

# Morgan Dressage association

*Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in Dressage.*



## GRAND PRIX MORGANS— DAVID MACMILLAN AND WEST MT. WINSTON

*By Karin Weight*

David Macmillan grew up in Durban, South Africa, and started riding as a very young boy. As a teenager, he showed jumpers before switching to dressage. Eventually, his parents bought David a thoroughbred Grand Prix schoolmaster, and the pair became a force to be reckoned with in the young riders division.

After graduating from high school, David spent six months as a working student with Ann Gribbons in New York, returned to South Africa for a short time, spent two years on a church mission in Montreal, finally moving to Utah to attend Brigham Young University.

As it happened, David had seen nothing but western riding in Utah so he thought that he would wait until after graduation before he started riding again. He had not ridden a horse for about four years when he wandered into a tack store just to look around and was surprised to see dressage saddles. The manager gave him a phone number for the Utah Dressage Society, and David was invited to come to a board meeting. As it turned out, I was the only one there who lived closer than 30 miles from the university, David was desperate to ride, and I had a young horse that needed to be ridden.

David admitted that he had never trained a dressage horse, but he had ridden Grand Prix, so he couldn't be too horrible a rider, could he? Larry (my husband) and I figured that he couldn't ruin our horse in one ride, so the following Saturday David came to our little farm and we let him get on West Mt Winston. We needn't have worried; David was a beautiful rider who seemed to have a natural ability to communicate with my horse. After he dismounted,

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*David Macmillan and West Mt Winston at the 2008 Grand Nationals (photo by Howard Schotzberg)*

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### News and Reminders:

- Check out Page 13 for **new** Classified listings—they are growing!
- Find us on Facebook! 
- **AMHA Open Competition Awards** deadline is November 1, 2011. Check the AMHA website for more details.
- Did you know you can “like” your favorite Morgan in the USDF Awards standings? Try it! 
- It is time to **renew your MDA Membership** for 2012—be sure and fill out the application on page 15 and mail it in **today!**

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## The Sport Morgan Legacy of Dr. Lowell Hughes and Caduceus Morgans

*By Beth Sheller*

Consider the unlikely possibility of one breeding program behind these 2011 National Champions:

- Spring Hollow Dark Shadow (Statesmans Silhouette X Caduceus Jocasta). Winner of the 2011 FEI Single Horse Division, Little Everglades CDE. Driven by 18 yr old Jacob Arnold, who was recently featured in April-May 2011 issue of USEF's Equestrian magazine, Shadow is owned by Mike and Penny Arnold of Snow Camp, North Carolina
- Nordby Coalie's Duke (Caduceus Falcon x Coal Creek Sabra's Coalie [Caduceus Casanova x Coal Creek Sabre]) and his partner Nordby Coalies's Coal Dust (Ortawn Captain Royal x Coal Creek Sabra's Coalie). Winners of the 2011 Driving FEI Pairs Division at the Little Everglades CDE, and owned and driven by Alan Aulson.



Merry Knox (top), Wyoming Flyhawk (middle) and Patchett Hill (bottom, with Lowell Hughes) played significant roles in the Caduceus program.

Dr. Lowell Hughes bred Morgans under the Caduceus prefix from 1966 until his death in 2001. His foundation stock included the stallion Merry Knox (Meade x April Showers) from Mabel Owen's Merrylegs Farm who combined old Government (Mansfield) with Brunk through Jubilee King, the stallion Ebony Baron (Aldebaron x Ebony C--old Brunk lines) and two Flyhawk granddaughters: Funquest Star Dot (Flyhawk's Black Star X Dot S Fanny) and Funquest Falconidae (The Brown Falcon X Colonel's Rachel) from Stuart Hazard (Funquest Farm).

Hughes worked closely with Gary Wallace of Coal Creek Morgans and Robert Iorio (Bethesda Morgans) as well as Floyd Dudney (the "FD" prefix) and Mike Damon of Bar Nothing Morgans in sharing ideas, wisdom, and breeding stock. Hughes felt quality broodmares were the most important ingredient in breeding, and sought mares with substance, good bone, depth of body, and good temperament. Even today, mares with the "Caduceus" prefix are seen frequently in Morgans who are competing at the highest levels of sport.

Initially showing his Morgans in traditional breed show venues, Hughes became interested in widening his market to open competition such as combined driving, dressage, and hunter/jumper. His goal became producing the extended walk and trot needed in sport horse disciplines, together with the temperament and trainability for concentrated work. His definition of "correct" included flat dense bone, good feet, and powerful rear ends while maintaining Morgan breed type.

In 1976 he acquired Wyoming Flyhawk (Domino Joe x Lily Black) upon the recommendation of Myrtle Neeley (Tetonia Morgans) who owned and showed Wyoming Flyhawk's sire, Domino Joe. Wyoming Flyhawk was a black, 16-hand grandson of two Flyhawk sons--Stetson and Warhawk. He proved prepotent for size and length of stride in his 132 offspring, many of whom excelled in open competition. He became one of the hallmark sires of Hughes's program and is still evident in many sport Morgan pedigrees today.

Dr. Hughes acquired Patchett Hill (Easter Vermont by Red Vermont) x Starlette B (by Easter Vermont) from the Horseshoe Cattle Company in 1982 to cross to his Wyoming Flyhawk daughters. Patchett Hill was the last son of Easter Vermont, providing more breeding tracing back to Jubilee King. Hughes also used Justin Knox (Merry Knox X Funquest Star Dot), Teton Royal Raven (Wyoming Flyhawk X Tetonia Royalty)

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# Malibu's Fawnita: A Morgan Conquers the Dressage World

By Lisa Brouillette

*(Editors Note: This is one of an occasional series of articles that highlight some of the pioneers in Morgan dressage.*

*Although many articles have been written about this amazing mare, this particular article is from the Arizona Morgan Horse 1989 Yearbook and is written by Patti Barrett's daughter, Lisa. Presented here as it was written in the late 1980s, it captures the enthusiasm and dedication of Patti and Fawnita's trainer, "Button" Baker, and the remarkable accomplishments of their Morgan mare during a time when breed bias in dressage was very much evident.*

*Sadly, Fawnita was never able to compete at Grand Prix, as she was retired due to an injury and the development of Cushings and was eventually put down at the age of 23.*

*We thank Lisa for graciously giving us permission to reprint this article. We also offer our condolences at the recent passing of her mother and Fawnita's breeder and owner, Patti Baker.)*

Malibu's Fawnita. A name to remember; a horse you'll never forget.

This gorgeous fifteen-year-old, 16.3 hand, dark bay Morgan mare has it all: size, type, intelligence, beauty, and a willing attitude that never quits. Owned and bred by Patti (Brouillette) Barrett of Malibu Morgans in Southern California, Fawnita is currently sweeping both regional and national open dressage competitions.

Fawnita has earned American Morgan Horse Association awards including Bronze, Silver and Gold AMHA Medallions and AMHA Open Competition Dressage Championships. In addition, Fawnita earned champion-



Malibu's Fawnita and her trainer Leonie "Button" Baker—first Morgan to be chosen for the United States Equestrian Team.  
Photo by Susan Sexton

ships from the California Dressage Society, the American Horse Shows Association and the United States Dressage Federation. In short, she came, she saw and she conquered.

## AN AMERICAN WARMBLOOD?

According to Barrett, many people were skeptical at first, not believing that a Morgan, an American breed, could excel at dressage. At first even Fawnita's trainer hedged when pressed for information on the mare's breeding—calling Fawnita an "American Warmblood."

Barrett, however, always stressed Fawnita's Morgan heritage. "It's thrilling to see Fawnita proudly wearing her Morgan Horse coat-of-arms on her saddlepad as she wins over expensive, imported European and Dutch Warmbloods—many ridden by current or former U.S. Equestrian Team riders," says Barrett.

Fawnita's Morgan blood is now widely known and she has plenty of

fans at the open shows who cheer her on and speak in awe of the big, beautiful Morgan." Now people ask Barrett where they can find Morgans for dressage.

## OUR CHOCOLATE "MOOSE"

Lovingly nicknamed Chocolate "Moose" as a baby because of her size (she was ten hands at birth!) and dark color, Fawnita is the first of two brilliantly successful crosses of Las Posas Bravo (Bay State Ideal x Bay State Lolita) and Waer's Fawenette (Waer's Lucky hawk X Lana). Her sire and dam, and her full sister, Malibu's Coquette, have impressive shows records of their own. Sadly, her dam, Waer's Fawnett, died several years ago, but her sire and sister are still trotting up a storm on the hills and beaches near their Malibu Morgans home.

Fawnita started her show career at Morgan breeds shows in the halter classes where she literally towered over her competition. In her performance debut at the 1977 San Diego Morgan Horse Club Show at Del Mar as a three-year-old, she won a saddleseat English Pleasure class of 30 entries!

A coincidence in 1983 changed the course of Fawnita's life. "I had planned a three month round-the-world trip and needed to keep Fawnita exercised while I was away," said Barrett. "I decided to board her at the Malibu Riding and Tennis Club. I asked the Club's English trainer, Leonie "Button" Baker, to exercise her and explore her potential for dressage."

She returned to find Baker enthusiastic about Fawnita's suitability for dressage

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(Membership year runs January 1 - December 31)

## 2011

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