

Morgan Dressage association

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in Dressage.



GRAND PRIX MORGANS— “PATTIE’S STORY”

By Debbie Dougherty

When Sally contacted me about sharing Pattie and my story in the MDA Newsletter, I thought back to our career and realized it was very fitting to do so. Our journey didn't begin or end in Montana, neither did we spend any large part of it there but it was the scene of the realization of a dream which we dared not dream.

Beckridge Patrex was 7 years old when I saw him for the first time. He was bred by Leo and Louise Beckley of Beckridge Morgans in Mount Vernon, Washington. His past is a bit sketchy, but from what I have gathered through the years, he came along rather late in the Beckley's equine career. He was not gelded until he was 3 ½ years old and at some point had been with a trainer in Western Washington. He apparently didn't bond with just anybody and took off bucking with one rider, dumping him in front of his porch. My farrier recalled Pattie from his days on the West Side and said he was considered to be somewhat of an outlaw! When I met him, he was standing tied to a hitching post with a small, ill-fitting western saddle and solid-sided curb bit on. He was shaggy, covered in some crumbly skin condition and shaking like a leaf. I didn't know anything about his past at that point; I thought he looked scared and forlorn.

I had just lost my 8-year-old Morgan gelding “Monty” to a broken leg and was still trying to deal with the grief when I met Pattie. It had only been two weeks since I had lost Monty and I had tried a couple of other horses for a day or two, but they weren't right for me. Mom had offered me her half-Arab mare Kharana but it just wasn't the same, so she dragged me out looking at horses to keep me thinking about the future, not dwelling on the past.

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Best Friends—Beckridge Patrex and his rider, Debbie Dougherty

Volume 1 Number 2
(April, 2011)

News and Reminders:

- Notice something different...we've got a new look! Check out Page 4 to find out a little more...
- The MDA Classifieds are back—see Page 14 for that special “something” or “someone” you just can't live without!
- Have you renewed your MDA membership for 2011? There is still time. See application on Page 15.
- We'll be “Going Green”! Keep a look-out for future announcements about the option to get your future newsletters electronically.

Inside this issue:

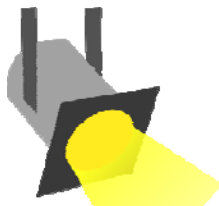
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Spotlight on the Members



My name is **Ciara Cummiskey**, I am a 16-year-old Dressage rider from Hope, RI. I compete at the FEI Junior level with my 9-year-old Morgan mare, **Queen's Delilah** (Mizrahi x NBN Noble Vixen). I have owned and trained her since she was 3. I have been riding Dressage for about 3 years now. In 2010 we made the Region 8 Dressage Team and were able to compete at the North American Junior Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) in Lexington, KY.

Competing at this level of Dressage on a Morgan is a huge accomplishment for me, but I wouldn't be able to do it without **Delilah**. Without her intelligence and well-behaved attitude, I would not have reached this level in only 2 years. Within just a year and a half of riding Dressage, I was able to get **Delilah** up to Third Level. **Delilah** and I have formed a huge bond, and I believe that plays a huge part in why we have been so successful. There is never a day that **Delilah** will let me down. She is always up for anything I ask of her.



My name is **Nancy Motyka** and I own **EMR Maximus**. I am one of your newest members and consider myself so fortunate to have found my way back to the Morgan world! One might call me a "warmblood refugee"... a middle-aged adult amateur that was always looking for that "perfect" dressage mount and have been through countless poor choices in the warmblood world. My very first horse was a fuzzy little black school horse that "had been there, done that" and taught me a tremendous amount about life and horsemanship in general. Despite not having had any documentation on him except a torn out sheet of notebook paper as a sales receipt, I suspected he was an unpapered Morgan. My search over the years led me to "bigger" and "better"....I had a couple of really handsome animals, but couldn't handle and/or ride them effectively without a trainer. With the retirement of my last horse, I went into a slump and realized that riding was no longer "fun".



A friend of mine had purchased a young Morgan from EMR Morgans in Big Fork, Montana and was just thrilled with him. She offered a sales CD to me to view thinking it would cheer me up. Two year-old **Max** looked into the video camera and I was hooked! Thus began the many months of e-mails, patient phone calls and encouragement from the wonderful Radtke family of EMR Morgans! Having always had a steady diet of geriatric equine gentlemen that required "pasting together", the idea of having a youngster was daunting at first. I was referred to the Morgan Dressage Association and Yahoo group and joined - the MDA members are a terrific group of people! Here I found a group of supportive, knowledgeable, kind and funny people. I began to make a list of possible resources I could fall back on once I had **Max** if I ran into any problems, and the MDA group is #1 on that list.

Since **Max's** arrival in September from Montana, my life has not been the same! After having met Marthe Reynolds on-line, I decided to do something outrageous and enter **Max** in the IBC class at Dressage at Devon. Marthe and Sally Anderson cheered me on and Sally taught him to move on the triangle before he left Montana for New Jersey. Despite the horrendous weather, we had a blast! He was a prince the entire time we were at Devon. We placed third in a class of five - I could not have been prouder of him!

I firmly believe that my old fuzzy black horse really was a Morgan....**Max's** mannerisms, the conformation, the haircoat and the attitude is absolutely unmistakable. This Morgan personality, this karma is really what I had been looking for all along....I just didn't know it!



Morgan Dressage Association 2010 Scholarship Awards



Becky Totten and
Kennebec Starwalker

REBECCA TOTTEN of West Bath, ME is a Professional Rider currently training her 4-year old gelding, Kennebec Starwalker, as well as showing Margaret Gardiner's mare, Kennebec Sashay at First Level. Rebecca has worked as a Sport Horse Trainer at Kennebec Morgan Horse Farm for the last 15 years as well as running the Dressage & Sport Division of the Maine Morgan Horse Show and serving as the Maine Morgan Horse Club Dressage Program Chair. Rebecca plans to use her funds to take lessons with Patsy Shaffer, Karen Folan and Georges Malleroni of La Escola de Equitacion.

CIARA CUMMISKEY of Hope, RI is a Junior/Young Rider competing her mare, Queen's Delilah, at the FEI Junior level. In 2010 the pair made the Region 8 Junior Dressage Team and traveled to Kentucky for the NAJYRC. Ciara has attended Clinics with Lendon Gray, including her Dressage 4 Kids clinic and in 2010, and plans to use her Scholarship monies for extra lessons with her regular instructor, Pamela Maloof, as well as attend clinics held by Evi Rainsborough, a Grand Prix Rider from Germany with a Reitwart Instructor's license, and Lendon Gray.



Ciara Cumminskey and
Queen's Delilah



Erika Wolff and
TNP Rob Roy

ERIKA WOLFF of Marshfield Hills, MA is a Junior/YR currently competing on her horse, TNP Rob Roy. She is the President of the Mass Bay Morgan Horse Youth Group as well as volunteering at a local therapeutic riding program. Erika and "Robbie" showed at First Level in 2010, and were Reserve World Champions at First Level at this years Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show. Erika plans to use her Scholarship monies to ride with Dee Loveless, "R" Judge, Grand Prix Rider and Morgan enthusiast as well as with Ida Anderson, an "S" Judge and Grand Prix Rider.

LEIGH HOLMAN is a Professional rider in South Haven, MN. She currently competes the gelding WK's Northern Brigadier at First Level and is schooling Second Level. Leigh has been riding dressage since 1995 on a variety of horse breeds and volunteers at open and schooling shows including judging for schooling Shows. She trains regularly with Ginger Kawell, a Grand Prix trainer and rider. Leigh plans to use her funds to attend a Heather Bender 3-day clinic as well as continuing lessons with her current trainer, Ginger Kawell.



Leigh Holman and
Northwest Brigadier



Marthe Reynolds and
Statesman's Signature

MARTHE REYNOLDS of New Paltz, NY is an Adult Amateur who currently competes her stallion, Statesman's Signature. Marthe and "Sigi" were the 2010 Adequan/USDF All-Breeds Champions at Second Level as well as winning the 2010 Adequan/All-Breeds Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Championship, Stallions 4 & Over. Marthe plans to use her scholarship funds to take lessons with Louisa-Marcelle Eadie, up-and-coming FEI rider and student of Anne Gribbons—the internationally known FEI coach and "O"-level judge.

Meet the Breeders—*CeAnn Shipley and Mythic Morgans*

CeAnn Shipley has been an important force in the Morgan Dressage World, managing the very successful dressage division for the Mid-Atlantic Morgan Horse Show for almost fifteen years. While dressage was dropped out of many Morgan shows, with CeAnn at the helm, the Mid-A's dressage entries more than quadrupled with two rings running for two very full days.

CeAnn and Del Lamiman are owners, managers, and trainers of Mythic Morgans, a breeding farm in the rolling hills of Boyds, MD. CeAnn was one of those horse-crazy little girls who was lucky enough to take lessons on a wonderful old half-Morgan gelding. Soon after she started taking lessons, her instructor, Virginia Bennett of Two Few Acres in Michigan, purchased two nice Morgan mares that were bred to Broadway Tempo, and the CeAnn became enamored with the breed.



Mythic Aladdin with Cathy Echtermacht

Although her earliest training was in saddle seat, her instruction included solid dressage principles, so when she was a little older and her friends were more into dressage and jumping, it was easy for her to add these disciplines to what she was already doing. After college, CeAnn purchased RaidencePrinceLouis (she calls him Louis the Wonder Horse), and a dress-

sage clinic on him got her thinking more about dressage. When she moved to Maryland's hunt country, she became seriously involved in carriage driving, dressage, and working hunters and has never looked back.

Casland Julie was the unlikely start of the Mythic Morgans breeding program. A beautiful young mare linebred to Kingston, she was initially trained for park harness, but CeAnn thought she would make a great western horse, not realizing how hot the mare really was. The western pleasure idea didn't pan out, but CeAnn remarks that "A lot of those fancy show horses were also incredible athletes." As time passed, it became obvious that Julie had just what it takes to become a superb sport horse broodmare.

When CeAnn looked for a stallion for Julie, she wanted one with a quiet,

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As you may have noticed, there are a lot of changes going on in the MDA. Not the least of which has been the design and adoption of a new logo which we are excited to use for the first time in this newsletter. The logo is the design of a fellow dressage rider, Bonnie Cazier, and will be incorporated in future advertisement and in the MDA's new website which is currently under construction. The MDA would like to thank Bonnie for her excellent work!

Bonnie Cazier is an award winning graphic designer, photographer and oil painter residing near Salt Lake City, Utah. She brings her passion and experience for horses and the horse industry to her work. She has competed in dressage with her American Quarter Horse, Big Rugged Howdy aka "LeRoy" where they won Reserve Champion in the USDF All Breeds awards program in their first year of competition. She and LeRoy now compete in competitive trail riding events, Hunter Under Saddle and Western and English Horsemanship classes.

You can see more of Bonnie's work at:

WWW.BONNIECAZIERIMAGES.COM



AMHA Open Competition Awards



INTRODUCTORY LEVEL

1. 72.000 Northwest Chancellor. Owned and ridden by Veronica Crawley.
2. 69.000 Blueandwhite Cadence. Owned and ridden by Tina DeLulo.

TRAINING LEVEL

1. 73.000 Rosehollow Rainbow's End. Owned and ridden by Veronica Crawley.
2. 68.000 Orrwood Madison Bay. Owned and ridden by Caroline Fernalld.
3. 67.857 Equinox Ebony Knight. Ridden by Kimberly Robbins. Owned by Gloria Crawford.
4. 67.500 Gray Barron Majorstar. Ridden by Tracy Young. Owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro
5. 66.400 Little Man Tate. Owned and ridden by Carol Swanson.
6. 62.400 RBC Callie. Ridden by Caroline Fernalld. Owned by Kylee Lourie.
7. 59.600 Kennebec Starwalker. Owned and ridden by Rebecca Totten.



Carol Hibbard and
Intaglio Arizona Storm

FIRST LEVEL

1. 67.667 Orrwood Madison Bay. Owned and ridden by Caroline Fernalld.
2. 67.368 Graybarronmidniteserenade. Ridden by Tracy Young. Owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro.
3. 66.111 Equinox Ebony Knight. Ridden by Kimberly Robbins. Owned by Gloria Crawford.
4. 65.526 WK'S Northern Brigadier. Owned and ridden by Leigh Holman.
5. 65.00 PVF Power Factor. Owned and ridden by Dee Loveless.
6. 64.667 Rosehollow Rainbow's End. Owned and ridden by Veronica Crawley.
7. 62.857 Intaglio Arizona Storm. Owned and ridden by Carol Hibbard.
8. 61.000 Kennebec Stormin' Eagle. Owned and ridden by Pamela Chandler.
9. 60.800 A Striking Star. Owned and ridden by Elizabeth Milburn.



Margaret Bailey and
Kennebec Ladyhawke

SECOND LEVEL

1. 66.190 Everlasting Qua-Lity. Owned and ridden by Christine Miller.
2. 62.619 PVF Power Factor. Owned and ridden by Dee Loveless.

THIRD LEVEL

1. 64.651 Kennebec Ladyhawke. Owned and ridden by Margaret Bailey.
2. 63.023 BCM Unforgettable. Ridden by Kylee Lourie and Andrea Doelling. Owned by Kylee Lourie.
3. 60.930 Crown B Special. Owned and ridden Haeley Hutchinson.
4. 59.535 Sunup Nightshade. Owned and ridden by Brigit Villeminey.

FOURTH LEVEL

1. 66.279 Forsite Zephyr. Owned and ridden by Debra M'Gonigle.
2. 60.233 Montana Jubilee. Owned and ridden by Debra M'Gonigle.

PRIX ST. GEORGES

1. 65.789 WTR Chocolate Bar. Ridden by Tracy Young. Owned by Wendy Gray Bizzaro.
2. 62.632 Forsite Rhythm N Blues. Owned and ridden by Catherine Gerardi.
3. 62.632 GKB Goal Magic. Owned and ridden by Lucy Tidd.



Forsite Zephyr and
Debra M'Gonigle

GRAND PRIX

1. 61.064 West Mt Winston. Ridden by David MacMillan. Owned by Karin Weight

Fitting the Morgan Horse

By Jochen Schleese, CMS, CSFT, CEE of Schleese Saddlery Service

Saddle length is an issue I have been noticing more and more in the past few years, as breeding seems to have really concentrated on making somewhat more

“compact” (i.e., “shorter”) horses. Especially in breeds like the Morgan, short backs are definitely something that needs to be taken into consideration when fitting a saddle. In addition, their shorter backs are compounded by a higher set neck than many other breeds and well-angled shoulder means a girthing area that is quite far forward. Barrels are sometimes quite round, which can result in a saddle sliding forward – compounded by low withers,

which are still quite common. Generally, Morgans also have fairly wide spines as well. Each of these topics warrants an article in itself; today I will concentrate on the back length issue.

So, other than the obvious visual “short-backness” of a horse, ask yourself:

- Does your horse have a “4-beat” canter?
- Does your horse have tense back muscles which impair movement?

If you answered “yes” to either of the above questions, you may be

faced with a saddle length issue.

The first is more of a visually obvious result; the second more of a “feeling”.

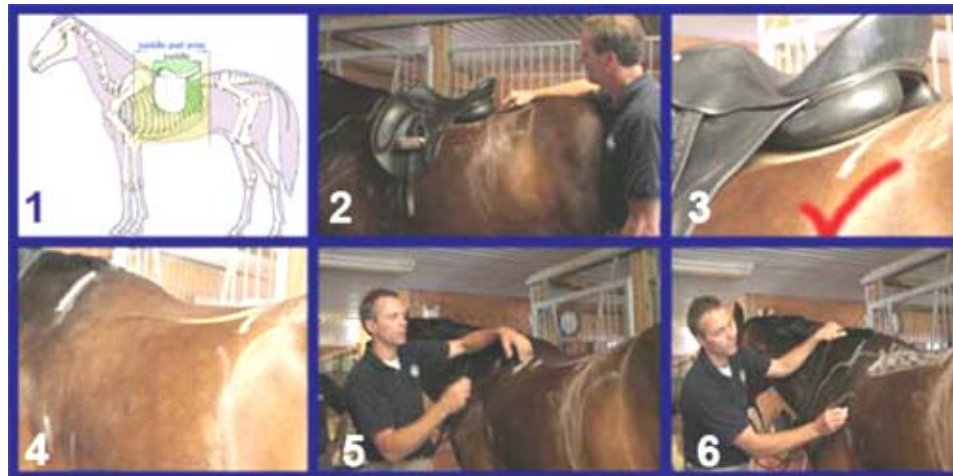
Many of us are familiar with the term “short-backed” to describe a horse, but few of us are aware that even a horse with a back that appears to be of normal length may actually have a very short saddle support area. The length of the saddle support area (the area where the saddle must sit) is what saddle makers and saddle fitters are concerned with, since this will determine how long the panels of this particular horse’s saddle must be.

In order to identify your horse’s saddle-support area – the area where the saddle must sit – do the following:

1 - With a piece of chalk, outline the edge of your horse’s shoulder blade (Pictures #4 and #5)

2 - Locate your horse’s last floating rib (Picture #3). To do this, find where his hairlines come together in the area of his flank and draw a line straight up to his spine.

The pictures help demonstrate some of the important aspects of saddle length:



Picture #1 is a skeletal diagram showing the proper saddle support area with respect to a horse's rib cage.

In Picture #2, I am pointing to the last supporting rib on a horse with a saddle that fits

properly within the boundaries of the saddle support area for this particular horse.

Picture #3—The red lines represent the changing directional pattern of hair on the horse's body relative to the last supportive vertebra (notice the panel of the saddle does not extend past this point).

Picture #4 —The first chalk line represents the front of the scapula

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One common saddle fitting issue faced by breeds such as the Morgan, is that the panels on dressage saddles often are too long for their backs. In order that these horses may develop to their fullest potential and work willingly, happily and without pain, it is crucial that they have a saddle with panels that are the correct length for their backs, without impinging on the ovaries or the kidneys.

Fitting the Morgan Horse *(continued)*

(shoulder blade) whereas the second chalk line again represents the last supportive vertebra.

Picture #5—My left hand is pointing to just behind the shoulder blade where the saddle ideally should be placed and not extend past the last vertebra outlined.

Picture #6 – I am drawing "pain lines" from pinched nerves that appear on some horses when they have an ill fitting saddle.

First, the saddle must sit behind the shoulder. However, and particularly at the canter, a saddle that is too long often will get driven forward into the shoulder. This can produce a build-up of scar tissue on the scapula, and over time, the scapula may actually be chipped away by the tree points of the saddle.

Second, the saddle cannot extend past the last floating rib. If a saddle

is too long for a particular horse, the rear of the panels will extend past the horse's saddle support area. This is extremely uncomfortable for the horse, as it puts pressure on his lumbar region. A horse

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www.schleese.com

www.saddlesforwomen.com

ridden in a saddle that is too long will often tighten his lower back muscles; in some cases, you can actually see the horse hollow and drop his back in an attempt to get away from the pressure of the saddle (For an example of this, watch the video "How to Tell if Your Saddle Hurts Your Horse" on the Schleese Saddlery Service Educational YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/mjpschleese>). He may even buck in extreme cases, in an effort to get the weight off his lumbar area. Finally, he may have difficulty moving forward into the canter, or may simply

be persistently "off" for no readily apparent reason.

If these are issues you have been facing, and have been unable to actually attribute them to anything 'real' (like illness of some sort for example) then perhaps you might consider that it could simply be that the saddle is too long for your horse's back and is making him extremely uncomfortable – which is why this 'acting out' occurs. Think about how you would feel if you had something constantly pounding into your kidneys. That is why we at Schleese actually can make our saddles with two distinct customizations: for example, an 18" seat for the rider who needs a little more room, with a 17 ½" panel to accommodate the horse's back. This issue has become so prevalent that a couple of our models actually incorporate this "option" as standard!

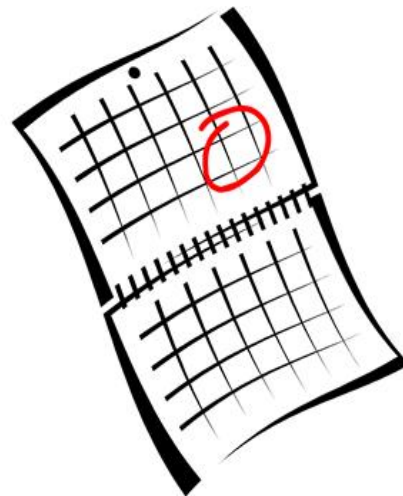
Sometimes you have to look past the obvious symptoms to find the cause....

Did You Remember?!

No, we're not talking about Aunt Matilda's birthday or when taxes are due (well, it never hurts to be reminded about the latter!), but have you remembered to renew your Morgan Dressage Association membership?

To paraphrase another well-known organization: membership certainly does have its privileges. Scholarships, year-end awards and a quarterly newsletter filled with information and news targeted toward you, the Morgan dressage enthusiast.

A membership application is included in this newsletter and is available on the MDA Website (www.morgandressage.org). If you are not sure if you have already renewed or have some questions, please contact us (members@morgandressage.org).



“Pattie’s Story” *(continued front Page 1)*

I remember looking at the other horses and then crying all the way home. Not only was it a difficult time for me, losing my best friend, but my folks were struggling to make ends meet and the last thing they needed to do was spend money on another horse for me—especially when we already had a pasture full!

I don’t know what it was about Pattie that drew me to him other than we were both hurting. Both in need of someone to share our sorrows and cry on, someone to heal us. After trying him out (walk and trot only) I turned him out in his pasture. While Mom talked to the woman who was selling him for the Beckleys, I wandered out and leaned against Pattie; putting my arms over his hindquarters and resting my head on him. When I went back to see what Mom and the woman were talking about, the woman said she had never seen anyone be able to approach Pattie that way. Mom and I drove home. Later that night I laid on my bed, looking up at Monty’s ribbons, crying, and decided I would buy Pattie. Soooo, \$1,000 later, I had my first ever Grand Prix Dressage horse! Uh...some assembly required!

Pattie and I had a modest start in the Dressage world. We did some schooling shows and he most always won because he was just so darn cute! I even got a comment “horse cuter than rider” from one judge! Of course we were riding First Level but only because it was “cool” to do leg yields and lengthened trot, not because we really

knew what we were doing! I wanted to ride Dressage to improve our performance in the 4-H shows where we rode Saddle Seat, Western, Hunt Seat, Trail and Side Saddle. However, after getting to the age where I had to move on from 4-H, I started to get more serious about riding Dressage. I rode in our club’s clinics with various clinicians, but most of them probably just rolled their eyes at the idea of me and my “little” horse going



very far. I finally started getting help from my friend Debbie McDermott on a regular basis. She helped me to understand what collection truly was and helped me move up to making a fair effort at Second level. I also flirted with the idea of Third Level but was nowhere near ready to do it well! Debbie encouraged me to qualify for and enter the Region 6 Championships in 1990. I didn’t have a trailer so I hitched rides to shows with my friend, Karen Lindhorst.

We qualified for the Second Level Open Championship that year. Mary Baechler loaned me her truck and trailer so we could go. My husband, James, went with me.

We woke up at 4:00 a.m. Saturday morning the day of our test, set the irrigation sprinklers on the hay field, loaded Pattie up in the trailer and drove from Selah, Washington to Donida Farms so that I could ride in my class. I was so excited to be able to go to such an awesome competition! We went out and rode our test, gawked at all the other wonderful horses and riders and finished seventh in the class. It doesn’t sound really impressive, but for me it was a dream come true! I drove home that day listening to “Wind Beneath My Wings” with my hubby sleeping in the passenger seat and my little Morgan in the trailer and felt so much joy and gratitude!

Late in 1990 Pattie and I began riding with Michael Osinski. He lit a fire in me to pursue Dressage for the sport and was the first instructor who really, truly believed in me and Pattie. He never said we couldn’t do the work or we weren’t good enough to move up. I remember in the Spring of 1991 he asked me what my goals were for the year. I said “to ride Prix St. Georges in the fall”. He said “OK”. That was it. Then he proceeded, over the next 6 months, to challenge Pattie and me with new skills and expectations every time we saw him. We rode our first Prix St. Georges test at a schooling show in October of that year. It wasn’t perfect but we had the necessary skills to do it! In the spring of 1992 we competed in recognized competitions in Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire I, qualifying for Region 6 Cham-

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“Pattie’s Story” *(continued)*

pionships in both levels as well as Intermediaire Freestyle. Pattie and I had a great show season, winning most of our classes at the shows and earning all but one Prix St. Georges score for our Silver Medal. At Regionals, we won the Northwest Cup Freestyle Championship! It was especially wonderful because James had driven over to the show just to watch that ride. My Mom and Dad had also come down from Bellingham to cheer us on!

Pattie and I competed in PSG and I-1 again in 1993, finishing 5th in the USDF Freestyle Awards at Intermediaire with a 68%. The next year, we came out at Grand Prix. By this time, Pattie was 19. I realized if I was going to try for my USDF Gold Medal, I couldn’t waste any time with “unnecessary” rides so I only rode I-2 a couple of times when I was competing at shows that didn’t offer “FEI test of choice” both days. Grand Prix was A LOT of work for a horse who was not necessarily built for it. I discovered I had really moved into a different world when we started competing at Grand Prix. When we rode Prix St. Georges, judges would be very receptive to the “cute little horse” out there doing his job...wasn’t he just precious? But at Grand Prix, it was like I was vying for the Olympic team or something. Suddenly I got these stern faces and the scores were much tougher. Passage was a bit more challenging for us; Pattie gave it all he had but it just didn’t have the lift of the “big guys” and being 19 and 20 when we rode GP, he was just slightly past his prime. But nonetheless, we gave it our best effort.

I knew we had an uphill battle to get 60’s at Grand Prix and I already knew I was blessed just to be able to ride my wonderful horse at that level and even be able to compete. It was a thrill every time we rode down the center line. I knew I was living a dream and I didn’t take a single moment of it for granted. I was so incredibly proud of Pattie, he had done it all for me and I knew he would go as far and as long as I asked him to. In 1995, our second year at Grand Prix, I went to watch the World Cup in Los Angeles. I came home with a passion for improving my piaffe...the proceeded to ruin it...two weeks before the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Classic. We went to the show without much in the way of piaffe; it was more like a really bad soft shoe. Somehow, Pattie managed to undo all the damage I had spent two weeks concentrating on and we scored our first 60 at Grand Prix! It was something I had not even dared to dream of doing, yet we had done it! That year, the USDF Annual meeting was being held in the Bahamas. When I saw the announcement, I jokingly told James, “hey, if I get my Gold Medal scores I’ll have to fly there and pick it up in person... hahahahaha! After Walla Walla, I started to think it might actually be possible but I didn’t want to set my expectations too high. So we kept working, and kept showing.

We had a really close call at the Yakima Dressage Summer Classic scoring one raw score point shy of a 60%. Anyone who has chased a medal score knows you would much rather get a 56% than a 59.640%! It’s agonizing to realize all you needed to do was just square up that halt, or make the

pirouette tighter...some little tiny thing for ONE MORE POINT! I didn’t have any more shows planned for the year at that point but learned that the Powderhouse Dressage Explosion was having the same judge for their show in August. I asked Mike if it was crazy to drive 400 miles to ride one 8 minute test just because I liked the judge. He said “try waiting 10 years for another chance at it”. Point taken.

Pattie and I entered the Powderhouse show. In my usual fashion, two weeks before the show I decided to ruin my left canter pirouette and change saddles on my horse. I was trying too hard and putting too much pressure on Pattie and myself. I finally broke down during one particularly difficult workout and decided if I was going to drive all the way there for one ride, I could only do it if I kept myself focused on giving the best performance we could on that particular day and be satisfied with our efforts. The weekend finally arrived and we drove to Spokane Sport Horse Farm where we met up and continued on with Christel Carlson. We arrived late and did not get a chance to work the night before. Pattie and I had a good warm up, avoided more than one or two modest attempts at left canter pirouette, and rode our test. I came out of it feeling satisfied that we had done a good job. I even went so far as to think it might possibly have been that “one point” better than the previous show. It wasn’t. It was 4 points better! We had scored a 61.2%. The drive home

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How Does Your Skin Feel? Or...the proper care and maintenance of your tack

By Vicki Smith

We all have valuable items that we routinely take care of to keep them in good condition, looking nice, and to help them last a very long time. This is especially true of our well made tack. Proper care of our leather goods will spruce them up and make them look nice for a clinic, an event or if they are for sale. You might say, “yes, but it is such a task, it takes too much time, once I take everything apart I can’t remember how to put it back together or what hole the buckle was on!” Few riders have the time to give their tack a thorough cleaning after every ride, but it’s important to make sure you don’t let the dirt get out of hand. Your leather goods are a personal investment that you want to last a lifetime! Spend the time taking routine care of them and they will service you for many years. Routine care also prompts you to perform a safety check on your equipment regularly, which might prevent a nasty accident. Pay special attention to stirrup leathers, buckles on bridles and girths.

We all know how to clean our tack, use saddle soap. Its primary purpose is to clean the dirt and sweat off leather— it’s a cleansing agent. Soap has a basic pH while sweat has an acidic pH. They are both evil enemies of leather goods and if either remains on the leather it will become brittle and crack. Try leaving soap on your face or hands for five minutes and notice how your skin feels like the skin of a reptile. This is what happens to leather if you do not rinse the soap off with fresh water. Usually when we wash our hands or face, we put a lotion on to replenish the moisture lost,

the same holds true for leather. So put a conditioner on it (once you are certain all the soap is off).

Daily Care

Here are some basic daily steps that will help you keep your equipment in good condition. After you take off your horse's bridle, wipe off the bit with a clean rag or towel. Some riders dunk the mouthpiece of the bit into the horse's water bucket to rinse it off, but this is not as effective, and can subject the leather part of the bridle to regular soaking if you're not careful. Cleaning the bit after each use will prevent the caked-on, dried slobber that can be a challenge to scrape off. A clean bit is also more pleasant for your horse to wear. The slobber from the horse’s mouth, if allowed to dry on the leather, will attract dirt and cause accelerated wear and tear on the leather. It’s a good idea when wiping down the bit to also wipe the cheek pieces and reins.

A good rule of thumb? Anything that has come in contact with the horse’s sweat or dust and dirt is something to be wiped down daily with a sponge or soft cloth and clean water. Even if using a pad, check the underside of your saddle. Sweat and dirt can cause irreparable damage to your leather.

The Big Job

Here are a few pointers for giving your tack a thorough cleaning.

Keep a pencil and paper nearby to record what holes and which sides

your buckles are on every piece bridle or stirrup leather.

You’ll need some type of bridle hook, a flat surface to lay the bridle parts on and a saddle stand for your saddle (often I push the backs of two chairs together or use a railing with a blanket or pad under the saddle to protect the leather).

If you have a sink and warm water it is much easier, but when times are tough two small buckets will work- one for clean water and one to rinse the dirt out of your sponge or soft cloth. Empty that dirty water fairly often.

Start by wiping off any excess dirt from the surface of the leather with a damp cloth. You take the dirt off first before applying the soap so that you do not grind the dirt and sweat (which are abrasives) into the leather and scratch it. I prefer a glycerine soap bar such as Belvoir or Passier. Then use a damp—not wet—non-abrasive sponge or cloth to work your soap into the leather. Make sure you concentrate on the areas around the buckles and the folds in the leather by the reins and in your stirrup leathers. A soft toothbrush will help clean those hard to reach areas as well as clean the tooling on a western saddle.

Wipe off any excess soap residue with a damp cloth. You may want to rinse one more time to be sure you get all the soap off.

Clean every part of every single piece of tack, get all the nooks and

(continued on Page 11)

How Does Your Skin Feel?

crannies. Even clean the grit off your buckles.

Now you are ready to apply your conditioner. A Lederbalsam (Passier and Effax make nice ones and they feel good on your hands) will nourish the leather and keep it from cracking. Go lightly on the areas which contact your breeches, because the product can rub off. The positive side – you will stick to the saddle better on that first ride!.

Pads

I will get up on my soapbox about pads. My number one rule: have

a clean pad for every single ride.

Why? Reason #1: Because the dried sweat and dirt on that dirty pad will grind into the hair and skin of your horse and potentially cause abrasions and skin problems. Reason #2: Most pads are white underneath and you can check the correct fit of your saddle each time you are done riding by looking at the sweat pattern on that pad. I wash my pads in normal detergent and I also pour a little bit of bleach in with the wash water (be careful if you have colored pads. To safely do this, add the bleach to the water *before* putting the pads in or you will have spotted pads). The bleach helps kill any lurking bacteria.

Tack Storage

In a barn, dust is everywhere. Even in the tack room. Keep your saddle covered with a saddle cover or a towel. If dust is on your saddle when you sit in it, you will grind that dust in with your seat during your ride, same thing with your bridle. Keep it covered until ready to use. Keeping your tack in a dry area that is free of dust is ideal.

Vicki Smith learned the majority of her saddle fitting and saddle care techniques during her twelve years as a saddle fitting specialist with Schleese Saddlery Service. She has been involved in many different equine disciplines for over 50 years, including the equestrian art of Vaulting. Vicki is also a Certified Corporate Trainer in Equine Experiential Education.

In The News...

USEF MORGAN BREEDER OF THE YEAR ANN TAYLOR of Woodland Stallion Station says that the highlight of her involvement with Morgans was when she was awarded the USEF Morgan Breeder of the year Award in 2007. She has once again earned this title in 2010. Ann is a third generation horse breeder and established Woodland Stallion Station in 1983. Her herd sire was HVK Santana (Beamington x Equinox Georgiana) and for 16 years he produced many outstanding and successful Morgans. This year at Grand Nationals, his granddaughter, Wintergreen Treasure, was named World Trail Champion. Also, his last son, Wintergreen Beaufort won three World Championships –First Level dressage, low level hunter and open hunters. Ann's advice to Morgan breeders is getting the very best broodmare you can afford as she feels they contribute to 80% of the foal. Then find a selection of stallions to fit the criteria for your finished product.



Wintergreen Beaufort



BRIGIT VILLEMINEY IS THE RECIPIENT OF AN USDF BRONZE MEDAL, earned on her Morgan Sunup Nightshade . To earn an USDF Bronze Medal a rider must earn six scores of 60% or greater: two at First Level, two at Second Level, and two at Third Level, under six different judges, six different recognized shows. Congratulations Brigit!

MARY JEAN VASILOFF WAS RECENTLY INDUCTED INTO AMHA'S BREEDERS HALL OF FAME, which honors breeders who have produced Morgans that have had a significant impact on the breed. Mary Jean is the breeder of two FEI level Morgans (Whippoowill Ebony and Whippoowill Dorado) as well as the breeder of Whippoowill Keep Dancing who was one of two Morgans selected to represent the United States at the FEI World Singles Driving Championship in Italy this past July. Congratulations Mary Jean!



MDA JUNIOR MEMBER JACLYN SINK HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED WITH A BRONZE MEDAL by the United States Pony Club. The award is based on competition at First Level in both a USPC rally and a USDF open competition. Our congratulations to Jaclyn!

“Pattie’s Story” *(continued from Page 9)*

from that show was long but I never felt tired. Pattie and I had done something I had never even dreamed of doing. Later I discovered that we had done something that no other rider had done with a Morgan horse before. As far as I was concerned, I had won an Olympic Gold Medal. I could not have been prouder of my little Pattie if we had! James and I both agreed that I should go to the convention and accept my medal in person so off I went with my Mom, my best friend Karen Lindhorst and her Mom as well! Girls gone wild!

Pattie and I were blessed with so many wonderful friends, our awesome instructor, the support of my family and most notably, my husband who often felt I spent more time at the barn than in the house. We had an opportunity to learn, to work hard, to compete and to follow a dream at just the right time in our lives. I feel fortunate to have such a great teacher in Mike Osinski; 20 years later I am still a devoted student. When asked to share the challenges we faced, I have a difficult time seeing them as challenges simply because I refused to allow anything to stand in our way. Perhaps the most difficult thing we had to deal with was what I had already mentioned, and that is the change in attitude from the judges when we moved from “cute FEI competitor” to “serious

Grand Prix competitor”. If you’re going to ride the “big boy’s test” you had better expect to be measured with the “big boy’s yard stick”. I can imagine that challenge would face competitors with “other” breeds even more now than it did in our day. In response to that I can only say, do your best for yourself, stand proud and know that you have achieved a great thing just getting that far. It takes an extraordinary talent to make a Grand Prix horse, it takes just a bit more to do it with a “regular guy”!

After Pattie retired from Grand Prix in 1995 he went to work with Mary Neal at Third Level and together, they worked their way through Fourth Level and rode a Prix St. Georges test as well. Mary earned her Third Level scores for her Bronze Medal aboard Pattie. Of course I still rode Pattie and we enjoyed sharing our love of Dres-

sage with spectators by performing demonstrations at the Pacific Northwest Morgan Horse Championships, the C-Fair Charity Horse Show, Eastern Washington Youth Horse Show, Central Washington State Fair and the American Morgan Horse Association Annual Convention in Portland, March of 1996. In addition to the many championship and year end awards that Pattie and I won over the years, we were also honored by AMHA with a Certificate of Merit in recognition of our ambassadorship for the Morgan Horse breed. That particular award is very special to me.

Of all the horses in all the world there has never been, nor will there ever be another Pattie. He was an extraordinary individual...giant hearted, gentle, always willing, overachiever, best friend a girl could ever have, once in a lifetime, beautiful soul. His greatest talent was always his mind. No matter how hard the work was, no matter how many times I messed up and had to retrain something, no matter how tough the judges were, it did not change the fact that Pattie would always give me more than the best he had to offer. I have and will have other wonderful horses in my life but there will always be a very special place in my heart for my little Morgan gelding, Beckridge Patrex.



Beckridge Patrex models the piaffe

Morgan Dressage Association 2011 Awards of Excellence

REMINDER

To all MDA members and their registered Morgans

The 2011 competition year (Nov.1, 2010-Oct.31, 2011) is under way so don't forget to save your score cards so that you can qualify for the MDA awards. All the information and rules to apply are on the Morgan Dressage Association web site under the AWARDS category. The rules are also printed in your membership directory. Have a fun and successful year!

Meet the Breeder—CeAnn Shipley *(continued from Page 4)*

thinking brain. A little size was also important, as Julie was barely 14-2 and CeAnn and Del are 5'11" and 6'3". CeAnn laughs as she mentions that she also wanted the stallion to have narrow ears, as she thought that Julie's "fat" ears distracted from her lovely face. She had known and loved the Broadwall/HyCrest-bred Broadway Charlie since he was a foal cavorting at Too Few Acres, and was delighted that he met her criteria – even including those ears! She wished she had more foals by the old stallion, but that "to this day I feel blessed to have gotten such a lovely horse from Charlie's last foal crop." That lovely horse was Mythic Aladdin, who is now the senior stallion at Mythic Acres. He's a good-sized horse, with the quiet intelligence of his sire, a sound, athletic body, and the desire to please. As a bonus, he passes these good attributes to his foals. Aladdin has been shown in halter, western pleasure, hunter pleasure, hunter on the flat, hunter over fences, hunter hack, trail, and First Level dressage, and he made his mark as an eventer with Del in the saddle. Morgans are known for versatility, you know!

CeAnn thinks Aladdin enjoyed dressage and was exceptional on the trail, what he really loved was jumping. Unfortunately, an illness left him blind, and although he is now in very good health and back to normal in every other way, jumping and eventing are no longer possible. Aladdin earned his AMHA open competition bronze medallions in both show and dressage and was well on the way to winning one for eventing when "everything went haywire," costing the talented stallion his sight and CeAnn her dream that he would earn the AMHA Sport Horse Award.

Del grew up in a military family and was not involved with horses as a



*Mythic Juma ridden by owner Krista Martinko
(photo credit: Pics For You)*

youngster, though he did learn to ride. His father started hunting on thoroughbreds when he retired from the Navy, and Del's sister and brother became interested in dressage and polo, so Del became "chief horse wrangler" for the family. The horses he was exposed to were very hot, and when after he met CeAnn in 1990, he became very appreciative of her well-mannered Morgans. He and CeAnn make the perfect team with the strong points of each complementing the other. And as the farm has grown, it takes at least two dedicated horsemen to keep up with the constant demands of the animals and the facility.

At present CeAnn is taking time off from showing to play with the youngsters and to let those who have bought her Morgans bring home the glory. Krista Martinko is keeping the Mythic prefix well-known in the dressage world on her Aladdin son, Mythic Juma. An eleven-year-old gelding out of W-B Be-dazzlemint, he is described by his owner/rider as "a snarky little guy... wears his emotions on his sleeve." Krista appreciates Juma for his unparalleled work ethic, his willingness to "try and try for you," and for his sense of humor. She says he is a favorite at the barn.

Krista hacks Juma regularly, but her focus is on dressage. She has been showing Second Level under the direc-

tion of Cathy Echternach, but she's been training Third Level, plans to show him at Third Level in schooling shows this year and to do Third Level at Morven Park before the end of this show season.

Krista's experience with her first Morgan, who passed away at age 26, led her to look for another, and she researched several breeders. She loved Mythic Aladdin's conformation, dressage movement and disposition, and could see that he had passed these qualities to his son. She wanted a horse that she could train herself and that would be a joy to work with, and he turned out to be just what she wanted.

Krista and other owners of Mythic Morgans are appreciative of the effort that CeAnn and Del have gone to in order to pick mares and stallions that complement each other. CeAnn is grateful that there are breeders who are devoted to preserving the old-time Morgan bloodlines, but she is happy to use a bit of Ben Don to "pretty up" a head, and she believes that Beamington bloodlines have a tendency to produce the "no-nonsense, workmanlike" quality of mind that she likes. She and Del carefully evaluate each horse as an individual, and then check out the pedigree. In breeding to Aladdin, they want to maintain his substance, baroque qualities and correct gaits, but look for mares who can add more airiness to his movement. She likes her Morgans to be a little bigger than most, but never at the expense of good conformation and an excellent, willing mind. When you take that type of horse and add the attention to good manners that each foal receives, CeAnn feels that her horses have a sound foundation for further training, whether it is in dressage, jumping, driving or trail riding.

<http://mythicmorgans.net/>

CLASSIFIED ADS

HORSES FOR SALE

MADISON SPITFIRE (UVM Springfield x Stony Hollow Wind Dancer by Thunderbay) 2009 Bay Gelding. Incredible Sport Horse potential. Ideal, classic Morgan with athleticism, beauty, intelligence, and personality plus! Shown successfully In-Hand in 2010, starting drive training. Photos at www/madisonmorgans.com. Call for more info/pics/price (936-349-0348).

MADISON FORMAL AFFAIR (Hylee's Black Tie Affair x Phaon Pharms Annie's Song by MEMC Tequila Cuervo) 2009 Smoky Black Gelding. Beautiful, intelligent, sweet, with made-to-order dressage movements! Shown In-Hand 2010, currently in drive training. Photos at www/madisonmorgans.com. Videos on YouTube, use registered name in search. Call for more info/pics/price (936-349-0348)

GLADHEART CAMAS (Kells In Kirby's Honor X Gladheart Sonata). Lovely, 3-year-old bay mare from one of the last foal crops of Kells In Kirby's Honor ("Puckett"). Excellent mind, pretty, and correct. Very willing and sweet—potential to be your all-around partner. Pictures and more information at www.Gladheartfarm.com (541-740-2890)

GLADHEART CHARBONNEAU (Whippoorwill Aristocrat X Gladheart Sonata). Exceptionally nice black, yearling sport colt. Stallion quality. Has correct, expressive gaits, substance and type. Should be easily 15+ hands. From proven Morgan sport breeding both top and bottom. Pictures and more information at www.Gladheartfarm.com. (541-740-2890)

EMR AMEN (Iron Forge Starman x EMR Symphony) 2008 gelding. Amen is lightly started under saddle and has a personable temperament. He will excel in dressage because of his ground covering movement. Amen will mature to 15'2 hands. Asking \$7,500 pictures and videos @ www.emrmorgans.com

MOANA STARBUCK (Iron Forge Starman x Candon Battlehill Secord) 2009 gelding. Are you looking for a Morgan to take you up the levels with a dash of color and personality? This is your guy. Starbuck will mature to 15'2 hands. Asking \$4,500 pictures and videos @ www.moanamorgans.com

MERRIEWOLD HANAH 2005 bay mare (Lyonhil Quasar x Moonset's Reflection) Beautiful, bold and 16.1 hands. Hanah is a regional multi/winner in the Jumper division at Santa Barbara and is now in training for Three Day Eventing at Dragonfire Morgans with Earl McFall. Pictures and video @ www.merriewoldmorgans.com \$15,000

STALLION SERVICES

STATESMAN'S SIGNATURE "Sigi" 1997 Bay Morgan Stallion (Chief Of State x Coal Creek Spicyglow) 2010 USDF All-Breeds 2nd Level Champion AA; 2010 DSHB Champion Stallions 4&Over AMHA Showing 3rd Level in Wellington, FL Winter 2011 Breed your own Dressage, Driving, Endurance Champion; Stud Fee: 1000.00 includes 350.00 booking fee. Fresh-cooled & Frozen semen. Please go to www.aboutsigi.com for more info or email Marthe@aboutsigi.com





(Membership year runs January 1 - December 31)

2011

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Professional/Breeder additional information to be included in the current year's MDA Membership Directory and on MDA web site for an additional \$15 charge: - Up to 30 words describing your services and/or program/stallion (Use an additional sheet if necessary).

Category (check all that apply): Trainer/instructor _____ Breeder/Stock for sale _____
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Web site url for listing in directory and link on MDA website: _____

Questions? e-mail: members@morgandressage.org.



Morgan Dressage
association

www.morgandressage.org

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in Dressage.

The Morgan Dressage Association's goal is to help support the needs of horsemen and women who are interested in training, competing, breeding and promoting the Morgan horse in one of the fastest growing equine sports - dressage.

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