



*We welcome new members!*

# THE CENTURY CLUB NEWS

An irregularly issued letter to and about the members of  
THE CENTURY CLUB OF THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION

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

## THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION: *Twenty Years and Canterin...*

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It was the year the Berlin Wall came down – 1989. Also, in 1989, Nebraskan Lowell Boomer (today 98 years of age) started up The Dressage Foundation, with a Mission “To cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of dressage.”

During the last two decades, thousands of dressage riders – young riders, adult amateurs, instructors, trainers, judges, and high performance – have been helped through grants and scholarships made possible by donors to The Dressage Foundation.

In 2009, two exciting high performance grants were added to the growing list of funds at The Dressage Foundation. The Anne Barlow Ramsay Charitable Remainder Unitrust provides an annual \$25,000 grant to a U.S. citizen riding an American bred horse, to train and compete in Europe. James Koford and Rhett were the first recipients and spent the summer training in Germany with Michael Klimke. The second new grant was established by Carol Lavell, her family and friends, and is administered by The Dressage Foundation. It will provide a \$25,000 annual grant for coaching and training to a talented, committed, qualified rider whose plan is to reach and excel at the elite, international standards of high performance Dressage. The 2009 recipient was Jan Brons. He plans to train in Europe in 2010.

The Dressage Foundation continues to develop programs and create new funds to enhance the wonderful sport of dressage. Please visit [www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org) for all the latest news, as The Dressage Foundation canters into its second twenty years.

## The Dressage Foundation Century Club Members

(Note that the rider's hometown is given; the ride may have been in another locale)

- 1996:**  
#1 Lazelle Knocke on Don Perignon, from Readington, NJ.
- #2 Dr. Max Gahwyler on Prinz Eugen, from Darien, CT
- #3 Dr. John H. Bland on Bay Flint; John is now deceased.
- 1997:**  
#4 Charles A. Chapin on Chicaro Cocoa, from Chatham, IL
- #5 Again, Charles A. Chapin, this time on Piroshka.
- 1998:**  
#6 Ruth Fanton on Little Once, from Honeoye Falls, NY.
- #7 Patricia Metcalf on Fleur de Lis, from Koloa, HI.
- #8 Nan Agar on Skipper, from Rocky Hill, NJ.
- 1999:**  
#9 For the 3rd time, Charles A. Chapin, this time on Touche (Fred).
- #10 Jean P. Naukam on Cell-Win-Sahib, from Phelps, NY.
- 2000:**  
#11 For the 4th time, Charles A. Chapin, this time on Zeus.
- 2001:**  
#12 Cynthia (Cinch) Schell on Rudy Van James, from Lander, WY.
- #13 Dennis Trettel on Boulder, from Deerfield, IL .
- #14 Peter Lert on Legere, from Scotts Valley, CA.
- #15 Elizabeth Stich on Southern Jewel, from Jacksonville, FL.
- #16 Eugene Dueber on V P Medley, from Port Orchard, WA.
- 2002:**  
#17 Edalee Harwell on Mr. A, from Ramona, CA.
- #18 For the 5th time, Charles A. Chapin, this time on Beezie.
- #19 Roxanna Jones on Hekla, from Sonoma, CA.
- #20 Again, Cynthia (Cinch Schell ), this time on Mystique's Baby Blue (see #12)
- #21 Virginia (Ginny) Wegener on MHR Handsome, from Canon City, CO.
- #22 Marion Benedict Sindorf on Suavicito, from Palmer, AK.
- #23 Again, Max E. Gahwyler this time on Dresden (see # 2).
- #24 Edwin Sayre on on Pee Wee, from Los Gatos, CA.
- 2003:**  
#25 Maria Beek McFadden on Permian Way, from Oxford, MS.
- # 26 for the 6th time, Charles A. Chapin, this time on Ask Mikey.
- # 27 Anne Barlow Ramsay on Fridjoff. from Fernandina Beach, FL.
- # 28 Evelyn Wallis on Somer's Dream, from Kailua, HI.
- # 29 Ruth Peckham on Madonna; Ruth is now deceased.
- #30 For the third time, Cynthia (Cinch) Schell, this time on Leonard (see #12).
- 2004:**  
#31 Zena Ervin on Deelite from Reno, NV.
- Continued on the inside back cover.*

## Team # 58: Mary Lou Harper and Starshine

Hold the Reins, Not the Saddle Horn!

Mary Lou writes:

On a visit to Antelope Valley Ranch in Mackey, Idaho, I had my first riding lesson. At age 60 and no experience, my daughter, who ran the ranch with her husband, hoisted me onto a horse. Once I got over the initial fear my daughter said, "Now, let go of the horn, Mom!"



With this advice, I joined her love of riding and followed a trail that led to BJ Heuvig, an accomplished dressage instructor and horse trainer in Monroe, Washington. BJ had raised Starshine and has ridden him in first level, test four, first level freestyle, and second level. Starshine was Horse of the Year Champion in 1993

at the Appaloosa Horse Club (First Level Open and Freestyle). Since 1987, Starshine has been teaching people to ride and still loves his job. At my first introduction to BJ and Starshine I realized that I would be in good hands, and I continue to ride today at age 73; Starshine is 28.

The previous year, in 2007, due to arthritis, I had a bilateral knee replacement. My surgeon promised that my riding would improve. He was right! After recovery, I sprinted to my first show—our Century ride, held at Whidbey Equestrian Center in fall 2008. Our next goal is to ride all of the training level tests! Meanwhile, BJ had a horse accident, but I'm sure her family, Starshine, and all her many students will be helping her to heal.

## Team # 59: Carriellen deMuth and Arc

“What does an aging dressage rider do when the available old-enough-for-a-Century-ride horse happens to be as hot as a campfire in the wind?” Carriellen answered herself: “Find a gifted trainer, take advantage of past experience and pray to the Creative Universe.” Then, looking at her hot mare, she said: “Let’s give this a try!” Carriellen is a mother of four grown, functioning adult children, an experience that has involved many of the strategies needed for the above goal.



Room-service, meal preparation, and mothering for seven horses and a pony requires, discipline, vigilance, and pitchfork fitness, all nice preliminaries for dressage. Working with Martha Worcester, editor of *Capital Horseman*, as advertising manager required clear communication, another skill needed for dressage, while being advertising manager for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association taught her deadlines, organizational politics, and how to perform under stress. Nurturing skills she learned as an elementary school teacher, while teaching art and computer science taught her to maintain a realistic pace, and working as a children’s librarian, gave her research skills. So, with all that, she felt ready for anything!

When Arc was born in 1984, she arrived with eyelids glued shut and an open, unfinished heart. Martha W. dried the filly and held her up to nurse. Arc responded with her first leap forward into fast gear, but she embraced living despite discouraging prognostics. During Arc’s years as an exceptional mountain trail horse, she steadfastly maintained her affection for leaping into the fast forward gear. Patient training convinced Arc to canter at a reasonable pace for the Century ride. Arc recognized that a nice canter at a reasonable pace was a one-time necessity, not a permanent constraint on her enthusiasm! So, on September 27th, the Carriellen-Arc ride went well, despite an occasional hot wire issue. There was a fine brunch celebration for friends and family afterwards.

## **Team #60: Ellie Metelits and Justa Enuff Sun (Sunny)**

Ellie writes: I first met Sunny at an auction barn; he was only four years old. A friend had asked me to go with her to look at a quarter horse she had read about in the paper. When we arrived, she took one look at Sunny and turned up her nose; he was all skin and bones with a dull coat. Seeing that he had a kind eye, I decided to try him out. He had three nice gaits and a willing attitude. Even though I owned another horse, Sunny impressed me. I called my vet to determine if he was physically sound. Although the vet bill was more than I paid for Sunny, the result was very positive: All he needed were groceries and tender loving care, plus a Coggins test to assure that he could be boarded with my other horse.

Just one year later, Sunny was a shining example of a fit horse. Two years after that, we moved to our own farm where Sunny and I did a lot of fun trail riding.

After several years of trail riding, I decided that Sunny and I should try dressage. Then, we went on to eventing and competitive trail riding. Sunny always finished in the ribbons and jumped as high as I asked him to. But I decided that I didn't want to jump any higher than the novice level, even though Sunny would have liked to go



higher. By the way, Sunny's other name is Mr. Reliable. I have enjoyed him as a wonderful pet, companion, and show horse for 27 years! Time sure flies when you're having fun!

Ellie and Sunny's Century ride was at the Florida Horse Park on March 15, 2009. Sunny had just turned 32.

## Team # 61: Sally Chionsini and Bert



Sally began riding in 1946. At her father's insistence, her lessons at camp were in an English saddle. What? In Texas? But later on riding Charlie, she was a Western gal, doing trail riding, rodeo parades, and barrel racing. Years later, after college, marriage, and kids, her husband surprised her with riding lessons! Jumping!

When her husband's work brought them to England, she discovered that dressage was the sport for her. She even rode out of the Queens stable. She was hooked!

Back in Connecticut, she worked with an Irish trainer and, through an agent, sent for Bert, then five years old. The team, both being green worked under Dr. Max Gahwyler\* with considerable success. Lendon Gray\*\* accepted Sally and Bert in training. Lazelle Knocke\*\*\* was the judge in competitions during those training years. Lendon on Bert earned the USDF Training Level horse of the Year in 1988. Later she won Fourth Level Test 1 at Devon, Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, Sally earned the Bronze medal on Bert at First and Second levels.

\* The 2nd Century Club team; \*\*now president and CEO of the Foundation; \*\*\* the very first Century Club member.

On the family farm in Texas in 1992, Bert developed arthritis in his hocks, but after treatment, a trainer successfully competed him at Intermediate Level 1. After that, Bert retired from competing, while Sally purchased a Danish Warm Blood, Castus, whom she took to Grand Prix.

Imagine Bert's surprise when, in 2008, Sally started working him again in preparation for the Century Ride, which had been a long time goal for Sally.

March 29th was a beautiful day to ride her wonderful old horse, and Bert's show number was 100! Sally's Texas GMO, the Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship, invited all show participants to share a cake in the team's honor. The show management surprised Sally (and Bert) with a nicely decorated stall. Tee shirts entitled "A Century of Experience," adorned with a picture of Sally and Bert on his 25th birthday, flashed from under everybody's jackets just after their ride. Also, the announcer did a great job of explaining The Dressage Foundation and the history of the Century Club.

## Team # 62: Annis Buell and Poco Fisty's Kid

Annis Buell of Dallas, Texas, won her second Century Club Award at the Dallas Dressage Club show in May 2009. It was Mother's day and a very special ride for Annis, because just the previous year, she had become team # 53 with her horse, Wally. In last year's Century Club News (then known as the Centurion) she tells her life-with-horses story. In that publication she said that her favorite aunt kindled her lifelong love of horses and that she still has a ribbon from her first show, on a pony. At age 14 Annis got a young Tennessee Walker whose main talent was unseating his novice rider. But on Misty she learned how to bounce and eventually to stay aboard.



Throughout married life with two children, love of horses remained a constant. But it wasn't until the children were grown that Annis began riding in earnest. Thinking that lessons might be a good idea, she found Verena Diaz who introduced her to dressage. She says it was love at first ride! She stuck with Verena as she moved to the North Texas Equestrian Center; there she found her beloved Wally of the #53 team, a wonderful Warm Blood and schoolmaster. But in early 2009, sadly, he had to be put down at age 26.

Today Annis has two horses—Kid her teammate and Lui P, a well-trained dressage horse. She has ridden Kid, a Paint Quarter Horse for 20 years, but hadn't done much dressage with him until preparing for her second Century ride. Lui could easily take Annis into Third Level classes, but Annis says *she* needs to walk in between the fancy stuff. Still, Lui is so much fun to ride! Annis's passion for dressage and her continued participation with the sport is an inspiration for all who know her.

## Team # 63: Martin Sosnoff and Montalban

Martin writes:

My 10-year partnership with Montalban, a handsome 23-year old liver chestnut Oldenburg gelding, entailed an extended exercise in smoothing out a very sight sensitive, anxious horse. Montalban was named after our villa in the hills of Nice, an ethereal Florentine beauty with commanding views of the old city and westward towards St. Paul de Vence.

When I read Reiner Klimke's book on training young horses, I was floored when he wrote that he sold a promising beast that couldn't deal with flowers placed at ring-side letters, but I toughed it out.

My riding took a serious turn over 30 years ago when my wife, Toni, and I engaged a trainer, Cathy McWilliams. Our mounts were Bonny and Clyde, and we did more jumping and cross country than dressage. Toni was thrown a couple of times, broke some ribs and retired from riding, while I rode on solo.

Montalban (stable name Big Red) prefers to school indoors where there are few distractions. True to form at his Centurion class, he took exception to the layout of the ring. Because of high winds, the rails were laid flat, and he shied herky jerky at each letter throughout the test. Not a felicitous experience for horse and rider.

I expect to ride and show until I leave for the big barn in the sky. It would be nice to see more gray beards at shows, but I love competing with lithe, twenty-somethings, supple as snakes, who love their horses and talk to them incessantly.

When I enter the show ring at A, I never focus on winning or anticipating my score. It's all about giving your horse and yourself a good experience. The rest follows on.

What an encompassing discipline we're engaged in, the ever-illusive pursuit of perfection!



Martin and Montalban's ride took place on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in August, NJ. The picture is by Susan J. Stickle ([SusanjStickle.com](http://SusanjStickle.com))

## Team # 64: Mary Phillips and Dominick

Mary Phillips completed her Century Club Ride on May 24, 2009, riding one of her student's horses, Dominick, a 23-year old Thoroughbred.

Mary, who was born in Sussex, England, got a job at a horse farm at age 15, when and where a lifelong vocation and a true love affair with horses began. From there she joined the Royal Air Force and headed for Germany, where in 1952, she became a member of the RAF Jumping Team. There Mary studied under Heinrich Boehne. She parlayed that experience into the Deutche Reiter Abzeichen (the German Bronze Medal) for dressage, cross-country, stadium jumping and theory, beating out 62 German riders in the process. While in Germany, Mary met and married a fellow horseman and RAF member.

Returning to England, the couple continued to make their living with horses, at one point taking up residence at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, where her husband was Postilion rider for the Queen Mother.

In 1963, they moved to the United States. Mary has now been in Florida for over 35 years, but when she arrived, she was one of only three dressage trainers in the state.

Mary's mantra is to "Make haste slowly," especially with her horses. In a culture focused on state-of-the-art and newfangled gadgetry, she willingly bucks the trend, embracing time-honored and tested traditions with horses. She believes nothing works better than patience and understanding. "There is no better tool than a happy, willing partner," she advises. "It should be a dance—where horse and rider appear fully engaged in the joy of the dance."



## Team #65: Barbara H. Ramsay and Danish Manners (Dane)

Barbara writes:

At age 11, in Madison, Wisconsin, I gave up golf for riding at a livery stable where I got to ride many different horses, including five-gaited Saddlebreds.

As an 8th grade graduation present, my parents bought me a thoroughbred mare named Jumper, under the condition that all subsequent expenses were mine. In high school, Jumper and I rode English and Western and even participated in a square dance on horseback.

I sold Jumper when I married, and we moved to New Mexico. I was horseless for nine months until I went in on a three-way partnership on an Indian pony, Flippy. Later I got a Quarter horse, Tonto Twist, and an appendix registered mare, Jo Callie, both of whom I competed in local shows, alternating classes with my children.

Next came Danish Manners (Dane), a racing Quarter horse that had earned his Record of Merit for speed. Our place in Los Alamos has access to wonderful and challenging trail riding through canyons and



on top of mesas. While I took up dressage around 20 years ago and have had two trainers, I also continue to ride western, do barrels and poles, and jump. The versatility is fun!

Dane's and my Century ride was on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. Meanwhile our son, David, has a thoroughbred mare and is hooked on dressage—and eventing.

## The Dressage Foundation Century Club Members (continued)

#32 Peter Klopfer on Mondavi from Durham, NC.

### 2005:

#33 Mary Faith Urquhart on Tajcheba McCoy from Seminole, FL.

#34 Ted Z. Plaut on Vista Gee-Whiz from Madison, CT.

### 2006:

#35 Mary A. Towsley on Zico from Durango, CO.

#36 Audrey E. Evans on Robin Hood from Philadelphia, PA.

#37 Carol Stratton on Galloping Sofa from Hartland Corners, VT.

#38 For the 2nd time Edwin D. Sayre, this time on Carmel (see # 24).

#39 Russell Fawcett on Iron Cloud, Russell is now deceased.

#40 Again, Russell Fawcett on Snowy River (see # 39).

#41 Carey Evans on Enjoy, from Portland, OR.

#42 Lothar H. Pinkers on Get's Spellbinder from Bellevue, WA.

#43 William H. Van Cleve on VC IBN ZYPRESS from Jacksonville, AR.

### 2007:

#44 Mary Dure Johnson on Chelsea Love, from Akron, OH.

#45 Lila (Winni) Heiney-Duncan on Trail Bender, from Malin, OR.

#46 Dawn Ruthven on Wisla, from Victoria BC, Canada.

#47 Rebecca Snell on Atraysa Santi, from Boerne, TX.

#48 Carol F. Judge on Gaby, from Houston, TX.

#49 Susan Fawcett on Iron Cloud, from Sierra Vista, AZ.

#50 Again, Susan Fawcett, this time on Snowy River.

### 2008:

#51 Chester V. Braun on Secret Ice, from Osprey, FL.

#52 Carole Nuckton on Zeb, from Bend, OR.

#53 Annis Buell on Wally, from Dallas, TX.

#54 Joann Fletcher on Vice Versa, from Lexington, OH.

#55 David Keiser on Othello, from Medford, OR.

#56 Shirley Jones on Dust Buster, from Napa CA .

#57 Theresa Stephens on Cal, from Penrose, CO.

### The following teams are written up in this issue of the Centurion:

#### 2008 continued

#58 Mary Lou Harper on Flashee Starshine, from Monroe, WA.

#59 Carriellen DeMuth on Arc, from Franktown, CO.

#### 2009:

#60 Ellie Metelits on Justa Euff Sun, from Ocala, FL.

#61 Sally Chionsini on Bert, from Willis, TX.

#62 Again, Annis Buell, this time on Poco Fisty's Kid, from Dallas, TX.

#63 Martin T. Sosnoff on Montalban, from New York, NY .

#64 Mary Phillips on Dominick, from Ocala, FL.

#65 Barbara Ramsay on Danish Manners, from Los Alamos, NM.

# CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Century Club News front page calls attention to The Dressage Foundation's Twenty Year Anniversary. On this page, we reflect on the joys of managing The Dressage Foundation during the past decade. We think of hundreds of recipients of scholarships and grants awarded by the Foundation, which are made possible by donors to The Dressage Foundation. We applaud our distinguished Board of Directors and cadre of volunteers who have played a major role in the Foundation's success. We confess to a special affection for the Century Club teams, whose life-long passion for dressage is so contagious. We have loved our years at the Foundation's helm, and our hearts will continue to be with you as we enter our retirement years! We proudly pass the reins to Melissa Filipi and Jenny Johnson.



*Lynn and John Boomer*



*Melissa Filipi and Jenny Johnson*

We are very excited and honored to be a part of such a wonderful organization. Melissa Filipi, as Development Director, will seek out donations for current programs, assist with new programs, and raise general operating funds. She will manage the Gift Legacy program of the

Foundation, and is ready to assist you with Planned Giving. As the Administrative Manager, Jenny Johnson is responsible for the daily operations of the Foundation, including grant/scholarship programs and financial records/reporting. Jenny will take wonderful care of future Century Club riders and the Century Club News. We hope that you will feel free to contact us at any time!



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