

# Morgan Dressage association



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

## April, 2014

*Bloodlines in Morgan Dressage:*

### HVK SANTANA

*By Karin Weight*

In 1983 Ann Taylor watched Something Blue (HVK Santana X Rapidan Es Mala) win the Yearling Stallion class at Morgan Nationals. The typey colt captivated Ann with his symmetry, good bone, short back, strong legs, and beautiful head. To be precise, he was just the type of youngster she wanted to raise. The colt's sire, HVK Santana was by Beamington, with some Lippitt bloodlines through his dam Equinox Georgianna, and Ann thought he might make a nice addition to her herd. Looking back, she can see that leasing and later purchasing HVK Santana was an incredibly good move. Her Woodland Stallion Station and Wintergreen Morgans were already known for good quality, but Santana became one of the most significant modern sires of Morgan sport horses, helping to make Ann's breeding program nationally recognized as a premier operation. In fact, Ann Taylor has twice been named by the United States Equestrian Federation as Breeder of the Year.



*HVK Santana—circa 1980's*

HVK Santana was bred by Herb Kohler of Wisconsin, and from the beginning it was obvious that Santana was beautiful to look at, correct in conformation, and extremely easy to work with. His sire was a successful Park Harness horse and his maternal grandmother, Lippitt Ethan Georgia, was one of the most successful broodmares of her time. Santana himself was shown in halter and English Pleasure, winning at the Gold Cup, the Jubilee, and the Illinois State Fair. His show career culminated at the 1981 Morgan Grand Nationals where he took third in Stallions Five-and-Over and was the Reserve World Champion Open English Pleasure with Judy Whitney in the saddle.

Bob and Toni Hughes purchased the young stallion as a three-year-old and brought him to their small farm in Park City, Utah in 1977. Morgan breeders in Utah now had two recently "imported" three-year-old stallions to choose

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#### News and Reminders:

- Check out [Page 14](#) (and the [website!](#)) for **new Classified** listings—they are growing!
- Find Us, Like Us and  Friend Us on Facebook!
- It is **past time to renew your MDA Membership** for 2014—but never too late! You can renew your membership on line with PayPal or the old-fashioned way w/ check or money order.
- Been getting your new email newsletter, "MDA Extensions"? No? [Let us know](#) so we can get you on the list!
- Going for the Ribbons this year? Make sure all your memberships are current!

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## Spotlight on the Members



Rebecca Darragh and The Legacy of Scotmadison

*Scotty is one of the most talented horses I have ever owned. A registered Morgan, **The Legacy of Scotmadison**, aka **Scotty**, has three excellent gaits, beautiful conformation and just the best character. He has been a patient and willing schoolmaster for me while having just enough cheekiness to keep us all giggling through my rides. My trainer Elizabeth Austin enjoys his cheeky overachiever attitude. Competing in the Champlain Dressage Schooling Series in our first season we finished first, winning Training Level Champions for 2012. Progressing on in our second season, we came out strong in the CDSS Series winning First Level Champion for 2013. In 2013, we also competed successfully in three rated shows. Whether we are hacking out, playing around, schooling or showing, **Scotty** and I have developed a strong bond; **Scotty** has become the partner I always hoped to find. His talent, temperament and willingness do him credit and are a testament to the versatility of the Morgan breed. **Scotty** has made my dreams come true.*  
~ **Rebecca Darragh**

*I began riding dressage (and horses) at the age of 50. The purchase of my seventeen-year-old Morgan gelding, **Aldoras Noble Heir** (Sparfield Aristocrat X Replica Trina) was my gift to myself upon retirement after 25 years as an FBI Agent. With five moves in my career, mostly to big cities on both the east and west coast, owning a horse wasn't always an option. Noble is my first horse. I bought him when he was five-years-old and twelve years later we are still learning the dance.*



Debra Frugilti and Aldoras Noble Heir

*His trainers have all remarked at how he tries so hard to please, will sometimes do what he "thinks" you want him to do and how he will not quit. A trainer once remarked as to how **Noble** could have gone further up the levels with a more experienced rider. I didn't take offense, as I am an inexperienced rider, but took great satisfaction that I own such a wonderful horse. Members of the Central Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Dressage Society have offered to buy him, but the answer will always be "No, he is home to stay."*

*We are First Level and are still trying for that elusive 60% at First Level Test Three at a recognized show. Three years ago Karen Robinson at Applause Dressage created a First Level Freestyle for **Noble**, but the following summer was laminitis and last summer was colic, knocking us out of both show seasons. However, since **Noble** is a Morgan and no quitter, neither will I. I hope to find him a companion dressage gelding, older like we are, kind, gentle and forgiving.*

*I hope to ride another ten or fifteen years and, with luck, join the USDF Century Club with my Morgan, America's horse. Do I wish I had begun riding earlier? Absolutely, but better late than never. We are each given different blessings in life and I count my Morgan as one of my blessings. The winds of heaven do blow between a horses ears. ~ **Debra Frigulti***

*Looking for something to visit over the fence about? Have an interesting story you want to share? A little (or big) brag? Well here is your chance!*

Send us a short (two or three paragraphs) tale about yourself and your Morgan horse (with a picture, of course!) and we will be happy to share your story with the rest of the MDA Membership on our "Spotlight on the Members" page. Come on, don't be shy...we would love to hear from you! Send your story and photos to [sally@montanasky.us](mailto:sally@montanasky.us)





# Morgan Dressage Association 2013 Scholarship Awards



Each year the Morgan Dressage Association awards scholarships to riders with the objectives of promoting Morgans in dressage, and assisting MDA members in advancing in the sport of dressage. We are delighted to announce the four winners of scholarships for calendar year 2014.

## REBECCA DARRAGH

Rebecca Darragh, from Panton, Vermont, is our in the AA Training/First Level category winner. Her Morgan, The Legacy of Scotmadison (Charlestown Scotland x Equinox Made-moiselle), picked her in January 2012 and they have never looked back. They are actively showing at First Level with scores in the 70s. She is planning to use her scholarship to pay for lessons and clinics to advance into Second Level. Her long-term goal is to take Scotty to Grand Prix. You can see a video of Rebecca and Scotty at <http://bit.ly/1ceYZaT>.



Rebecca Darragh and  
The Legacy of Scotmadison

## DEE LOVELESS



Dee Loveless and PVF Power Factor

Dee Loveless, of Monson, Massachusetts, is our winner at Fourth/FEI with PVF Power Factor (Equinox Challenge x JPR Have Mercy). "Moe" is 9-years-old and doing well at Fourth. She has been a professional in dressage for more than two decades and Moe is the third Morgan she has brought up through the levels. She is using her scholarship to help pay for a month in training in Florida this winter with her regular trainer. See a video of Dee and More here: <http://bit.ly/1dxszYS>.

## JACLYN SINK

Jaclyn Sink, from Dayton, Maryland, is our winner in the Junior/Young Rider category. She has owned her Morgan, Sil'Sations Spirit (Statesmans Silhouette x Ken-Mar Sensation) since she was 7-years-old and has been riding dressage for 12 years. Jaclyn and Spirit are showing at Third Level and schooling Fourth. She is planning to use her award for lessons and clinics to prepare for showing at Fourth Level this coming show season. Her longer-term goals are to compete Spirit through PSG and earn her Silver Medal with him. You can see videos of Jaclyn and Spirit at <http://youtu.be/zygwwDG-v1> and [http://youtu.be/m\\_QrWHe-TZI](http://youtu.be/m_QrWHe-TZI).



Jaclyn Sink and  
Sil'Sations Spirit

## REBECCA TOTTEN



Rebecca Totten and  
Kennebec Starwalker

Rebecca Totten, from West Bath, Maine, took the Second/Third Level scholarship. Her Morgan is Kennebec Starwalker (Triple S Dark Eagle x Kennebec Starflower). From her beginning in riding at Kennebec Morgans, she has focused on dressage, and has brought her horse from foaling to Third Level. She plans to use her scholarship to solidify Starwalker's changes and collection to move him up to Fourth Level and on from there. Long term goals include earning her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals, and also her AMHA Silver and Gold Dressage Medallions. You can see video of Becky and Starwalker at <http://youtu.be/Nke7rQOxKfY>.

# Conditioning Sport Horses

By Hilary M. Clayton, BVMS, PhD, Dipl. ACVSMR, MRCVS

## Introduction

Preparation of a horse for competition involves a combination of training and conditioning. Training develops neuromuscular coordination and mental discipline, whereas conditioning induces physiological and structural adaptations in the body tissues that maximizes performance and maintain soundness.

Equestrian sports encompass a diverse range of activities and an equally diverse range of conditioning methods must be used to address specific requirements of different sports. The best results are obtained when conditioning workouts are tailored to individual circumstances. Factors to be considered include the age and training history of the horse, presence of injuries, nature of the sport and level of competition, local terrain and weather and timing of major competitions during the season.

## Types of Conditioning

Cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and flexibility are components of fitness in sport horses. The requirements for each component vary with the sport.

- Cardiovascular conditioning enhances the ability of the respiratory, cardiovascular and muscular systems to produce energy by the appropriate metabolic pathways;
- Strength training increases the strength, power or endurance of specific muscle groups;
- Suppling exercises increase the range of motion of the joints.

## Conditioning Principles

The volume of work depends on the frequency, intensity, and duration of the workouts. These variables are manipulated to improve, maintain or reduce the horse's fitness level. If the horse performs the same exercise every day, it reaches and maintains a certain level of fitness but does not continue to become fitter. Improvements in fitness result from gradual increases in the volume of exercise; after each incremental increase the new workload is maintained over the next few workouts to allow the body to adapt before another increase is applied. The alternation of an increment in the workload with a period of adaptation is known as progressive loading. If regular exercise ceases or is reduced in volume, the exercise-induced changes are reversed.

The short term effect of a strenuous workout is to produce microscopic tissue damage which usually heals within 2 days. Through repeated cycles of damage and repair, the musculoskeletal tissues are able to adapt to the regular pattern of exercise. In the long term, these adaptations enhance the horse's ability to produce energy and strengthen the supporting structures (hoof, bone, cartilage, ligament and tendon).

Insufficient exercise fails to produce a beneficial adaptation, but too much exercise or insufficient recovery time between workouts leads to repetitive strain injuries. By performing different types of exercise on successive days and by allowing easy days between strenuous workouts, the risk of injury is reduced.

The body tissues vary in their rate of adaptation to exercise. In horses, the cardiovascular and muscular systems respond rapidly, with significant changes being produced in only a few weeks. In contrast, the supporting structures in the limbs

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"Preparation for competition involves a combination of training and conditioning" (Kate Rawlinson and RG Flyhawk's Destiny)



Morgan Dressage  
association

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in dressage.

## Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1 – December 31. Please print out this form, fill it out, and send it with payment to: Morgan Dressage Association, Karin Weight, 1069 N. Geneva Rd., Provo, UT 84601. Refer to the MDA website for Paypal options.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

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 (check all that apply):

- |                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Jr/Young Rider (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New     | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Family (\$35)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100)    |

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

- |  |   |   |                                 |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter      | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership directory/advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Write educational articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breed promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                      |   |                                 |

- Business Listing.** For an additional \$25, a link to your farm/business is included in the membership directory with the option of a color business card/logo display and a listing in the Directory of Services and Professionals on the website with a brief description of services.

Please check all that apply: \_\_\_\_\_Breeder \_\_\_\_\_Sales \_\_\_\_\_Training \_\_\_\_\_Clinics

Web site URL for listing in directory and link on MDA web site: \_\_\_\_\_

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:  
Morgan Dressage Association • c/o Karin Weight • 1069 N. Geneva Rd. • Provo, UT 84601