

# 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 12 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.

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## Morgan Dressage Association 2010 Scholarship Awards



Becky Totten and  
Kennebec Skywalker

**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 the 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 Echternacht*

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,

*(continued on Page 13)*

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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](http://WWW.BONNIECAZIERIMAGES.COM)

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# 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.



(Membership year runs January 1 - December 31)

**2011**

**Please fill out this form, and send it with a check made payable to:  
Morgan Dressage Association  
c/o Karin Weight  
1069 N. Geneva Rd., Provo, UT 84601**

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

Farm name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Do you want to receive your newsletter: **In print/US Mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Electronically/eMail** \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Young Rider \$10 (Age \_\_\_\_\_) Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list family members participating in MDA programs and note birthdates of any junior young rider members.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_ or **New Membership** \_\_\_\_\_?

Please indicate your membership category (check all that apply): Rider \_\_\_\_\_ Breeder \_\_\_\_\_  
Professional Trainer \_\_\_\_\_ Enthusiast \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you are willing to help the organization by donating your time and skills.  
(Check all that are of interest):

1. Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Membership directory/advertising/sales \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Write educational articles \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Awards coordination \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Breed promotion \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Web site url for listing in directory and link on MDA website: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? e-mail: [members@morgandressage.org](mailto:members@morgandressage.org).