Carey Evans	Portland, OR	Enjoy	89		Marion Grady	Irvine, CA	*Edyl (aka Amir)
42		Lothar H. Pinkers	Bellevue, WA	Get's Spellbinder	90		Marilyn Lee Smith	N. Concord, VT	Katydid
43		William H. Van Cleve	Jacksonville AR	VC IBN Zypress	91		Margaret Stout	Los Angeles, CA	Ilion
44	2007	Mary Dure Johnson	Akron, OH	Chelsea Love	92		Patty Smith	San Jose, CA	Westerly
45		Lila (Winni) Heiney-Duncan	Malin, OR	Trail Bender	93		Kay Gale	Roland, AR	Clear Creek Slim
46		Dawn Ruthven	Victoria BC, Canada	Wisla	94		Barbara Middleton	Bisbee, AZ	Snowy River
47		Rebecca Snell	Boerne, TX	Atraysa Santi	95		Joan Shapleigh	Dover-Foxcroft, ME	One in a Million
48		Carol F. Judge	Houston, TX	Gaby	96		Marilyn Cantey	Santa Cruz, CA	Cameo Leia



# Century Club Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a Dressage Club? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please list the Organization/s:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently competing? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, at what level? \_\_\_\_\_

Horse name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

*(A horse attains another year of age on each January first following its foaling date.)*

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Level Shown: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you plan to ride for your Century Club Membership?

\_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is your primary contact person? \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Dressage Foundation may wish to send out a press release in your area. What is the name of your local newspaper?

\_\_\_\_\_

THE CENTURY CLUB recognizes dressage riders and horses whose combined ages total 100 years or more. Horse and rider perform a dressage test of any Level, at a dressage show or event, and are scored by a dressage judge or professional.

Mail this application BEFORE your ride to:  
THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION  
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 434-8585  
Fax: (402) 436-3053  
www.dressagefoundation.org  
info@dressagefoundation.org