

THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION



# Century Club News

An annual magazine about the members of The Dressage Foundation's Century Club.

ISSUE 30 / FEBRUARY 2026

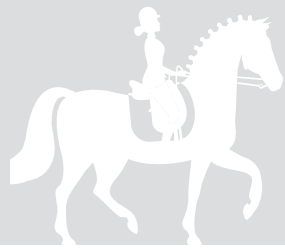


*Team 920: Kathy Gilker and CA Destiny Gro. Photo Credit: Custom Taylord Photography.*



# Congratulations to the 2025 Century Club Teams!

*A few fun facts from the year...*



Number of Teams:

**140**

A new record!

States with the Most Rides:

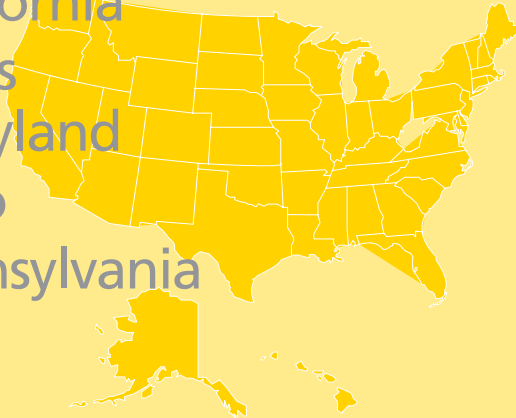
California

Texas

Maryland

Ohio

Pennsylvania



Oldest Rider:

**86** years

Judith DelVecchio (NY)

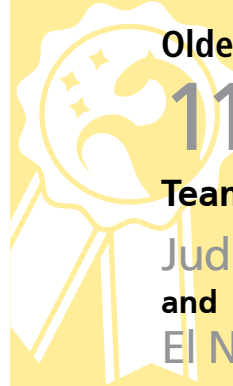
**Team #887**

Oldest Horse:

**35** years

Skip to My Lou (MD)

**Team #932**



Oldest Combination:

**114** years

**Team #887 from New York**

Judith DelVecchio (86)

and

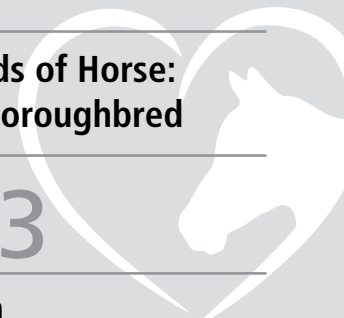
El Niño (28)

Most Popular Test:  
Introductory

Most Popular Breeds of Horse:  
Quarter Horse & Thoroughbred

Number of  
Grand Prix Tests: **3**

Number of Western  
Dressage Tests: **13**



*To join the Century Club, the ages of the horse and rider must equal at least 100 years. More information about the Club, including the full list of members, can be found at [www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org) > Grants and Programs > The Century Club or by scanning this QR code:*





# Keep Riding!



Jenny Johnson and Sara Weiss

As the saying goes, “You don’t stop riding because you get old, you get old because you stop riding!”

We hear this often from our Century Club members, and they continue to prove it to be true! For many of our members, the barn is more than a place to ride, it’s a place to stay young and

vibrant. The gentle neighs, the familiar smells, the joy and confidence from a good ride, keeping the mind and body engaged—these experiences fuel all equestrians, and senior riders are no different.

Our Century Club members come from all walks of life. Some ride every day or once a week. Some return to the saddle after years away and commit to focused training to prepare for their Century Club ride. No matter their path, they embrace the challenge with determination and joy. Training at any age takes dedication, but these riders do it with a sense of purpose, knowing that every ride keeps them strong, confident, and young at heart.

So get out there and enjoy your horse. Your body, mind, and spirit will thank you!

Jenny Johnson  
*Executive Director*

Sara Weiss  
*Director of Grants and Programs*

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## Team #857: Ann Hill and Madison

From: Malabar, Florida | Ages: 82 & 31 | Combined Age: 113 | Test: First Level Test 1



I was born and raised in Southeast England. My introduction to equestrian life was sitting on a donkey at age three. A dozen years later, I left school to become a groom at a riding school. This quickly evolved into jobs at several riding schools, where I competed in many classes of horsemanship, including three-day eventing, dressage, show jumping, cross country, fox hunting, and showing (both side saddle and astride).

I gained the British Horse Society (BHS) Teaching and Stable Management qualifications and became a BHS examiner, riding center inspector, and Chief Examiner for the Association of British Riding Schools (ABRS). I was awarded the ABRS diploma.

For nine years, I was the head of the Equine Department of a British university, where I was teaching, training, and running the department. I also managed international equestrian centers in England, Spain, Portugal, India, and Sweden.

I have been involved in the British and United States Pony Clubs for more than 60 years as a trainer, national examiner, and member of two national committees. I am also the manager of the United States Pony Club's International Quiz Team.

I have earned my USDF bronze medal in dressage. Due to such unavoidable events as COVID, the loss of my horse, and health issues, my silver medal is still something to look forward to.

Maddie (Madison) is a school master. I have been leasing her from Brevard Equestrian Center. My ride was her second Century Club ride.

## Team #858: Claudia Schoendorf and Walkers Schnapps

From: Superior, Wisconsin | Ages: 70 & 31 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



My partner for my ride was Schnapps, who is still a very hot, old horse, 31 years young. On his feisty days, he will still drag you along to the pasture. He is a Saddlebred who loves to show off, becoming more animated when another horse is near.

He has the most expressive face I have ever known. He will cock his head with ears pointed forward and a sparkle in his eye, as if he is saying to you, "Hi, I'm Schnapps."

We've been together for 20 years, but he has been mostly retired for the last 10 years. We still go for walks through the snow and do some lunging to keep our bond going, with occasional rides. What I like about this award is that it's not about a high score on a dressage test, but rather the partnership between horse and rider that has endured and flourished. This partnership encourages communication between the horse and rider through our bodies, which I find so compelling and magical.

Even though Schnapps is mostly retired, I still wanted to ride and do dressage. I was 60 and didn't know if I was too old to buy another horse, but I wasn't ready to be done. I found a wonderful 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare named Sammie. She is a great partner who challenges me in a good way. We have learned together, and I enjoy her immensely. I'm 70 now, and we are not ready to be done.

## Team #859: Jane Helm and Smokins Rolex Chex

*From: Corpus Christi, Texas | Ages: 69 & 31 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 1*

I grew up in South Texas and hardly remember a time without horses. At age five, I recall the excitement of my first little black saddle. Our friend cut holes in the tapaderos so my feet would sit better in the stirrups. My grey mare carried me all over. Horses were a central part of my childhood, including lessons and my voracious reading of horse books.

With adulthood, career, marriage, and our daughter, horses took a back seat. We continued to visit the family ranch to ride and love on the horses. Not surprisingly, our daughter inherited the horse bug. I wanted her to have the foundation I missed, so she pursued dressage and was hooked. I also learned vicariously through her lessons that good horsemanship is good horsemanship, no matter the discipline. We moved to a small acreage, and horses became a part of my daily life again.

In 2008, our daughter purchased Smokins “Rolex” Chex, a 1994 Paint and Quarter Horse. In 2014, we purchased a property to be near her. I felt then that life had come full circle. I was blessed to be able to ride Rolex on our ranch, his forever home. He was the first horse since my youth to give me back my confidence and make me a better rider.

Rolex’s greatest accomplishment is the confidence and joy he gave to the many novice riders he taught. We’re excited to celebrate a horse and rider steeped in a lifetime of love.



## Team #860: Elizabeth Gathright and Pearl

*From: Batesville, Virginia | Ages: 84 & 20 | Combined Age: 104 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 2*

The Century Club is a very special achievement for so many of us senior riders. This was my second time. I am old enough to have learned to ride on cavalry horses, and never really stopped except while my late husband was in a bad way. After that, I spent a good deal of time in Texas, where I found a teaching stable with quiet older horses and staff who were understanding to get me back into the saddle. The ladies at The Dressage Foundation put me on by quoting me in print, by name, in the 2023 magazine. “At 82, try something new.”

So, for something new, I joined the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA). Meanwhile, I discovered a wonderful mount in Maxximillion, a 17-hand Westphalian whose age and experience suited my situation perfectly. Our first Century Club ride possibility got rained out, but the Dry Creek Barn’s Fun Day event on March 8 was to be our time.

EXCEPT that morning, Maxx was not feeling well. Fortunately, there was Pearl, a registered Quarter Horse whose age fulfilled my requirement. Although we had never met, she proved to be a highly suitable substitute, and we did our ride well. My goal is to encourage older riders to continue. Why should kids have all the fun?

Thank you to Dry Creek Barn (Bellville, TX) for allowing me to borrow Pearl and helping me complete my second Century Club ride!





## Team #861: Jeanne Kaleth-Martin and Roxy

From: Palm Desert, California | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I am a retired schoolteacher and business owner. We moved to the Coachella Valley four years ago, and I rode out of Equestrian Center International (ECI).

Over the years, I have owned and trained nine horses. As a child, I began riding at my grandfather's farm. As a teenager, I saved my money and bought my first horse at 16, but didn't compete until I was in my 30s. I started competing as a novice in three-day eventing. Then I became committed to dressage.

I taught dressage to the San Dimas Pony Club, which I enjoyed doing. I love working with young children and enjoying their accomplishments. In between work and family, I found a way to compete all over Southern California. At the California Dressage Society (CDS) Championship, I took second place as a Regional Champion. Always striving for excellence, I trained with Jill Walton, an Olympic three-day eventer, Bekki Vrono, a dressage trainer in Murrietta, clinics with Jane Savoie, an Olympic dressage trainer, Willy Arts, and with Michael Cintas at ECI, an Olympic trainer.

I completed the USDF 'L' Education Program and had to log many hours as a scribe at horse shows. At ECI, I enjoyed scribing at Michael's dressage shows with judge David Schmutz. I was always a volunteer scribe at the Pomona CDS chapter horse shows, and many times at Del Mar at CDI and amateur shows. I was also a member of the Pomona CDS chapter, volunteering and showing at local shows.

## Team #862: Nancy Eytcheson and Buena Vista

From: Buckeye, Arizona | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Third Level Test 1



Nancy Eytcheson started out riding hunters before moving into eventing. She evented until having babies made her rethink the jumping!

Dressage was the way to work hard and have a great relationship with her horse. Her lifetime goal was earning her USDF silver medal, which she accomplished in 2023!



## Team #863: Donna Richardson and Xerez de Quintana

*From: Escondido, California | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Grand Prix*

Donna Richardson, retired from emergency medicine, continues her career as a USEF “S” dressage judge, trainer, and rider. Except for a few months out of the saddle to get both hips replaced, she has ridden six days a week for the past 50 years. Her most famous mount was Jazzman. With Jazzman, she won a gold medal at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Canada, multiple USDF and California Dressage Society (CDS) Horse of the Year titles through Grand Prix, and a USDF diamond medal with distinction. Her students have been successful at the North American Youth Championships, U.S. Dressage Finals, and CDS Championships. Three of her students are now pros themselves. Donna attributes her lengthy career to good genes, diligent physical training in the saddle and in the gym, and an absolute love of the horse and the sport.

Xerez de Quintana is an approved Lusitano palomino stallion. After being imported into the U.S. from Sucandi Farms in Brazil, he was purchased by Janice Cline, who has owned and loved him for the past 12 years. He was trained and shown to Grand Prix by Kim Monk. Recently, Janice has been riding with Donna. The day after Donna completed her Century Club ride, Janice achieved a lifelong goal when she rode Xerez down the centerline at Grand Prix. Xerez stands at only 15.1 hands but has a heart the size of an 18-hand Warmblood. Even at the ripe old age of 23, he never says “no,” just “I will try.” Donna and Jan could not appreciate him more.



## Team #864: Mary Tompkins and Deep Blue

*From: Apex, North Carolina | Ages: 75 & 26 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 2*

I’ve been riding since my parents gave me lessons for my 11th birthday. I spent the first 15 years fox hunting in Illinois. My introduction to dressage came through the first horse my parents bought—a Saddlebred trained to Intermediaire I. He was incredibly agile in the hunt field thanks to his dressage background.

I took a break from riding to attend veterinary school and earn a Ph.D. After completing my education, I joined the faculty at North Carolina State University. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, I met Susan Wiedman, and we’ve been working together ever since. With her help, I’ve brought several horses along from Training Level to Prix St. Georges.

Ten years ago, I purchased Deep Blue, a black Westphalian gelding trained to Grand Prix. He is a joy to ride but can be quite a challenge in the show ring. He believes he’s in charge and often throws in tempi changes—his favorite thing to do—whenever we cross the diagonal, regardless of the level we’re showing. Despite this, I was able to compete him through Prix St. Georges and earn the scores I needed for my USDF bronze and silver medals.

Now 26 years old, Deep Blue is still a handful in the ring. That’s why, for my Century Club ride, I chose to ride a Training Level test with him.





## Team #865: Lois Pienkos and Keen

From: Central City, Iowa | Ages: 75 & 26 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Third Level Test 3



Photo credit: Joanna Jodko

It was a GREAT day! I had so much fun! I've been looking forward to doing a Century Club ride for several years.

Keen is very special to me. I have owned him his whole life. I bought his grand dam in 1976, and my daughter was there when he was born. His sire is a Connemara. I had bred his mother to a pony breed to get a smaller horse. That didn't work out for me. Keen is bigger than his dam! My dressage trainer of 16 years, Anne Cizadlo, has nicknamed him the "Energizer Bunny." And that bunny would like to be in charge of the ride. The fact that I was a green rider didn't help.

I have persevered over the years. Anne has taught us hundreds of lessons. After my breast cancer treatments in 2009, we began to travel to Florida for the winter season to "live the dream." We progressed to Third Level. I got a USDF bronze medal score on him. And we aged.

Over the past five years, I have had multiple injuries and surgeries on my left femur and a hip replacement. Keen was unsound last summer. Fortunately, front shoes and pads have made him comfortable and sound. We were now both sound and old enough to do this special ride and join the Century Club! The icing on the cake for the day was that our ride also achieved a score for my bronze medal.

It was a GREAT day!

## Team #866: Mary Gallagher and Zip

From: Daniel Island, South Carolina | Ages: 70.5 & 29.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2



Twenty years ago, Zip and I became partners. At the time, we were a very unlikely pair. He was a very forward-thinking Quarter Horse with a serious work ethic, and I was a beginner. Later, these qualities proved to be so enjoyable. At first, I think Zip primarily thought that his job was "driving Miss Daisy." He was known for

taking me back to the barn upon occasion.

Over the years, we both encountered our share of injuries and surgeries, but working through them helped us develop a closer bond. Through periods of rehab, we continued to push forward slowly and then went on to continue lessons. Finally, to my surprise, it became apparent that we might be able to show. Considering that the veterinary surgeon couldn't promise that Zip would be able to do much of anything, I was so excited! We showed mostly Training Level, but did manage to ride First Level.

I believe that if you work on a challenging relationship, it can bring you many rewards. Accomplishments seem so much sweeter when they've gone hand in hand with difficulty. Many times, I've had tears of joy while sitting atop Zip.

Zip is 29 and I am 71...we made it! It was such a thrill to participate in this event and join the Century Club. I am so proud of my boy!

I want to thank my husband, Denis, who has always been so supportive, and the trainers along the journey.

## Team #867: Helen Hogan and The Moniet Nevaeh

From: Fort Worth, Texas | Ages: 83 & 18 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

From riding ponies in the park at age three to showing a chestnut Arabian mare at 83, horses have made my life worthwhile. I began lessons on Saddlebreds, despite concerns about rheumatic fever. My uncle provided me with several off-the-track Thoroughbreds, all of which I trained myself.

I earned my first blue ribbon in the last class of the season at a local playday. I gave up the award to a member of our rival club so that the president's son could win the season trophy.

My most famous horse was Fadareyn, my Arabian stallion, whom I showed to a Legion of Honor title in 1988. I loved exploring a wide range of disciplines, including English and Western pleasure, hunter pleasure, hunters, reining, and driving. I served on the Board of Governors for Hickory Creek Hunt, later became a USEF Show Steward, and judged Arabians, Welsh Ponies, Andalusians, Friesians, and Miniature breeds.

After retiring from my college professorship, an injury sidelined me, but I soon returned to the show ring, making my Anglo-Arabian a Region IX Fourth Level Dressage Champion and a Hunter Champion.

For my second Century Club ride, I rode a new Arabian mare, whom I had purchased broke but untrained. After two years of Working Equitation practice, she responded to every aid, making it the happiest day of my life.

Guests enjoyed a cake from my trainer, Meg Fletcher, and I signed the congratulatory poster, culminating a career that spanned from Florida to Texas, Lexington, and Toronto.



## Team #868: Friederike Butler and Alabama

From: Mill Valley, California | Ages: 72 & 29 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1

I do not remember a time when I did not love horses. I was the seventh of eight children in a family that fled to West Germany after World War II.

Pre-World War II, my parents had been riders, and my mother had been an excellent dressage rider. Their horses were confiscated during the war, and immediately after the war, horses were not part of our lives. As a young child, my sister and I played for hours with our toy horses or transformed our bicycle or a convenient tree branch into our pretend steeds. The only thing I wanted to draw in art class was horses!

At 13, we emigrated from Germany to Ontario, Canada, where, according to my father's promises, "there were more horses than people." My horse life improved. First, there were horses and ponies we could lease by the hour, and then, our own farm with our own horses. My sister imported two Hanoverians and a Hungarian Thoroughbred.

After university, with the support of my husband, Richard, I ventured out on my lifelong passion by purchasing a Thoroughbred, followed by a series of Warmbloods, and training in dressage. I have been very fortunate to be able to ride and continue to learn.

My beloved Alabama, who has been with me since he was 14, and a young six-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding keep me on my riding "toes/heels" daily. Every day in the saddle and being around my horses is an unbelievable blessing for which I am truly grateful.





## Team #869: Marilyn Jones and Sandy

From: Canton, Connecticut | Ages: 77 & 25 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Like many of you, I took a long break from riding. In my case, after a frightening riding accident when I was 40. When I retired and turned 70, I asked myself what would add quality of life to my later years, and the answer was riding. A succession of events led me to Avon Valley Show Stables in Avon, Connecticut, and my wonderful trainer, Sarah Stevenson. The first year back in the saddle was excruciating, but with Sarah's skilled, patient, and highly entertaining instruction, I was able to become reasonably proficient in hunt seat once again.

Somewhere along the way, I learned of the Century Club and became intrigued by the possibility of becoming a member. The only fly in the ointment was that I had no dressage training. Enter Evelyn Price, a highly skilled and inspiring equitation and dressage instructor who worked with me diligently to acquaint me with dressage fundamentals.

I was astounded at how difficult it all was, but finally felt ready to take my Century Club ride on my horse "Sandman," a Hanoverian former Grand Prix jumper, who is an amazing equine partner. Together, we completed the Introductory Level Test B on March 15, 2025, to earn our Century Club ribbon. I am proud and humbled to join the ranks of other Century Club members and want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone in my barn family who helped make this happen.

## Team #870: Carol Johnson and Just Call On Me

From: Inola, Oklahoma | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Level 1 Test 4



On Saturday, April 26, my mare, Just Call On Me (aka Call) and I did our Century Club ride at the Central Plains Dressage Society (CPDS) Western Dressage Show in Stillwater, Oklahoma. At age 73 for me and age 27 for Call, we are definitely "long young" and loving it.

CPDS said that Call and I were their first Western Dressage pair to join the Century Club, making the day even more special. It's hard to believe that Call and I have only been together since October 2022. She found me shortly after my horse, Tres of Sugar, died suddenly.

I am privileged and blessed to ride most of my adult life. Horses have enriched my life and taught me so much. Call has taught me the power of rewarding the positive. We have come a long way as partners. I trust her, and she returns that trust to me many times over. Dressage was a new and surprising experience for Call, whose original training was in Western pleasure.

In our time together, she has discovered that she can move out without reprimand and that she really likes to move. We have done well in our competitions, but I am most proud of her progress in being able to relax around other horses. Thanks to my wonderful and supportive riding family for helping her achieve this relaxation! Bottom line, Call is an amazing ride! I look forward to continuing the ride with this lovely dragon.



## Team #871: Karen Higbee and Firecrest Godiva

From: Snohomish, Washington | Ages: 84 & 17 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

Horses, to me are not only beautiful but therapeutic. I was 40 when I got my first half-Arabian mare, and it became apparent that I needed lessons. Enter Michelle, an amazing 19-year-old instructor. Don't be fooled by her age. She trained horses and specialized in dressage. I even became her "working student." Then life happened.

I didn't see Michelle much until 2010 when she came to help me with Razz, an Arabian/Fox Trotter. Michelle now had a 12-year-old daughter, Rosie, a talented young rider. I joined her at some schooling shows just for fun. Razz developed a severe knee injury, and I had no horse to ride.

Dr. Toodie Connor gifted me an eight-year-old, unstarted Morgan mare named Firecrest Godiva (aka Diva). I was 75 and starting an eight-year-old. This would seem impossible, but Michelle was now my daughter-in-law and there to instruct me. Diva was perfect, sensible, sensitive, kind, and willing.

In 2021, our first recognized show was the Key Classic Benefit Horse Show, and we took high point. In our second year of competition, she earned fourth place for Region 5, USEF Dressage Training Level, Morgan Division. We began showing at First Level, but in 2023, at age 83, I broke my leg. It was a very difficult recovery, so I'm starting all over. Finally, with my team of Michelle and Rosie, I was able to do my Century Club ride at the Equestrians Institute Schooling Show. I'm on my way again!



Photo credit: Equestrians Institute

## Team #872: Karlaine West-Dee and Enchanted Love Affair

From: Houston, Texas | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Third Level Test 1

My gift to myself for my 45th birthday was beginner English riding lessons. I had no idea how this would change my life. I will never forget that cold January day when I arrived at the barn for my lesson and met the man who would become my husband, Phillip.

I always loved horses and finally got my own when I was 50. Venus and I were both pretty green when we started together, and we worked hard to master the harmony and precision of dressage, competing locally and gradually working our way up to Third Level.

Venus is a bay 16.2-hand Zweibrucker mare with a brilliant work ethic and a sense of humor. She has been the greatest partner, teaching me patience and discipline. At 27, she is still fit and energetic.

Our Century Club ride was proof that it is never too late to pursue your passion. We performed Third Level Test One, receiving a score of 60%. I thank my husband, my trainers, especially Marie Morgan, and all my barn family for their help, encouragement, and support on our journey. I also thank The Dressage Foundation for making this opportunity available to more seasoned horse and rider partners. It is truly an honor to be included in the Century Club.



Photo credit: Solstice Farm



## Team #873: Marie Morgan and Mighty Mouse

From: Houston, Texas | Ages: 72 & 34 | Combined Age: 106 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



In April 2025, Mighty Mouse made me the happiest and luckiest competitor ever. We completed our Century Club ride when he was 34 years old and I was 72. Mouse and I have been together for 15 years, and at one point showed through Grand Prix. He had more heart than talent and was loved by everyone who knew him.

I'm a semi-retired USDF Certified Instructor and still ride daily at my own Solstice Farms in Houston, Texas. Mouse is happily retired and hangs with his girlfriend and pasture mate, Bonnie, passing the time without a care.

## Team #874: Cornelia Hamilton and Classique

From: West Hartford, Connecticut | Ages: 76 & 25 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Second Level Test 1



A pulled ligament and a broken hip nearly derailed my dream of a Century Club ride on my long-time mount, Clarabelle, registered as Classique. We both came through, and my spicy little 25-year-old Andalusian won her class at a recognized show.

Clarabelle was bred by Bettina Drummond in Connecticut and was very well trained by Georges Malleroni and Lendon Gray to Fourth Level. I worked with Rochelle McPherson for many years and, most recently, with Mary McCarthy, who prepared us for this, our last hurrah in the show ring. Now Clarabelle and I will enjoy relaxed trail riding.

## Team #875: Robin Puryear and JEB Stuart

From: Atlanta, Georgia | Ages: 78 & 22 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

Growing up in Midlothian, Virginia, I have pursued my horse passion almost my whole life. However, in those early days of fox hunting and jumping any fence we could find, I never dreamed I would be doing a Century Club dressage ride one day.

I had originally planned to do this on my Appaloosa mare, Goin Zippin, but sadly, I lost her unexpectedly in January 2020. I got JEB Stuart, a liver chestnut Morgan cross, in April 2020. I like to say that JEB found his way to me when I needed him the most. He had a background as a trail horse, barrel racer, and lesson horse. Reshaping his training has been a labor of love and trust for both of us. One old woman and one old gelding are now both living their best years together. Thank you to The Dressage Foundation and JEB for this wonderful opportunity!



## Team #876: Sandy Monolo and Justawee Camelot

From: Beaverdam, Virginia | Ages: 78 & 23 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I have always loved horses. At age 14, I finally got my first horse and spent many hours riding bareback around the farm. In college, I spent four years learning forward seat and jumping. After marriage and raising four children, I bought my first Morgan. My Morgans were shown in hunter pleasure and trail classes, ridden on the trails, and participated in local parades.

Eventually, I discovered dressage and have spent many years learning to find my core strength and center, rather than focusing on a forward seat.

I now ride my Morgan gelding, Justawee Thor, in classical dressage and musical freestyles. We've done well at Training Level and have moved up to First Level. After hearing about the Century Club ride, it became one of my goals. At age 78 and following the loss of one of my younger brothers, I felt a strong need to move forward.

Thor is still too young, so my sister-in-law, Sharon Smith, graciously allowed me to ride her 23-year-old Morgan, Justawee Camelot (Todd), who happens to be Thor's brother.



We competed at Dressage at Deep Run and won our Intro B class with a 69.063%. There was a lovely presentation in the center ring, complete with ribbons, a picture frame, and a big, beautiful bouquet.

Thank you to The Dressage Foundation for the opportunity to show and become a member of the Century Club.



## Team #877: Cherie Werfel and DJ Black

From: Brookshire, Texas | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 2



My Century Club ride was accomplished with the sweetest and most generous horse, DJ Black. Eight years ago, my daughter, Leslie Fan Kohlenberg, had a “stroke” and could not ride for five months. In addition, DJ could no longer pass CDI vetting, so she retired him with me in North Carolina.

He became fully barefoot and outside almost full-time. It took two months for him to get comfortable. We then worked with Verne Batchelder, did schooling shows, and worked up to Prix St. Georges! We played with all the FEI movements, then Verne passed away. It was heartbreaking, but my great friend, Amy, took on the task of training us.

After persevering through medical injuries and illnesses, my husband, James, and I realized that taking care of our three horses and three dogs was just too much. We put the farm up for sale and downsized to Texas.

After another injury, I am now at least 80 percent back. All this time, my daughter made sure DJ kept working with my fabulous new trainer (and granddaughter), Jessica Fan. That’s right, three generations of dressage riders.

DJ is wonderful. He had been Leslie’s Intermediate 1, USDF silver medalist, and CDI horse. He was my granddaughter’s Young Rider horse, and now a Century Club member for the old lady of three generations!

Thank you for all the love and support shown from friends and family, but most of all to James, who “rarely” says no!

## Team #878: Barbi Breen-Gurley and Vindicator

From: Los Osos, California | Ages: 78 & 23 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Grand Prix



On May 3rd, I rode a Century Club ride on my horse Vindicator (aka Vin) that I trained through the levels from when he was a three-year-old. He is a Dutch Warmblood gelding, now 23 years old, and the eighth horse I’ve trained up to the Grand Prix level.

I rode a Century Club ride a couple of years ago on a student’s Third Level horse...not thinking I might be able to ride one on Vin a few years later. I stopped competing with him in 2020 because he developed Cushing’s, but last year I decided to bring him back and start doing serious work on him. Little did I know how much he would enjoy it, just like he used to.

As I led Vin to the trailer the day before the show, he jumped in with enthusiasm! He was followed by HappyM (my current GP horse) and WillitVF (my Prix St. Georges horse). During our warm-up and throughout our ride, I felt unusually eager energy from him. I had tears in my eyes as Vin performed with noble effort, an honest and beautiful Grand Prix! It felt so satisfying to share this accomplishment with Vin after riding him up through the levels, and being awarded at local, state, and national competitions with him for the last 20 years. I am so proud to have trained my own horse and ridden him at Grand Prix for our Century Club ride.

Photo credit: A.J.S.K Photography

## Team #879: Carol Ann Heard and Jacy

From: Roseburg, Oregon | Ages: 80 & 21 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: WDAA Level 1 Test 1

For many years, it was my dream to become part of the Century Club.

When it finally happened in 2025, I was riding Jacy. She is my 21-year-old, 14-hand Pinto pony, making our combined age 101.

Little is known about Jacy's history other than that at one point, she was adopted from a rescue.

It was challenging and fun turning her into a dressage pony. I could not have done it without my excellent coach, Cindy Sanders.



## Team #880: Christina Webber and Spring Hollow Legend

From: Gaithersburg, Maryland | Ages: 81 & 20 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Fourth Level Test 3

### “Then We Ate Cake”

I had to be dragged kicking and screaming to sign up for a Century Club ride. I hate being in the spotlight, and who wants to admit their age, but I finally agreed. My trainer, Cathy Echternach, arranged a little barn show with Evelyn Pfoutz-Martin judging. Jack Morris and I signed up along with other boarders. It was a rainy March day, the ring was soggy, but we carried on. Friends, trainers, family, the judge, and horses gathered and celebrated.

I am an 81-year-old retired elementary art teacher. My horse is a 20-year-old, 15.3-hand American Morgan named Spring Hollow Legend bred by Lynn Skillington. Legend is best described as cute, extremely smart, a trickster, a beggar, and a little devil. We completed Fourth Level Test 3 and scored 65%. Not bad at all! (Did I go off course, which is usual for me? I can't remember?) The show was over, pictures taken, and we ate cake.

Despite my reluctance and the bad weather, we had a great time.

I came away realizing that the Century Club ride is not about age, what you can and can't do, or competition. It is about our journey with amazing horses, friends, and the sport. This is the cake.

By the way, our cake was a carrot cake decorated with a dressage ring complete with letters and two riders, Jack on Pinky and me on Legend saluting, and a raccoon on the side. Legend got some and loved it.





## Team #881: Donna Dawson-Luckey and Coco

From: Dover, New Jersey | Ages: 72 & 30 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Training Level Test 2



Coconella is a 1995 Swedish Warmblood/Holsteiner mare by LA Baltic Sun. I've known her owner, Fran Crocco, since the 1980s. Somehow, we've always ended up boarding at the same barns. I vividly remember seeing the beautiful, four-year-old Coco being led into the indoor ring on the day Fran bought her. When I lost my beloved Thoroughbred of over 20 years in 2008, Fran generously asked if I'd like to ride Coco (for which I'm forever grateful). We've been Team Coco ever since!

Coco is very intelligent and totally aware of everything going on in her environment. We refer to her as "The Queen" because she knows she is. She loves having her face brushed or rubbed with a warm towel. She especially loves her low-cal treats!

Having ridden many years without consistent formal instruction, I'm a relative dressage newcomer. Coco and Fran have had more experience. Thanks to the guidance of our fantastic trainer, Carolyn Laurent, our current program is informative and fun, while keeping us physically and mentally fit.

Coco and I have shared wonderful rides, countless grooming sessions, miles of handwalking, and relaxing grazing times. She's helped me through life's stresses and times of sadness. Being part of Team Coco for so many years is a treasured gift.

## Team #882: Jack Morris and Pinky

From: Germantown, Maryland | Ages: 75 & 26 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



I started my riding journey after my daughter, wife, and youngest daughter started riding. I thought it looked like fun and wanted to join in. I have found it to be a rewarding and engaging experience that I have enjoyed for over 20 years.

My current partner, Pinky (Dawn Flight), is my second horse. We found him to be big enough for me and reliable enough for the kids. Now, 17 years later, it is just my wife and I who ride him regularly. To commemorate my and Christina Webber's induction into the Century Club, my trainer, Cathy Echternach, arranged a barn show on April 26th with Evelyn Martin judging. I signed up for a test along with other boarders. We decided we would make it a celebration for the barn.

Pinky was a little confused about why everyone was cheering us on, but he liked the attention.

We ended up being the high score for the show, and with my 75 years and Pinky's 26 years, we are very proud. Thanks to everyone at the barn for making it our best show ever. Thanks to Cathy Echternach for the years of training and support for me, my family, and the horses.

## Team #883: Susan Kwiatkowski and Ian Mac Duff

From: Lebanon, New Jersey | Ages: 78 & 22 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I'd like to thank The Dressage Foundation for recognizing senior riders. Many thanks to Ruth McCormick for organizing the riding event for my Century Club ride, and Tamara Uzman, my instructor, who encouraged me to do it.

This was my first equine competition with my 22-year-old Connemara pony, and it was so much fun!



## Team #884: Dr. Stephen Henson and FHF Renee

From: Lafayette, Indiana | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Freestyle

Dr. Stephen Henson and FHF Renee, also known as Scout, completed their Century Club ride in May at the Harmony in Park Dressage Show at the Hoosier Horse Park.





## Team #885: Diane Lund and All Decoded Page

From: Rochester, Minnesota | Ages: 69.5 & 30.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



Coda and I have been a pair for only six of his 30 years. I came late to riding. While I have always loved horses, I was in my 40s before I allowed myself to ride. Now, at 70, I am living a girlhood dream to know and love a horse.

Coda is a handsome horse and extremely communicative. It has been such a good fortune to be part of his life.

The Dressage Foundation's Century Club has provided us with an incentive to revive our work ethic together. He has demonstrated his willingness and has carried us forward willingly.

We thank The Dressage Foundation and all the people without whose care and support this would not have been possible.

## Team #886: Paula Bertram and Coriolanus

From: Placerville, California | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Fourth Level Test 3



I started riding when I “inherited” my daughter’s well-trained and tolerant Pony Club horse. I spent the next 20 years doing three-day eventing and trail riding. When my present horse, Cory, and I met, he was a middle-aged, aloof Oldenberg with a murky history. I was already in my 60s. He proceeded to tell everybody that I really knew nothing about riding, and he had been sent to inform me of that indisputable fact. Cory can be 1200 pounds of “No way!” He has a big spook and a large bag of tricks to get out of hard work.

A series of wonderful trainers have helped me to unwrap the layers and find the buried talent. Every time we reach what to me feels like a milestone, he groans as if to say, “Finally! I knew this all along—you just have to ask for it correctly.”

We gradually inched our way up the ladder of dressage, getting our USDF bronze medal a few years ago and riding the Century Club ride at Fourth Level Test 3 in May. Cory is hoping to retire, but I’m still harboring hopes for a USDF silver medal before we’re done!

## Team #887: Judith DeVecchio and El Niño

*From: Ionia, New York | Ages: 86 & 28 | Combined Age: 114 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

Thanks to Ann Eilinger, who helped me prepare for my Century Club ride. As a single-person farm owner, I needed some assistance. El Niño is 28 and holding his own, minus some teeth. I am still able to do most of the barn work and maintain two horses at home, except for the winter months. I envy those who only have to maybe groom and then get on and ride. I am just pleased that I can do it all and still throw a leg over him.

Thanks to TDF for what they do to support such a vast and diverse group of seniors and their mounts. I love to read all their stories.



## Team #888: Kathi Roof and Light The Lights

*From: Geneva, Florida | Ages: 75 & 28 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Introductory Level Test C*

On March 14th at the Ocala Winter II USEA Horse Trials at the Florida Horse Park, Kathi Roof and her Quarter Horse Paint gelding, Light the Lights, affectionately known as Chico, marked a remarkable milestone by joining the Century Club. Their successful completion of a dressage test, judged by Wayne Quarles, earned them a place in this prestigious group.

Chico's story is one of quiet heroism. He is a veteran eventer whose career began in 2003 in Texas. He has competed in more than 76 USEA-recognized events, safely guiding riders through Beginner Novice and Novice levels. Chico came into Kathi's life in 2016, and the pair moved to Florida in 2020. Though now retired, Chico remains full of personality, spending his days grazing and indulging in his favorite pastime: rolling in the sand.

Kathi is equally accomplished outside the arena. A lifelong horsewoman, she's also a talented musician, performing as a flutist in both a Veteran Band and a flute choir. Her creativity extends to sewing, and her love for family is evident as she happily spends time chauffeuring her grandchild. Despite the demands of retirement, Kathi continues to support the equestrian community by serving as secretary at USEA events in Tennessee, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Texas.

Together, Kathi and Chico exemplify the essence of the Century Club—experience, dedication, and the enduring bond between horse and rider. Their story is an inspiring reminder that the journey in dressage is a lifelong celebration of partnership and passion.





## Team #889: Catherine Jacob and Crosswind Wilden

From: Okeana, Ohio | Ages: 78 & 24 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Cathy Jacob dreamed of riding aside on her own homebred horse in a Century Club ride. Crosswind Wilden is from Cathy's Thoroughbred mare and a Cleveland Bay stallion. She foaled, raised, and showed Wilden as a young sport horse at various dressage competitions. Cathy rode in the hunt field as

well as dressage competitions. Over the years, Wilden has proven his versatility and wonderful character, transitioning from a dressage career to becoming an enthusiastic fox hunter and a cherished side saddle mount, admired by many.

Cathy and Wilden celebrated their birthdays earlier in May. On May 25th, they participated in the Old Stone Memorial Day Dressage Show in Hamilton, Ohio, where they achieved a winning score of 72.8% in an Introductory Level class. This accomplishment beautifully fulfilled Cathy's desire to ride her homebred aside with the combined age of 102 years young in a Century Club ride, and proves dreams do come true.

Cathy remarks that this special occasion wouldn't have been possible without the support of many individuals. She extends sincere gratitude to Julie at Old Stone Riding Center; Susan, owner of Wilden's sire, Fryup Marvel; and Becky, who has provided exceptional care for Wilden; and of course, to Wilden himself. This story beautifully highlights that well-cared-for horses can remain active and functional well into their mid-20s and beyond.

## Team #890: Lynda Schumann and Adam

From: Troy, Texas | Ages: 73 & 28 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



This ride is for Katherine Jacoby and the sweet horse she bred. He was too small for her but perfect for me, so she sold him to me when he was six months old. Kathy and I were lifelong friends—she was a mentor to my two daughters and me. Kathy was also a lifelong supporter and member of USDF Region 9 and Area V in the equestrian world. She passed away in a tragic accident in 2024.

Kathy was there as Adamant (aka Adam) and I began to ride. I had a terrible horse accident in 2003 and he was the first horse I got on (not the one I fell off!) months later. I cried like a baby to be back on, as I shouldn't have survived the accident. Then, nine years ago, I had another accident when I was feeding. I came back from that as well. God just wasn't done with me yet! Adam has taught many beginners to ride, including my grandchildren!

So, here I am riding my Trakehner, Adam, and doing a Century Club ride. Kathy was hoping to be here, but I know she watched from Heaven with a huge smile on her face!

The ride may not be FEI level, but we walked and trotted to music Kathy choreographed for my daughter's musical ride at the United States Pony Club Championships in 1996. We celebrated a great horse, great friendship, and all of us who have always loved and appreciated our horses!



## Team #891: Marta Koenig and Chasqui

From: Kellyville, Oklahoma | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3

Chasqui and I have been together since he was seven years old. He is an off-the-track Thoroughbred and was my eventing buddy. He has enjoyed retirement for the last several years on our small farm with his two friends, nicknamed “The Three Amigos.”

I bought Chasqui after recovering from breast cancer and decided to get back into riding. He was a big help during that time. Together, we competed through Novice Level eventing and competed in the American Eventing Championships.

I have long since hung up my jumping saddle to focus on dressage. The years have rolled by. Toward the end of 2024, I began to realize that in 2025, Chasqui and I could join the Century Club! We started a slow program of getting him ready through the winter.

I decided that our Oklahoma Dressage Society recognized show in June would be the perfect place for that ride. The facility, Southern Hills Riding Academy, is owned by Doug and Kim Dyer. I bought Chasqui from Kim 21 years ago. So many memories. So many good times.

Thank you, TDF, for offering the Century Club program. It is a wonderful moment to look back and reflect on all that our horses mean to us. Thank you, ODS, for being a supportive community, a place that creates memories and gives us all a place to support each other and look ahead to new goals. We felt so loved. It was a great party!



## Team #892: Jim Theurer and Kid Hasan

From: Halifax, Pennsylvania | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

It all began 61 years ago when my father bought our first horse. As a teen facing serious medical issues, horses helped me survive. I went on to attend farrier school and work at a racetrack. I introduced my wife and children to horses and have volunteered as a 4-H leader for 34 years.

In search of my dream horse—a half-Arabian Pinto—I bred my Arabian mare, Hasan Nastasia, to a Paint stallion, Black Kid. After three attempts with no white, I decided to keep the next foal no matter the color. When Kid was born, I found him alone in the field and carried him to the barn. His dam rejected him, so we raised him on goat’s milk. He only had white on his face, but Kid ended up being my dream horse and the easiest I’ve ever trained. He’s competed in gymkhana, driving events, dressage, competitive trail, and endurance rides. Among his many accolades, Kid earned a 1,000-mile award in competitive trail. We attended a cutting event for fun, and Kid knew what was expected of him by his second calf. He is semi-retired but remains a dependable mount in our older years.

Our Century Club ride was wonderful, perhaps Kid’s last event, though our granddaughter is learning to ride on him. Kid earned his place in my pasture for life. I’ll keep riding as long as I can, and though I’ve raised a gelding to take over for Kid, no horse will ever replace him.





## Team #893: Leslie Raulin and Cromwell

From: Jefferson, Maryland | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 2



On June 4, Leslie Raulin and her Holsteiner/Thoroughbred gelding, Cromwell, completed their Century Club ride. The ride was judged by Cheryl Loane, Leslie's long-time trainer.

Ollie was bred to be an eventer; however, he was afraid of his shadow, so he became a dressage horse. Ollie is injury-prone, so Leslie never showed him above First Level. Ollie has been retired three times, each time recuperating so he could be a lower-level schoolmaster for friends. His most recent un-retirement was so Leslie and Ollie could do their Century Club ride.

Leslie has been an on-off-on equestrian. She rode a little as a kid (one group lesson per week). She then concentrated on schooling—college, dental school, two residencies, board certification in periodontics, PhD in microbiology/immunology—and a career in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, retiring as a colonel.

In 2011, at age 60, Leslie purchased her farm where she is enjoying her "retirement" riding, mucking, mowing, having fun, and staying "young." Leslie organizes a series of dressage schooling shows at local farms, including three shows at her farm (all profit is donated to charities). Leslie also makes and sells bling brow bands, the profit of which is donated to the same charities.

Leslie and Ollie prove there is life long after retirement and are pleased that the Century Club allows them to celebrate it.

## Team #894: Margaret A. Mills and Journey

From: Sierra Vista, Arizona | Ages: 68 & 32 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 1



Photo credit: Bianca Myers Photography

Joining the Century Club has been an aspiration of mine since a friend did hers several years ago. I wish to thank The Dressage Foundation and its sponsors for providing us with this opportunity. I also wish to thank my barn family for their encouragement and help in making this ride possible.

Journey and I are both retired U.S. Army veterans. I served for 30 years as a Logistics Officer, and Journey served 19 years as a Military Working Equine (MWE) at B Troop, 4th Regiment (Memorial), Fort Huachuca, Arizona. B Troop is a U.S. Army horse-mounted cavalry unit upholding the traditions and history of Fort Huachuca and military horsemanship.

I met Journey when I joined the B TRP Ladies Auxiliary and represented the families that followed their Soldier to duty assignments in the West. I rode sidesaddle in historically accurate riding habits at B TRP public appearances.

I adopted Journey upon his retirement in 2020, and we have spent most of our time together enjoying trail rides through the Arizona countryside and giving rides to our favorite little girl, Luna. Being a U.S. Army Cavalry horse means he has been to many public events, and he was always calm, safe, and reliable regardless of what was going on around him. His steadiness has continued, and he has safely taken new riders and children for rides.

## Team #895: Elizabeth Walton and Sandra

From: Clarksville, Tennessee | Ages: 79 & 27 | Combined Ages: 106 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

A Century Club ride had been my dream for years. I got my first horse for myself for my 50th birthday. My two daughters, Vanessa and Margaret, and I learned to ride at the same time.

My husband, Rick, and I drove from Tennessee to Oregon/Washington, to ride my test. I hadn't ridden in a couple of years, so I was nervous about riding again and didn't want to look ridiculous! I rode Sandra, my friend Kristin Miller's Norwegian Fjord mare, for a couple of days before my test. Once I got on, I felt comfortable in the saddle. I was grateful for that time before the test. On May 17th, we drove to Olympia, Washington, to my friend (and judge) Anne Appleby's farm.

My son, Sam, and his partner, Joe, came from Portland, Oregon, and my niece, Emelie Servin, came from Tumwater, Washington. My friends Ursula Jensen and Wanda Gammel came from British Columbia, Canada, and my friend Jeri Froelich came from Snohomish, Washington. Anne was my judge for the ride. I used to scribe for her when I lived in Oregon.

It was a cloudy, rainy day, but a sunny patch appeared just in time for my ride. Sandra was a gem and I was proud to give the final salute to the judge.

My Century Club ride was definitely a high point in my life that I will always remember with joy and thanksgiving.



## Team #896: Ruby Fowler and Betty

From: Bernhards Bay, New York | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1

I am 73 years old and have been riding since I was three years old. My goal has always been to ride until I am 100!

I was able to do my Century Club ride thanks to Betty, the 27-year-old horse I rode. Betty was my horse for about 13 years after a boarder left her with me. I sold her to her dear owner, Debbie, about 13 years ago. They have been boarding at my barn for the past five years. Debbie and Betty are a good pair, laid-back and happy!

I have earned my USDF bronze medal. I'm trying to get my silver medal on the 12-year-old I raised. We are almost to Fourth Level. I will continue to ride until I can't get on a horse. I have had a knee replacement and both shoulders, but one doesn't give up after those surgeries.

"Ride to your dreams" is my motto!





## Team #897: Jane Kluczkowski and Urucum HM

From: Harbor Springs, Michigan | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Freestyle



Photo credit: 119 Studio

I grew up in rural Indiana and loved riding my Quarter Horse. Never had a lesson, just hung on to that big saddle horn. Life and family intervened for the next 50 years. When I turned 65, facing retirement, I told my husband I was going to buy a truck, a horse trailer, and a horse.

The horse turned out to be a gorgeous chestnut Lusitano stallion with a flaxen mane and tail. He was a dressage schoolmaster. I wasn't sure what a Lusitano was, nor dressage. I was pretty sure I did not need a stallion (so he was gelded), but why not start with a schoolmaster? His name was Urucum HM (Uri). He was born in Brazil and was 15 years old.

This was probably a recipe for disaster; however, Uri "tolerated" his amateur owner (cookies helped). He became my best buddy. Most life decisions over the next 10 years were made with Uri foremost in mind. We even settled on a small farm in Ocala, Florida, primarily for him. Fortunately, the area had plenty of golf courses for the husband.

At 25 years old, Uri is still in good health. He is a proud, confident, and noble boy. A real gem to his breed. Those of us who know him always say, "It is Uri's world, and we are just in it."

## Team #898: Jeanne Ahrenholz and Paxton

From: Landrum, South Carolina | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1



An item was crossed off my bucket list when Paxton and I completed our Century Club ride. Paxton, an Appendix Quarter Horse, is my beloved 26-year-old field hunter.

Paxton has led the field with Long Lake Hounds in Minnesota and Tryon Hounds in the Carolinas. I found him in South Dakota when he was nine, and knew we were meant for each other the minute I rode him. On non-hunting days we did dressage, and he had heavenly half passes and canter pirouettes, though I never showed him until our Century Club ride.

I got my first horse at 11 and was hooked for life. I showed in saddle club events, then Morgan shows. The first time I saw an upper-level dressage ride, I thought it was magic and found my passion. Since then, I've earned my USDF silver medal on Wonderful, along with Region 4 Championships at Prix St. Georges and Intermediate 1. High Tide, my hunt horse before Paxton, was Area 4 Novice Eventing Champion.

I owned and operated a tack store in Minnesota for 20 years, where I was a USDF Region 4 Director for two terms and became a Joint Master of Long Lake Hounds. Now retired in the Carolinas, I am president of Tryon Hounds and their third flight Fieldmaster. Still having a bucket list, I'm working towards my gold medal with Iris. Paxton is happily retired now. I'm truly blessed with this horse. God made a really good one!



## Team #899: Kathy Kirchner and Princeton

From: Aurora, Ohio | Ages: 77 & 25 | Combined Ages: 102 | Test: First Level Test 1

Princeton, my trainer Alexandra Gainer's 25-year-old off-the-track Thoroughbred, and I joined the Century Club when we completed First Level Test 1 at the Northern Ohio Dressage Association summer series show on June 22nd. Robin Birk (R) judged, and we earned a score of 64.444%.

Alex trained Princeton from green to Grand Prix and earned her USDF gold medal with him. He is still active, being used a few times a week in lessons, and occasionally going to a show.

Joining the Century Club has been a goal for some time now. My horse, with whom I made my Fourth Level debut at the same show, won't be old enough for another three years (he is 18 now; I am 77), so when I asked Alex in early spring if she might allow me to use Princeton, I was thrilled that she agreed. I rode him once a week for a few months, learning his quirks and preferences. Despite the temperatures in the low 90s, Princeton gave me his all, and we had a successful ride.

I want to thank The Dressage Foundation for sponsoring this wonderful program, Alex Gainer for her guidance and for allowing me to partner with her precious Princeton, and my barn mates and friends who turned out to cheer as we did our Century Club ride. With luck, I will do it again in three years on my wonderful horse B.



## Team #900: Linda Ann Pullen and Tumbleweed

From: Centreville, Maryland | Ages: 78 & 28 | Combined Ages: 106 | Test: Introductory Level Test A

My love of horses began at age four, when I sat on a horse for the first time and instantly fell in love. Pony rides with my dad sparked dreams of adventure, and each lap around the ring filled me with wonder and joy.

I held onto those dreams until adulthood. After moving to Centreville, Maryland, I met a wonderful "horse lady" who taught me about horses and horsemanship. My dreams began to come true as I enjoyed local trail rides, fox hunting in Charles County, and even riding at Fair Hill Equestrian Center.

In 2018, I began volunteering at Talisman Therapeutic Riding in Grasonville, Maryland. As a retired elementary school teacher, it was the perfect blend of my love for horses and passion for helping others.

Nearly four years ago, sweet Tumbleweed joined the Talisman herd. He quickly became my favorite, and after leading him in lessons and trail rides, I eventually climbed into the saddle. We bonded instantly. Tumbleweed, a beautiful Arabian cross, understands me in ways words can't describe. His soft nicker always makes me smile—just like horses did when I was a little girl.

I'm incredibly grateful for the many horse experiences life has brought me. Never did I imagine having the chance to ride a Century Club test. I still carry my dreams—and a few peppermints for Tumble—in my pocket. Because I now know that dreams, no matter how long they've been held, really do come true.





## Team #901: Alison Vaill and Bacarat

From: North Andover, Massachusetts | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Fourth Level Test 1



My horse, Bacarat, is a Lusitano. He was born in Brazil and shipped to my barn when he was four years old. I bought him several months after he arrived, and we have worked together ever since.

We both love learning new skills. Unfortunately, Bacarat's original dressage training was not entirely sufficient. However, we have been able to work together to retain many of his positive aspects. He loves his people as well as working on his skills. His relationship with me, as well as with the trainer and other caregivers, is superior.

About two years ago, Bacarat and I had the wonderful opportunity to move to Indian Meadow Farm in West Newbury, Massachusetts. This gave me the opportunity to work with well-known trainer, Juliane Dykiel. She gave us—both rider and horse—a wonderful opportunity to learn. She worked with us to get us ready to ride the Fourth Level Test 1 for our Century Club ride.

I have been riding since I was six years old. I have been working on dressage with several different horses for about 20 years. Working with Bacarat is truly the “frosting on the cake.” We felt very prepared for our Century Club ride in June.

## Team #902: Christine Barsema and Sonny's Golden EFX

From: Tarpon Springs, Florida | Ages: 71 & 30 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 1



My love of riding began when I was a child and dreamed of having a horse of my own.

At 50 years old, I purchased Sonny's Golden EFX (Sonny) sight unseen through a local trainer. He was a registered Paint and Quarter Horse, nine years old, gelded late in life, and had been ridden on trails, as well as shown in English. He was strong and confident. We have been a team for 21 years. We spent years happily riding on trails and learning Western riding skills. Trails teach you to be a confident rider. He also packed my young grandchildren around safely and successfully in lessons and horse shows.

Years later, I moved him to Avalon Stables in Lutz, Florida. They are primarily a Saddlebred show barn and are active in lessons and showing. I never had an interest in showing, but I wanted to improve my riding skills and balance. I started taking lessons and was eventually encouraged by Avalon owner, Pam Roush, to try an entry-level Western show class. I enjoyed it and participated in additional shows. When I learned about the Century Club, I made it my goal to accomplish it. Sonny is in outstanding condition for his age, and we enjoyed taking lessons and improving our skills in Western dressage. The Century Club ride brought me so much happiness, and I was proud we were able to successfully complete it together.

Photo credit: Stunning Steeds Photography

## Team #903: Karen Norton and Red Baron

*From: Ashford, Connecticut | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Fourth Level Freestyle*

I have been riding my whole life. I grew up and lived in Murray, Nebraska, where I rode my pony and horses in 4-H and open shows. When I graduated from college, I taught at Parkland Middle School in Rockville, Maryland. In Maryland, I bought an Appaloosa horse that I rode Western on the trail system around the Potomac Canal.

After two years, I sold my horse and went to California. I rode a few times at a local stable but didn't have a horse of my own again until a year later, when I moved back east to Connecticut and began a new teaching job at Mansfield Middle School.

At that point, I drove to Nebraska to buy a four-year-old Appaloosa gelding from my friend, Marge Meisinger, in Plattsmouth. That horse was the beginning of my long adventure of riding English and jumping. My Appaloosa was fabulous in open shows and eventing, and I never looked back.

At one point, I decided that raising my own foals and bringing them along would result in quality Oldenburg/Trakehner horses I could show anywhere. Over the years, my homebred horses won USCTA/USEA Awards and Trakehner Year-End Awards. My last event was in 2015, and I decided to concentrate on dressage with my big boy, Red Baron. We were able to learn a lot, score enough, and progress enough to get our USDF silver medal. On July 13th, Red Baron and I completed our Century Club ride at Treasure Hill Farm in Salem, Connecticut.



## Team #904: Page Lyon and Cassi

*From: Annapolis, Maryland | Ages: 78 & 23 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 3*

Five years ago, while riding at Oak Crest Farm preparing for my first Century Club ride on Albert, I met Cassi and her owner, Joelle. Cassi was a "show" hunter who had foaled three babies. I may have even ridden Cassi, but I never dreamt I'd do another Century Club ride, especially on Cassi!

Fast forward to today. I'm still training with Lisa Swan, who has added another stable to her resume—Westbrook Stables in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Lisa was starting a program for children and needed school horses. Joelle loaned Cassi to the program.

During my time volunteering at Westbrook, I mentioned it would be fun to work with Cassi, an Appaloosa/Warmblood, to see how she was at dressage. One thing led to another, and we decided to enter her in her first dressage class at Potomac Valley Dressage Association Training Show at Promised Landing. Her hunter show temperament came through with flying—no, flying lead—colors! She's a natural and will be a wonderful horse for the students who want to pursue dressage. I was honored to be given a second chance to enter the Century Club. Thank you!



## Team #905: Jeffery Greene and Buddy

From: Pasadena, California | Ages: 78 & 22 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2



Forty-one years of loving horses and riding led me to the incredible experience of joining The Dressage Foundation's Century Club. Having ridden hunter jumpers in the ring and my big Irish Warmblood in the Hunt led me to my unsuccessful attempt at polo.

With all that in the past, it was remarkable that I found Laura Goodenkauf, a fabulous dressage trainer, and my new best friend, Buddy, a 22-year-old retired racehorse and auction rescue. That combination re-energized my desire to ride and learn a whole new set of dressage riding skills. Now I can look forward to many more years of loving horses and riding!

Buddy and I rode Training Level Test 2 at Fortissimo Farm in Los Angeles, California, in front of USDF "L" Graduate Claudia Roberts for a solid 64%!

## Team #906: Jan Nichols and The Man

From: Terrell, Texas | Ages: 80 & 24 | Combined Ages: 104 | Test: Second Level Test 1



I was a typical horse crazy kid who became an adult and got a horse. When that was not enough, I then built a horse facility where I bred Arabians, boarded horses, held horse shows, and ran a concession stand and a tack shop, both mobile and storefront.

When that became too much, I downsized a couple of times and ended up with one horse, but did not ride for six years. My trainer came back from Florida, and I thought, "Why not?" So here I am.

Manny, an Arabian/Belgian cross, was hauled all over the country, won a lot at Training Level, but was in a pasture when I found him. After a few years, he went to the Dallas Police Department, but his short back and their saddles did not work out, so he came back to me and became a pasture ornament for 10 years.

We saddled him up, and here we are a year later, having a ton of fun. I think we are keeping each other young.



## Team #907: Linda Smolak and Zeppelin

*From: Granville, Ohio | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1*

I grew up afraid of horses, having seen one too many stampedes on 1950s television as a kid. I started learning to ride at 40 so that I could help my daughter with her horse without being terrified. I fell in love with horses and riding.

Zeppelin has been my best Valentine's present since 2008. He tries to do everything that is asked of him. Through all these years, we have faced many challenges together, but we always come out riding.

After a fall and because of other life demands, I didn't take lessons or show for several years. Then, after moving to a new barn, we started working with Jessica Kuhnash, who helped us find confidence when I was in my 70s and Zepp was well past 20. Within the past couple of years, with Jessie's help, we achieved our goals of riding First Level and, of course, doing our Century Club ride.



## Team #908: Pamela Goodrich and Zoomie

*From: Boscawen, New Hampshire | Ages: 72 & 29 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Third Level Test 3*

USDF silver and gold medalist, Pamela Goodrich, has received numerous regional and national awards on over 20 horses she has trained to Grand Prix, and taught innumerable students at all the USDF and FEI levels.

Each of the Grand Prix horses she trained had a memorable career. In the 1980s, Touch Stone earned the title of the USDF Grand Prix Freestyle Champion, Adriano traveled to the Hamburg Derby in Germany, and Midas Touch competed in the World Equestrian Games in Toronto. In the 2000s, Melville represented the United States in Canada, and Donnerhit won the Grand Prix at the Wellington Classic. Of all these spectacular equines, Pam is especially proud of Lamborghini (aka Zoomie).

Pam bought Zoomie in 2001 from the breeder. A small, very spicy Danish Warmblood, he was always forward and loved to perform. Of the many horses trained, he achieved the most accolades. Zoomie has performed 171 Grand Prix tests and countless Freestyle exhibitions. He has traveled to Young Riders and Brentina Cup, and taken four riders to Grand Prix, three of whom earned their USDF gold medals.

Zoomie felt more inclined to bring others through the levels than retire and went on to take another rider to Intermediate 2 and earn others their USDF bronze medals.

Pam shared, "Thank you, Jocelyn Beiswenger, Zoomie's owner, and Kristin Coty, who leases him and competes with him now, for allowing me to take such a wonderful horse down the centerline for my Century Club ride."





## Team #909: Linda Hostetler and Sierra

From: Walhalla, South Carolina | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1



I think that the first sentence I ever spoke was to tell my parents that I wanted a horse. Finally, when I was 13 years old, I started riding lessons. I rode and showed hunters and jumpers as a teenager. I took a break from riding until I retired, at which time I asked my husband if he would mind if I started riding again. He thought it was a good idea.

Through a friend, I found a barn owned by Leslie Eppenstein, who had a horse that I could lease. That was the start of a love affair between a PMU rescue mare named Sierra and me. I started riding dressage, taking lessons from Rachel Owens, and competing in some shows. I have been riding and enjoying Sierra for the past 12 years.

This year, Sierra and I were able to complete our Century Club ride. What a thrill, and I was so proud of Sierra. We continue to enjoy our rides even if they are now a bit more leisurely.

## Team #910: Keith Evingham and Mayson

From: Aiken, South Carolina | Ages: 80 & 23 | Combined Ages: 103 | Test: Training Level Test 1



A Century Club ride had crossed my mind a few years ago. My wife, Jean Marie, had a nice gelding who turned 21 when I reached 79. I just didn't "get around to it." We lost him to colic in early 2025, and I decided that I am too old to procrastinate.

I called a longtime friend, Sally Rosen. Our paths

had crossed while eventing in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New York areas. Sally had retired her American Warmblood, Mayson, from competition but still rode him every day. Mayson was 23, and I turned 80 the day before my ride at Stable View in Aiken, South Carolina. Sally was as excited about the ride as I was. I had to step up my game.

Sally's coach, Jody Chessman, was a great help in four or five lessons. My confidence improved. I must admit, dressage wasn't my favorite part of eventing. It did, however, make me realize the high level of skill and athleticism of both horse and rider when it's done correctly.

To me, Mayson is the star. He was willing and easy for me to ride. I'm sure my "rider aids" weren't up to his standards, but we worked together pretty well.

Thanks to The Dressage Foundation, Sally, Jody, Jean Marie, and friends, and especially you, Mayson, for being such a great horse and a good sport. I hope you had half as much fun as I had. By the way, Mayson, we finished third out of five entries!

## Team #911: Barbra Watkins and Tycoon

From: San Jose, California | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Second Level Test 3

Barb got her first horse in 1969 when she moved to California from Ohio. Her horse was obtained through a wild horse sale. Later, Barb bought an Arabian mare and its half-brother. She began dressage with Tracey Lert in 1982 on her Arabians with the goal of flying changes. She later moved on to Dutch Warmbloods, who were more able in this endeavor, and she has ridden to Prix St. Georges on a big Dutch gelding named Kevin.

Tracey says Barb is her most consistent and diligent student. Barb's current dressage partner is Tycoon, a 20-year-old off-the-track Thoroughbred. She has had Tycoon for five years and has become a specialist at Second Level Test 3 because of those darn flying changes.

The Century Club recognizes persistence and longevity in sport when the rider and horse's ages meet or exceed 100, we will let you do the math!

Congrats, Barb, keep on keeping on!!! Looking good!



## Team #912: Bonnie Staszak and Sky

From: Fairview, Pennsylvania | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3

I have always loved horses! In 1995, when I was in my 40s, I started taking riding lessons when my son left for college. My first riding instructor was Jim Hull at Hobby Horse Farms in Fairview, Pennsylvania. Jim was VERY patient with this awkward, fearful rider and brought my training along slowly but surely.

In 1996, I bought my heart horse, Cody's Grande Rio. He was 18; he had a whoa and a go, and little did I know the wonderful adventures we would have. I took lessons with Lew Trumble and Nancy Kohler at Willow's Equestrian Center in Fairview and Nancy Lewis in Ohio.

In 2006, we qualified for the Regional Dressage Championships in Training Level Test 3 when Cody was 26. Although we did not win a ribbon, we placed 15th out of 35 talented horses.

Cody died in 2010 at age 31, and I bought Sky (French Vanilla Sky), then a green five-year-old. Together with the help and training of Michelle Sult of MKS Eventing and Sport Horses in Erie, Pennsylvania, we have continued our adventures—there have been many—and we have met many wonderful and dear friends along the way. Dreams do come true, and I am truly blessed.





## Team #913: Bonnie Binger and Coral Beach

From: Depew, New York | Ages: 78 & 22 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I was one of 11 children. All nine girls were born with a love for horses, but with 11 children, there was no money for a horse! My first riding experience was crossing a field and stealing rides on the neighbor's Shetland pony. We kept "Silver" under partial control with a bridle made of baling twine!

Then I found a way to be around horses—I bought my first horse when I got my first job. I rode and enjoyed life on and around him, learning all I could and getting better at staying on.

At age 63, I found Kait Webster with Equine Exposure, and my life changed! I started taking lessons for the first time in my life, and the more I learned, the better I wanted to be! Through many of life's ups and downs, it was Kait who led me to Coral Beach, affectionately known as Clementine!

I have owned Clementine for four years, and our journey is just starting. She is the most affectionate and kind (but not the bravest) horse I have ever owned. I don't know her history, but she treats me kindly and is patient with me. Maybe we have both come to a point in our lives at the same time to take a moment to stop and consider the feelings, strengths, and failings of the other partner.

Together we make a good team, and we will continue up the levels of dressage, trail riding, and whatever life brings at Equine Exposure!

## Team #914: Connie Palazzolo and Valdemar

From: Cincinnati, Ohio | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1



I started riding at five years old. Valdemar came into my life 15 years ago. He was an eventer, and I was just getting back to riding after a 40-year sabbatical. I had been in the market for a partner for fox hunting and dressage in the off-season. Though Valdemar had extensive dressage training, I was a beginner. Because he is such a willing and patient partner, I have been able to learn and enjoy the discipline with this amazing horse.

Training for our Century Club ride has been a milestone for us as a very seasoned partnership. I am hopeful we still have many more years together to continue to advance through the levels of dressage. He is the love of my life and has given me the most thrilling and rewarding moments I could ever have imagined to be possible after reaching 60 years of age.

## Team #915: Dale Lewis and Dually

*From: Duluth, Minnesota | Ages: 70.5 & 29.5 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Second Level Test 2*

Dually and I started working together in June 2001. His pre-purchase exam identified a very serious heart murmur. That meant his intended breeding for eventing could not be realized. I was 46 and was not about to try eventing. Since he affectionately displayed his desire to come home with us, we bought him. From California to Duluth, Minnesota, at five years old, he couldn't ride a circle, halting was not his strong suit, and I could not touch his ears. Braiding was impossible! He became fast friends with our Thoroughbred, 10 years his senior, but he tolerated me, so we got started.

We worked our way up to showing at Third Level, schooling at Fourth, which took all of 11 years. When his Thoroughbred buddy died, he started having narcoleptic panic attacks at horse shows without his buddy, and it became impossible to compete with him at 17. He retired from showing, but we kept working at home. Now at 29, he has slowed down, not quite the same collection, but his medium canter is still something special!

In the spring, we revisited Second Level and scheduled a one-horse show for August 5th on our Himmel Tanzen Farm. We asked Matthew Beasley to come home to judge our Century Club ride and invited friends and all the people who had helped care for Dually over the years. Over 30 people were there to celebrate his success! Dually, I am so proud of you! You are the Man!



## Team #916: Tina Bodnar and Chagall

*From: Chesapeake, Virginia | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test C*

I purchased my Connemara/Thoroughbred cross, Chagall, as an unstarted three-and-a-half-year-old with hopes of eventing him. He is just 15.2 hands but full of jump. Connemaras are athletic and love to jump. We started eventing at Beginner Novice and gradually moved up to Training Level, where we won a couple of events. In 2004, we qualified for the first Eventing National Championships, where we finished 14th out of 89 competitors on our dressage score. We then moved up to Preliminary Level. This was a challenge because he would get really strong on cross-country. We finished 3rd and then 1st after an amazing clinic with Lucinda Green. However, I decided he was just too strong on cross-country to continue at that level, so I retired him from eventing.

During this time, we also competed in jumpers and even won a high-jump competition at 4'6". Then we shifted to dressage, and while it took a while, we achieved our USDF bronze medal. Over the years, he has taught a number of students about jumping. He has an amazing canter, very adjustable, and he loves to jump.

Now, at 29, Chagall enjoys trail rides and light work, and he still teaches kids about riding. I adore his personality, even though he can be quite challenging. He is truly my athletic little heart horse, and I will love him until the end.





## Team #917: Marie Schofield and Oro

From: Lyle, Washington | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2



Marie began her equestrian adventure on a Wyoming ranch in the late 1980s. To the chagrin of the cowboys and their saddle horns, she and her partner in crime, Wendy Webb, began to teach the horses to jump across the ditches.

From that start, they went to every jumping show they could. Through many late nights of truck and trailer breakdowns and adventures, she found her way to the triathlon of equestrian sports, three-day eventing. In the early 2000s, she organized a team and won The Chronicle of the Horse West Coast Adult Team Championship.

Marie is the consummate eventer; precise, persistent, and passionate about the sport. Marie has been teaching both horse and rider for 20+ years. Her unyielding devotion to horses is omnipresent; however, it is her dedication to the advancement of riders and mounts of all abilities and levels that makes Marie the truly amazing person she is. Her humor and constant positive presence in both teaching and riding are a true gift to the equestrian community. Many, many thanks, Marie, and huge congratulations with love and admiration on this very special Century Club ride!

Marie's partner today is Corazon de Oro, aka Oro, owned and loved by Rachel Bredfeldt. Oro truly has a heart of gold. He is a Swedish Warmblood cross who just turned 27! He is coming out of retirement from Trout Lake, Washington, where he enjoys cantering in the snow with elk and bears!

## Team #918: Julie H Smith and Felix

From: Beaverton, Oregon | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I began riding saddle seat equitation at age 10 and have continued on and off for the past 60 years, with some long gaps. As a teen, I competed in Western pleasure with my Quarter Horse, Red, and even tried cutting. College and work put riding on hold, but in my 30s, I returned to the saddle with Ben, my Appaloosa, and began competing in Novice Level eventing. When Ben developed moon blindness, we transitioned to dressage.

In 2018, I was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. After five years, I returned to riding with Navador, a kind and talented Dutch Warmblood.

Finding a dressage horse for me to lease was always in my retirement plan. After kissing several frogs, Felix, an Arabian/Quarter Horse trained to Prix St. Georges, came along. The first time I rode him, I knew he was special. He's been helping me refine my dressage and loves the trails.

In 2024, I was diagnosed with MDS (a blood cancer), possibly caused by earlier treatments. Then, in April 2025, my breast cancer returned, this time in my colon. After surgery and medication, I now live with an ostomy bag.

Throughout it all, Felix has been my steady partner. He seems to know when I need to take it easy and always offers quiet support—a horsey hug when I need it most.

This Century Club ride is a celebration of resilience, healing, and the joyful companionship between horse and rider. And yes—riding with an ostomy is absolutely possible.

## Team #919: Sylvia Kantas and San Rosario

From: Beaverton, Oregon | Ages: 79 & 22 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: First Level Test 3

I always wanted a horse.

When I was five years old, I won a \$5 prize in a little contest and convinced my mom to open a real savings account for me at the bank—passbook and everything—“for when I buy my horse.” I was serious, far beyond the realm of piggy banks. At age 12, I bought my first horse and never looked back.

Rio is my 10th horse in a long line of dream fulfillment. When his prior owner asked what my plans were for him, I did the math (68 + 12) and said, “In 10 years, we can do our Century Club ride.”

We’ve had some bumps along the way. At one point, he developed a spinal cord impingement that required basket surgery. Some nerve damage from that left him with a pretty severe Sweeney shoulder. But he recovered! While he was rehabbing, I had knee replacement surgery. Then this pair of decrepit old duffers decided we weren’t through yet.

I want to thank the wonderful support group at Elizabeth and Mike Langvin’s Equidae Stables, and most especially my dear friend and trainer, Janet Aungier.

I’m looking forward to as much more riding time as I can get. When people ask if I’ve ridden all my life, I tell them, “Not yet.”



Photo credit: Anna Bigwood

## Team #920: Kathy Gilker and CA Destiny Gro+

From: Alpharetta, Georgia | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A

Kathy’s love of horses began in California when she got her first horse at nine years old. As a teenager and college student, Kathy bought Quarter Horses to train and show.

Kathy moved to Texas in 1979. She wanted to try something new and took saddle seat lessons at a Saddlebred farm. She then fell in love with Arabians when she purchased her farm from an Arabian breeder.

Kathy and her Arabian stallion, Elated MSF, showed in Country English Pleasure, Mounted Native Costume, and dressage classes. Now she was hooked on dressage!

Later, Kathy took a hiatus from showing to be the best horse show mom and coach of her twin daughters and the dedicated caretaker of her beloved horses.

Kathy purchased seven-year-old CA Destiny Gro+ in 2004. With a few professional dressage training rides, Des schooled FEI movements. Kathy and Des did their last dressage show together in 2008.

Aging is no easy feat, but Des and Kathy have aged with grace. Kathy committed to riding five days a week and physical therapy two times a week to prepare for her Century Club ride. Des is kind, forgiving, and



Photo credit: Custom Taylord Photography

well-trained, so even after time off, she still remembers everything. Des simply needed to get fit again, along with Kathy!

Kathy is so proud to have had Des for 21 years and that they overcame the challenges of aging to demonstrate that dressage is an incredible lifetime sport!



## Team #921: Linda Butz and BR Dannys Secret

From: Wayne, Pennsylvania | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Grand Prix



Secret and I joined the Century Club on August 29th at the ESDCTA Garden State Classic riding FEI Grand Prix. I purchased Secret 17 years ago from her breeder in Wisconsin. The original plan was to trail ride and hop over some small jumps, but Secret made it clear that she preferred dressage. She is dual registered Friesian Sport Horse Registry and Half-Arabian.

I always loved horses and at age 58 decided to take some lessons so I could do the long trail ride at a vacation resort (you had to be able to canter!). My first lessons were on Secret's half-brother, Teddy, and I fell in love. Four months later, I purchased Secret. Beginner's luck was with me in selecting this wonderful mare.

Secret began climbing the dressage levels with a professional trainer. In 2019, Sara Schmitt took over the reins and completed her training to Grand Prix. In 2020, Sara and Secret were part of Team Biostar at the Challenge of The Americas in Wellington, Florida. In 2021, Maggie O'Leary, Sara's assistant trainer, completed her USDF gold medal on Secret.

I was awarded the USDF bronze medal with Secret in 2019 and the silver medal in 2023. In 2024, we made the jump to Grand Prix. I enjoyed every minute of my dressage journey with this amazing 14.3-hand powerhouse. She makes us laugh every day, and I hope we have many more rides together.

## Team #922: Larry Livengood and Diesel

From: Midland, Pennsylvania | Ages: 79 & 24 | Combined Ages: 103 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 4



I have always ridden horses whenever the opportunity presented itself, but when my wife returned to riding in 1990, we acquired a small farm and three horses. I had several horses before I met a blue roan, Diesel, and now it's 14 years later. He quickly became my favorite as he proved himself to be almost bombproof on the trails. Soon, I decided to start doing local trail challenges with him, and his quiet confident way made it an enjoyable experience. He understands me, listens to me, and cares for me, even when I don't know that I need to be cared for.

My wife has done multiple disciplines, so when I heard about the Century Club, I suggested she should do it. She said it would be something I should do, and she would coach me. She had competed in Western dressage with Diesel, so he knew the basics. I was the only one who had no idea how to do it, but with his patience and her coaching, I prepared for my first dressage test.

On September 7th, Diesel and I rode our Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 4 at Jackie Smith's Stone Gate Farm in Hanoverton, Ohio, where we were judged during the dressage competition. It was quite a departure from all my previous experiences, but Diesel brought me through it with a 63%, taking care of me as usual.



## Team #923: Bill Roberts and Lou

From: Churchville, Maryland | Ages: 73 & 35 | Combined Ages: 108 | Test: Introductory Level Test A

I fell in love with horses at the age of 71. You may be wondering—how did a septuagenarian find his way to horses? My son Brian married a wonderful woman named Tiffany, who is a very skilled rider. While Brian quickly became a good rider and eventer himself, I was quite content to stay on the ground and take care of the horses.

However, in January 2025 at the age of 73, I received a birthday present from Brian and Tiffany for five riding lessons at Windswept Stables. I began riding with Monica Fiss, owner of Skip to My Lou. “Lou” was a 34-year-old, 14.2 hand Paint/Quarter Horse who defies age and is full of life. I didn’t need the five lessons to figure out whether I liked riding. After one lesson, I was hooked, and Lou became my best friend.

Three months into my riding endeavor, and to my surprise, Lou and I found ourselves entered our first eventing competition. That day was filled with highs, lows, and plenty of excitement. Now, I was not only hooked on riding, but I was also hooked on competing, and the idea of a Century Club ride was formed.

Six months after my first ride, Lou and I competed in our second event and completed our Century Club ride. It was an amazing day.

A big heartfelt thank you to my friend Lou, the incredible little horse, without whom this amazing adventure would not have been possible!



## Team #924: Bernard Hylton and Protect N Serve

From: Woolwine, Virginia | Ages: 85 & 15 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Second Level Test 1

I completed my Century Club ride at the Roanoke Valley Pony Club’s Fall Frolic on September 14th. I had just turned 85, and my off-the-track Thoroughbred, Protect N Serve (Seal), was 15.

It was a special show to me as I have been involved with the Pony Club for over 40 years. Many of my “kids” are now grown and have kids of their own, now getting into Pony Club. I also worked with the local 4-H for many summers.

My farm in Woolwine, Virginia, has hosted unrecognized horse trial events that gave many young people a chance to compete. There have been clinics, some with Lucinda Green, trail rides, and mock hunts on the farm. During these years, I have built cross country jumps on my farm, Green Hill Park in Salem, Virginia, and at the Virginia Horse Center. Fox hunting was also a big part of my life back then.

When I was 75, I decided to put away my jump saddle and become the local dressage “king.” Seal and I have made it up to Second Level and still have lots to learn. So just kick on, folks!





## Team #925: Antoinette Heberlein and Willoughby

From: Davis, California | Ages: 75 & 26 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1



Antoinette began riding as a child when her neighbor, Barbara Kendrick, introduced her to three-day eventing around age 10. After taking a break from riding to focus on her family, she returned to the saddle in her 40s. Today, Antoinette enjoys all aspects of riding, whether trail riding, tackling a cross-country course, jumping, or competing in dressage.

Antoinette owned Willoughby for 10 years before he unfortunately suffered a back injury. He was then sold to a friend who rehabilitated him and spent the next eight years using him as a lesson horse for young riders. After her friend passed away, Antoinette graciously welcomed Willoughby back home, where he now enjoys his senior years with light riding and plenty of care.

## Team #926: Kathleen Claybrook and Houston

From: Pelham, Alabama | Ages: 68 & 32 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



I received my first riding lesson for my seventh birthday. Whether I was riding, competing, volunteering, or soaking up barn time, horses were always at the heart of it. My favorite memory was serving as the mascot for the University of Central Florida Knights during their inaugural football season.

At 68, I'm proud to serve as the Executive Director of Special Equestrians, a therapeutic riding program that brings the joy and healing power of horses to individuals with special needs. I began with the program in 1987 as a volunteer, eventually becoming a certified instructor, and stepping into the role of director in 1993. More than three decades later, I still love getting into the ring and sharing my passion with our participants.

I've been fortunate to own some incredible horses, competing in hunt seat, eventing, Western, and dressage. Dressage has become a perfect way to stay active while keeping my horse, Houston, in top shape.

Houston came to me in 2016, a gift from a dear friend after I lost my beloved Thoroughbred. He's handsome, with a calm, gentle spirit that makes him both a wonderful riding partner and an ideal therapeutic mount.

My Century Club ride was a true highlight of my equestrian life, happening this year during Special Equestrians' 40th Anniversary Open House. It was an honor to ride in this milestone event with Pam Ibrahim, Special Equestrians' very first instructor, as my judge.

## Team #927: Diane Berry and Carlton

*From: Dryden, Michigan | Ages: 79 & 24 | Combined Ages: 103 | Test: Training Level Test 1*

I met Carlton about five years ago, when I started riding with Carol Ley. The first time I rode him, he scared me because of his size. Looking down was not a good idea, so I just concentrated on going forward. So instead, I rode Billy until he retired. Then I tried Lyric, but that didn't work out either. When I tried Carlton again, it seemed I had lost my fear. Carlton has big gaits to complement his size.

Carlton is the kindest horse I've ever ridden. The most endearing thing about him is that if you don't do it exactly how he knows it should be done, it falls apart quickly. That took some time to master.

Adding up our ages, Carol and I thought it would be fun to do a Century Club ride before Carlton retired. I started riding him twice a week for the last six months. Everything fell into place nicely. I'm going to miss riding him, but we have another horse I can ride.

I would like to thank a few people for their support in this endeavor. Carol Ley, the wizard of a riding instructor. If she can't get it out of you, no one can. My judge, Julie Kenzie. My scribe and partner in horses for many decades, Chris Snow. On to another project for Carol. Sinatra will be of age in 2026, so we're going to try again!



## Team #928: Joanne Karaszewski and CL Vested Interest

*From: Lillington, North Carolina | Ages: 83 & 23 | Combined Ages: 106 | Test: Introductory Level Test C*

Growing up, radio was entertainment. Enter the Lone Ranger, Gene Autry, and Hopalong Cassidy! My sister's Girl Scout troop started working on a horse-riding badge. I went along and got up the nerve to ask if I could work on Saturdays. I spent the next four years mucking stalls and tacking up lesson horses. I was in Heaven!

After high school, I went to work, took lessons, and saved enough money to start looking for my own horse. However, I got married, moved, and took a break. When I started riding again, I taught beginners and rode sales prospects. Another move and gap in riding through my son's school years. When he enlisted for the Navy, I decided now was the time for my own horse.

Enter "South Phillie Filly," an Appaloosa pony mare with one eye. She gave me a refresher class in horsemanship. She lost all her sight, and I donated her to a local therapy group. The kids loved her, especially since she was "handicapped" also!

Then came Ted E. Bear. A 14.2-hand Morgan gelding. We had a grand time, winning classes and championships. Eventually, old age caught up with him, and he is buried at the farm he grew up on.

With shades of Lone Ranger's Silver, I looked at an eight-year-old grey gelding, barely broke. I was sold after my first trial ride! Chuckles and I started lessons with Cassiday Oeltjen, and 15 years later, we are still learning.





## Team #929: Mary Chris Foxworthy and HD Harkness

From: *Metamora, Michigan* | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: *Introductory Level Test C*



Saturday, September 27th, was a glorious fall day in Michigan. “Hark” started the day at the Lake Orion Library. As a Breyer model horse and author, he makes appearances and gives educational programs at schools and libraries. (Yes, he’s an author! Check out his website [www.hoofbeatsthroughhistory.com](http://www.hoofbeatsthroughhistory.com))

After his library visit, he was off to the Rattlewood Farm Dressage Schooling Show for his Century Club ride. After a dressage career as a young horse, he has spent the last 20 years doing Carriage Pleasure Driving.

As I began to get him ready for his Century Club ride, I remembered how he liked to add “embellishments” to every test.... and he did not disappoint during his Century Club ride! When he tried to cut the corner to come down the final centerline, I applied my right leg, and in return, I received a lovely leg yield completely across the end. So many friends who have known Hark most of his life came to cheer him on and were pleased—but not surprised—to see him up to his usual antics.

The best surprise was when we finished the test; I saw Stayner Haller, a fellow Century Club member, there to support us.

Hopefully, we will do two Century Club rides in five years with two of our other horses. The Century Club gives us goals and keeps horses and riders feeling young and in shape!

## Team #930: Ruth Hooten and Bing

From: *Exeter, New Hampshire* | Ages: 80 & 24 | Combined Ages: 104 | Test: *Introductory Level Test B*



I have always loved horses! Growing up in Boston and later in New York City, I didn’t have the chance to ride. I had Scottish Deerhounds, which is why my husband and I bought a small farm in New Hampshire. Monty, Applejack, and other horses followed. I had a career and not much time to do more than trail ride and some dressage.

When I retired in 2002, I bought a Quarter Horse, Job, who was great on the trails and loved to show. We did a dressage show and got hooked—a blue ribbon will do that! My last horse, Cricket, was a retired Thoroughbred eventer. Old suspensory injuries put her into early retirement.

Luckily, I found Sea Star Stables only minutes from my house. Kara Riley King has schoolmasters for all abilities! Sea Star is also a “family.” Everyone turned out to cheer me on with flowers and wine from my Tuesday Ladies Group.

I always knew about the Century Club and hoped I could make it! Kara enthusiastically suggested it for me and Charlie, the wonderful Paint I ride. But Charlie is recovering from enteritis, so Bing, another barn favorite at 24, became my Century Club buddy!

Another passion I have is travel, especially seeing the world on horseback. Since 2003, I have been on 16 trips. Seeing the world from the back of a horse, riding many different breeds of horses, and experiencing different cultures is incredible!



## Team #931: Nancy McCallum and Moondance RH

*From: Breckenridge, Michigan | Ages: 73 & 30 | Combined Ages: 103 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

My love for horses began when I was five years old. After several years of begging, my siblings and I convinced our parents to buy us a horse. My dad's friend helped him find a sweet mare named Queen. She was wonderfully kind and a versatile teacher. With her, our continuing confidence and skills led us to jumping and combined training.

From interest in combined training, I learned to love dressage. I was a founding member of the Mid-Michigan Hunt & Hack club with my friend, Judi Whipple. After Judi opened her farm in Vermont, we decided to buy a young Hanoverian. Moondance RH entered the story 28 years ago. His training led him to recognized shows, Dressage4Kids, and eventually to becoming a solid school horse.

I fell in love with an exceptional Swedish Warmblood mare. Judi bought out my share of Moondance so I could have my own dance partner. I thought Valora would be my Century Club ride mount, but that was not to be. Valora passed away unexpectedly earlier this year.

Judi generously offered to bring Moondance out of retirement and I flew to Vermont to get reacquainted. My ride was at Judi's Breckenridge Farm and judged by Linda Saba. The day of the show was perfect. Moondance was a rock star! I am grateful for the encouragement of TDF, and the help of Judi and Moondance, for the opportunity to complete my Century Club ride.



Photo credit: Jade McMillan

## Team #932: Ann Smith and Stewie

*From: Exeter, New Hampshire | Ages: 78 & 23 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 3*

I've loved horses since childhood, but I didn't have the opportunity to even touch a horse until I turned 40. I attended an international three-day event at Ledyard in South Hampton, Massachusetts, and was mesmerized by the beauty of the horses and the challenges of the cross-country phase. I started taking lessons and learned to jump. Over the years, I owned several horses and competed in many novice horse trials and hunter paces.

In 2000, I moved to dressage when my then-horse could no longer jump, and I never looked back!

I joined the New England Dressage Association (NEDA) and started volunteering at dressage shows. For more than 25 years, I've enjoyed scribing at the United States Equestrian Team Headquarters, Dressage at Devon, NEDA Fall Festival, GMHA, and local shows.

In 2014, my friend, Nancy Donaruma, invited me to ride her horse, Gently, a Hanoverian gelding. I loved riding Gently for two years and learned a great deal from him about dressage.

I now live in Exeter, New Hampshire, and take lessons three times a week at Sea Star Stable with instructor-owner Kara Riley-King and instructor Sara Falk.

Kara suggested I do a Century Club ride on Stewie, a lesson horse, and it was a wonderful experience. I'm proud to be a member of the Century Club and plan to continue riding until I'm unable to get my leg over the saddle!





## Team #933: Diane LaPointe and Gusto

From: Harbor Springs, Michigan | Ages: 77.5 & 22.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



I have been fond of horses since I was a young girl. I was always sketching them and reading books about horses. Riding lessons were not a realistic option at that time.

It was not until I was in my 40s that I started riding, shortly after my daughter began taking lessons. I bought my first horse, Donner, shortly afterward, and together we competed in hunter shows. My current Quarter Horse, Gus, has been my partner in both hunter and jumper classes for 16 years. Most recently, we have begun training in dressage, a new challenge that we both enjoy.

I feel particularly fortunate that Gus and I are still working together, as several years ago he developed severe arthritis in his left knee following an injury. He had many treatments without success. I am therefore very grateful to Dr Russell Freeland at Hagyard Equine Institute for treating Gus with bone fusion surgery, which has allowed him to resume a healthy, active lifestyle.

I am also grateful to Katie Colfer Reece for her instruction, guidance, and patience. Her support has helped prepare me for this Century Club ride, and I look forward to many more years of riding.

## Team #934: Victoria Coelho and De Silva

From: Eagle, Idaho | Ages: 80 & 22 | Combined Ages: 102 | Test: First Level Test 2



Photo credit: Carrie Grant Photography

*About DaSilva:* Born on March 4, 2003, DaSilva is a seasoned dressage horse with an impressive career. Robin and Jim Cathey purchased him from Hof Kasselmann in Germany in 2012, bringing him to the U.S. as a special Christmas gift. DaSilva helped Robin achieve her USDF bronze medal and has spent

time training in California and Florida under Mette Rosencrantz. Known as a premier schoolmaster, DaSilva is beloved by his handlers and enjoys snuggles and cookies. Currently, Vicky Coelho rides DaSilva, and their partnership is captivating audiences.

*About Vicky:* On her 10th birthday, Vicky started riding school horses with instructor Jimmy Rainwater in Seattle. Over the following decade, she showed horses throughout the Northwest and Canada. Later, living in Blaine County, she taught riding with Katy Breckenridge at Sun Valley Stables.

From 1975 to 2001, teaching junior high, high school, and college classes and raising her children left no time for horses. However, after retiring in 2002, she bought two Thoroughbreds and started lessons with Chantal Hardy. Vicky's purchase of Pogo, an FEI Swedish Warmblood, introduced her to dressage. Instructor Kristen Aggers taught her fundamentals over the past 18 years. Other important instructors were Cathy Peterson and Adrienne Baisch.

Thanks to the generosity of horses and their owners, rides have been plentiful throughout Vicky's life.

## Team #935: Barbara Ebner and Red

From: Howell, New Jersey | Ages: 79 & 27 | Combined Ages: 106 | Test: Training Level Test 2

As the youngest of seven children, Barbara always loved horses and had posters all over her bedroom of Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Annie Oakley, and others. Her parents and eldest brother managed to purchase her first horse when she was 14. He was a 14.2-hand roan cow pony that frequently bucked her off as well as kicked out her front teeth! That was a good excuse to sell him, and her father bought her a purebred Arabian who was a 100-mile endurance horse!

She took hunt seat lessons when she could and loved jumping, so she thought she should try eventing. Who would think that dressage would end up being her passion! She rode in clinics whenever she got the chance. Bruce Davidson was instrumental when it came to jumping water and ditches, as she frequently ended up being thrown, but thankfully never hurt!

Many horses and lots of training later, influential trainers Anne Gribbons and Heather Mason helped get her through the FEI Levels with two different horses. Barbara has been an active USEF dressage judge for 44 years, and she is still training horses at her farm in Howell, New Jersey, which she has called home for the past 50 years.



## Team #936: Gloria Beduhn and Handyman

From: Sadler, Texas | Ages: 80 & 21 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1

This was my third Century Club ride. Handy has been with me for 14 years and, all that time, he has been my most dependable riding horse.

Looking at Handy placidly grazing in the field or dozing in his stall, you would never believe that he was once a wild stallion running free on the Nevada desert. Now I believe he would never give up his summer fan, his winter blanket, and his twice-a-day meals to be back out in that desert. However, he does have to put up with being ridden several times a week.

Handyman came to live with me in 2011, after he had been shown at the 2009 Extreme Mustang Makeover in Fort Worth. The young man who trained him and rode him at the Makeover told me he placed well in all the preliminary competitions, but that he (the human) froze upon entering the arena with several thousand spectators in the stands. They didn't place in the top 10, and Handy didn't get auctioned off at the event. Instead, Handy came home and sat in the pasture until his owner needed money.

It wasn't a hard decision to show Handy in a Century Club ride. It has been years since I've shown, and minor medical conditions had sapped my confidence. Having a horse like Handy kept me in the saddle and helped me get reasonably fit and confident again. Thanks, TDF for remembering us long-time riders and rewarding our efforts.





## Team #937: Rita Moore and Onyx

From: Scotia, New York | Ages: 79 & 21 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



I became interested in riding because my friend Kathy Sutherland volunteered at a rescue barn. I would go visit her and see what she was doing with the horses and decided to “give it a try.” That was several years ago, and I am still as enthusiastic to learn as I was in the beginning.

Onyx and I became a team just a few years ago. She was a companion horse to Bimini, owned by Joy Black. I started working with Onyx and quickly learned she was a mare’s mare. It took us a while to understand and trust each other, but all that time and patience (and carrots) were worth it to me. She has a special place in my heart.

The weather on the day of my ride was uncertain. A coastal Nor’easter storm was supposed to hit our area. Dark clouds, a wet ring with a few mud puddles, and a chill in the air didn’t prevent us from giving it our best. Onyx was steady and took it all in her stride.

I would like to thank Kate Connor and Joy Black for making my Century Club ride possible, and to Joan Fleser for volunteering to scribe for the test. I would also like to thank trainer Melissa Suits, who worked with me prior to the ride. Family and friends made the ride that much more special. Thank you to all of you (and Onyx) for this special day.

## Team #938: Darlene Dorkins and Muffin

From: Port Wentworth, Georgia | Ages: 73 & 29 | Combined Ages: 102 | Test: Training Level Test 2



The fractures in idealism are the first things Muffin taught me. It is a good thing that is best to behold but not practice. When I first saw Muffin, she was in the bimonthly publication on the counter of our feed store. My idea was to train a horse to be my school horse for students.

I wanted a size that was not intimidating but could carry most riders and would be easy on the feed bill. I believed it was best not to have prior training that would conflict with my ideals. Muffin fit the criteria.

It has been an interesting life we have had together. After 12 years she retired, as I wanted her for myself. I gave her a few months’ rest. In that time, she got laminitis. She recovered but developed Head-Shaking Syndrome. I attacked that with everything available for a cure. It has been a huge influence on how I train because you must read your horse finer than a frog’s hair.

As I became more involved with the local dressage club, I wanted to show Muffin at Training Level despite her head shaking. She won against the odds in some competitive classes. Muffin is the poster child for the longevity obtained from good dressage training.

TDF has given me an avenue of experience that has brightened my world, feeling that I can promote all the good things that come from a horse, my heart horse, Muffin.

## Team #939: Marla Gidlow and Venturo

*From: Old Chatham, New York | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

Marla started her equestrian career in New York City, paying \$18.00 an hour to Paul Novagrad at the Claremont Stables, feeling it was more economical than an hour of tennis for \$50.00! What a laugh that is now.

Falling totally in love with the sport, Marla bought her first car so she could buy a house outside of the city and acquire her own horse. She was hooked!

Following 20 years of hunting with The Old Chatham Hunt Club in Columbia County, she transitioned in her 50s to baby eventing. It was through eventing that she fell in love with dressage.

With the acquisition of Venturo, a five-year-old gelding from Olympic Ferro, she transitioned to full dressage training.

While Vennie's career has now waned, Marla and her new partner, 13-year-old Amazing Grace, are now competing at Fourth Level.



## Team #940: Susan Mann and Kayley

*From: Upperco, Maryland | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A*

I am a novice whose riding has been integrally entwined with two experts: Laura Beetle, my trainer, and Kayley, her beautiful mare. I began riding when my husband gave me a set of riding lessons for my 60th birthday and found myself addicted to learning a completely different skill set from that required by my professional ballet performing. Because of my late start, I will never show or give Kayley the gentle, nuanced ride that the mare deserves, but Kayley doesn't seem to care. She responds eagerly to my suggestions, even when I don't know I am making them. I trust her to keep me safe.

More importantly, I now have the thrill of walking out to a field and seeing a horse prick her ears and come to greet me; the feel of her gently leaning into my shoulder as I pick out her front hooves; the delight of having her nuzzle me and let me know where her special places are to scratch and groom. We have developed a fond relationship.

My husband leaves food out for "our" wild fox, we have many birds who come to our feeders and sing to us, deer who are unafraid and look into our windows, and three corgis who brighten our household with excited barking. And now—the biggest and most surprising of all—I have a friend who is a horse. I hope she, and more importantly, Laura, are proud of me in this Century Club ride.





## Team #941: Shelly Abrams and Claremont

From: Reisterstown, Maryland | Ages: 76 & 26 | Combined Ages: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



I am amazed that I have been able to continue riding and being part of this wonderful equestrian world for so long. I started riding at age 45 when I took my then 12-year-old niece for her riding lessons. After a couple of months of being an observer, I casually mentioned to her instructor, “That looks like fun.” Before I knew it, I was sitting on a Quarter Horse and promptly falling off. Not to be deterred, here I am 31 years later, still doing my best to remain on the horse and in the ring.

After several years, I met Laura Beetle, who introduced me to dressage. In fact, that very first year, she invited me to come to Dressage at Devon with her and a friend. There, on a memorable Saturday night, I watched George Williams ride down the center line on Rocher. I immediately said to Laura, “I want to do that!” Although that dream never came to fruition, I was and still am hooked on the beauty, splendor, and athleticism of dressage.

Laura convinced me that joining the Century Club would be momentous, and it was. I now ride the sweet, safe, and sane Claire, owned by Jane Muller. She is the perfect horse for me, and I am forever grateful to Laura and Jane, as well as to all the wonderful horses and friends I have met over the years. Life would not be so much fun without them.

## Team #942: Lynn Whiteley and Bound Tree High Hopes

From: Maple Plain, Minnesota | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



I grew up on a farm where my family raised Morgans. I spent my youth showing pleasure, saddle seat equitation, driving, and competing in competitive trail rides. My first dressage test was when I was 16. I thought I knew everything about dressage; my score proved that I did not!

I met my husband, Glenn, who also owned Morgans. When our children, Josh and Sarah, joined Pony Club, we switched focus to fox hunting and eventing.

I have my USDF bronze and silver medals, earned on two different horses. Tsunami, an Irish Sport Horse gelding, earned me my First and Second Level scores. Keegan, a Morgan/Rhineland gelding, helped me get my scores at Third, Fourth, and Prix St. Georges.

Bound Tree High Hopes is the last foal we bred. “Hyper” was supposed to be my husband’s event horse, but ended up only maturing to 14.3, so we “sold” him for a dollar to our daughter. He has been mostly retired for the last 15 years and graciously agreed to one last dressage test for my Century Club ride. I feel fortunate that I could do a Century Club ride, and to be able to do it on a horse that we raised is truly special.

I am incredibly grateful for all the help I have received over the years from Sue Vikstrom and Alison Sader-Larson. Thank you to Kathy Theissen for helping get Hyper back into the “groove” for this ride!



## Team #943: Suzanne Beaudoin and Ava

*From: Vashon, Washington | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Third Level Test 1*

This ride was dedicated to Ava, my equine partner of 15 years, and to my husband, Rayne, who has encouraged my horse addiction for the past 39 years.

I started riding 67 years ago, dabbling in all of the equine disciplines. I always felt that dressage was my thing, but it wasn't until age 40 that I was able to buy my first dressage horse. This was the first horse that I owned that cost more than my tack, and who actually preferred flatwork to jumping.

My husband and I went on a horse shopping trip around the U.S. in 2010, ending up in Kentucky, where I rode a newly imported Westphalian mare. I rode her and knew right away; she was the one for me.

Avalanche (aka Ava) is a spicy, opinionated girl who would like to be in charge of all our rides. From her, I've learned the art of compromise. I trained and showed her up to Intermediate I, and had hoped to continue to Grand Prix, but we were sidelined three times by suspensory injuries. I spent about a year total rehabbing and hand walking through those. We became very close.

Ava's last dressage show was 11 years ago. I continued to train her, playing last year with Working Equitation, which she thought was very fun.

We started back up again a few months ago, training for our Century Club ride. It rekindled our excitement for showing again. We had a wonderful time!



## Team #944: GladysAnn Wells and Final Deal MJE

*From: Monroe, North Carolina | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

In the late 1980s, Birch Hill Farm and Mark Weissbecker brought Tigre Pass into my life. Tigre brought me from schooling shows through my qualified rider award in Eastern New York at Training, First, and Second Level championship placings in the early 1990s. In the mid-1990s, a marvelous career opportunity moved us from the Northeast to the Southwest, and our dressage competition paused.

Some years later, I began combined driving with Eileen Davis in Arizona. Marriage brought me to North Carolina in 2011.

In 2013, decades-long friend Charlotte Trentelman entrusted me with her amazing combined driving pony, Final Deal MJE (Merry). Merry has taken me to national American Driving Society medals, many ribbons, and we now compete at the Intermediate Level in driven dressage. Merry, like Tigre, is a partner of a lifetime.

I missed riding, and with the help and support from the Paris family of Joli Cheval Equestrian Center in Mint Hill, North Carolina, Merry and I explored basic ridden dressage. The path was not always smooth. Merry had not been ridden in anyone's memory, but our Joli Cheval family never gave up on either Merry or me.

We completed our Century Club ride on September 25th. Sue Smithson, with her knowledge, cheerfulness, sense of humor, and insight, made the fix-a-test day very special for several of us. Joli Cheval hosted a delightful champagne reception complete with flowers, food, and friends after our rides.



Photo credit: Bernard Vision Studio



## Team #945: Valerie Clairmont and Presley

From: Loudon, New Hampshire | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I'm just another lifelong horsey girl. As a little girl, I dreamed of having my own horse. I played with models, watched the horses in the fields driving by until they disappeared from view, and wondered what magical creatures were attached to the tails hanging out of the back of the horse trailer ahead of me. I got my own horse when I was 15 and had my first professional instruction when I was 19. I have ridden recreationally and in competitions and have gained the best friends of my life in the horse community. The horses I have ridden were young, middle-aged, old, green, school masters, dragons, and unicorns. But they have all taught me something and touched my soul.

Presley is one of those unicorns. He spent the first three years of his life on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota. He came to New Hampshire to become another "horsey girl's" heart horse. She and he grew together and competed in eventing and dressage through Second Level. In his teens, Presley began teaching others to ride, becoming a lesson horse because he is kind and talented. He and I became partners after both my hips required replacement last year. I needed a safe, comfortable horse to return to riding with, and that is Presley.

My Century Club ride is to celebrate all those in the horse community, both two and four-legged, who have enriched my life.

## Team #946: Lynn Gillespie Chater and Toby

From: Columbia, Tennessee | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: USEA Starter Test



Lynn Gillespie Chater was born in New Jersey, and after earning a bachelor's and a master's degree, she lived and taught in France. Lynn pursued her dream of being a songwriter. She was Executive Director for the Nashville Entertainment Association for five years before breaking out as a songwriter. One of the publishing companies wanted to give Lynn a bonus and asked her what she wanted. She said...a horse.

Chater's love of horses started when she was five. Her father would take the family to a barn where one could rent horses. Growing up three miles from New York City, farms were just a dream.

Chater's dream came true seven years ago when Hidden Springs Stables was purchased.

Chater was introduced to dressage through three-day eventing and immediately fell in love. Trainer Lisa Schapira-Starks introduced her to the Century Club.

"We talked about it right before I had my second 'never ride again' accident. That was last September, and with her help and a lot of rehab, I was back on the horse by the end of March. I had to retire my horse and borrow a horse for my ride. Enter Toby, a 24-year-old Quarter Horse. We spent six weeks together, and I did my Century Club ride at Jenni Hogan's Double H Farm.

"What a thrill that was! I had a personal best for that test! I would like to thank TDF for sponsoring the Century Club and keeping us 'girls of a certain age' doing what we love."

## Team #947: Judith Nevseta and Aztek Gold

*From: Wyoming, Michigan | Ages: 79 & 24 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 4*

Judith Nevseta, a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, discovered her love for horses early in life. Like many, she set aside her passion to focus on raising a family but always dreamed of the day she'd be back in the saddle. In her mid-60s, she returned to riding and was soon paired with Zeke, a buckskin Quarter Horse in his teens in search of his next partner. The connection was instant, and Judy never looked back.

Their journey wasn't without setbacks. When Zeke was relocated for a time, Judy spent nearly a year without a true partner to ride. During that period, she sustained an injury while riding another horse—an incident that might have ended the riding careers of many. But Judy and Zeke were meant to reunite. Through determination and hard work, both regained their strength and confidence.

This Century Club ride stands as a testament to Judy's resilience, unwavering dedication, and deep bond with Zeke.



## Team #948: Annette Bickel and Carlingford's West

*From: Oxford, Pennsylvania | Ages: 73 & 28 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

Davey, also known as 'Carlingford's West,' is a registered Irish Sport Horse who was foaled in Ireland on April 7, 1997. His current owner, Hillary Moses, first rode him as a working student for Paddy Hughes in 2002. She decided he was a 'keeper,' and imported him to the States. Davey was a talented, athletic mount with a winning, easy-going manner, and the pair progressed smoothly up through FEI eventing levels to Intermediate (3'9").

In 2013, Hillary started to train Annette Bickel on Davey, and the two of them have been riding and competing at the lower levels of eventing since. Annette began to ride in a public troop at Watchung Stables in New Jersey in the early 1960s. After a long pause to pursue her education, career, and public service in Africa, Annette returned to riding in 1999. She purchased her first horse on her 50th birthday.

A decade later, she was looking for another horse to continue her training, hacking, and to compete on. One ride on Davey under Hillary's expert guidance was all it took to keep coming back for more. Davey and Annette live in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and have shown locally at Fair Hill, Plantation Fields, Blue Goose, and Chesapeake City, Maryland.





## Team #949: Carol Morris and Just Magoo

From: Dryden, New York | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



My husband was facing a shoulder replacement in November 2014 when I saw an ad for a homely pinto gelding on Craigslist. His name was Legolas, and he was listed as “SAFE.”

The first dilemma was whether to take a car or the trailer. I opted for the trailer, and hubby insisted I bring him home. In 2014, another Legolas was an international dressage star, and my friends thought that name was a bit presumptuous. Someone said he looks like a Magoo, and the name just stuck. He couldn't walk a straight line or trot a 20-meter circle. He was meant to be a backyard trail horse.

When I lost my “real” dressage horse, Magoo went into semi-serious training and had good scores at Training Level Test 3. I couldn't come up with a show name, because he was “Just” Magoo. Other dressage horses came and went. Magoo spent some time at Cornell as a lesson and IHSA mount, where he showed off his jumping ability. He came home when COVID hit, and since then, his job has been making me smile.

When the vet said he is 25, and with my 75th birthday looming, I decided to go for my Century Club ride sooner rather than later. We never know what the future holds. As for him being “safe,” he's the only horse I've ever had who put me in the ER twice!

## Team #950: Christine Hanson and Badger

From: Sacramento, California | Ages: 78 & 28 | Combined Age: 106 | Test: Cowboy Dressage Drill Team Freestyle



Photo credit: Maria Marriott Photography

Although I was born and raised in California, I suffered from wanderlust and left after college graduation. I have lived in France, Norway, Cleveland, Phoenix, Alaska, and Washington, D.C. I car camped out of an MGB for six months while traveling around Europe (learning to travel light!).

I always knew I wanted to ride horses. I bought my first saddle in 1969, but riding was a dream deferred until I retired in 2013. I now take riding lessons twice a week. I have a chestnut mare (‘nuff said!) that can't be ridden, but with whom I do liberty work. Badger and I compete in Cowboy Dressage, and I am beginning in-hand/trail obstacles.

I am now back in the family home in Sacramento, California. My retirement has turned out much differently than I expected—I began a second career as a cowgirl!

## Team #951: Sandy Benson and Floyd

*From: Santa Fe, New Mexico | Ages: 73 & 30 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 4*

Sandy started with horses as a child, riding hunter/jumpers in Minnesota. Her involvement with riding continued through college, but as an adult, her life sent her in other directions, such as working in the U.S. Senate, teaching English in Tibet/India, and performing as a modern dancer in NYC.

It wasn't until years later, when she landed in New Mexico, that she had the good fortune to rekindle her equine connection. Fast forward to when she purchased her first horse, Floyd, (Lynxs Colonel), a 12-year-old Quarter Horse gelding, a top reining horse from Colorado.

The next years were dedicated to training and competing in various Western traditions. At the same time, she was teaching riding fundamentals at a local ranch in Santa Fe. By 2018, Sandy and Floyd had switched to competing in Western dressage. At that time, she also began her career as a Masterson Method equine bodyworker. She credits the bodywork along with an exercise program that corresponds to the shifting needs of a senior horse.

She's very proud of this test with Floyd. As soon as the video camera went on, it seemed like Floyd shifted into the performance gear, and the two of them enjoyed one of the sweetest, most connected rides ever. They are happy to be able to join the esteemed Century Club offered by The Dressage Foundation.



## Team #952: Deborah McKenzie and Skye

*From: Richmond, Texas | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test C*

From an early age, I knew I had to have horses in my life. At 14, I got my first horse and was hooked forever! Growing up in Canada, I rode in every season. Braving snow, sleet, and freezing temperatures didn't matter as long as I was in the saddle with my trusty horse, Rusty.

Eventually, "life" took over—school, job, marriage, children—with no time for horses until my daughter began riding and showing hunters. I was in my 40s by then and thrilled to be hanging around barns and back in the saddle! Caroline moved on to other sports, so our Thoroughbred, Dancer, was all mine!

As Dancer aged out, I added: Shorty, a Quarter Horse; Fitzroy, a Paint; and Star, a rescue Paint. I did not show but enjoyed jumping lessons, clinics, fox hunting, and trail riding—but not dressage!

I lost my last two horses about four years ago due to medical issues. Now, in my 70s, I accepted there would be no more horses in my life until my friend Sue Rankin asked me to ride Skye, the pasture mate of her young Andalusian.

We have been a wonderful team for almost three years, mostly trail riding and dabbling in dressage. Completing a Century Club ride has been an exciting and enriching event for Skye and me, keeping us both "Forever Young!"





## Team #953: Joan Harper and Abbie

From: Vass, North Carolina | Ages: 83 & 22 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: Introductory Level Test C



My riding interest started before I started school, when a friend decided to keep his horse at our farm. It was only trail riding until I was in high school, when a friend introduced me to 4-H. My father rigged one of his work trucks with sideboards and a ramp for me to take my horse to shows. It was a sight going down the highway with the horse's head above the cab.

After nursing school, I started doing hunter shows until my daughter was born. At two, she got a pony. When she was 10, she started Pony Club. I was introduced to dressage and eventing. I liked that it was judged on horse and rider performance. Also, that you did not have to wait to compete, and if you missed your ride time, "Sorry."

I competed at USEA events and was a working student with Denny Emerson at his Tamarack Hill Farm in Southern Pines. Due to my age and the horses' ability, I competed at Novice Level.

As a member of ESDCTA, I did the USDF Adult Team Championships for several years. Along with competing, I helped get eventing started at the Horse Park of New Jersey and started decorating at cross-country competitions. I moved to Southern Pines eleven years ago and now decorate cross-country jumps at Carolina Horse Park.

Now it is just pleasure riding, where my farm backs up to the Walthour Moss Foundation, which has over 4,000 acres for trail riding.

## Team #954: Christine Webster and Honey

From: Blissfield, Michigan | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test C



My heart swelled as Honey took me down this memorable center line. It was an honor to share this Century Club ride with the most honest, kind, and sweetest horse I have ever had the pleasure to ride.

The memories:

This beautiful Morgan mare and I met when she was three.

JDS Secret Agent received her barn name when my daughter, Emily, wanted to name her after a James Bond girl agent. In his first movie, the agent's name was "Honey Rider!" So Honey it was. She certainly has lived up to her name because she is the sweetest.

I cannot thank this mare enough for all she has given me. From carrying Emily safely and victoriously to many blue ribbons, to our 5th place in the Master's class (ages 50 years and up) at the Morgan Horse Grand National and World Championship Show, and the care she gave to every student she safely taught to ride. They all loved her and showered her with kisses and hugs and thousands of peppermints.

I cherish the sweet greetings she gives me each day as I care for her in her retirement. We're just two old ladies enjoying our quiet days with easy rides.

Thank you, Honey, for all your care and love over the past 20 years. It will be my pleasure to return that care and love to you for the rest of your life, with many kisses and hugs, and of course, give you many of your favorite peppermints.



## Team #955: Karin C. Loftin, Ph.D., and Armani

From: Bryan, Texas | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

As a life-time horse enthusiast, I have been associated with area horse communities for many years and currently belong to USDF and the Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship (BACH). I have been volunteering and a club member since 2007.

Since my retirement in 2013, I have spent more time riding and supporting equestrian sports for future generations. I am currently riding Luckys Special Dee, barn name Armani, who was my equine partner for the Century Club ride. My trainer is Donna Meyer, who owns and operates “On the Bit Farm,” a boarding and training facility for English and Western dressage. Donna is a USDF Certified Instructor, Grand Prix rider, USDF bronze and silver medalist, and an “r” USEF judge and a “R” WDAA/USEF judge. She has instructed me in dressage for more than five years.

Armani is Donna’s school horse for dressage. He is a 23-year-old Buckskin gelding that competed in various disciplines over the years. He has a wonderfully smooth sitting trot, an easy canter, and it was a real privilege to show him in a lower-level virtual dressage show!

At age 77, I still wake up every morning looking forward to riding. I also ride trail horses of different breeds that belong to a close local friend and others through my membership in the North American Trail Ride Conference. I compete in the leisure division and hope I can continue both disciplines for many more years!



## Team #956: Lana Josephson and Trix

From: Boynton Beach, Florida | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2

I was born in Mississippi in 1949. My sister and I grew up as lovers of Trigger, Buttermilk, Fury, Flicka, Champion, and Scout.

A very special thank you to my husband, Sanford, for being a very supportive horse dad, and my sister, Sally Eddy, for introducing me to dressage.

Continuing my career as a band director, I moved to Florida in the 1990s, and being lucky enough to live near Wellington, I soon began entering dressage competitions. In 2005, I acquired an American Trakehner mare, Forbidden (aka Trix). Under the guidance of trainer Linda Todenhagen, I continued showing for a few years before “retiring” from the ring. When I learned about the Century Club, I decided Trix and I would ride in one last show.

It is an honor that, in addition to my ride on Trix, she was ridden the next day by Linda, also completing her Century Club ride! Two rides for Trix on the same weekend!

Trix has also been a training horse for several students, and she has many loving “aunts” in South Florida.

Unfortunately, Trix lost her left eye last year, but she has adapted to mono-vision very nicely. She does not let this handicap slow her down in any way.

Having reached our goal of the Century Club, Trix and I now plan to ride for the enjoyment of playing and working together on our dressage skills, which allows us both to stay healthy, active, and happy as we “ride into the sunset.”





## Team #957: Maureen Cartledge and Jewel

From: Bulverde, Texas | Ages: 79 & 22 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



After riding and taking lessons in my 20s, I could not ride for five decades. I really missed being around such beautiful animals. For a number of years, Shelly O'Brien with Multisport IconOne has been coaching me in functional movement to improve fitness. About three years ago, Shelly told me about the Century Club, and together we found Stephanie McGlothlin of Unbridled Spirit, a terrific riding instructor and horse trainer. It's been a wonderful time.

After many lessons with Stephanie, I graduated to riding Jewel, a real jewel of a Tennessee Walker. Jewel, a beautiful palomino, was my first experience riding a gaited horse. Together, that sweet girl and I became a team and prepared for our Century Club ride. Qualifying for the Century Club was a goal I have aspired to for the past three years. It was a thrill to team up with Jewel to achieve this.

## Team #958: Linda Buhl and Regina

From: Rembert, South Carolina | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2



I was not born into a "horsey family," but fell in love with them at age three because of a pony ride. As a horse-crazed child, my happiest hours were spent at the barn. I was generally underfoot but always learning and enjoying all things equine.

Fortunate enough to start riding lessons at age 10, I rode what was available on mounts of dubious distinction but with hearts of gold. My first lesson horse was a one-eyed geriatric Saddlebred named Genius. He always tried his best for any rider who pointed him in the general direction of a jump.

Horses were relegated to the back burner while I was in college and starting a career in social services. After marriage, I resumed riding at a hunter barn where I became enamored of fox hunting. I rode with The Camden Hunt and Middleton Place Hounds on my first horse, Loyal Maiden.

Later in life, I was introduced to dressage and found my true calling. I earned my USDF bronze medal and all breeds award at First Level on Irish Draught, Kilpeck Toy Story. Due to health issues, he was put down while working towards our silver. Afterwards, I was fortunate enough to lease Regina from the Robinsons. Now I share Regina with her owner for light hacking.

Regina is a Dutch Warmblood mare. Imported from Holland by Valerie Swygert in 2010, she joined the Robinson family in 2012. Regina is a true red-headed mare, opinionated, but a great privilege to ride.

## Team #959: Jeanne Strubic and Isabella

From: Wautoma, Wisconsin | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

As far back as I can remember, I have been in love with horses. My bedroom was full of horse photos, and my favorite pastime was doing paint-by-number horse pictures. My parents couldn't buy me a horse, but in 7th grade, they provided me with riding lessons. I rode at Joy Farm outside of the city of Milwaukee until I married and had my two boys. I didn't get back to riding for many years. When I was in my 40s, I discovered dressage and bought my first horse, a Morgan cross named Rocky. He taught me everything about horse care and the responsibility of owning a horse.

In 2001, I found my Warmblood, Isabella. She was seven months old and had been born with a contracted tendon. Her owner had a PVC pipe wrapped around Isabella's leg. My husband looked at me, and we knew we had to buy her. Within two weeks, she was in surgery.

Isabella was a feisty mare, but I stuck with it. I found my dear friend, Lynne Schramer Miller, who is a two-time Century Club member, as a trainer and she took us back to the basics. When Lynne stepped back from training, I began working with her granddaughter, Vanessa Elendt.

I am thrilled that I was able to accomplish my Century Club ride on Isabella. I want to thank my trainers and friends for their support. It was a fabulous day and one I will never forget.



## Team #960: Tim Pelura and Nelson

From: Malvern, Pennsylvania | Ages: 71 & 30 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test C

My wife imported Nelson in 2004 from the Netherlands and competed with him up to Intermediate Levels successfully until 2020, when his age got in the way. She returned to the Netherlands and purchased a new horse. What to do with Nelson?

During those 16-plus years of her competition with Nelson, I was his groom. I didn't ask anything of him, and he only expected an unlimited supply of apples and carrots from me. So, when we brought a new horse into the family, it only made sense for me to take Nelson. He was the best gift I ever received...we were best friends. He and I typically ride five times per week, and as our ages approached Century Club ride qualifications, we thought "hell yes!"

As with any aging horse or rider, we've had our difficulties. Me? Back surgery in 2024, which kept me off him for a month. Nelson? High ringbone and a ligament injury in early 2025 cut into our Century Club ride preparation, but we persisted with the help of coaching by my wife and great sports medical care by Dr. Peter Blauner.

Why did I want to do a Century Club ride? It was for Nelson, a great competitor who only aims to work, a great mind/body combination, and my best friend. He deserved to have this opportunity. Special thanks to TDF, my wife Donna, Blue Goose Stables (Darcy Miller), and Cindy Canace (show judge) for this wonderful experience for Nelson and me.





## Team #961: Adelle Nichols-Chemers and Henry J

From: San Clemente, California | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Photo credit: Annie MacAller Photography

At six years old, I wanted to be a cowgirl after watching The Roy Rogers Show with their two horses, Buttermilk and Trigger. I rode my rocking horse with them until the springs gave out. Pony rides and a vacation to a dude ranch followed, but living in the suburbs limited riding. That didn't stop me from calling phone numbers in the newspaper to make appointments to look at sale horses. My parents were beside themselves. After college, a corporate career with extensive travel left little time for personal life.

In my late 40s, I started my first riding lessons. I wanted to do everything at once! After two years, I went fox hunting with the hunt club. I was grateful to ride their awesome schoolmaster. At age 50, I bought my first horse. Two more horses followed. Dressage became my passion. However, none were ever the match for me that Henry J has been. He was 14, I was 62, and I had found my heart horse! We showed lower-level dressage and schooled Second Level. He always gave me his best. I learned later that nationally, he had placed 6th in the Adequan/USDF 2012 All-Breed Open, First Level. With a big heart and solid mind, he has always taken care of me.

The Century Club ride was especially meaningful as Henry J had recently recovered from being hospitalized with peritonitis. With a tenacious but slow comeback, he did it for me once again!

## Team #962: Rose Ambrose and Steinway

From: Coralville, Iowa | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



Steinway (Hubert) and I have been together for 26 wonderful years. He came into my life as a strapping four-year-old Dutch Warmblood. We have learned together and have had a very special partnership. We had a fantastic show career competing at all levels from Training to Intermediate. Highlights include USDF Performance Awards, FEI Master's Challenge Award, USDF bronze and silver medals, earning two gold medal scores, and now the Century Club. He had a special presence in the dressage ring and enjoyed the attention and admiration. As the great Walter Zettl said of Hubert, "It was all about him." We worked with great trainers, rode in clinics with world-class trainers, and did lots of self-training.

Hubert was born on Wind's Reach Farm in Iowa City, Iowa, where he has spent most of his life. He was never stalled and we always kept active riding in the arena, hacking out, and enjoying long lining. It was all so much fun with him. I grew up on an Iowa farm and started riding as a young child. I have spent decades eventing, foxhunting, combined driving, and riding dressage.

It was a hopeful dream and goal to join the Century Club. It was especially meaningful to do it at the stable where Hubert was born, with many friends there to support us. In many ways, it was the most special and fulfilling award we have ever earned as a team.

## Team #963: Teree Castanias and Rosie

From: Ivins, Utah | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1

My wonderful mare, Coco Chanel, was Rosie's dam. Rosie was born about three weeks early on April 28, 1998. Fortunately, we were there, as Coco thought eating was better than giving birth! I ended up taking Rosie in my arms. Coco continued eating until Rosie made the slightest sound, and then her mom instincts came to her. She started licking Rosie all over. From then on, they were bonded, and it was beautiful to watch.

Rosie became a very friendly, sweet, and well-mannered horse (mostly). She ended up being about 15.2 hands, which is a great size for me. I had several good trainers work with her in the first few years, while I did most of the riding. We had the same issues everyone has with young horses, but we worked patiently through them. I learned a lot during that time, too! I enjoyed the training process more than showing. We progressed up to about Fourth Level, but always had trouble with the flying changes!

Over the years, Rosie has helped a number of my friends regain their confidence in horses or learn how to train a horse. Rosie has always loved young people, and several young people have done well with her.

It has been a joy to have Rosie in our lives. I am so happy that she is sound and healthy. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to do this Century Club ride with Renee Johnson as the judge.



## Team #964: Barbara Laiken and Pipe Creek Pebbles

From: Upperco, Maryland | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

Barbara had never shown in dressage before doing this test. Even though she is new to dressage, Barbara has always loved horses. She even wanted to be one when she was little!

She spent her early years as a barn rat and didn't own her first horse until she was 40 years old. Her daughter wanted to start riding lessons, so she decided to as well. Then Barbara met her friend Pam, who introduced her to Pony Club, and the rest is history. Pam opened a whole new world for Barbara. Barbara and Pam served as District Commissioner and Co-District Commissioner for 10 years.

Pebbles was purchased by Pam for her youngest daughter in 2010 from the McNemar family. Pebbles is a New Forest/Arabian cross (Wicked Courtjester x Lightning).





## Team #965: Carol May and Tucker

From: Westerville, Ohio | Ages: 82 & 20 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



I started riding when I was in my early 20s, mostly bareback. I did some jumpers for a short period, but then I found dressage. I knew that was for me. Amy Rothe was my first teacher and, even today, my good friend.

I had a chance to get on Tucker after not riding for over 15 years. The owner, Katie Lindsey, helped me get restarted, and I fell in love again. Tucker is the most awesome horse, and I regained my confidence. With many barn friends knowing my age and Tucker's age, they convinced me to go for my Century Club ride.

I am blessed to have been able to do this. Thanks to so many for making this possible!

## Team #966: Cindy Gazley and Half Moon

From: Burton, Ohio | Ages: 75 & 26 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



As I write, Half Moon is grazing in our pasture, at home, where he was foaled on a sunny May morning. We have been together his entire life.

At four years old, I rode a pony at an amusement park. It cantered fast and I was scared to death, but I immediately begged my parents to do it again. This started my lifelong love of horses. I was lucky to live in the Chagrin Valley, where riding was part of our culture. I wanted to buy a horse, but my parents' answer was always "no." At 25, I achieved my dream when I bought an off-the-track with 97 racing starts. He was "lightning in a jar." We taught each other a lot and had wonderful times. When I married, my husband wasn't a rider. Soon, we started taking dressage lessons with our now long-time trainer and friend, Dale Lappert (retired "R" judge). She also coached me for my Century Club ride.

Although registered with The Jockey Club, Half Moon never raced. He always lived on our farm. We care for our horses ourselves. I personally trained him under Dale's watchful eye. We've competed in dressage and many hunter paces, being in the ribbons almost every time. We enjoy riding on trails.

Smart, and with dressage training, Half Moon quietly showed us how to negotiate any dicey obstacles encountered. We continue riding with the Chagrin Valley Trails and Riding Club, where we experience the beauty of the bridle trails.

## Team #967: Sharon Curran and Leo Bar Frost

From: Bethlehem, Connecticut | Ages: 80 & 21 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

This is my 11th Century Club ride and I had no idea I would do multiples. However, as other horses in the barn got older and our combined ages qualified for the distinction, I said, “Why not?” With this ride, I believe we have tied the record for the number of Century Club rides. Next year, I hope to do one more to qualify as the record holder of most Century Club rides!

My horse, Leo Bar Frost (Frosty), is a 21-year-old Quarter Horse that has been in my stable since he was three. He was bought by a friend whose health made him give up riding. I bought him to stay with me. I thought I should—we both have the same birthday!

Frosty came to the rescue to acquire my First Level scores to receive my USDF bronze medal. Seems I had gotten those scores before the USDF was keeping computer show records, and I hadn’t saved the tests from my heart horse, Slick!

I’ve also had fun showing him Western dressage. In the pasture, he is the valued friend of a 39-year-old Quarter Horse that relies on him as a companion with better vision. I’ve been fortunate to have horses as my day job for many decades. My career with horses enabled me to stay home to raise two great kids and pursue my artistic passion. Finally, horses enabled me to meet and have wonderful friends to share the journey with.

It has been a wonderful ride!



## Team #968: Ginger Home and Dune

From: Lexington, Kentucky | Ages: 83 & 26 | Combined Ages: 109 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

When I moved to Lexington, Kentucky, about two years ago, there were horses, horses, horses everywhere! Clearly, it was time to start riding again. As I hadn’t ridden for over 15 years and didn’t own a horse, lessons were the way to get back into the saddle. The first lesson was a disaster. Not because I’d forgotten how to ride, but because I couldn’t get on the horse. Literally. My 80-plus-year-old body no longer had the flexibility and strength needed to swing a leg over a saddle without LOTS of help.

I persisted and, in the process, became hooked on dressage, a discipline new to me. A Century Club member and wonderful friend, Marsha Icko (pictured with me), told me about the Century Club, and that became my goal. My teammate was Dune, a 26-year-old patient school horse at Miramonte Equine, where I ride. With Marsha and everyone at Miramonte Equine “spurring” me on, I overcame some physical challenges and was able to complete Introductory Level Test B for the Scenic Flight Through the Bluegrass competition on November 8th. Many thanks to The Dressage



Foundation for their support of “mature” riders. It was great fun, and I hope to participate in future competitions.



## Team #969: Gail Poublon-Wieland and Happy

From: Reno, Nevada | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Ages: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2



In October, I joined the Pair of Aces Stables family. I want to introduce Happy to you first. Happy agreed to be my partner for our Century Club ride.

He was one of the top large pony hunters in the U.S. and has an extensive USEF record that spans 15 states over 13 years, starting in 2003. Notable shows he attended include Devon, Pony Finals, Washington International, and Capital Challenge. Happy joined the Pair of Aces Stables family in 2020 as a lesson pony, and he has been teaching kids to ride and show ever since.

Growing up, my dad's job took us around the world. The one constant was the barn. It did not matter about the color of my skin or if I could speak the local language; the horses did not care. My trainers and new riding buddies always welcomed me.

My first lessons, at age six, were bareback. As my skill levels improved, we attended stadium jumping, and when I returned stateside, hunter paces through woods and fields. Finally, I became a student of the art of dressage.

The intuitive nature of horses, their acceptance, and forgiving nature have given me a wonderful education, and I have been blessed with trainers who challenge our patience.

I would like to say thank you to all the staff, my fellow riders, trainers, judges, and horses who have supported me on my journey. And thank you to all the barn buddies over the years for your love and support.

## Team #970: Linda Todenhagen and Trix

From: Lake Worth, Florida | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Ages: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 2



Horses were always a part of my life. At age five, I rode the draft horses on my grandparents' farm in New York. Through the decades, I competed in Western, saddle seat, hunters, and ended with three-day eventing at the preliminary level in Vermont.

In the 1970s, I began my dressage career. I participated in clinics at the USET Training Center in Gladstone and purchased an imported Grand Prix dressage horse from Lois Stephens. Dominik was the perfect teacher. With Michael Poulin as my trainer, I competed in the screening trials for the World Championships at Prix St. Georges, placing 6th, and in the Intermediate 1, in 8th place. The next competition was for the Pan Am Games and 5th place. This qualified us for the national sports festival in Colorado Springs, where we won a silver medal.

I continued to train with Michael and Walter Zettl, training and competing many horses through FEI. I worked with young riders, amateur Grand Prix competitors, and beginners.

My wonderful partner for my Century Club ride was Forbidden (aka Trix), a 24-year-old Trakehner. Trix is patient, kind, and generous, and is owned by Lana Josephsen. Together, we showed her through Third Level.

At 78, many of my students are senior citizens. We love having the ability to still ride and work hard at our sport, keeping us young at heart and body.

My life has been blessed with supportive parents, Herb and Jane Rissinger, and my patient, understanding, and loving husband of 55 years, Peter.

## Team #971: Ann Cohen and Pokey

From: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 1

I have loved horses for as long as I can remember. I started trail riding at age five and started lessons at eight. At age 18, I began working for the city of Philadelphia and spent almost 14 years taking care of police horses, where I fell in love with draft horses. I spent over 37 years as a city employee. Since 1984, I have owned four wonderful grade horses (all with some draft heritage) that I loved riding. The last time I rode in a horse show was in 1972.

Pokey, a Quarter Horse (Frisky Business Two), was a successful reining horse when my blacksmith bought him in 2012 to resume riding after a very long break. He began hacking around the neighborhood and eventually began sorting cattle. In 2017, Pokey moved to a neighbor to be a confidence builder after she suffered a serious riding accident. I leased him in 2022, when my horse became too lame. In March 2023, I bought him.

Pokey is everyone's favorite at our barn. Long trail rides, pony rides, fox hunting, and photo modeling are only a few of his activities. For me, the most unlikely was surely dressage. But his biggest barn fan was incorporating dressage into her rides with him. Somehow, I was persuaded to participate in my first horse show in over 50 years! It was a blast.

Thanks to TDF, the Pennsylvania Western Dressage Association, and to all my barn friends who supported me in this latest adventure.



## Team #972: Margaret Jean Scott and Nadia

From: Kenyon, Minnesota | Ages: 79 & 21 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

Mon Cheval Training Center eagerly supported the Century Club ride of "Margie" Scott on her lovely Friesian, Nadia. We gathered in the arena as esteemed judge Jodi Ely watched and evaluated. Many of us were watching the extra lessons and time spent preparing for this big moment.

Margie dedicated her Century Club ride to our recently departed friend, Joyce Wood. Joyce was determined to do a Century Club ride with her horse, Sugar. Sadly, Joyce did not make it that far, and we mourned the loss of one of our guiding light riders. There were tears when she dedicated her ride to Joyce.

Margie said, "I was more than nervous, practically terrified. My balance was tenuous, and Nadia was unsure about cantering. I scheduled extra lessons with our trainer, Mindy Price. Everyone was very encouraging, saying, 'You'll be fine.'"

"The day arrived. I borrowed a saddle pad and shirt. I cleaned my tack and half chaps, so I guess I was ready. The judge wore a black robe with a name tag that said, 'The Judge,' which helped to lighten my nerves. I don't remember much about the test, but Nadia did canter! Then the celebration began. Thank you, friends."

NOTE: Margie was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and yet, with worsening balance, rides her horse and works in the barn, to our amazement and pride. After she completed her ride, we presented her ribbon, flowers, and all our love and admiration.





## Team #973: Mary Jo Skinner and FHF Cruisewood

From: Noblesville, Indiana | Ages: 74 & 28 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Second Level Test 1



I can't remember a time when I wasn't fascinated by horses, but there was never an opportunity for me to be around them. Instead, I satisfied my curiosity by reading books and watching TV shows about horses. I finally took some lessons in my last semester of college. What fun!

My career as a Registered Nurse, housewife, and mother did not afford me the time to continue riding. Tragedy struck our family when my husband died of cancer at age 37. I was left to raise five-year-old twins and a three-year-old. We were heartbroken, and I was so depressed. I remembered how much I had loved riding and how exhilarating it was, so I began lessons on a difficult Quarter Horse, "Still Steppin." She saved my life! When I rode her, I had no worries. When she was being sold, I jumped at the chance to buy her. We were partners for 26 years. I still miss her. Riding became a family affair. Our herd grew as the kids started 4-H and showing. Our barn friends became our second family.

In 2023, my trainer put me in touch with Forrest Hill Farms. There I started lessons with Grace McCall on FHF Cruisewood, thanks to his generous owner, Dixie Pederson. Cruisewood is a legend. He has allowed numerous riders to get their medals. He gave me the opportunity to ride him in a Century Club ride. Many thanks, Forrest Hill Farms, Grace, Dixie, and Cruisewood!

## Team #974: Dixie Pederson and FHF Cruisewood

From: Lafayette, Indiana | Ages: 71.5 & 28.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



Like so many little girls, I dreamed of having a horse of my own. But the dream was out of reach for my family. As an adult, my son's dream of having a horse was a priority for me. Then, finally, it was my turn, and I became the luckiest woman in the world to own FHF Cruisewood.

I was always taught that if one has a great gift, they should share it. So Cruisewood has made 170 trips

down the centerline. Some have been with me, but more have been with young people who earned many ribbons and medals with him. When Cruisewood was 26 years old, Grace McCall earned her USDF gold medal and Grand Prix scores toward her freestyle bar, quite an accomplishment for this older gentleman and his talented rider.

In the meantime, Cruisewood and I were developing other skills alongside his show career with young riders. Cruisewood became my co-therapist in my practice as a clinical psychologist providing Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. We are a certified mounted police team and trained for the New Orleans Police Department. We have literally walked through fire together!

Many thanks to our "village" who attended our Century Club ride, especially our trainer, Jennifer Kaiser, our vet, Dr. Sarah Waxman, Grace McCall, and our many other friends, especially Mary Jo Skinner, who also rode her Century Club ride the following day. I will never forget this celebration of Cruisewood and our story together!

## Team #975: Joan Chain and Chavi

From: Coatesville, Pennsylvania | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test C

When I lost my horse of 17 years, I told my sister I was ready for a competition horse that would be sane for me when I was 75. She told me he was in her barn. Twenty years later, at ages 76 and Chavi 24, we had the privilege to qualify to become members of the Century Club. My sister's description of Chavi fits him to this day: "He's an old soul."

I have been riding since three. I thank my parents every day for their love of equestrian sport and for being riders themselves. From fox hunting to hunter jumpers to low-level eventing, my passion for dressage developed.

Chavi is an Anglo-Arab/Trakehner and has always exhibited the best of each breed. In 2007, 50 years from when I competed as a child at the Devon Horse Show grounds, we placed third in the suitability to become a dressage horse class in the six-year-old division. Continuing in competitions, we confirmed our USDF bronze medal in 2016.

After injuries for both of us and Chavi's rehabilitation with my trainer, Anecia Delduco, at Second Nature Farm in Oxford, Pennsylvania, we made a comeback in 2019 to win the Second Level Freestyle at the Col. Bengt Ljungquist Memorial Championship Show.

In November, Chavi and I completed our Century Club ride and plan to continue to do fun schooling shows while I continue to compete my 16-year-old Dutch Harness Horse to secure my silver medal.



## Team #976: Jennifer Downey and Just Livingston

From: Quarryville, Pennsylvania | Ages: 79 & 23 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: First Level Freestyle

It was in 2019 when Just Livingston was generously offered to me as a schoolmaster by Carol Lippa. She had secured her USDF bronze and silver medals and ridden him at Intermediare and Intermediare Freestyle.

Livingston is a 17.2-hand, Pennsylvania-bred Oldenburg/Thoroughbred cross. I was delighted and excited to try to climb the dressage levels. As a full-time psychologist and farm owner, I had never had this opportunity before. In 2021, we achieved our USDF bronze medal with the great help of our trainer, Anecia Delduca, at Second Nature Farm in Oxford, Pennsylvania.

Just Livingston, who is living on my farm, is a wonderful companion, no matter whether we are riding cross country, a quadrille, freestyle (our favorite), or just hanging out on the farm. He is always calm and intelligent, but enthusiastic to do what is asked of him. I am so lucky to have him!





## Team #977: Sonja Miller and Passion For Fashion

From: Grand Island, New York | Ages: 78 & 25 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



What led me through the portal of lifelong horse enthusiast? Simple, a Shetland Pony ride at the age of eight. I can still feel my joy atop that little fella!

I was sad when no pony was under the Christmas tree! Life goes on. One grows up, graduates, and then work arrives on one's doorstep. It was time to raise a family. I did, and a beautiful daughter came along. Again, no opportunity for riding! My hobbies during these times included raising and showing dachshunds, canine obedience training, and therapy dog visitations to local hospitals. Now retirement was beckoning.

Something was still incomplete. My daughter knew and I received a gift certificate for riding lessons. I was immediately hooked again! I began with a Western saddle. Such a handsome palomino Quarter Horse! We became a team. He enjoyed me as much as I loved riding him. It wasn't too long afterward that I started learning English equitation skills as my trainer's "senior" student. I learned so much! Next came dressage! Every minute in the saddle was a joy. I relished every second learning horsemanship skills with my "prancing prince."

Thank you to Barb and Kari for all their help, guidance, support, and hours of special friendships. Thanks to my daughter, who allowed me to enjoy magical moments with these beautifully magnificent animals.

## Team #978: John Grott and The Mighty Quinn

From: Ledyard, Connecticut | Ages: 83 & 25 | Combined Age: 108 | Test: First Level Test 1



A few years after I retired from the Navy, my wife started riding. I soon found that if I wanted to see her, I needed to get involved with riding. That was over 41 years ago, and over the years, I have had three horses before we got The Mighty Quinn.

We had a friend who kept encouraging us to go see Quinn. He was big, black, and 10 years old with little training. He was in a situation where if we didn't take him, he would end up going to the state game warden. We took him to one of our trainers, Herb Robe, a dressage instructor. Herb told us Quinn was smart and willing. That was 15 years ago when he started learning dressage and jumping.

We had so much fun over the years. We showed in dressage tests and three-foot jump courses, went swimming in the ocean, did hunter paces, and fox hunted. We were asked to be in a movie, *The Life and Legend of J Goule*, as an 18th century oil millionaire. I galloped Quinn while carrying rifles, which didn't faze him. It was so much fun, and many years later, another friend recommended that we join a troupe doing a live rendition of the opera, *The Passion of Carmen*, with live horses. Quinn behaved like he had been doing it for years.

Quinn and I have now been training with Jordan LaPlaca and Frederick Magazzeni in dressage for the last 15 years, always having fun together.

## Team #979: Cheryl Broecker and Guinevere

From: Haslet, Texas | Ages: 74 & 27 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

**The Horse** – Guinevere is a 27-year-old Quarter Horse. She came into my life when she was nine years old. Originally, she was supposed to be for my daughter and me. However, my daughter (Kelsey Broecker) became a professional dressage trainer and Guinevere became my dressage partner.

**The Rider** – I am 74 years old. I have always loved horses. I took jumping lessons when I was younger (26 years old). However, I was introduced to dressage when my daughter started taking lessons in eventing. The beauty of dressage appealed to me. Also, I felt it would be a safer alternative to jumping.

**The Team** – Guinevere and I started taking dressage lessons from my daughter. We started competing. The competition side of dressage was very challenging. I enjoyed it, and Guinevere had a good work ethic. It has been filled with wonderful memories. One of the best, of course, was to do the Century Club ride. It was great to have the women I ride with there. They have been very supportive.

**The Present and Future** – Recently, Guinevere was diagnosed with a medical issue that restricts her activity. We are continuing our journey. We have lovely rides walking and trotting. We are enjoying our best time together!



## Team #980: Patti Langer and Ned Devine

From: San Marcos, California | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

A Connemara named Sligo was my first dressage partner. For 12 years, we did very well in the show ring. I retired Sligo in 2004 and looked for a new partner. After trying many different breeds in my area, I flew to Spokane, Washington. There I met a four-year-old grey Connemara gelding. Instantly, for both of us, it was love at first sight.

I purchased him, and on the plane ride home, I was going over various names (his registry name is Orion's Epos) in my head. Ned Devine popped up, and it just seemed to fit. Much later, I found out Ned's sire's sire (Custusha's Cashel Rock) is a Breyer horse model named Rocky.

Even as a youngster and to this day, Ned has always been a gentleman and taken care of me. Ned captures the hearts of everyone he meets. I hear, "Oh! You're Ned's mom," countless times.

It was an honor to share this Century Club ride with my loyal friend of 21 years. I will never forget that extra special bond we had that day. Ned was so proud of himself (he has a bit of an ego), and he loved all the attention. I want to thank my trainer, Angie Taylor, my husband of 45 years, Keith, and my many dear friends for their love and endless support.

Thank you, Neddy—you are one incredibly special and talented guy!





## Team #981: Cissy Coleman and Unique

From: Rising Fawn, Georgia | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Second Level Test 1



I first sat on a horse when I was five years old. My dad did field trials, and we rode Quarter Horses. I am one of nine children and rode by “the seat of my pants.”

After college, I had the opportunity to take lessons and participate in hunter/jumpers. Both of my daughters showed through high school. I enjoyed fox hunting, trail riding, and later in life, dressage.

Just to be given the opportunity to ride God’s most magnificent creature has given me such joy.

## Team #982: Patti Swan and Mistral

From: Waterford, Maine | Ages: 69 & 31 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Patti and her horse, Mistral, received The Dressage Foundation’s honors for completing their Century Club ride on November 7th. They performed their test for USEF/USDF “S” judge, Charlotte Trentelman, of Florida.

“It was so special to have my friend and mentor judge our ride!” Patti remarked.

Of her longtime partner Mistral, she said, “He is my heart horse, my teacher, and my friend. Mistral took me to my USDF bronze medal, my USDF ‘L’ program graduate, and to a full circle with our Century Club ride. I owe him everything!”

## Team #983: Jackie Smith and Rockin' Rodney

From: Hanoverton, Ohio | Ages: 72 & 30 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I mentioned that I would love to do a Century Club ride and was looking for a horse that was at least 28 years old. Beverly Tarbell and Molly Patrick offered Rockin' Rodney. Rodney has been with Bev since he was three years old. She did a Century Club ride with Rodney in 2023. I worked with Molly and Rodney during their eventing years, so it was the next best thing since I couldn't do it with my horse.

We decided to do the ride at the Winona Horse Trials since Molly was already bringing a horse. Of course, I would be there as the event is run on our Stone Gate Farm, and I'm the organizer of the event. Molly put a few rides on Rodney in preparation for his 'big' day. He arrived braided and ready to go. Rodney was such a professional and did a pleasant, steady test.

It was an honor and a privilege to ride such a wonderful old soul. I think he enjoyed going down centerline again.

I've been a lifelong rider, and nearly three years ago, I went on a quest to lose weight and get in shape so I



could ride better for my horses and safely continue what I love to do. I have been blessed with good health, good horses, good friends, and family!

As the saying goes, "You don't stop riding because you get old, you get old because you stop riding!" Get out there and ride!

## Team #984: Mary Sawyer and Eclipse

From: East Wenatchee, Washington | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

When my Paint mare (Unique Conversion, Century Club Team #498) was eight years old, I decided I needed to breed her. I picked a black Hanoverian stallion in hopes of getting less white. Eclipse was born with two blue eyes (her dam has black eyes) and lots of white.

As I started her, she showed lots of potential. We started jumping as well as dressage. I did local dressage shows and USEA three-day horse trials.

In 2021, Unique and I did a USEA Century Ride in Spokane, Washington (Team #1). This year, Eclipse is 20, and I turned 80. We did a USEA Century Ride (Team #6) and a TDF Century Club ride.

We will continue to work together with our relationship and inform others of this wonderful accomplishment and recognition from The Dressage Foundation.





## Team #985: Lisa Sinnigen and Elvis

From: Easthampton, Massachusetts | Ages: 80 & 23 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Rockwood Deller Bert (aka Elvis) has been with the Cranston-Etzel family for 15 years. As a school horse for one of the daughters, he taught many young riders at Laura Etzel's Infinity Equestrian. He is semi-retired, so I can have lessons and get my "equine fix" at least twice a week.

Preparing for the Century Club ride has brought up many memories of horses and rides I have had in my life. One horse I had in the 1970s developed colic and, despite surgery, had to be euthanized. At the equine hospital, I saw a woman veterinarian for the very first time (women had been strongly discouraged from veterinary medicine). After taking the prerequisite courses, I was accepted to veterinary school, and riding had to be put on hold.

At the beginning of my retirement, I had a couple of older horses to ride and enjoy. Eventually, I partnered with Elvis to learn some finer points of riding. Taylor Cranston of Integrity Horsemanship at Fuller Family Equestrian in Westhampton, Massachusetts, is very patient and helpful to me as I learn to ride better despite some physical limitations.

It was a joy to share this experience of becoming a member of the Century Club with Peg O'Neal and her horse Luna, all with the encouragement of Suzanne Mente. After our rides, we celebrated with friends, family, and other riders at the barn. Now, I hope I will earn "my age" on an upcoming dressage test!

## Team #986: Peggy O'Neal and Luna

From: Worthington, Massachusetts | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



Lunar Eclipse (Luna to friends) is a Percheron/ Irish Thoroughbred who entered our lives in 2003. She was dapple gray with black stockings and a lush white tail that was, and still is, glorious. Luna was seven, my daughter, Merle, was 11, and I was 40. Luna is now pure white.

Merle and Luna forged a dramatic and athletic partnership. They were young, fearless, and beautiful. They learned natural horsemanship with a John Lyons trainer, joined Pony Club, and spent every summer at Shirley Winer's Pony Club camp, where they experienced galloping fields, cross-country competitions, and swimming on horseback. Throughout their teenage years, they enjoyed competing in dressage and eventing shows. Merle learned the value of a respectful relationship based on care, consideration, honesty, and time. Lu kept Merle out of the mall and in the saddle.

When Merle went away to college, Luna became my partner. She is a patient schoolmaster and is sensible and willing. In the past decade, I have had surgery for a fractured hip, two hip replacements, and my right foot reconstructed. Thanks to our shared sense of trust, I have been able to get back in the saddle after each procedure.

Luna is 29, Merle is 33, and I am 71. Lu and I are a couple of gray mares who can continue to move, work, and spend time together, a feat that is beneficial to both.

Luna is a blessing. I am so grateful for her presence and impact on our lives.

## Team #987: Margaret Allison and Oakley

From: Gap, Pennsylvania | Ages: 82 & 18 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I was 43 years old when our daughter, Sherri Brown, asked me if I wanted to ride in a parents' leadline class at a show. It sounded like fun, and that started my interest in riding.

I rode for two years at Bridge Acres Stable and two years at Greenfields Equestrian Center in Pennsylvania. Both barns had great lesson horses. I showed at local schooling shows in walk/trot/canter classes, while riding at both barns.

Sherri and I decided it was time to purchase our own horse. Dexter, a sweet Quarter Horse, was the first of many horses we owned together.

Several years later, Sherri started her own lesson and boarding program, BrownHill Stable in Narvon, Pennsylvania. I have been riding there ever since. I was privileged to ride Wrangler for 12 years. We went to many shows (just walk/trot) and some dressage shows.

My Century Club ride was on 18-year-old Treeline (aka Oakley). He is a 16-hand Thoroughbred owned by my granddaughter, Beka Hurst. Thank you, Beka, for keeping him in shape and sane so that I'm comfortable with him.

A special thank you to Sherri and husband, Lee, for putting up with me and providing a place to ride. Thank you to my husband, Paul, for encouraging me. Thank you to my God who has allowed me all of the above.

On days when I feel I need to stop riding, my friend, Hayley Titi, says, "But are you having fun?" The answer is YES!



## Team #988: Larry Campbell and Zee

From: Escondido, California | Ages: 84 & 21 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: Third Level Test 1

I have been riding Zelando (aka Zee) since June. He was sent to trainer, Jenifer Zakhary, in Norco, California, for rest and recuperation by his owner, Heather Wilkes.

I have known Jenifer for several years, and she knew I was looking for a horse. She called me in June to come and see Zelando. I found him a strong horse to ride but thought he might work. I began to ride him a couple of times a week, and by August, Jenifer and I began to talk about entering the forthcoming show at Del Mar. That proved too soon, and Jenifer suggested the Las Vegas show in early November. We planned to ride Third Level Test 1. In the past, I have qualified at First and Second Levels but had yet to ride in a show at Third Level.

At the show, my age showed up. Zelando is strong, and in both rides, anxiety got the best of me, and we went off course. When I got home, we began to discuss a purchase and moving him to a barn closer to me in Escondido. I made a proposal, but heard back that the seller changed her mind and Zelando wasn't for sale, and so that ended it.

So, no fairy tale ending, but I did enjoy both rides, and as soon as I find a new horse, probably younger, I'll begin to work on Third Level movements, and my anxiety will have to yield.



Photo credit: Blesk Photography



## Team #989: Shirley Williams and Moo

From: Rising Sun, Maryland | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



Shirley Williams and Moo have been partners for eight years now. Originally, Moo was bought as an eight-year-old by Shirley's daughter, Tanya Sellers, but now, at 25, he's all Shirley's!

And speaking of Moo... where do we even begin? Oh, Moo. The legend. The myth.

The most opinionated, stubborn, bomb-proof, husband-horse, trail-riding extraordinaire this barn has ever seen.

Kicked out of hunt fields? Check

Eliminated from events? Check

Barges through stadium jumps as if they owe him money? Check

Guardian of every mare on the property, like it's his sworn duty? Check

But put him on a trail...and he transforms into the best horse ever created.

Truly unmatched.

For the past eight years, Moo has toted Shirley around with so much patience and has been game for everything. And over the last few months, Shirley has been taking lessons specifically to prepare for this ride.

## Team #990: Libby Beck and Transylvania

From: Cheney, Washington | Ages: 79 & 21 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2



The morning of August 7th dawned bright and clear with just enough breeze to add a little spice to an auspicious day, the day that Libby and Transylvania (aka Sylvie) had chosen for their Century Club ride.

The two had met on a chilly December day in 2009 at Sun Stables near Moses Lake, Washington. Libby was looking for a nice Thoroughbred to train and compete in three-day eventing. A week later, Libby went back with her horse trailer to bring Sylvie home on trial, and their adventures began.

Sylvie provided a challenge for Libby, even though she had ridden since a child and had competed with previous horses to the Preliminary Level. Sylvie was not always cooperative, which their friends attributed to her grandsire, Storm Cat. With the help of trainers and clinicians, the pair persisted and eventually won a few ribbons at the Beginner Novice Level.

Christel Carlson has been an important friend, trainer, and supporter for many years. It was she who introduced them to the prospect of doing a Century Club ride. Christel loaned them a portable dressage arena to fit in their home arena and organized everything. About 40 long-time friends and riding partners, as well as Libby's brother and his wife from California, showed up to cheer them on. After a little fussiness, they rode an adequate Training Level Test 2. A great time was had by all. Libby and Sylvie are extremely grateful for this opportunity.

## Team #991: Janet Thompson and Otto

From: Chagrin Falls, Ohio | Ages: 80 & 21 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

My husband is still shaking his head over why he put a halter with a bow under the Christmas tree in the early 80s. We had our daughter on the way, and work was busy for both of us at the time.

We started with a little red Thoroughbred and were quickly pressed to look for a more versatile horse, so along came Piccolo, a “horse for a lifetime” who helped me reach Prix St. Georges and my trainer reach Grand Prix. Piccolo’s understudy, Renaissance, was on the same path when a chronic injury ended his career.

The rest of my riding years were capably handled by Adante, a Holsteiner who gave up jumping to learn dressage and took my trainer to her USDF silver medal. He took care of me through two hip replacements, was a great schoolmaster, and a successful volunteer for a new Cushing’s medication.

Big thanks to The Dressage Foundation, Otto and Lake Erie College, Richard Weiss, all Piccolo Pines boarders, and my trainer, Sarah Freeman, for making my Century Club ride possible.

I still feel 15 years younger!



## Team #992: Darla Walker-Ryder and Rosi

From: Aledo, Texas | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 2

Darla began riding at age 15 in 1964, when she owned and trained her first horse. Within a few short years, she was retraining Quarter Horses into dependable riding horses, beginning a lifelong journey rooted in horsemanship, education, and care.

Over six decades, Darla built a wide-ranging career across many facets of the horse world. Her experience includes managing boarding barns, teaching riding programs and summer camps, managing an eventing barn, and operating a therapeutic riding program. Since 1995, she has held Master Level Instructor and Certifier recognition with the Certified Horsemanship Association, working across English and Western riding, vaulting, and programs for riders with disabilities.

Rosi, a 24-year-old Quarter Horse, came into Darla’s life nearly a year ago. Before that, Rosi served as a patrol horse and Search and Rescue partner with the Oklahoma City Sheriff’s Department, working alongside her owner for more than 20 years. When her owner became terminally ill, she sought a forever home for her beloved horse.

Darla welcomed Rosi with care and intention. Together, they prepared for the Century Club ride through countless hours on the ground and in the saddle, focusing on safe handling, trust, and the nuances of Western dressage. At the show, Darla and Rosi earned their Century Club membership, celebrating a partnership grounded in service, patience, and lifelong learning. Darla also serves as an admin with the Equine Safety and Standards Network. As she often says, “You stop being an instructor when you stop being a student.”





## Team #993: CJ Sanders and Little Bit

From: Oxford, Ohio | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Freestyle Basic Level



I am 80 years old and have been riding since I was four. I have ridden and shown Saddlebreds, Arabians, and my lovely Paint mare, Little Bit (aka Rainey). She was an event horse for almost 10 years. At that time, she was owned by my friend and coach, Janice Holmes.

I had my first Century Club ride five years ago on my Arabian mare, Darma. She was 29 at the time, and I retired her afterward. Janice gave Rainey to me after that.

Isi Brown has been my very good friend and coach, helping Rainey and me form the close bond we now have. We are showing Western dressage and are doing well. I want to thank Isi Brown for doing this for me. It was the best part of the year.

## Team #994: Janice Hoover and Rockin' Rodney

From: Geneva, Ohio | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



I first met Rockin' Rodney after he came off the track at Mountaineer Racetrack. He is owned by Beverly Patrick and was evented by her daughter, Molly Smith. Molly evented him through Training Level.

Then, 12 years ago, I shattered a vertebra when I was bucked off a green horse. After surgery, it was unlikely I would walk again, but being determined to ride again, I pushed through six weeks in a trauma rehab hospital, learning to slowly walk. My right leg had no feeling and was no longer connected with my brain, so I was totally unaware of what it was doing.

Fast forward 10 months, and I had regained some feeling in the leg, but both feet still had no feeling. By then, I HAD to ride again. Two months later, Rodney and I completed an Introductory Level test.

I went on to compete successfully in eventing after a long search for the perfect babysitter, and nine years later, we are still partners. However, our ages don't match up for a Century Club ride yet, so once again, Rockin' Rodney to the rescue!

In September, Rodney and I reunited for my Century Club ride. I am the third rider that Rodney has taken through their Century Club ride.

## Team #995: Susan Carson and Popeye

*From: Carmichael, California | Ages: 80 & 23 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Cowboy Dressage Drill Team Freestyle*

I started riding when I was 75. I heard about a mother-daughter team that went to Mongolia to ride horses. How cool! I had climbed in Uganda to see gorillas and had white water rafted. A friend suggested I learn how to ride.

I found an amazing teacher, Lyn Ringrose, when she found a horse I could lease. It didn't take long before she suggested I should look for a horse to buy. Not easy. Fortunately, she called one afternoon. A horse named Popeye came on the market. Lyn said you **MUST** buy him. We will never find another Popeye.

He had been a high-level reiner, but his owner got married, had a baby, and wanted to return to showing, but Popeye was 18. His owner was willing to sell to me, a 75-year-old new rider.

And my love of horses began.

Lyn was a musician, as was I. She asked how I would feel about doing a musical freestyle. What is that? Within a year, Popeye and I went on to win top prize in freestyle in the Cowboy Dressage Finals.

Popeye is a unicorn, as Lyn calls him. We have six years together and we are now an honored member of TDF's Century Club. Popeye has changed my life.

We are still together and planning a new freestyle. He loves performing, as do I. Just at a different level from when we were younger. We're growing old together, doing what we love.



Photo credit: Maria Marriott Photography

## Team #996: Stephen Day and Chorey

*From: Hollis, New Hampshire | Ages: 80 & 25 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

In 1956, when I was 11 years old, my father announced that our family would be moving from Massachusetts to Indiana. This was not a popular choice with us kids, especially my brother. To ease the blow, my dad promised to buy him a horse when we moved. He made good on the promise and purchased Bourbon, an American Saddlebred. My brother soon lost interest, but I was hooked! Bourbon began my lifelong love of horses.

I soon wanted to learn more, especially how to jump. I began jump lessons with Betty Tukey, who became a lifelong mentor and friend. She introduced me to retired cavalry officer and Olympian Colonel Raguse, who turned me on to eventing. Eventing became my lifelong passion, developing several off-the-track Thoroughbreds through Training Level. I have horses to thank for my professional success as well. My love of horses led me to owning and growing equine retail catalogs and stores—beginning with StateLine Tack and later Dover Saddlery.

Today, my equine partner is Chorey, an Irish Sport horse who has been my mount for 20 years! Chorey and I have competed in eventing and show jumping over the years, but now we enjoy going out on trail rides every day—rain, wind, snow, or sunshine. This fall, we competed at a dressage show and earned the honor of our Century Club ride. We could not have done this without the support of my family and the Apple Tree Farm Crew!



Photo credit: CMS Photography



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Photo of Ralea Casperson  
credit Third Day Studios



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Developed by Veterinarians to Address Health at the Cellular Level

All four wellness formulas provide omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants, vitamins, trace minerals, amino acids and more to transform horse health at the cellular level — head to hoof, coat to gut. Now, with 1,100 IUs of vitamin E. Each bucket encompasses thousands of hours of research and the finest ingredients available.



 For Sport | 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed | Platinum Colic Coverage® Eligible Up to \$15K 



## WELLNESS & PERFORMANCE FORMULA



**Platinum Performance® Equine**, because of the comprehensive nature, ingredients work synergistically at the cellular level to support every aspect of health and performance.

**Recommended for:**

- Young horses
- Performance horses
- Senior horses
- All activity levels

## WELLNESS & PERFORMANCE + DIGESTIVE CARE



**Platinum Performance® GI** provides probiotics, prebiotics and additional glutamine for gastrointestinal and immune health in addition to comprehensive wellness support.

**Recommended for:**

- Digestive health concerns
- Occasional loose stool
- Difficulty maintaining weight
- Travel, training or competition

## WELLNESS & PERFORMANCE + DIGESTIVE & JOINT SUPPORT



**Platinum Performance® DJ** is an innovative one bucket solution, combining advanced support for healthy digestion and joint function with premium wellness ingredients.

**Recommended for:**

- Performance & senior horses
- Seasonal allergies & respiratory care
- Advanced digestive & joint needs
- Gastric & hindgut maintenance

## WELLNESS & PERFORMANCE + COMPLETE JOINT SUPPORT



**Platinum Performance® CJ**, the only supplement of its kind, combines ASU in addition to other joint supporting ingredients with a whole-horse wellness formula.

**Recommended for:**

- Advanced joint care needs
- An injury or discomfort
- Intense training or competition
- Adv. tendon & ligament support



The Power of Nutrition Starts Within®

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