

Morgan Dressage association

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in Dressage.



PIONEERS IN MORGAN DRESSAGE— PARADE AND BROADWALL DRUM MAJOR

Volume 2 Number 4

News and Reminders:

- Check out [Page 14](#) for **new Classified listings**—they are growing!
- Find us on Facebook! 
- It is **time to renew your MDA Membership for 2013**. Be sure and fill out the application on [Page 16](#) and mail it in **today!**
- Upcoming events: AMHA Convention in Portland, Oregon (February 21-23, 2013) and the USDF Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana (December 5-8, 2012).
- MDA saddle patches, magnets and key chains are still available. See [Page 13](#) for more information.

“...but at last, the lights dimmed and the strains of the beautiful Viennese music filled the stadium. Large, elegant chandeliers glittered from the ceiling and lovely red and white flowers outlined the performance arena, in the center of which stood the pillars through which the horses would come. It was a very fine imitation of the School in Vienna. Soon, a spotlight focused on the announcer located in the side stands. He began relating the history of horsemanship and dressage. Each phase was depicted by a costumed rider either on a Lipizzan or one of Mr. Ferguson’s beautiful Morgans. This lengthy introduction led to the exciting introduction of Colonel Podhajsky and the Spanish Riding School.” (“Dreams”. *The Morgan Horse*, August, 1964).



Parade and Johann Irbinger of the Spanish Riding School

At this point in time, a performance of the Spanish Riding School’s famous Lipizzaner stallions was not a common occurrence. The last tour had been in 1948, as a thank you gift to the United States for their part in saving the School during World War II. However, finally in 1964 a tour was scheduled for seven North American cities: Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Chicago, Detroit, Montreal, New York and Boston. Unusual as it was to be able to see the famous white stallions of Vienna in the United States and Canada, the performance was to be even more unusual as two of the horses on the tour were Morgans.

Parade (Cornwallis x Mansphyllus) and his son Broadwall Drum Major (Parade x Debutansque) were owned by Cecil and Margaret Ferguson of Broadwall Farm in Rhode Island and although not specifically trained for dressage, they were one of the earliest Morgans to shine in the public spotlight for dressage. The two stallions were offered to be used in the tour by the Fergusons, who had become acquainted with the then director of the school, Alois Podhajsky, through multiple visits to the Spanish Riding School.

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Spotlight on the Members



Western Pleasure and Dressage. Being part of the horse world and especially the Morgan world has been so gratifying and rewarding. It has enriched my life. We love showing off our Morgans...so please visit! ~ *Diana Wold*

It has been such a joy to share my life with Morgan Horses. I was born in Dallas, TX, so having a love of horses was just natural for me. When my family moved to Michigan, it wasn't until my mid-20's that I was able to re-enter the horse world. A dear friend owned a Morgan mare that was so wonderful, smart, talented and beautiful. that I fell in love with Morgan's and they have been in my life ever since.

Formal lessons followed soon after I fell in with a group of talented horse women who guided my early riding years. Soon after my first Morgan gelding, **Fall Brook Senator** (Merry Knox x Twilight's Memory), became a part of our family. **Senator** taught me; "position precedes action" to humbly quote Francois Baucher.

It was love at first sight when I met my second Morgan gelding, **Tuxedo Junction "TJ"** (Whitmorr Souvenir x Oakwynd June Twilite). What a Morgan!!! We have done just about everything a team can do: hunt seat, hunter hack, western pleasure, trail, Morgan Versatility, carriage, carriage dressage and dressage. When I began showing "TJ" in dressage classes at Morgan A circuit shows it was a bit discouraging at times. At one Morgan Show, the dressage area was at the far end of the Michigan State Fair Grounds marked off by boards or piping on a grassy area that was used as an overflow parking lot. We were all happy just to have dressage classes at the shows. "TJ" was a trooper and went through the test like we were at the Grand Nationals. "TJ" is still a big part of my life at 29 years-of-age and still has that Morgan attitude.

As "TJ" was enjoying carriage driving and was getting older (not me) I wanted to return to riding. I have been following the Morgan Dressage Association for many years. CeAnn Shipley and I use to ride together in Michigan years ago; another Michigan Morgan Dressage rider I followed and have known for a number of years is Rita Crawley. So it was fun to watch their progress in the MDA newsletter.

In 2008 I saw that Mtn Top Morgans had a beautiful black Morgan gelding for sale, enter Kristal Homoki. Beautiful **Mtn-Top Forever Hawk** joined our family. "Hawk" was only one-year-old at the time I purchased him. Kristal was great working with me and Hawk to become a team. All her babies are trained so well, they are use to being around people, being groomed and led about, she makes it fun to have a talented MtnTop baby.

Hawk had to grow up a bit before I could start his saddle training (this was done by several talented ladies). Kristal started the proper education of Hawk. Then the saddle work. In the mean time I thought I better brush up on my riding skills. I leased a Warmblood Hanoverian mare, Sydney, and boarded her in Metamora, MI. For two years Sydney and I had several lessons a week with Ms. Julie Kinzie. We starting with basic dressage movements and worked up from there (Sydney was the talent of this pair). Boy, did the two years go by quickly.

Now, Ms. Kinzie is working with **Hawk** and me at our farm in Leonard, MI, and we are having a WONDERFUL time together. **Hawk** is showing his talent at dressage schooling shows, earning a Reserve Champion Intro Open Division at the 2012 Midwest Dressage Association Fall Classic I & II. This was his first show, WOW!!! We just wanted to have fun, be safe and have respectable scores. We love the dressage folks; helpful and kind and many ask what breed of horse do you own???? What else, a Morgan. ~ *Carol and Michael Yates*

Merriewold Morgans began about 15 years ago when Jackie Brittain and I discovered Dressage and wanted to ride, train and breed Morgans for this discipline. We began in Okeechobee, Florida at the family ranch with the purchase of two mares, Majesty My Fair Lady and UVM Rarity. The herd grew quickly and soon we had several more mares and lots of youngsters. In 2001 my husband and I traveled to California and fell in love with the central coast. So about 6 years ago we moved Merriewold Morgans out there as well.

I am very proud of the versatility and athletic ability of the Morgans we are producing. Currently we have several young Morgans starting in the show circuit: **Jolie** in Dressage, **Kasey** in Eventing, **Galaxie** in Combined Driving, and **Jesse James** in



MtnTop Forever Hawk and Carol Yates

MDA Scholarship Awards: A week at “Camp George”

By Birgit Villeminey

When I applied for the 2012 MDA scholarship I had a firm plan in mind; a week of training with USDF President, International FEI competitor and coach, George Williams. I was absolutely thrilled when I received the information that yes; indeed the scholarship was awarded to Sunup Nightshade, (“Saumur”), in the Third/Fourth level category.



Birgit Villeminey with Saumur and Remy

In the last couple of years I was fortunate to ride in several clinics with George and we had discussed the possibility of me coming for a week of training. At the spring show, George happened to watch me warm up FRM Flower of Remington, (“Remy”)--Remy’s first show ever--and commented on my rather lively (ahem - bucking) youngster. I turned it around and said “Well, see, this is why we need to come for lessons.” So, to make a long story short, at the beginning of August Saumur, Remy and I were heading to Chadwick Farm in Ohio where George at the time had horses in training and taught part-time.

Caroline, the owner of Chadwick, had offered me the apartment above the stables, with the remark “So you can have the full ‘Camp George’ experience”. How cool!

On a sunny August Sunday we set off for Amish Country in Ohio. I had never hauled the horses by myself that far before, so in addition to having the truck and trailer thoroughly inspected, I made sure the On-Star® button worked. At one truck stop I was reluctant to leave the horses unattended between the noisy heavy diesel engines; the way I ran towards the rest

rooms had people probably wonder if I suffered from “the runs”.

Thanks to the cooperation of my (opinionated) GPS we found our destination without any detours. The boys settled into spacious stalls and I moved into a

beautiful apartment, unmistakably decorated by a horse lover. While finding my bearings around the exceptionally well run barn and the cute apartment I marveled at my good luck and the promising start of our “Camp George Experience”.

The next morning, fortified by a pot of coffee and ample Nutella®, I was ready to tackle my first lesson. The boys had already had an early morning romp in the large field they shared and by the time I came to fetch them they were freshly showered, and eating hay in their stalls. Talk about great care!

Our days followed a pleasant routine: a lesson on each horse, plus watching George and his daughter Noel, a wonderful rider, work the training horses at Chadwick. The icing on the cake was the invitation to Havensafe Farm to observe George teaching and training their top horses. The farm is tucked away from any main thoroughfare, and immediately two words came to mind--serenity and tranquility. As it is a private farm (no boarders) there is no hustle and bustle, but a very workmanlike atmosphere. In addition to the competition horses there is a retirees’ barn that also houses Dudley, the adorable donkey, and a draft horse. It was awe-inspiring to see the level of training and riding; everything looked so smooth, quiet, and effortless. I

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Why Do Ground Work? What Do You Wish to Accomplish (Part II)

By Brenda Aloff

You should spend some time considering what you wish to accomplish with Ground Work or Work In Hand. If you are working at dressage specifically, Natural Horsemanship and Ground Work is beneficial for western horses at any level and through First Level for dressage as it lays a basis for more complex communication and engagement at these levels is on and off. However, as you move up the levels in dressage the requirements for engagement increase. Even in Second Level, the engagement is expected to come and go somewhat, but becomes more consistent by use of the Shoulder-In and other lateral work. By Third Level you need to definitely be doing Work In Hand to enhance your dressage, as the engagement needs to be consistent and ever intensifying through Grand Prix and beyond.

Another consideration is what do you want to end up with? A cutting horse or working cow horse does not use his body or balance in the same manner as a dressage horse does in a pirouette, and vice-versa. Both are athletes, but the work has different challenges and requirements, particularly from a dressage perspective. For instance, when a cowboy initially backs or breaks-in a horse for me, an adult amateur dressage lady, I will want something different from my dressage mount than the cowboy might want from a reining horse. Although I love the cowboy's work and want the safety he can provide with his expertise, I want to make certain that the Ground Work he does will enhance my horse's balance for my end goal. For example, I might prefer he do a sort of moving shoulder-in and only turn the horse 45 degrees to halt and redirect the horse's movement, rather than yield the hind-quarters a full 90 degrees as is commonly done in Natural Horsemanship, as the latter really throws the horse onto his forehand. In dressage, we need the specific sort of bend and engagement and want the horse to understand the forward balance in the lateral work.

Adapting your program to your horse and your end goal is good for the horse and avoids confusion that will eventually show up in the horse's performance. Sometimes the horse is punished for a perceived disobedience, when in reality he is confused and that is very unfair to the horse. Confused animals also often become frustrated, which is counter-productive. When you are frustrated in the work with your horse, it is most likely because you need to further break down your teaching steps, or in learning theory language, your approximations must be smaller. This avoids confusion in your pupil.

THE BASIC TENETS OF NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP ARE:

- The horse is a flight-based animal and tends to be very reactive.
- Horses are born cowards; they are afraid of everything that moves, doesn't move, changes locations/appearance, or anything that makes a noise.
- What horses are not afraid of, they often pretend to be afraid of out of habit.
- Horses are extremely claustrophobic
- Horses are addicted to forward motion

Training should never be mentally or physically harmful and confusing to the horse; it is highly unfair to punish a horse for its instincts or to punish a confused horse. Unfortunately, often through a lack of education, this is precisely what occurs. Not because the person is "bad", but often due to a lack of knowledge, force tends to be the first tool used. In addition, failure to have conversations with your horse about these tenets can result in being hurt or worse. As a horse owner, I have an obligation to the horse to have these discussions so the horse can do his job well and comfortably.

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A Funny Thing Happened to Me on the Way to the USDF Medal Awards—

Part II: All This From One Little Morgan

By Debra M'Gonigle

My long-time adventure with Morgans actually began with a little black Morgan mare named Black Magic. My father traded an old Ford pickup truck to a cowboy who originally bought Magic for a parade horse. She was only four when I got her and I was fourteen; to say we both were clueless was an understatement. I had her chase traffic to see how fast she could run, and then we started saddle club, trail rides and play days, followed by speed classes, barrels, poles and other gymkhana games at county fairs and open shows. Competing against Quarter Horses, she always placed well.

I wanted foals by this mare, but as a Morgan stallion was not available locally, in 1981 and 1982 I bred her to a nearby Appaloosa and she gave birth to two sets of twins. A wonderful Morgan Momma, she had no difficulty in foaling or nursing them herself. All of the local newspapers ran articles about Black Magic, with some featuring her on their front page. Having Magic in my life clinched my love and devotion of Morgans. She and I were together until she was seventeen, when she suddenly passed away from a uterine atrial rupture while giving birth to her last foal, a Morgan colt, which we raised as an orphan.

Now devoted to the Morgan breed my husband and I search of another Morgan mare, but instead fell in love with Ravenscroft Renown, a three-month-old bay colt. Renown showed us that a Morgan could do everything and do it well. A champion in both Morgan and open competition, he was a winner in halter, Justin Morgan classes and in driving (pleasure, reinsmanship, obstacle, gamblers choice and combined driving). Then we went on to western pleasure, hunt seat, equitation and trail classes. Renown eventually began dressage training and really enjoyed the mental stimulation that dressage offered.



Our daughter Meggin learned how to ride on Renown's back, and Meggin became a really great teacher to many children and adult amateurs herself. At 19 years young, Renown and his amateur rider Melanie went to the Morgan Grand Nationals and although Melanie had never ridden dressage before they placed Top Ten in a huge Training Level class. Melanie was so impressed with Renown that she ended up breeding her warmblood mare to him and later to Rapidan Imperial.

Some time before we went to OKC, we heard that Renown's sire, Applevale Replica (by Pecos), had been sold to a California breeder who contacted us to see if we could send them copies of Renown's scrapbook of accomplishments. We decided to go visit them and thus...Black Magic led to Ravenscroft Renown, who led us to Rapidan Imperial.

Imperial and I spent many hours training with Karl Mikolka at Temple Farms. Imperial loved Karl and he loved the interesting lessons Karl would prepare and put us through. Karl would diagram and write out each lesson, and give me a worksheet the next day as homework. I cherished and continue to use these worksheets today!

Karl's wife Lynn missed her family out east and longed to move back. Temple Farm was changing also, as some long time trainers had started their own following elsewhere. It seemed everyone was going through "growing pains". Karl informed me he felt it was time for him and Lynn to go back east. We helped Karl and Lynn pack up their modest home at Temple Farm. We reminisced over many old photos as we helped to pack. We would stay in touch through phone calls and letters. Once out east Karl took up something we both love: writing. He started a newsletter "Inspiration," which consisted of riding exercises, stories about his riding journeys, training tips and theories, Karl always made these publications thought provoking. In one of his last issues, he included a photo of Forsite Zephyr

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association

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Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1 – December 31. Please print out this form, fill it out, send it and a check to: Morgan Dressage Association, Karin Weight, 1069 N. Geneva Rd., Provo, UT 84601. Checks should be made payable to MDA.

Name _____

Farm name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

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

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Please check your membership category:

Renewal New Jr/Young Rider \$10 Individual \$25 Family/Farm \$35 Patron \$100

Check all that apply: Rider Professional Trainer Breeder Enthusiast

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

Newsletter Membership directory/advertising Write educational articles Awards coordination

Breed promotion Other _____

Professional/Breeder additional information to be included in the 2011 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 additional sheet if necessary).

Category (Check all that apply): Trainer/instructor Breeder/Stock for sale

Other _____

Web site url for listing in directory and link on MDA web site _____

If you've already renewed and want your information/listing to be included in the next directory and on the web site now, just send the bottom portion of this form with a check for \$15 and mark: "Already renewed" at the top.

Please be sure your email address is clear and legible; all newsletters and MDA Extensions will be sent via email.

Please make your checks payable to MDA and return this form with membership dues to:
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