

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



Volunteer Editor:
Carole Nuckton
(Bend, Oregon)
Team #52

THE *Century Club* NEWS

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The Dressage Foundation Honoring the Past – Investing in the Future

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Celebrating 25 Years

1989



2014



A Note from
the Editor,
Carole Nuckton

When my 27 year-old Arabian, Zeb, and I, at 73, did our Century Ride, we were Team #52. I wrote our bio and edited the bios of the other riders in the second half of 2008.

I also helped put together a little booklet called the Centurion. The following year, I was asked to edit the bios and said, "Okay," as I



love editing and enjoy talking with the riders, whenever I have questions about their bios. Thus, I have just kept on editing as the years pass. In 2010, The Centurion was replaced by a full-fledged professionally prepared magazine, The Century Club News, first published in January 2011. Meanwhile, the popularity of the Century Club gradually grew. In 2008, there were 9 rides; 2009, only 7; 2010, 14; 2011, 16; 2012, 29; and 2013, 33.

To put it another way, since our ride as Team #52, I have edited up to team #158, e.g., 106 bios. And it's even been fun! Jenny at The Dressage Foundation is terrific to work with.

My daughter, Jenny Nuckton, has just purchased a horse, a Friesian-Mustang cross that she will be able to take up the levels. However, her new horse will be 8 on Valentine's Day. And she won't even turn 50 until 2015, so I doubt that I will be doing her bio!

Thank you
Century Club Friends!

What a year! I continue to be amazed at the growth of our little club. Do you know why we've had so many new members in recent years? Because you are inspiring



also a way in which you have inspired the next generation. I hope that you will encourage your friends to join us in the future. In the meantime, enjoy meeting the

other seniors to continue riding! So often I hear riders say that they are counting down the years until they can do Century Club rides of their own. As much as your ride was about honoring you and your teammate, it was

newest members from 2013. We are proud to welcome these 33 Teams to the Century Club!

Jenny Johnson

Jenny Johnson
Executive Director

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1314 'O' Street, Suite 305 / Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 434-8585 / Fax: (402) 436-3053

Email: info@dressagefoundation.org / www.dressagefoundation.org

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TEAM #126:

Joan Sussman and Siglavy Adria



Joan reports:

One day when I was 9 years old, my mother came home and announced that she had found a nice lady who had a farm and gave riding lessons. It was Sunnyfield Farm in Bedford, NY, where Mrs. McIntosh gave my sister and me years of riding instruction, while also providing us with our mounts. Later she formed a Pony Club to keep us busy. During my teenage years I was always at the barn. The worst punishment my parents could ever give was to keep us from going to the barn.

At the end of each day in the summer, we would help turn the horses out and as soon as we were out of sight, we would hop on and gallop to the field. As Pony Clubbers we needed to have mounts that would do dressage, go cross-country, and jump. Sunnyfield's Quarter Horses and Lippizans were amazing and did whatever they were asked. Our jumping lessons were provided by George Morris and Victor Hugo-Vidal. For dressage, we rode with Richard Watjen, who had been hired to coach Karen McIntosh for the Olympics.

We rode in Pony Club rallies and competed locally for years. While I did earn my B Pony Club rating, my comfort zone was on the flat. One annoying thing for us teenagers was that Mr. Watjen would always insist that we come to our lessons dressed in hat, jacket and gloves. (Today, I



would never feel ready without my hat and gloves!)

So I did a lot of riding, but never had a horse of my own. I dreamed that someday I would find one wandering down the road. This never happened, but I did catch one on a golf course. He was mine for a couple of minutes—until his owner caught up and took possession.

I rode during college because I applied to colleges that had horses, though I don't think my parents were aware of this. After graduation and marriage, I had no more opportunities to ride for at least 35 years. One day a friend called me and said she had a rescue horse that she was sending to me and it would arrive on Monday! That got me back into the saddle, though I soon needed more of a challenge. For my 60th birthday, my husband asked me if I wanted something special, like a piece of jewelry. I said yes, I wanted

something special – a horse!

I made several mistakes during the next few years, mostly buying horses that preferred to jump, but I did get back into taking dressage lessons. Finally with the help of Lisa Giltner, owner of Willingham Dressage, I bought Aircraft, a Swedish Warmblood gelding that knew a lot more about dressage than I did. Starting at Training Level and working diligently, we made our way to Third Level and earned a Bronze Medal last year. Now I hope the years ahead will allow us to earn a Silver Medal.

I was interested in doing the Century Ride, but Aircraft was only 17. However, Lisa's friend, Jill Hardt, owner of Tristan Oaks Dressage, offered to loan me her 32-year old Lippizaner, Siglavy Adria. (In his prime, he and Jill earned their PSG Silver Medal.) On March 30th, Adrian and I did our Training Level Century Ride at the Orlando Dressage Heidelberg Cup. It was a great day and Adrian enjoyed the attention he so deserves. Students who had learned to ride on him, his farrier, and many other friends were there to cheer us on.

Riding horses has been my greatest challenge and my greatest pleasure. It has allowed me to make wonderful friends, travel to interesting places, and to challenge myself in ways that I never would have done. I intend to continue as long as possible.

TEAM #127:

Sy Budofsky and Romeo's Krystal Bay



Team 127

Sy has always had an interest in horses—at first, it was cowboy stuff. Growing up in the Bronx, New York, he never had much of an opportunity to ride. However, his uncle was a produce street vendor, who used a horse-drawn wagon. Sy was lucky that his uncle



would come by regularly to pick him up and let him handle the reins as they stopped frequently along their route to make sales. Sy received payment for his work in the form of produce for his family.

Later, Sy attended City College New York, became an engineer, and lived for 32 years on Long Island with his wife and their three children. He took riding lessons and enjoyed trail riding, and especially, jumping.

When he retired, the family moved to Burlington, Vermont,

where he continued to ride. His family, being worried about his jumping, convinced him to get a Quarter Horse and become a flatlander. During this early retirement period, he and his wife traveled extensively though Europe, Asia, and Africa.

When the kids were adults and had children of their own, Sy and his wife moved to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, where they have lived for the past 24 years.

Among Sy's many interests and hobbies—painting, wood

carving, golf, and learning to play the piano—the activity he still likes the best is riding. Now that he no longer jumps, he's become interested in dressage as quite an interesting challenge. When he heard about the Century

Ride, he leased a 16-year-old Arabian, Romeo's Krystal Bay, who had been the Regional Reserve Champion (but, Sy's not sure for what discipline).

As the team had been featured in the local newspaper, there was quite an audience when they did their Century Ride on April 6th—a Training Level test in Palm Beach.

You've got to realize how horsey Sy really is when you note that his email address starts with "equestplay."

TEAM #128:

Elizabeth (Liz) Hotchkiss and Oliver



Although Liz didn't have a horse when she was growing up, she did love riding in Manhattan's Central Park.

In 1966, Liz, her husband, and their two daughters moved to Amagansett, Long Island, where they started a boarding and lesson stable. At that time, her main interests were combined training and jumping. But after spending 10 days at the Saratoga Dressage Institute, she was strongly hooked on dressage.

In 1989, Liz and her husband turned the Long Island farm over to one of their daughters and moved to Columbia, Missouri, bringing five horses with them. There they opened a boarding barn, which is still in operation.

After her husband died, Liz visited the daughter who winters in Wellington, Florida. Liz had such a good time, she decided to take a



horse along as she "snow-birded" to Florida each winter.

When in Florida, she began looking for a good dressage horse, found and bought Oliver. He was an 8-year-old Danish Warmblood trained through Second Level, and had been imported from Denmark. Liz brought Oliver home to Missouri. However every winter, she took him to Wellington, Florida, where he continued his training. She describes Oliver as loving people, being wonderful to work with (though definitely an extrovert) and was certainly an excellent investment.

Although Oliver hadn't been shown for six years, he was a shining star as they did their Century Ride, performing Fourth Level Test 2. Liz says "The Century ride was so much fun—though probably more fun for me than for Oliver!"



TEAM #129:

Carol Angle and Tigger



Twenty years ago, when Carol Angle, then 65, took up riding at North Hills in Omaha, Nebraska, under the tutelage of Jan Mactier Moriarty, it was the first time she had been on a horse since elementary school. Through Jan she bought Zoe, a Warmblood/Thoroughbred cross, and the pair worked on jumping and outings with the North Hills Hunt.

As an academic pediatrician and former department chair at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Carol was too busy for much riding until she retired in 2000 and moved with Zoe to Charlottesville, Virginia, where she now lives next door to the horse farm of her son, Fritz Angle, and his equestrian wife, Lani Peppers Angle.

In Virginia, Zoe and Carol continued to hunt and jump until Zoe's hocks and Carol's spinal stenosis aged both of them out of the ring. After a successful hip replacement Carol was able to walk with two canes and thought she might enjoy the challenge of dressage.

Enter Tigger, a Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred cross, 17.2



Photo credit: Fritz Angle

hands, bred at Tale Winds Farm, Somerset, Virginia, by Stacey Donnelly, known for the early and highly successful socialization of all her foals. Tigger had also been trained for hunting and jumping but the pair began work in dressage under the skilled guidance

of Robin Wood of Earlysville, VA. Lani designed a highly successful mounting platform to get Carol in and out of the saddle and magnetic stirrups were found to compensate for the sensory loss in her feet.

Tigger's progress had even more interruptions. When his cheerful disposition faltered, ulcers were found to be at fault, with multiple endoscopies along the way.

Conjunctivitis turned out to be a resistant fungal infection requiring enucleation of the left eye. Colic and its surgical repair were responsible for another six months hiatus. The ride to the horse show at the Therapeutic Adventure Camp of Orange for the Century Club event was Tigger's first and only van ride in five years that did not end at the veterinary hospital; not surprisingly he fussed the whole way.

At the Elmwood Farm show in Orange, VA on April 27, 2013, the 15-year-old Tigger overcame any anxiety and carried Carol to a 78.7% score in Training Level 1. The icing on the cake was the presence and pleasure of Stacy Donnelly, his breeder and first fan.

TEAM #130:

Joy Quinn and Chico Gray



Team 130

Joy reports:

Growing up on a farm in Illinois, I was fortunate to be introduced to riding at age 8 with my own Shetland pony. When my pony went on to greener pastures, I moved up to a Paint, then a “generic” horse that had very rough gaits. When I graduated from the 8th grade, my parents gave me a 3-year-old Tennessee Walker as a graduation gift. He had only been ridden bareback with a hackamore, but turned out to be a wonderful horse.

After I graduated from high school I went to nursing school in Chicago, which I loved, but unfortunately it ended my riding days for many years other than an occasional ride on a rented or borrowed horse.

In 1958, I married a medical student who had just completed his 3rd year of school. The next 25 years were filled with raising our four daughters and my going back to school, followed by a move to Oklahoma where my husband established his medical practice. This long horseless period ended in 1985, when a friend and former neighbor offered me a Quarter Horse that he had raised but, due to his health issues, could no longer ride. I boarded my new horse at a small barn where the owner was learning dressage.



Photo credit: Jeanie Eaton

I had always just done trail riding in a western saddle and, at first, I couldn't imagine why anyone would want to just ride around in an arena!

Fast-forward about 5 years and I bought an Arabian horse that knew dressage. I was soon hooked and began taking lessons. But when we were in a dressage show in Shawnee, the extended trot was proving to be too much for my little Arab. I realized that it was time to end his dressage career, just when mine was getting started. Fate was with me as a 7-year-old Appendix Quarter Horse was for sale on the same show grounds. This horse was a roper whose legs were too long to come out of the shoot fast enough; thus, the owner brought him to the

show after hours to see if anyone was interested in trying to make him into a dressage horse.

Chico did much better at dressage than roping, and we did quite well showing and advancing up through Second Level. Later I added a Dutch Warmblood that I also showed in dressage.

At the time I was signing up for the Century Ride, the Warmblood was having “issues” and a friend suggested that I ride “good old” Chico, despite the fact that he hadn't been shown for at least 8 years. We began working at Training Level, and I'm sure he was excited to be working again.

Our Century Ride turned out to be a wonderful experience. I was so proud of Chico. We rode Training Level 1 and received 1st Place with a score of 65%!

I would just like to add that none of this would have been possible without the support of my husband of 54 years and the friends who also served as my local trainers - Janelle Williams, Shelly Williams & DeDe Wasemiller. In addition, I have been fortunate to be able to take clinics with Lurena Bell who has come several times a year from Texas. I would also like to thank our Oklahoma Dressage Society group who helped make this a special day for Chico and me!



TEAM #131:

June Hooks and Mydan Mydandy+

Born and raised in Huntington, New York, June has always been crazy about horses. Whenever her allowance allowed, she'd spend it on riding.

After college, she married and moved to Michigan, where she had three children. Still no horse of her own, but she continued to ride whenever she could. Of course, it was her daughter who was horse crazy. (Does anyone wonder where the guy riders in the Olympics come from?)

When June was 44, she and her daughter took jumping lessons for 12 years. Later June tried her "hand" at the Saddle Seat discipline.

In 2001, when the children were grown, June and her husband moved to North Carolina, where June finally got a horse of her own at age 60! Flare was a 20-year-old Arabian gelding that jumped and had a working knowledge of dressage. A few years later, Flare's eyesight was determined not to be good enough for jumping; thus, June and Flare turned to dressage. At the dressage stable, she met Carol Wertz who became June's mentor in many ways. For one thing, Carol told June about the Century Club Ride, and she and Flare began preparations to



Photo credit: Catherine Betor

participate. Sadly, Flare passed away at age 30. Carol offered June her wonderful horse, Mydan Mydandy+.

Dandy, a Half Arabian, is now 30 years old, but what a career he has had. Carol has owned him for 28 years and he has excelled in saddle seat, sidesaddle, native costume, and hunter over fences, as well as dressage. He competed at two Arabian Sport Horse National Championships, earning "Top Ten" at Second Level in 2005. Then in 2009, he came back to the show ring and earned "Top Five" at the Region 15 Arabian Championships in Show Hack and Second Level Dressage. Also, with

Dandy, Carol earned her First and Second Level Rider Performance Certificates.

After January 1, 2013, when June turned 70 and could officially compete in the Century Ride on Dandy, Carol and June started looking for a suitable show. The Lighten Up Dressage Show, managed by Leslie Lytton, immediately came to mind as a fun environment for June to make her dressage ring debut.

June diligently rode Dandy all spring with instructor, Alethea Cowand, to get ready for the show.

June and Dandy did their Century ride on May 4th and earned a score of 70% in Introductory B. The judge, Stacy Hastings, wrote on the comments that "He has a lot of spunk!" June says, "Dandy is a great little horse, and I know that Carol is very proud of him. I had a wonderful time and have Dandy to thank for being so patient with me. It was an honor to do this ride."

As June's first love remains jumping, at 70, she purchased Snowflake, an Arabian/Quarter horse cross that loves to jump, and is also learning dressage. June concludes, "Life is good when you have a horse!"

TEAM #132:

Nancy Isaacson and Halftone



Nancy reports:

I grew up in a riding family in New Hampshire where my parents ran a riding school. But it wasn't until 1996, when I moved to Maryland, that I had my first dressage lesson—and what a lesson it was! It was at the Potomac Horse Center with Col. Clarence Edmonds, one of the early organizers of Potomac Valley Dressage Association (PVDA). In those days, many well-known instructors, such as Bengt Lundquist and Col. Alfred Kitts, taught at Potomac.

I went on to be active in PVDA volunteer work and had a willing partner, Second Chance, for my rides. Raising a daughter and a son, volunteering, and serving as District Commissioner for the Pony Club took most of my time, but I began to fox hunt on the weekends. Both my children rode and continue their interest. However, once my son realized that he was the only male in his classes, he dropped out. His interest remained and now, in



his mid-40s, he has a driving pony. My daughter also continues to be an active equestrian. She lives in Colorado where she exercises a Thoroughbred for a friend and occasionally hunts with Arapahoe Hunt.

About six years ago, I was given Halftone (HT), a registered Appaloosa, from some kind friends after I lost a horse. They had used

HT in California for fox hunting and cattle roping before moving East. There was some mention that he had dressage experience, so I took him to a clinic and regained my interest in dressage. And what fun it has been—a perfect activity for a senior rider! HT listens carefully for my directions when we practice, and has been a delight in every way.

Having heard about the Century Club a few years ago, we waited a while until our ages qualified us to give it a go. On May 11th we received a lot of attention and best wishes at our local show, where we rode Intro Test B, and earned a score of 75%.

The Century Ride will always remain a high point with my dear HT. Soon after the show, and the day after an absolutely beautiful trail ride, HT developed severe colic. The vet helped me make the decision to euthanize him to prevent further suffering. Even though he was 30, he still had a lot of energy and I will miss him.



TEAM #133:

John Weir and Bel Rambo

John Weir rode cowboy style as an adolescent. Then after a 15 year hiatus, his daughter, Debra, became interested in horses, so John also took it up again. He was particularly interested in eventing (cross country, stadium jumping, and dressage). He also enjoyed participating in trail classes at other shows.

In 1991, John and his horse, The Windy Dude, were Wisconsin Dressage & Combined Training Association Champions at Training Level eventing. That same year they were also Reserve Champion in Area IV for the United States Combined Training Association. Later, when he lost Windy, John kept on riding other horses until he got a special mare, B.J., for eventing.

By this time, John had been thinking about doing a Century Ride. But when B.J. developed lameness last January, he decided they both should retire. However, when he got an offer to ride an especially superb horse, John quickly changed his mind. What follows is a story about that horse, Bel Rambo (Bo).



Bo started showing as an Arabian English Pleasure horse, but in 1991, his career changed dramatically. When he was being shown at a Region 15 Arabian show, there happened to be a dressage event just two rings over. Bo's owner

watched the horses' natural way of going, in contrast to the animated way of going that was developing in the Arabian English Pleasure Classes. While Bo's owner didn't know anything about dressage, he was intrigued with both the classes and the horses. After some research, Bo's new career became dressage.

Bo competed to Third Level in regular dressage classes, but the Musical Freestyle was where he excelled. The highlight of Bo's career was when he starred in the Dancing with Horses Musical Production at the 2002 USDF Symposium as the character "Rafiki." After this stellar performance, Bo was retired to the farm.

Prior to John's Century Ride, Bo had been retired for 11 years. However, when he was cleaned up and the saddle placed on his back, he knew immediately what his job was, and was very happy to show everyone that this old horse can still dance!

On June 1st John and Bo (both somewhat stiff with age) rode Intro C at the Bright Moon Farm in Winchester, Virginia.

TEAM #134:

Barbara Fleming and Dancity Wingn Prayer



This is a story of what can happen when your father can't afford a horse for you when you are a horse-crazy kid.

Barbara shares:

I grew up in a still slightly rural suburb of Los Angeles where some families were able to keep horses. Since mine didn't fall into that category, I had to satisfy my passion by reading horse books and bumming rides on the neighbors' horses. By the age of 8 or so, I was probably bent in the direction of dressage by a little booklet my grandmother brought me from her visit to Vienna and the Spanish Riding School. I fell in love with the look of the men in their traditional bicorn hats riding their stately horses. I think it was at about the same time that I decided that a Morgan was about as close as I could get to the Lipizzaner type. Of course, I had never met a live example of either breed.

When I married, my husband had no idea of the extent of my interest in horses. However, when we moved to a rural area, he was accepting of my desire to finally have a horse, and also agreed to have one for our young daughter, who proved to be as horse-crazy as her mother had been. As luck would have it, we were introduced to people in the local Morgan



Photo credit: Sheri Scott

horse community and eventually owned two Morgan mares. Later, I traded mine for Dancity Wingn Prayer (Wing), a two-and-a-half year old Morgan colt who needed to be a gelding. For his Christmas present, he got to spend a little time with the vet.

From the start, Wing was intended to be my dressage horse, but on the way to that goal, we worked on long-line training, as well as quite a bit of trail riding when he first was under saddle. In the evenings, sometimes in the moonlight, we worked on dressage, occasionally sharing our arena with passing deer. We progressed steadily to Fourth Level, showing

all along the way.

Wing also proved to be an outstanding trail horse. We spent many happy days on the Pacific Crest Trail, hiking with my husband. We also showed successfully at Morgan shows in hunter pleasure and participated for several years in a quadrille with our local California Dressage Society chapter. However, just before Wing's retirement was our highlight: Receiving a score of 65% performing Fourth Level Test 1.

For a number of years, I have scribed for shows put on by Connie Davenport's Golden State Dressage in Rancho Murieta, California. In that time, we have had several Century Rides, and it seemed logical for us to do one when the math worked out. Wing reached 30 this year, and I reached 70, so on June 13th (2 days after my birthday), we reentered a venue Wing thought he had retired from and performed his interpretation of Training Level Test One for two FEI judges.

I currently have a wonderful Third Level horse and continue to train and show. Wing again spends his time trail riding and pursuing his lifelong goal—sleeping the perfect nap. And I still have that inspiring booklet from Vienna.

TEAM #135:

Kathy Knappitsch and General Lee



So far, this team represents Century Club's oldest horse and youngest rider (35 and 65, respectively).

Growing up in Dallas, Texas, Kathy always wanted a horse. At 13, she had saved enough from babysitting to pay for Girl Scout camp, but instead she found an old mare for \$125. She successfully bargained with her dad to pay the difference, if she did not go to camp. Luckily, a boarding stable opened nearby, where she could keep Whirl-Away for \$7/month. (Those were the days!)

Fast-forward several years and Kathy began riding English in college and received instruction from a French lady who had extensive dressage training. After graduation, Kathy went to England and worked on her Teacher's Certificate at the Talland School of Equitation in Gloucestershire and decided she wanted to stay in Europe to continue her dressage education. With her last \$25 and a plane ticket in hand, she flew to Vienna, Austria to start a new job.

In Vienna, Kathy worked for a woman who paid a "Bereiter" at



the Spanish Riding School to teach her six horses classical dressage three days per week. After studying German, she then worked at a breeding facility and riding club.

In 1972, Kathy was accepted as an American to ride with the "Cadre Noir" in Saumur, France (the French Military Academy). For three weeks, Kathy had lessons and lectures about three-day eventing. With a handshake from one of the top Colonels, she passed the instructor's eventing course.

While in Austria, Kathy had met a wonderful man, Franz Knappitsch, and married in 1975. With her diplomatic husband, they lived in Romania, under Communism;

then Rome, where she showed at the FEI Level with her Hanoverian, and back to Vienna, where she rode a Westphalian at the Prix St. Georges Level. While living in Kuwait from 1988 to 1990, Kathy made the first dressage team for Kuwait. In 1989, Kathy attended the International Candidate Judges' Course in Belgium.

After moving back to the States, Kathy realized her long-time dream as she and Franz transformed her dad's old

Thoroughbred racing farm into a dressage facility in Fairview, Texas. Kathy became an "L" Graduate and has been boarding horses and teaching and showing ever since.

Her partner in the Century Ride, General Lee, has been boarded at Kathy's for more than 10 years. He's a Thoroughbred-Arabian cross, born in Hollywood, Florida, (a real star!) given to his owner, Erica Elias, for her 9th birthday 26 years ago. He has taught many children to ride, loves to be ridden and is a great teacher. Kathy and General rode Intro Test B for their Century Ride on June 15th at Kathy's Lime Ridge Farm.

TEAM #136:

Judy Finkel and Coke Nally



Born and raised in Quincy, Massachusetts, Judy was infatuated with horses, covering the walls of her bedroom with horse pictures, while saving every penny she made babysitting (at 25¢/hour) for riding in the Blue Hills.

After graduating from the University of Maine, she taught Junior High School in York, Maine, while living with the Cadwalader family. Judy mostly rode with their daughter, Clarissa. Mr. Cadwalader liked to “have a horse on the property” and let Judy keep her first horse there.

She and her husband, Bob, moved to Toledo, Ohio, after his Fellowship in Rheumatology. Judy leased horses for a few years, until she bought the sweetest horse in the world—Wojo, a dun Quarter Horse. With Wojo, she introduced all three of her children to riding. Two of the kids kept on riding hunter/ jumper all through their college years.

When her youngest daughter was 14, Judy had officially started teaching riding and eventually discovered dressage. So when her



daughter wanted a “Hunter/Jumper” type horse, rather than Coke Nally (André), the Arabian they had bought for her, Judy started riding André. He was quite nervous and never did like to jump so the two of them got along fabulously.

Judy and her trainer friend, Sue Burton, traveled all around Region 2 for many years attending dressage clinics, picking up USDF hours and learning more and more about this wonderful riding discipline. Sue recently got her USDF University diploma and Judy got her certificate.

Meanwhile, André became the

new Wojo, helping Judy to teach hundreds of new young riders about dressage. André stops if his rider gets off balance or he or she says anything that sounds like “whoa.” He is practically voice trained and listens to the reader at shows so carefully that Judy has to make a real effort to keep him trotting when he hears Sue, calling ahead, say, “Between C and H medium walk.”

On June 22nd, Judy and André rode Training Level Test 3 at the Great Lakes

Dressage Summer Show at the Fulton County (OH) Fairgrounds. Judy says, “It has truly been an honor to partner with such a sensitive, intelligent animal, and needless to say, André is the favorite horse at the barn.”

Judy is currently the President of the Great Lakes Dressage Club and also belongs to The Archaeology Institute of America, Phi Mu Sorority, and is the 2nd International Vice President of The Questers, an antique study group that supports restoration and preservation of important historical properties in the area.

TEAM #137:

Sharon Berkshire and Chesterton



Sharon never had an opportunity to ride until her 7 year-old daughter, who loved horses through the many books she read, wanted a taste of the real thing. Together they took riding lessons and had a wonderful experience.

Two years later, the family (Sharon, her husband, daughter and son) moved to a small horse community in a northern suburb of Chicago where they purchased an Appaloosa pony. Except for the father, the family (Sharon, daughter and son) took turns riding him. Later they became active in the local branch of the Pony Club of America. A few years later, Sharon was chosen as the District Commissioner of the Club.

As a natural progression in a horse family, they purchased a 16-hand hunter jumper for their daughter to learn on and compete. Meanwhile, Sharon leased a Connemara trail horse, but continued taking hunt-seat lessons at a riding facility. When she was 44,



Sharon purchased a wonderful nine-year-old 16-hand Quarter Horse who became her first “just for me” horse.

In 1995, when she and her husband retired to North Carolina, the then 27-year-old horse came with them where he was turned out to pasture.

In 1997, it seemed time to return to riding and by then, dressage was her chosen venue.

One day, Sharon saw a very interesting ad: A “handsome 16.1-hand Thoroughbred gelding, lovely mover, an especially nice canter, good lateral work and counter canter.” Even at his age of 29, Sharon found every word of the ad about Chesterton to be absolutely true.

In recent years, Sharon and Chesterton have been taking lessons from Vicki Kelley of Antares Dressage in Pinehurst. At this stage of Sharon’s and Chesterton’s riding journey, Vicki keeps things

simple. On June 22nd Sharon, a member of the North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association, and Chesterton rode Intro. Test C at the Antares Dressage Schooling Show, in Aberdeen, North Carolina.

TEAM #138:

Donna Brown and Amie Phoenix+



Team 138

Donna grew up near Sedgwick, Colorado, where she owned a pony when she was only six years old. In 1951, when she was 11, she got her first Arabian, "Buster," and showed him in 4-H. Donna and Buster went on to show in English Pleasure, side-saddle, and other events. She and Buster enjoyed a



lot of pleasure riding. But at only age 18, Donna had serious knee problems attributed to arthritis; it was so bad that she had to stop riding entirely.

It was not until 2002, with a double-knee replacement, that her pain was gone entirely.

Donna got to thinking about how her husband, Norman Brown, and a good friend, Jim Snook, had both done their Century Rides on a wonderful Arabian gelding, Amie

Phoenix+. (They were Teams number #88 and #112 respectively.) So Donna decided that she might take up riding again. And, not only that, she realized that she could also do a Century Ride on Phoenix!

Phoenix, a great grandson of the Phoenician + + +, was shown to First Level in dressage by Trisha Swift, Donna and Norman's daughter. He earned two Regional Championships

in dressage and competed in the first two U.S. Sport Horse National Championships. At age 19, Phoenix learned to jump and successfully competed in open Two-Phase events. Besides all this, he has also been used as a lesson horse, teaching countless children how to ride.

Phoenix had been retired, and Donna

had never done dressage, so it took some time for them to prepare for their Century Ride. But on June 29th, Donna and Phoenix rode Intro. Test A as part of the 65th Estes Park (Colorado) Arabian Horse Show.

Having succeeded at this ride, Donna is looking forward to riding without pain on Phoenix, or possibly on her daughter's Norwegian Fjord. And who knows, Donna may even be seen in a show ring again!

TEAM #139:

Herman Aguayo and SA Wasim +



Becoming a Century Club member has been on Herman's bucket list ever since, years ago, the late Lt. Col. Eugene Dueber of Port Orchard, Washington, one of the original members of the Century Club (Team #16), encouraged him to do it. Eugene, a fellow Marine, gave Herman his U.S. Marine Corps blue with yellow trim saddle pad to remind him about his Century Club goal.

Herman grew up near the Santa Cruz River in Tucson, Arizona, where he first rode ponies staked out to graze, and progressed to becoming a card-carrying member of the Professional Cowboy Rodeo Association. In his youth, he rode broncs, did team roping, and even tried Brahma bulls!

During his long non-horsey period, beginning in 1956, he served in the U.S. Marine Corp for eight years. Then during Vietnam he rejoined the Navy and served in the Sea Bees as a heavy equipment operator. He served two tours in Vietnam, returning with a purple heart. This was followed by deployments to Puerto Rico, Guam, Diego Garcia, and three years in the Philippines.

In 1979, Herman adopted 3 mustangs through the BLM program. It was a year later that he bought a purebred Arabian colt, Prince



Sawda. While in Ojai, California, he met Jess Kale, 80 years old, who was an old time "horse whisperer". Jess helped Herman to perfect a quiet and gentle method of "training" which he has used ever since.

When he retired in 1983, Herman and his wife Kathy relocated to Port Orchard, WA. They began breeding their stallion to select mares with the end result being purebred and half Arabians with sound minds, good legs, and tons of athletic ability. Herman and his stallion, Prince, showed in driving, Western Pleasure, and other disciplines. They call their farm Sawda Equestrian Center and have produced many champions, as well as fine horses that are used for families, trail riding, and endurance. Herman led a 4-H club for more than 16 years and is very proud of those who were in his club, including 3 women who are now equine vets.

The Sawda Farm hosts two schooling shows a year. Herman and Kathy are members and supporters of the Lower Puget Sound Dressage Club. As Kathy explains, "The LPSDC is a great, low key venue for beginning riders to start competing in dressage. All breeds of horses are welcomed – not just those thought of as the traditional dressage horses."

Despite having both knees replaced in operations in 2011-2012, and never having ridden dressage, Herman was still determined to be a Century Club member. He prepared with Shannon Lockwood, a Grand Prix rider, who trains and teaches dressage at Sawda. Shannon knew that Herman already had good equitation basics, and just needed to work on learning the dressage pattern. They worked together for 10 to 15 minutes a day, but stuck with Intro Test A as Wasim, at his age, would not be able to handle the canter.

On Sunday, July 7, 2013, several former students watched Herman (75) and Wasim (28) ride their Century Club test at the LPSDC show, earning a score of 64.688%. To celebrate, attendees enjoyed chocolate cake and sparkling cider while Wasim snacked on a "carrot" cake. Herman looks forward to encouraging both old and young riders to fulfill their own dreams.

TEAM #140:

Ruth Crennell and St. George



Team 140

Ruth reports:

I was fortunate to grow up in a rural area in the Irish midlands, close to the Shannon River. Although there was always a horse or two around, and I rode a lot as a kid, I never had any riding lessons until I married my college sweetheart and we emigrated, first to Canada, and later to the United States. I began riding again in my 30s, after settling in Wisconsin and beginning to raise a family. One thing led to another and soon we found ourselves the owners of a small horse farm. For years I rode hunters until I tired of the constant struggle to find the perfect take-off spot to every fence on a hunter course. I slowly made the transition to dressage and have been fascinated by it for more years than I care to count.

When I read about the Century Club a few years ago, I thought I would like to become a member of that select group. The horse I currently own is a 12-year-old Welsh Cob cross, so she is not a candidate - at least not yet. A friend saw St. George at a USDF Instructor



Photo credit: Jackie Moran

Certification seminar and asked Deanna Hertrich, his owner, if she would consider lending him to me; she immediately agreed.

George is a 1987 Thoroughbred by Our Native out of Best Game. He raced briefly as a youngster and then came to the Green fam-

ily whose daughter, Patty, evented him. They qualified for the North American Young Rider Championships and ran at the Intermediate level. When Patty went to college, George, at the age of 19, found his way to Deanna Hertrich who resumed eventing him at the lower levels. The pair had a distinguished career, placing in both eventing and dressage with the Performance Horse Registry and the Thoroughbred Incentive Program. They qualified for the American Eventing Championships every season they competed and attended the Championships twice, finishing in the top 20.

After meeting George and riding him just three times, we completed Training Level Test 2 on July 27th at Silverwood Farm in Camp Lake, Wisconsin.

I'd like to thank The Dressage Foundation for providing me with this opportunity, Deanna Hertrich for graciously lending her lovely horse to a total stranger, and my friends and the other competitors at the show who made my Century Club Ride such a great experience.

TEAM #141:

William Wise and Jake



Team 141

William shares:

Unlike most Century Club members, my life as a horseman began only a few years ago. I grew up in an urban environment, Baltimore, Maryland, where horses worked pulling wagons of produce and discarded household items. My concept of activities on horseback was restricted to what I saw at the circus or wild-west shows. My first riding experience, which occurred almost fifty years ago, is not something that I remember with much pleasure. It was a trail ride where I was one of several riders mounted on a string of horses trained to walk, trot, and canter at the leader's whim. Besides being jostled about on a hard saddle farther above the ground than seemed prudent, the only other thing I recall about that experience was being asked, "Why aren't you posting?" With that experience, any thought that riding a horse might be something one did for pleasure and recreation didn't cross my mind for many years, and attending horse shows and pulls became my way to relate to horses.

This was to change several years ago after reading Linda Kohanov's, *The Tao of Equus*, followed by my volunteering at a nearby therapeutic riding center. This was a cost-free way to learn something about horse handling, a skill I anticipated needing to know as a new grandfather.

Seeing how much some of the riding center's clients were benefitting,



suggested that I might also benefit from some time in the saddle, so I began doing some summer riding at Stephens College. When an opening occurred in one of their western riding classes, I enrolled in it, but soon discovered that beginning riding in college isn't really for beginners like me. I wasn't having fun and was making very little progress. After a session on the lunge line with the instructor, it became apparent that I required private instruction. It was at this point that my former wife suggested that I consider dressage. I secured an introduction to Kim Kriekhaus, who taught dressage at her farm. But it was December, the farm has no indoor facility and the outdoor arena was covered in snow and ice. Thus, my instruction was delayed until the latter part of the winter when I began learning the fundamentals of a balanced seat on

a mustang mare named Mary Jane. For the better part of a year, Mary Jane was my school horse and the one on whom I rode my first dressage tests in 2011.

Sometime during that summer Kim suggested that I ride Jake, a 22-year-old American Quarter Horse gelding. I followed her suggestion and we have been a team ever since. Jake had been given to Kim in 2009 after the death of his former owner; consequently we know little about him other than his breed and age. I think it was sometime in 2011, that I heard about the Century Club and decided to make becoming a member a goal that would show what I had accomplished as a rider, as well as honoring Jake's years of service to those seeking equestrian skills. Since I came to know Jake, he has been my training partner, a companion on walks and trail rides, my Christmas parade mount, and a young girl's horse in a mounted quadrille.

On July 29, 2013, Jake and I rode Intro Level tests A and C as our Century Club ride at Missouri's "Show Me" State Games Dressage event. We rode as members of The Windpuffs team, which won the adult division A USDF silver medal. I'm grateful to The Dressage Foundation for giving Jake and me this opportunity to be recognized, and thank my wife, friends, and teachers for their continuing patience and support.

TEAM #142:

Jorge Gomez and Embrujado



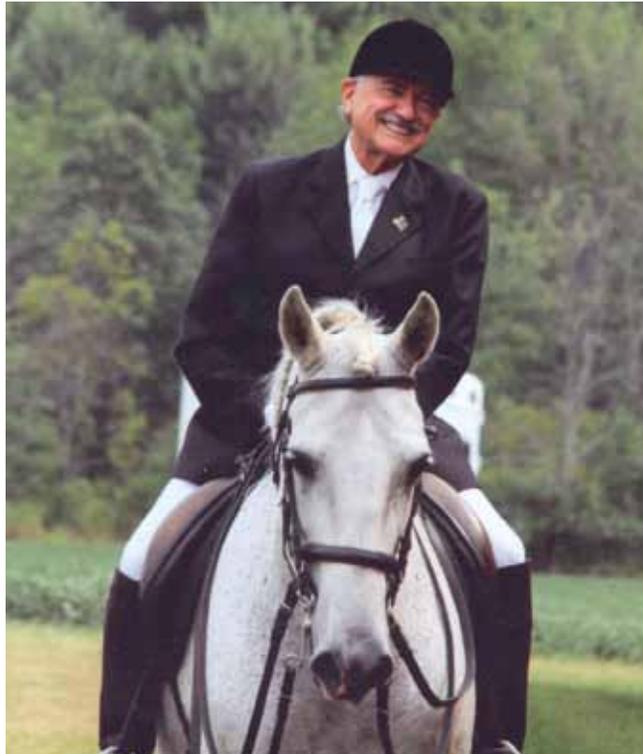
On August 26th at Sue and Jenny Neller's Horsescape Farms in Okemos, Michigan, Jorge Gomez and Embrujado performed their Century Club ride, alongside good friend Sue Hughes, whose story is reported on the following page. This special Century Club event was set up by friends and families of the riders, who arranged a wonderful party.

Jorge Gomez, a retired Plastic Surgeon and 2010 member of the Century Club (#76 with Semik), this time rode Embrujado, his horse of many years. Jorge told us a bit about "Emby," as he is informally called around the barn.

Jorge shares:

Embrujado, which means 'bewitched' in Spanish, has been my dressage horse for the last 22 years. He is truly a wonderful horse. He was the colt of Gitana and Dejado, purebred Andalusians from the Parras Farm in Texas.

We knew he was a very promising horse from the very first day. He was black at birth until he was



few years old. At the age of two he was castrated, which unfortunately was complicated by a small bowel hernia. The surgery was performed

in a veterinarian clinic with Emby under anesthesia. He was brought home to our barn on the same day. My wife Ginette, a horse lover as well, noticed that he was becoming distressed and his lips were turning purple. She promptly transported him in our horse trailer and took him to a large animal clinic at Michigan State University where the doctors remove seven feet of small bowel. This was quite frightening indeed. Fortunately he recovered well after a few weeks.

We have been very proud to show Emby. Once he reached the appropriate age, we participated in the Century Club award. We rode a Third Level Kür with a Mozart composition: The Sleigh Ride of the German Dances.

Although Ginette passed away from cancer one year ago, she was there in spirit, watching us perform. Gi-

nette and I have always felt that Emby is an exceptional horse and a great companion.

TEAM #143:

Sue Hughes and Zippo's Imprint



As noted in the previous story, good friends Jorge Gomez and Sue Hughes performed their Century Club rides in the same place on the same day, judged by friend and supporter, Maryal Barnett.

Sue is an all-around dressage person, as an active clinician, instructor, dressage judge, and club organizer/leader. She has competed for many years, mostly around Plymouth, Michigan, where she helped found the Summer Series Dressage Schooling Shows. Sue had three advanced horses, which she took into the ring at the Prix St. Georges Level, but, alas, as they grew older, they passed on too quickly for her to reach Grand Prix.

She continued to ride and compete on lower level horses. Zippo's Imprint (Isaac), her ever so patient riding companion and her partner on Team #143, lives at her 4-stall boarding barn on 20 acres in southeast Michigan. Although Sue hasn't competed much recently, Isaac, now 20, continues to teach her, now 84, to keep moving forward, so that she can keep on teaching and judging—things that would be difficult to



do without her ongoing conversations with Isaac.

But there's a lot more to know about Sue, which can only be briefed here. She says that it was the Girl Scouts that got her going with horses, which led to her being a joiner extraordinaire!

It all started when she sent her daughter to a riding camp, but she came home to announce, "Mom, you could do a lot better as a troop

leader than the one we have!" Sue took her up on it, got somebody to teach her to ride, and ended up teaching and leading that program for 20 years!

Below is a synopsis of Sue's long and fruitful career.

- On the Board of the Midwest Dressage Association for 14 years; was president for four of those years.
- Earned her USEF "r" in dressage and eventing judging.
- Served on the Violet Hopkins USDF Instructors Symposium Committee for 11 years.
- Became a Level III Centered Riding instructor and served on its board.
- A Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) instructor; served a term on its board. Now retired, but a life-long member of the CHA.

• Active in the USDF and served for 9 years as national membership chairperson.

• Region 2 Regional Director for 9 years and member of the USDF Board of Directors.

There's more—but you get the picture of a very talented, accomplished, and valuable volunteer for the entire horse community.

TEAM #144:

Mary Goss and Cajun



Mary fell in love with horses very early in life, as the Abbott Milk Company brought milk to her doorstep in a trailer pulled by huge, beautiful horses in South Philadelphia in the early 1940s. Mary was determined that someday she would have a horse. Alas, when the family moved to Norwalk, Connecticut, and lived in the suburbs, having a horse was not possible. Then her dad died when she was only 9, and there were two younger sisters to care for.

Finally, Mary got a “job” of sorts helping Dr. Chester Guthrie at his veterinary hospital. The doctor had several horses that she could ride! Her favorite was a pinto gelding that she showed in Hunter classes, which was somewhat comical in that he just didn’t look the part. Nevertheless, they excelled in Open Jumping competitions.

Mary also took riding lessons at the Wilton Riding Club and often hacked over to the New Canaan Mounted Troop stables, where Mrs. Self let her use her facilities.

In 1958, Mary started out on a pre-vet program at the University of Connecticut and, of course, rode at the Horse Barn as often as she could. After graduation, she married; her husband was a Swine Herdsman, and they lived on Horsebarn Road.

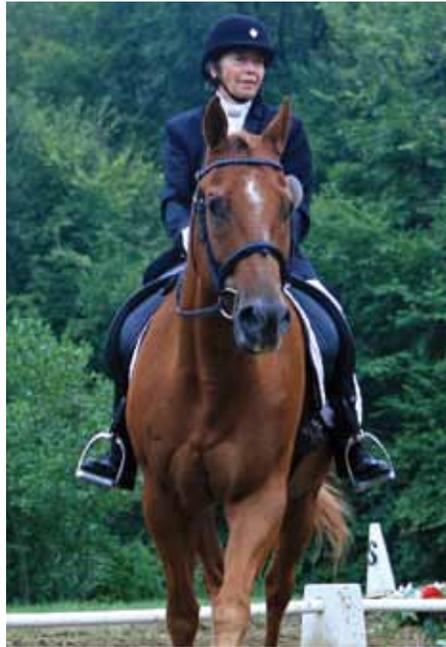


Photo credit: Act Regal Photography

Mary’s first horse of her own was a 7-month old filly out of an off-track Thoroughbred, sired by a 5-gaited Saddlebred. Mary had her hands full until Bruce Walters, the University’s horseman, trained her filly. Mary showed her as a hunter, but now realizes what a great dressage horse she would have made.

After Mary divorced and was raising her daughter, she finished her graduate degrees and worked in a research lab at UConn as an electron microscopist. In 2000, she retired from teaching at the UConn Medical School. During this time, Mary married her good friend and fellow animal lover, Ed. A few horses and 35 years later a good friend invited her to a dressage clinic. Mary is so thankful to

Karen Norton for exposing her to (for her) a “new” discipline. At that clinic, Mary met many riders and their trainers and decided “This is for me!”

Mary joined the Connecticut Dressage and Combined Training Association (CDCTA) and took many lessons from a very talented rider. Together, they worked with her 28+ year old Quarter Horse (Cajun) and her 13 year old Haflinger (Elizabethan Lady). Mary entered as many dressage shows as she could. Then at a CDCTA fundraiser, Mary won some Centered Riding lessons from Deb Moynihan. During these lessons, she was amazed at her progress and realized that Centered Riding was also for her! Mary now rides with Deb every week and continues to learn. They are fine-tuning her riding, while making her horses more suitable for dressage.

Deb encouraged Mary to apply for a Century Ride. Mary and Cajun rode on August 30th at Randy May Memorial Dressage show in Mansfield, CT. Mary says that it was the most exciting ride of her life. Old Cajun was as excited as she was. They posted their highest score yet, a 68.75 at Intro Level. Mary thought everything she had learned came into being and felt like she was in a dream.

TEAM #145:

Sally Barber and Honest Knockout

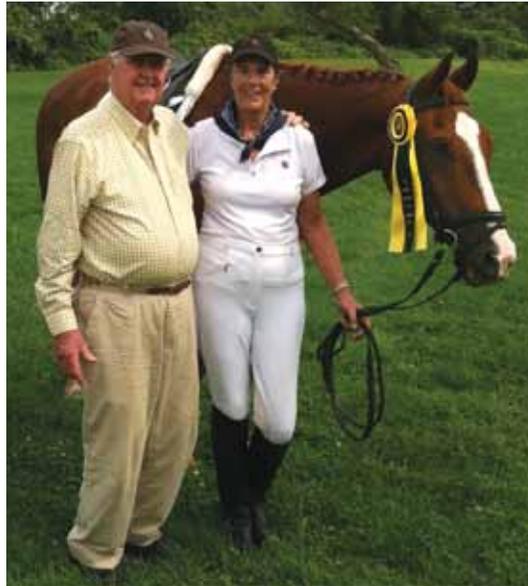


Sally shares her story:

Honest Knockout, a Thoroughbred, came into my life in 1990 as an unbroken 2-year-old, when I decided I might like to start “just one more horse.” He has been a pleasure. We have competed in Adult Equitation, Pleasure, and Training and First Level dressage at my show club, Delaware Valley Horseman’s Association (DVHA). Knockout is also occasionally used in lessons and has taken good care of my visiting grand-daughter in walk-trot classes at DVHA.

I grew up on Staten Island, which had no horse farms; however, there was Clove Lake Stables, run by the tireless couple, John and Adele Franzreb. They had about 60 horses for trail riding, lessons for school groups, hay rides, and horse shows. This became my second home, along with my first horse and 13th birthday present, Lottie Ree, a chestnut Saddlebred mare, who ended up going to Hollins College with me. While there, I competed in Saddle Seat classes, and later taught camp riding lessons at the stables.

Married life eventually took my husband, me, and our three sons to Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, in 1966. There I learned Hunt Seat and jumping at Jack Trainor’s “Here and There Farm” in Penllyn, PA. There were always horses for me to exercise during the



week for the week-end fox hunters. My boys were introduced to riding, but ice hockey became their main sport.

I began teaching riding again with a neighbor’s black Shetland pony, Sleepy, (who would rather be driven than ridden), and 13 neighborhood children. What I really wanted was my own riding school and camp. In 1972, my dream came true when we moved to Pennington, New Jersey, and Deerfield Farm. With a lot of work ahead of us, Deerfield Riding School started with 2 Welsh Ponies, GailyGo and Cavalier, and a 16” used Stubben saddle. Soon, I had more school horses, several boarders, and lessons going every day of the week.

In 1974, with the purchase of my first Thoroughbred, Bold Pauline, I was introduced to the inspired teaching of Major Dezso

Szilagyi. I competed in hunter classes, one –day events, and dressage through Second Level. Major, his students called him, was an exceptional communicator, and so influential not only for my riding but for my teaching of children. From him, I realized just how important dressage principles are for all riders and horses of any age.

With the untimely death of my husband in 1981, I wondered how I could continue on. As many will understand, my three boys, the horses, and riding students sustained me and moved me forward. The school and camp had energies of their own. When I remarried, Joe became not only my husband, but also my groom, who goes to every show where Knockout and I are riding. So, of course, Joe was there on Sunday, September 1, 2013 when we did our Century Club Ride at a DVHA dressage show, performing a First Level test.

Knockout shares his barn home with Sweet Pea, a 28 year old Welsh Pony and Sunset Sam, a 10 year old Palomino. I am currently training Sunset Sam with the help of a gifted dressage educator, Dr. Maria Katsamanis. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share precious horse memories and to promote dressage for lively senior riders and their horses! Long may it continue.

TEAM #146:

Martin Sosnoff and Scirocco



Martin tells his own story:

Alas! My parents didn't hoist me on a pony when I was a 4-year-old. There were no ponies in the East Bronx in the 1930s, only Sheffield Farm's work horses yoked to rubber-tired milk wagons. But, I'm a confirmed dressage rider for at least half my years which now show an eight in front.

I'm convinced it takes at least three lifetimes to become a great Grand Prix rider. My second lifetime I expect to devote to bal-

let dancing, but I am reserving my third rendition for dressage. Hopefully, I can resume at the Prix St. Georges level and work up to 15 one-tempis from 7 two-tempis.

Scirocco, my bay 19-year-old Danish Warmblood, is my best friend. We bought him young when he was a First Level horse, very forward, but on his forehead. It took us over a year to package our guy, but he moves like a Ferrari.



Scirocco gives me everything he has to give, willingly, so I guess he loves me. Actually, we love each other, but there's no sex involved.

I am looking forward to breaking the mold, expecting to ride well into my nineties at Grand Prix. (The Greeks called this hubris.) But no horse, not even Trigger, can count into the nineties. We need to see more competitors with white hair. I've been accused of dying mine, but it's a dirty lie.

Unfortunately, competitors in the ring must be measured solely in decimal points. I'm resigned to the system. As a money manager, I've been measured in numbers for over 50 years. Hopefully, you go through life with good numbers.

When I enter the ring at A, my thoughts have nothing to do with the score. All I desire is to give my buddy a great ride, that we're in harmony and enjoying the unfolding experience in the ring. Never the same. There is no perfection in what we

do, but the thought of its possibility keeps us riding intensively and contentedly.

Martin and Scirocco rode a Prix St. Georges test as their Century Ride at the New England Dressage Association Fall Festival on September 20, 2013.

Note that in 2009, Martin rode an Oldenburg gelding who much preferred to school indoors, so he shied at each of the letters in the court. But, nevertheless, they became the Century Club Team # 63.

TEAM #147:

Bob Clements and Golden Rosebud



As a child living in Arlington, Virginia, Bob used to sneak onto the grounds of the Fort Myer military installation to watch the children of service people ride. However, Bob didn't begin riding until he was 55, when he and his family lived in Loudoun County, Virginia, where horses were a significant part of the area. Bob and his wife Jean had twins, Sara Catherine and Bryan. The kids rode hunter/jumpers for 14 years, while Jean was their faithful groom. But in 1987, when both Sara and Bryan went off to college, they left behind a horse that Bob began to ride. He did some endurance riding, but mostly trail riding. He and Jean enjoyed trips to many countries around the world doing trail rides.

Bob was a practicing dentist for 37 years. After retirement he became a licensed veterinary technician and now refers to himself as a beef cattle farmer (a passion he has had since 1975). Jean is a Senior Judge with the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

It wasn't until they moved to Rappahannock County, Virginia, in 2000 that Bob developed a passion for dressage, while Jean resumed her role as groom.

Rosebud and Bob teamed up in



September 2007 when Rosebud agreed to leave her home in Germany and come to America. A Hanoverian mare from the "G" line of registered Hanoverians in Germany, Rosebud was born in 1992. After her quarantine in Maryland, and before coming to Bob's home at Woodmede Farm in Flint Hill, Virginia, Rosebud spent a week at a neighboring farm with a German instructor so she "could learn English."

Bob and Rosebud competed regularly at schooling shows in Training and then, First Level, through the 2010 show season. Although a "schoolmistress horse" at the time, it was thought that Rosebud was too stiff for higher-level competition. So Bob began a search for another horse. In February 2011, he purchased a Hanoverian gelding, Wrachmaninov Q, "Wrocky."

At that time, Rosebud was semi-retired, showing only occasion-

ally. However, in late summer 2013, Bob changed Rosebud's diet and supplements. He and his instructor, Inga Janke, believed that Rosebud was once again ready for serious work and competition. So Bob planned a really wonderful performance for their Century Ride on Saturday September 21, enter-

ing the Homestead Farm Musical Freestyle Challenge in Catlett, Virginia. (The show was a benefit for ovarian cancer research.) Bob personally selected the music for each part of their test: The entry was ridden to Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man"; the trot sequences featured Patsy Cline's "Walkin' After Midnight" and "Never No More"; the walk sequence was ridden to John Denver's "I Want to Live"; and the ride was climaxed in the canter to Melissa Etheridge's "I Run for Life." The team earned a 3rd place finish with a score of 68.367%. Michael Matson, a member of The Dressage Foundation's Board of Directors, delivered the ribbon, while the "R" Judge, Nancy Lowey, commented: "Some nice memories were brought forth by your musical choices. Wonderful work with Rosebud! We are proud of you!"

TEAM #148:

Kate Champa and Starfish (Fish)



Kate tells their wonderful story:

I started riding when I was 8 and competed (and won occasionally) in the Hunter/Jumper world as a teenager. (I actually qualified for the Medal Maclay Championship at the National Horse Show but was not allowed to go because of school.) In the 1950s we jumped “outside courses”, which is probably why I ended up as an Event rider.

I met Fish, a registered Arabian, when she was five. She never had been ridden and had been donated to Greenlock Therapeutic Riding, where I worked. She was then a pinkish grey (hence the name Starfish), very cooperative but clueless, as was I. It was my job to turn her into a therapy horse. We went through the usual backing protocols, as well as some not so usual. A friend had advised, “Oh, to get her used to the leg, tie some lightweight tires to the stirrups when lunging”—That resulted in a long walk for me down the local road to find her after she bolted, thankfully losing both tires. We survived that incident and slowly each of us became more “clueful.”

She soon had a successful career as a therapy horse, sweetly nuzzling the small children and tolerating long lining, balls thrown to the kids on her back, and for a short while teaching able bodied



Photo credit: Amanda Sylvia



Photo credit: Brant Gamma

children to ride. But she soon got bored with that. She perfected the jog trot runaway – carefully staying under the child on her back while paying no attention to any commands from said child or those on the ground. Her first step into sainthood was the care she took of the kid she was not listening to. However at that point she flunked out of therapy horsehood.

So I acquired her as a second horse, thinking I would turn her into a little beginner novice event horse and sell her later. But here we are 22 years later and she is the

Horse of my Heart and always will be. We have had many adventures. We evented together for years, going to Virginia for the Chronicle of the Horse team championships, and having fun and winning ribbons throughout Area 1 (New England and NY). I was also Area 1 Chair for the U.S. Eventing Association. Fish loved eventing, and still tries to lull me into inattention in our trips into the back field – waiting until she thinks she can sneak in a giant buck and be galloping wildly before I notice. Dressage is okay, as she likes to show off and look beautiful but running and jumping is where her heart is. In dressage she tries hard, offers what she thinks I am asking for, and then teaches me how to ask properly. She never says no.

Fish really enjoyed our Century Ride, all dressed and groomed to the nines, with lots of spectators watching and cheering us on. She was so proud, as we did Third Level Test 1 for the crowd. Our ride was at the Charles River Dressage Association Schooling Show on September 29.

Now we are still together, with our ages adding up to 100. But neither of us has any thoughts of retiring!

Fish is a saint and a healer and I am so blessed to have shared the last 22 years with her.



TEAM #149:

Judith Wagley and Sweet William

Judy remembers when she was only five, riding her grandfather's workhorse, Dolly, back and forth from the barn, pulling the fork to lift the hay into the mow. From then on, life went on around her, but horses were always on her mind.

When she was about 10, her father, a small town funeral director, accepted a horse as partial payment on a bill, and Judy became a proud owner of a beautiful black mare named Nancy Bess. Judy and Bess rode through town, on the nearby country roads, and even on the racetrack when nothing else was going on. However, when Judy entered Junior High, she didn't have time to ride or care for Bess, so Bess was retired to a farm, while Judy's life took another path.

Judy met her husband, Tom, at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. They moved to San Francisco, then to Cleveland, and eventually back to Muncie. By that time they had a son and thought country life would be a good thing. They found 15 wooded acres just outside of town that had a house and barn. Judy's father, in the same country spirit, bought them a matched pair of silver dapple Shetland ponies (a mother and daughter). Soon Judy



bought another black mare, this one in foal.

They had a second son, and lived in the country 11 years with horses, ponies, rabbits, cats and pet chickens. But as the boys grew, their interests could no longer be satisfied out in the country. So the family moved into town. There, Judy could pursue her other passion—music. She was a choir member and soloist in the Methodist church, soloed from time to time in other churches, and even was a modestly paid soloist at the Jewish temple for 25 years. She also was an early member of Masterworks Chorale—the civic chorus that recently celebrated its 30th year.

Meanwhile, Tom left his 22-year position at a bank as VP and Investment Officer, and set up

his own investment firm; Judy became his office manager for another 20 years.

When fully retired, Judy got to thinking about how to entertain her granddaughter for a weeklong visit. Aha! Riding lessons! This turned out to be a wonderful choice, as it brought Judy to Whispering Pines Equitation Center where the world of dressage was opened to her. Her first horse there was a Haflinger mare, but after

one year, Judy decided to look for a horse with more dressage training and a better work ethic. Through friends she heard of a grey Arab gelding that had been abandoned at a stable by his owner and was now legally for sale by the stable. If he had papers, they were lost along with the owner, but his willing spirit and smooth canter was just what Judy needed. She named him Sweet William to reflect his personality.

Judy usually rides four days a week including her lesson day. But the full picture includes the camaraderie of the riders at Whispering Pines, and the infinite patience of the trainer/owner, Dena Robertson. It truly took a "village" and several years to get Judy and Willie into that ring on October 5 for their Century Ride, judged by her good friend, Maryal Barnett.

TEAM #150:

Susan Shattuck and Lotus



Susan reports:

I have always been addicted to horses. When I was a toddler, I would reach out for a horse rather than the parent who was holding me! Lucky for me, my father was assigned as an attaché to Cordoba, Argentina, where I got my first horse, a Criollo mare, and took lessons with Eva, an immigrant from Germany.

However, the return from Argentina ended my riding for 30 years, as I went through medical school. In solo private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Shreveport, Louisiana, I found great solace in riding whenever I could.

Finally, when I had begun to search for the perfect horse, I found a fantastic schoolmaster in Sara Dwyer's Barn in England. Here he was, content in his dark stall with a blanket on; he came out to be ridden without a qualm. The ride was calm and uneventful, just what my friend, Alan Fox, and I wanted. And for the past 24 years, Lotus and I have been an inseparable team.

I rode Lotus as I learned the levels, starting at Second, finishing at Fourth, where we competed in



adult amateur regionals.

Meanwhile, Lotus competed with Louise Fox and Jennifer Welsh-Wise at the FEI levels. He was reserve champion for Intermediate 2 for Region 9 in 1994 and champion for Intermediate 1 in 1993. He won numerous Prix St. Georges (PSG) classes through the

years, as well as placing at the PSG nationals when held at Temple Farms, Illinois.

As he aged in retirement, arthritis restricted his ability to get up after rolling; the grooms at Holly Hill Farm in Benton, Louisiana, would help him to get back on his feet. His vet, Dr. Bobby Hewlett, started IV joint therapy that gave me a "new" horse. Gradually I began riding and working toward the goal of riding my 33 year and 10 months old horse in the Century Ride. First we were only going to do an Intro Level test; but then he took the left, and finally, the right, lead canters without hesitation.

As Lotus retrained for the ride, I did also, as Parkinson's disease has made my balance, strength, and coordination difficult. But it all

came together on October 5, 2013, when my old horse and his 66 years and 2 months old owner rode Training Level Test 1 in the rain. Many thanks to all who helped both of us through the years, and, especially, to Tristate Dressage Society for a very emotional reception in Lotus's honor.

TEAM #151:

Vita Pariente and Cupcake



Despite being horse crazy since day one, Vita grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where riding opportunities were very few; however, the Saturday movie matinees, with all the famous western horses and riders, were there for a dime. Also Vita and her little sister were thrilled by the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, which included international jumping competition. Two years later they got to see Lippizanners and Colonel Podhoretz on their first U.S. tour after the war. Over the years, Vita sought riding lessons whenever there was a stable within biking distance.

Next came a horseless decade involving college, marriage, work, and child-rearing. Finally, with double incomes in Virginia, Vita decided it was time for horses again. Their 7 year-old-son had riding lessons, and his after-school time involved caring for ponies; soon he had a pony, then a larger one that Vita could ride. When their son, as boys often do, lost interest in riding, Vita bought a horse of her own—a gray gelding, whose only fault was a desire to never stop eating. He could easily canter and graze at the same time.

Considerably later, her son was in graduate school, and she was a



widow. After three years in California, Vita ended up horseless in Texas. There she became involved in carriage driving. She bought Polly, a small mostly white driving pony. Polly had two gaits, fast and whoa – both instantaneous. Vita couldn't say "whoa" unless she really meant it. Otherwise: whiplash! She and Polly got into driving dressage, which takes place in a larger arena, but with patterns similar to ridden dressage. Vita and Polly went to driving clinics and driving trials, while also enjoying trail riding. Polly would go where no pony had ever gone before and sometimes where none would follow. They enjoyed 18 wonderful years together.

When Vita wanted to ride again, she found Cupcake, owned by a woman in the driving club and trained to drive. About 10 years ago Cupcake was for sale, but was either too fast for beginners or too

small (13.1 h) for more advanced riders. Vita gave her a try and liked her. Cupcake was responsive to leg and seat, and sure-footed. When Vita bought her, she mainly had trail riding in mind, but then she met a dressage instructor, Amanda Garrett. Amanda was very observant and calm, had a covered arena, and already knew Cupcake (everyone

knew Cupcake). Vita's goal was to improve her riding, and she took many lessons from Amanda. Amanda, realizing that Vita and Cupcake were up in years, suggested they do a Century Ride. Her trail-riding friends also urged her on. As a dry run, Vita and Cupcake did an Intro A test at a schooling show in 2012. She then did the same test for her Century Club ride at the BACH/Topsider Farm October 2013 schooling show. Her friends braided Cupcake, provided a bridle and an approved bit for Cupcake, outfitted Vita from neck to knee in proper attire, and got her to the arena on time. Vita and Cupcake also did Intro. Test B for good measure.

Since then, Vita has become so enthused that she rode a Training Level test in November, and looks forward to continuing her dressage lessons, and maybe even doing more showing.

TEAM #152:

Rowena Blythe and Du A Dance



Team 152

Rowena is no stranger to the horse world. She began as a horseshow mom who could drive a truck and pull a horse trailer. As her interest turned to owning her own hunter, she continued hauling horses around, but also got into a saddle herself.



Two horses later, she bought a 5-year-old Quarter Horse named Du A Dance (Duey). Her goal was to show him at Quarter Horse shows in the Hunter Division. While they did okay, when Duey started bucking her off after jumping fences, she decided to try dressage.

But even dressage was a struggle for her, because Duey was a lot of horse.

For several years, the family has spent winters in Florida and summers in New York. When in New York, Duey hung out at their farm without being ridden. However,

when they were in Florida, Rowena took lessons and had Duey trained, resulting the pair picking up ribbons at many shows.

Two years ago, Rowena had to stop riding because of pain in her back and hips. She hated being grounded and finally

found a doctor who could help. After two hip replacements, she is happily and proudly back in the saddle.

For their Century Ride, on October 6th, they rode Intro. Test A at the Windsong Farms Schooling Show in Apopka, Florida.

TEAM #153:

Kit Carson and Silent Treatment

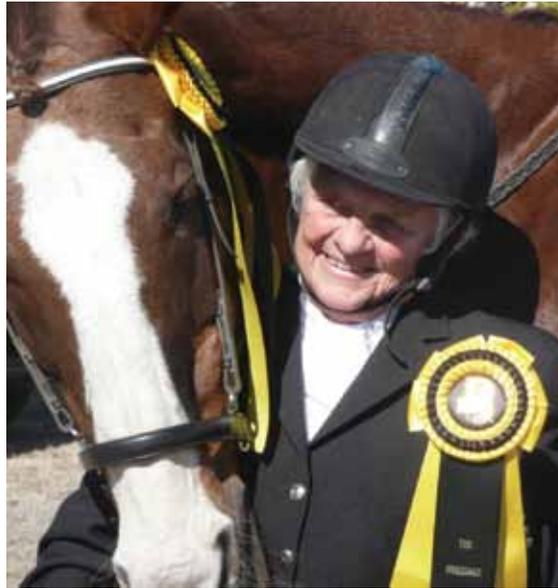


Team 153

Kit tells her horsey story: “I dreamed of a life with horses, at four, when we moved to California in the 40s. When family finances became steady, my father bought a Morgan mare and boarded her at Pickwick Stables in Burbank, CA. My parents started a riding club, and we set out each Sunday morning riding for hours in the hills of Griffith Park. I loved it all, but suddenly, my father went into business and all riding ended.

In my junior year of college, I was given King, a retired Long Beach Mounted Police horse. I tried to ride him after class for two weeks, but he wouldn’t budge. Then, one day he took off with me at a full gallop through the orange groves, trying to buck me into the trees. I hung onto his mane, riding bareback with a hackamore, and managed to stay on until the harrowing ride was over. After that he was a wonderful mount that I rode in the hills and groves several days a week for two years, until graduation.

Fast-forward to my being 68, when, after years of adventure, traveling, and working, a horse came my way in need of a person. She was a Draft mix/Warmblood named Dakota. I somewhat reluctantly said yes, wondering how at age 68 I would juggle finances. But she whinnied and nickered every time I visited. I tried riding her,



unsuccessfully, as she bucked me off and then walked over and put her head on my chest in apology. At that time, I hadn’t known of her past abuse and issues about being ridden (the previous owner bought her out of rescue), but she was affectionate and a wonderful pal, so I set out to have a relationship with her *on the ground*. I never expected to ride again.

Then at 74, I was introduced to dressage. The horse I learned on is an Appendix mare. Her registered name is Silent Treatment, but she’s best known as Miss Hattie. At 25 years old, she is steeped in experience and has a patient and wonderful temperament. Our lessons were once a week for five months before our Century Ride when Miss Hattie and I rode Intro Tests A and B. Having been my first horse show ever I was pleased with scores of 67 plus.

When Willi, the 85 year old woman who owns the facility where Miss Hattie boards, heard about our upcoming Century Club ride she decided to come out of her riding retirement and join in. Miss Hattie made history that day, by being the first horse to do a Century Ride with two riders the same day (see Team #154). Both Century Rides were on Oct. 20th at the Hoofbeat Park Schooling Show in Healdsburg, CA.

Having lessons with Miss Hattie so frequently before our Century Ride enabled me to learn and love basic dressage, and also brought me an increased fitness and confidence to relax and ride my own Dakota. Our relationship has now expanded to include short weekly rides in the outdoor arena, thanks to Janet (an advanced rider and deaf friend) who is showing me tools to use with this horse. I see Dakota once or twice a day, every week, every year.

I have so much more joy, pleasure, and adventure because of my dressage experience with Miss Hattie and my ongoing relationship with Dakota. How lucky can a person be at 75? I’m happy and grateful for my life and my association with these wonderful horses, two dogs and good friends. I’m continuing dressage. Life is so good.

TEAM #154:

Willi Hillard and Silent Treatment



As a child, Willi rode anything available from a big black mule to a small cranky mustang. In her 30s, she had a gaited horse and went on to show 5-gaited Saddlebreds at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. Later she switched to hunters, showing in the amateur owner divisions and joining the Los Altos Hounds. After marrying a polo pony enthusiast, she had mixed feelings about that sport, remembering playing polo in Palm Beach and recalling, "I was black and blue from head to toe from playing with those 'mean girls'."

When they moved to Healdsburg, California, they purchased a beautiful horse facility, Chalk Hill Ranch (CHR) that provided a wonderful home for both polo ponies and hunters. As Willi says, they've "lived happily ever after."

When Willi heard that a student at CHR, Kit Carson, was going to pair up with Silent Treatment (Miss Hattie) and do a Century Club Ride, she thought it sounded like fun and wanted to also participate. So, Judy McHerron, who has taught riding at CHR for 17 years, gave Willi a few pointers on riding a dressage test. Willi, who is now 85 and had not been on a horse for many years, still looked good as ever with her leg position and rising trot. However, there was still the challenge of learning the



test. Willi could not see the letters clearly, nor did she understand the dressage language. Having someone read the test (Intro A) frustrated her. So she asked, "Can I just ride it like it is a jump course?" Everyone agreed to let her go for it. She trotted straight down the middle to the end, turned right, rode to the other end and made a circle, then, went across to the other side to make another circle. She really looked like a pro as she did her Century Ride!

As it was the Halloween schooling dressage show, where and when the Century Rides took place, there was also a costume class. Willi dismounted Hattie (bad hip and all) so she could change into her 'clown costume,' complete with red nose. She then re-mounted Miss Hattie and rode in the costume class. The October day was beautiful, and so many people were inspired by Kit and Willi's Century Club rides.

About Miss Hattie:

Miss Hattie is a registered Appendix Quarter horse that is now 25 years old, and the first horse to do two Century Club rides in one day. Twenty-three years ago, Judy McHerron purchased her as a 2-year-old in Texas, started her under saddle, and sold her to a student who was a member of the U.S. Pony Club.

The rider went on to

successfully pass her C3 certification. Then another student took Hattie to the USPC National Eventing Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, and went to pass the B certification in Pony Club.

When students were heading off to college, Hattie was put up for sale. While on a trip home to visit her mother, Judy was asked "What would you like for your birthday?" Jokingly, Judy replied, "A horse, because you never bought me one as a kid." So with that, Judy's mom helped purchase Hattie back. Hattie has been a superb schooling horse. She seems to know just what her riders need and how to take care of them. She has taught numerous people of all ages to ride, from 4-year-olds to 85-year-olds. She happily goes on a trail ride around the vineyard, serves on two Century Club teams, and, whenever asked to, jumps any fence.

TEAM #155:

Helen Stearns and Just Saber

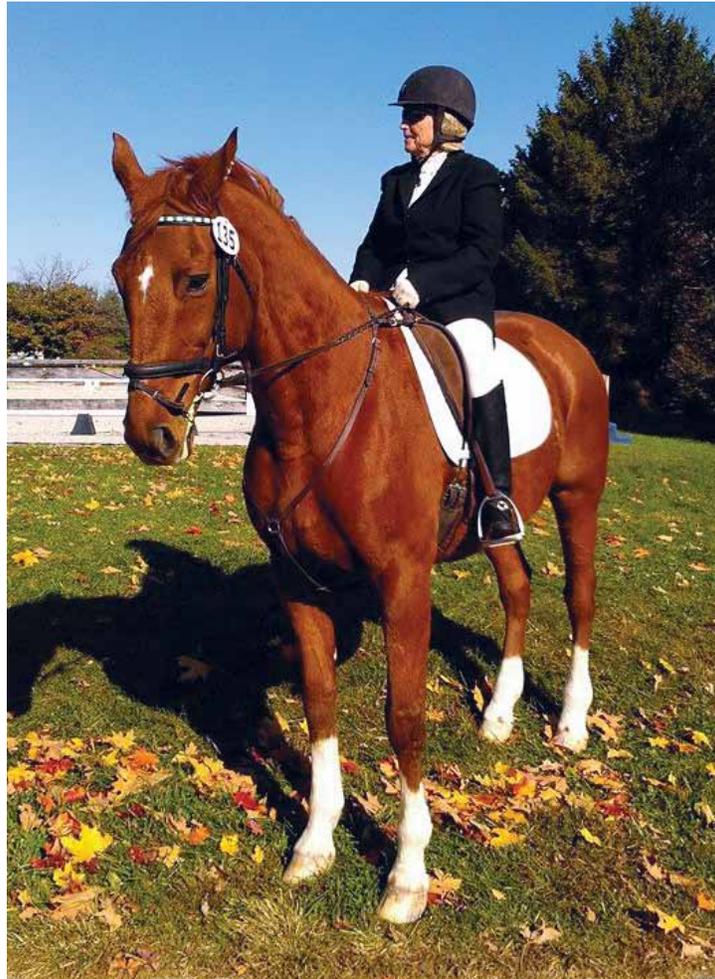


Team 155

Helen Stearns, now widely known as “Mother Stearns,” was born in 1926 in Manchester, New Hampshire, and raised in Derry, NH. She grew up with horses as a way of life. Her grandfather always wanted his family well mounted. She rode and drove horses from an early age. One of her fondest memories is driving her mother’s horse to the blacksmith shop in Derry.

Helen graduated from Abbot Academy and the University of New Hampshire. She married Bernard Stearns in 1949 and had two children: Clifford, of Conowingo, MD, and Caroline, also known as “Gert.”

Mother Stearns ran a riding school in New Hampshire from 1956-76; in 1973, Gert joined her in the horse business, which they named Justaplain Farm. In 1961, Mother Stearns started learning and teaching dressage, with Dr. Van Schaik as her first regular dressage trainer. Mother Stearns was a member of New England Dressage Association for many



years, taking full advantage of all the learning opportunities it provides. She was also a member of Nashoba Valley Hunt Club, competing jumpers, pleasure horses, and competitive trail horses along the way.

In 1976, Justaplain Farm moved to Coatesville, PA. Mother Stearns started a small vanning service for local Thoroughbred breeders, and, also became involved with

NBC research projects. Contributing to research projects in lameness prevention and reproduction was always a great learning experience for her. In 1986, Justaplain Farm moved to Cochranville and began specializing in orphan foal care, breeding, and foaling. Research and vanning continued until about 2000.

In 1993, two wonderful horses were born—Just Mindy and Just Saber. Mindy became Mother Stearns’ personal horse. Mindy was a Shire/Thoroughbred cross that she raised, trained, and showed through Prix St. Georges before Mindy’s untimely death in 2005.

In 2006, Mother Stearns started riding Saber, who was retired from a very successful dressage career with Gert, who took him through Grand Prix.

With some pushing from Gert and George Williams, her current trainer, Mother Stearns and Saber did their Century Ride, performing a First Level test at the Blue Goose Stable IV show on October 28th. Their combined ages were 106.

TEAM #156:

Sharon Curran and Slick



When Sharon was three, she had her picture taken on a pony. And when his owner was leading him away, Sharon ran down the street after him—the start of a life-long horsewoman.

When she was older, Sharon rode her bike daily to Green Briar stables, in Arbor New Jersey, where she worked for her riding lessons. She was soon able to exercise the horses for the trainer, Jean Janner. What a fun job!

At 14, Sharon was given a spirited, western broke palomino gelding, whom she retrained to English. He became a courageous, speedy jumper, winning ribbons in open jumper classes. In her later teens, Sharon worked at Clarence Nagros' Hilltop Stable in New Vernon, NJ. Riding and showing the sale "greenies" was a real equestrian education. She also fox hunted on weekends and received her colors with the Spring Valley Hounds.

After two years of art school in NYC during the week, and riding on the weekends, Sharon married and they moved to a Naval base in California. There she bought and broke a three-year old filly, and gave lessons to children and adults. Giving English riding lessons was a



bit of a novelty, given that most of her clients were Western riders.

Five years and one more horse later they moved back to New Jersey, where they renovated a small farmhouse, built a barn and had a child. Job relocation for her husband brought a move to Bethlehem, Connecticut, where they renovated a large dairy barn into a house and stables and added another child to the family.

After twenty-five years of marriage, they divorced, necessitating Sharon's turning her small horse business into a career. Currently, Sharon has her boarding/training barn full of horses, whose owners are more friends than clients.

Sharon's Century Club partner, Slick, is an off-the-track Thoroughbred that she has owned for 30 wonderful years. Slick could easily switch from trail mode to show ring presence. However,

financial and family obligations prevented Sharon from developing his full show potential, despite their having thoroughly enjoyed their many years together. Slick's main job for the last three years has been babysitting a 39-year-old Arabian, Pappy, who would get very upset if Slick left the property. So, for their Century Ride, Sharon arranged for

Corinna Scheller Fleming to judge a schooling show at Sharon's place, R Barn Stables.

On Oct. 27th with an audience of friends, Slick went down centerline one last time. This time, it wasn't the test or the score that mattered—it was simply the privilege of riding down centerline on her long-time friend. Sharon reports that many happy memories flooded through her mind, and with her final salute, she bowed her head and said "Thank You."

At the same day and place, there was a Second Century Ride, as Sharon's student, Peter Rosow, rode down the centerline to become Team # 157. Both horses knew that they were very special, dressed in their in their ribbons and embroidered coolers from Horze Equestrian. After the show all gathered at the house to celebrate with a champagne party!

TEAM #157:

Peter Rosow and Hammer



Peter was born and brought up in New York City. When he was 8, his father, who had been a rider, instructed his mother, who was terrified of horses, to arrange for Peter to learn to ride. So every week, his mom took him to Claremont Riding Academy on the upper west side. Note that, until about 10 years ago, this facility was Manhattan's only place to rent a horse and receive riding instruction. Lessons started in a tiny indoor ring. As soon as riders gained some skill and confidence, they were shifted onto the bridal path in Central Park. Peter rode this way until he was 16, when he discovered girls, and temporarily lost his enthusiasm for horses.

Meanwhile, Peter went to college, worked in Germany for three years, and became a father. In his late 20s, he resumed his equestrian career at Secor Farms Riding Club, a facility in White Plains, New York. There he refined his riding ability and learned to jump. However, his job required a great deal of travel, dampened his riding activities, except for occasional periods that included trips to a friend's ranch in Arizona, riding Western among picturesque landscapes.

Another wonderful horsey time for Peter was in California's Sierra



Mountains, where he joined a group driving cattle and mules for days on end. Think Billy Crystal's "City Slickers."

But it wasn't until Peter was retired at 65, and moved to Connecticut, that he once again was engaged in the sport he loves. He bought his first horse, Liam, an Irish Sport Horse, signed up with an instructor, regained his riding and jumping confidence, and entered lots of local show jumping and eventing competitions.

As Peter turned 70, Liam developed arthritis in his shoulder and entered retirement, while Peter had his right hip replaced. The women in his family—his wife, Rebecca, and daughter, Anne, saw these as signs from God that he should stop jumping and focus

on something less dangerous—like dressage.

So, Peter bought a Fourth Level dressage horse, Noah, a Dutch Warmblood, and began what turned out to be an excruciatingly difficult, but truly exhilarating attempt to master "the highest expression of horse training."

Peter says, "I was lucky to find Sharon Curran, a talented, patient and exacting trainer here in Connecticut, and "The Bills"—Warren and McMullin—two high-level trainers and riders with whom I work in Florida in the winters." Peter says, "I am currently an avid, if not totally competent, First Level rider."

Peter had hoped to do his Century Ride with Max, a Thoroughbred Warmblood cross that Peter bought when he was 18, and owned for over a decade. But, unfortunately, Max passed away before the Century Ride was scheduled. Bill and Liz Lasley kindly offered him their 27-year old Quarter Horse, Hammer, as a replacement. After a few get-acquainted rides they worked well together. On October 27th at the R Barn Stables Schooling show, Peter and Hammer performed a Training Level test. Peter said it was a wonderful, memorable day.

TEAM #158:

Mary Jane Scott and HA Bold Flyer



Mary Jane has ridden most of her life, starting at one year old in the saddle behind her dad on his Tennessee Walker. Official riding lessons began at six on an old Quarter Horse. In high school, she showed in many Saddle Seat Equitation classes. After college, she bought her first Arabian that she trained herself and showed very successfully in the Arabian circuit in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A 20-year horseless period followed.

In 1986, as a realtor she sold a farm to clients who had Arabians. That did it! She bought a 12-year-old chestnut gelding that she showed in local Arabian shows. After moving to Florida, she bought an 8-year-old chestnut mare, Hanna, that had only been trail ridden. While very sweet and relatively sensible, she was very green and simply could/would not take her right lead. Bruce Patti, a horse trainer, came with several horses to their barn and offered dressage lessons in return for feeding his horses. When she and Hanna began dressage lessons, Mary Jane felt as if she had never ridden before. And because of the right lead problem, she thought that they would be forever stuck at the Intro level. It took several years until Hanna's right lead was



confirmed, but soon after, Hanna tore an anular ligament, and was retired to motherhood with the woman who had bred her.

Next came Jo, a 15.3 half Arab mare with wonderful gaits. However, she soon let Mary Jane know that she did not want to be a dressage horse; she'd much rather be a jumper.

Next was Mick, an absolutely gorgeous 15.2 elegantly built gelding that had been successful in Arabian shows with some of the best trainers. Mary Jane thought that finally she had found the perfect Arabian dressage horse! But Mick was used to being schooled in the morning in sheltered areas. When not in that environment, he would spook at

everything. On windy days, he was almost un-rideable. Mick made Mary Jane a timid rider; what she needed was quiet older horse. Thus, Mary Jane found Mick a good home and continued her search for an Arabian, 15 hands or over, and *not* a gray.

With a good friend, she drove all over Florida looking at horses that met those requirements, but what they found were horses that either didn't know their leads or had to be run into a canter. Thus, the search continued, including grays and without the height restriction.

Finally, they found Flyer (HA Bold Flyer), a 14.3, 17-year-old flea bitten gray (ugh!) gelding. Flyer came from a small breeding farm in South Florida. Mary Jane has never before owned a horse that wants to please as Flyer does. When they would school a new thing one day, the next day he remembered what he had been taught! With that wonderful cooperation, Mary Jane brought Flyer from a trail horse that had never had any contact, to the perfect Training Level horse he is today.

Mary Jane and Flyer performed Training Level Test 2 at the Palm Beach County Mounted Posse Show on December 7th, becoming the final Team of 2013.

Thank you to the 2013 Century Club Sponsors!

We would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their financial support of the Century Club in 2013. Through their generosity, we were able to provide a ribbon and plaque to each new team, as well as provide all Century Club members with this annual newsletter.

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THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 434-8585
Fax: (402) 436-3053
Email: info@dressagefoundation.org
www.dressagefoundation.org