

# Morgan Dressage association



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

## GRAND PRIX MORGANS— THE ENCORE: WHIPPOORWILL DORADO

*By Bernadette Stang*

It is a rare and coveted accomplishment in dressage to bring a horse, no matter what the breed, through the training pyramid and up the levels to reach the ultimate goal of Grand Prix. As chronicled in a recent article in *The Morgan Horse* by Karin Weight (TMH November/December, 2014) and beginning with Big Bend Doc David and Mona Sansoucy-Gaudet almost thirty years ago, only eleven



*Whippoorwill Dorado and Cathy Echternach*

Morgans have successfully reached this goal. The most current addition to this elite group is the McCulloch Farm-bred gelding, Whippoorwill Dorado and his rider and trainer Cathy Echternach.

Although Cathy Echternach had never actually been to McCulloch Farm (Whippoorwill Morgans), Mary Jean Vasiloff had sent Echternach horses over the years to train and sell for her. “Dory” was one of these. Originally sold almost as a newborn as a potential western horse (hence the name “Dorado”), he was bought back by Vasiloff when his first owner’s life took a sudden turn and she was unable to keep him. After he was back at McCulloch Farm as coming three-year-old Vasiloff decided that, because of Dory’s conformation and balance, he would make a better dressage horse than western prospect and he was sent to Echternach to be trained and eventually sold. However, when the chocolate-brown gelding was unloaded from the trailer at Echternach’s barn in Maryland, she decided to buy him herself as she felt the horse would be a good fit for her personally.

Since he was only a three-year-old, Echternach was cautiously optimistic about Dory’s potential to become a FEI horse. As her philosophy is to train to the

*(continued on [Page 2](#))*

## January, 2015

### News and Reminders:

- Check out [Page 21](#) (and the [website!](#)) for **new Classified listings**—they are growing!
- Been getting your new email news bulletin the “MDA Extensions”? No? [Let us know](#) so we can get you on the list! The next MDA Extensions will be in February.
- It is that time! Remember to renew your memberships for 2015: MDA, USDF, USEF, local dressage and Morgan clubs...The new year is upon us!
- Not sure if you renewed your MDA membership? Check the Membership Directory on the MDA website. Your name in **italics** (or missing?) You need to **join or renew!**

### Inside this issue:

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# 2014 USDF All-Breeds Awards



*Merriwold Ima Lucky Star and Kat Trueblood*

## TRAINING LEVEL OPEN

1. 69.542 Merriwold Ima Lucky Star (RBF Time To B x ABL Morning Star). Ridden by Kat Trueblood; Owned by Diana Wold; Breeder, Merriwold Morgans LLC.
2. 69.167 Hollyhock Frida Kahlo (Hollyhock Bella Noche x Ironstone Flirtation). Ridden and owned by Denice Wax; Breeder, Pamela Eller.
3. 65.000 UVM Fame (UVM Lash x UVM Watchman). Ridden by Laura Fay; Owned by Melissa McGrath; Breeder, University of Vermont.
4. 63.900 Orrwood Madison Bay (Thunderbay x Jellico Fancy Affair). Ridden by Elizabeth Petersen; Owned by Victoria Fernalld; Breeder, Darlene and Peter Orr.
5. 63.571 Roy-El's Leading Man (Eethree Supreme x Nobel's Lady Lisa). Ridden by Rena Haynes; Breeder, Roy-El's Farm.

**QUALIFIED BUT NOT PLACED:** Rustic vs Ready to Launch/Jennifer Thompson, DVF Kootenai Ice/Ursula Cristofaro, and CBMF Follow Your Heart/Nancy Davis.

## TRAINING LEVEL AA

1. 69.167 Hollyhock Frida Kahlo (Hollyhock Bella Noche x Ironstone Flirtation). Ridden and owned by Denice Wax; Breeder, Pamela Eller.
2. 63.571 Roy-El's Leading Man (Eethree Supreme x Nobel's Lady Lisa). Ridden by Rena Haynes; Breeder, Roy-El's Farm.
3. 62.672 Rustic vs Ready to Launch (Dragonfire Kirin x Sheza Ballerina). Ridden and owned by Jennifer Thompson; Breeder, Wendy Meyer.
4. 62.500 DVF Kootenai Ice (Carlyle Cartier x Buckshee). Ridden by Ursula Cristofaro and Debbie Fonia-Dewitt; Owned by Ursula Cristofaro; Breeder, Eldon Blennett.
5. 62.400 CBMF Follow Your Heart (GLB Bell Pepper x Beloved Bettina). Ridden and owned by Nancy Davis; Breeder, Coppe Beech Morgan Farm.

## TRAINING LEVEL JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER

1. 63.900 Orrwood Madison Bay (Thunderbay x Jellico Fancy Affair). Ridden by Elizabeth Petersen; Owned by Victoria Fernalld; Breeder, Darlene and Peter Orr.

## TRAINING LEVEL VINTAGE CUP

1. 69.542 Merriwold Ima Lucky Star (RBF Time To B x ABL Morning Star). Ridden by Kat Trueblood; Owned by Diana Wold; Breeder, Merriwold Morgans LLC.
2. 69.167 Hollyhock Frida Kahlo (Hollyhock Bella Noche x Ironstone Flirtation). Ridden and owned by Denice Wax; Breeder, Pamela Eller.

## FIRST LEVEL OPEN

1. 67.411 SSLLC Collective Soul (Tug Hill Whamuniton x Brio Bell Martell). Ridden by Pamela Thompson; Owned by Cara-Lynne Schengrund; Breeder, Kevin Schengrund.
2. 66.774 FRM Flower of Remington (Caduceus Denver x Bay Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Birgit Villeminey and Judy Kelly; Owned by Birgit Villeminey; Breeder, Libby Flower.
3. 66.339 CBMF Split Decision (CBMF Ruling Class x HVK Endowed). Ridden by Kjersten Lance and Michellie Jones; Owned by Michellie Jones; Breeder, Copper Beech Morgan Farm.
4. 66.082 Justawee Graceful (JO Farms Excaliber x Triple S Caramel). Ridden and owned by Jane Landau; Breeder, Jackie Moehling.
5. 65.541 DVF Kootenai Ice (Carlyle Cartier x Buckshee). Ridden by Ursula Cristofaro and Debbie Fonia-Dewitt; Owned by Ursula Cristofaro; Breeder, Eldon Blennett.



*Flower of Remington and Birgit Villeminey*

**QUALIFIED BUT NOT PLACED:** Tka Get Smart/Debbie Rodriguez & Taska Parker, JSE Winter Prayer/Meredith Mathers, Bay State Quizical/Danielle & Jacqueline Helle, Crossfires Desert Rose/Lisa Teresa Mauriello, ATMF Moonlight Sonata/Sierra Breckenridge, Bay Run Encore/Pamel Sorton, Pink Martini/Karen Rossen, Raintree Sam I Am/Bobbie Rockow, DJJJ Stars Ace/Celeste Brown, Hollyhock Bella Luna/Brenda Thoma, Manic Nemo/Ashley Anderson.

## FIRST LEVEL AA

1. 66.339 CBMF Split Decision (CBMF Ruling Class x HVK Endowed). Ridden by Kjersten Lance and Michellie Jones; Owned by Michellie Jones; Breeder, Copper Beech Morgan Farm.
2. 65.345 JSE Winter Prayer (A Winter Day x DLY Answered Prayer). Ridden and owned by Meredith Mathers; Breeder, Jerry Estep.



# Morgan Dressage Association 2014 Awards of Excellence



## TRAINING LEVEL OPEN

1. 72.699 Merriewold Ima Lucky Star (RBF Time To B x ABL Morning Star). Ridden by Kat Trueblood; Owned by Diana Wold.
2. 71.445 Hollyhock Frida Kahlo (Hollyhock Bella Noche x Ironstone Flirtation). Ridden and owned by Denice Wax.
3. 70.967 FRF Backtalk (DBA Street Talk x Rush to Judgement). Ridden and owned by Marissa Klimkiewicz.
4. 68.731 UVM Fame (UVM Lash x UVM Watchman). Ridden by Laura Fay; Owned by Melissa McGrath.

## TRAINING LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR

1. 71.445 Hollyhock Frida Kahlo (Hollyhock Bella Noche x Ironstone Flirtation). Ridden and owned by Denice Wax.
2. 70.967 FRF Backtalk (DBA Street Talk x Rush to Judgement). Ridden and owned by Marissa Klimkiewicz.

## FIRST LEVEL OPEN

1. 69.140 FRM Flower of Remington (Caduceus Denver x Bay Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Judy Kelly; Owned by Birgit Villeminey.
2. 68.290 Mythic Odun (Robbie Sue's Ragtime x Mythic Honabe). Ridden by Elizabeth Heubisch; owned by CeAnn Shipley.
3. 67.424 FRF Backtalk (DBA Street Talk x Rush to Judgement). Ridden and owned by Marissa Klimkiewicz.
4. 67.395 Flower of Diva (Caduceus Denver x Bay Y's Lori Lynn). Ridden by Garra Walline; Owned by Beth Sheller.
5. 66.828 Highover French Krystle (Highover Oaklyn Command x SM Forever Krystle). Ridden and owned by Angela Thayer.
6. 66.351 Pink Martini (LPS The Boogie Man x Queen's Midori). Ridden and owned Karen Rossen
7. 64.979 Hollyhock Bella Luna (Summit's Conbrio x Hollyhock Isabella). Ridden and owned by Brenda Thoma.
8. 63.674 Mantic Nemo (RJM Pardon My French x D&D April's Promise). Ridden by Ashley Anderson; Owned by Sally Anderson.



*Highover French Krystle  
and Angela Thayer*

## FIRST LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR

1. 67.424 FRF Backtalk (DBA Street Talk x Rush to Judgement). Ridden and owned by Marissa Klimkiewicz.
2. 66.828 Highover French Krystle (Highover Oaklyn Command x SM Forever Krystle). Ridden and owned by Angela Thayer.
3. 66.351 Pink Martini (LPS The Boogie Man x Queen's Midori). Ridden and owned Karen Rossen.
4. 64.979 Hollyhock Bella Luna (Summit's Conbrio x Hollyhock Isabella). Ridden and owned by Brenda Thoma.

## FIRST LEVEL JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER

1. 63.674 Mantic Nemo (RJM Pardon My French x D&D April's Promise). Ridden by Ashley Anderson; Owned by Sally Anderson.

## SECOND LEVEL OPEN

1. 67.092 Flower of Alliance (Caduceus Denver x Caduceus Sonata). Ridden by Sally Anderson and owned by Valerie Radtke.
2. 65.352 Merriewold Kirin (RG Stuarts Monarch x Caduceus Marika). Ridden by Alejandro Salazar and owned by Diana Wold.
3. 64.300 V Back in Black (Season's Forever French x Livin' on the Edge). Ridden by Brynne Varvel and owned by Kelly Varvel.
4. 64.060 Foxbrush One Tuff Juan (Funquest Erick x Timberloft Mary Mead). Ridden and owned by Sherri Spoltman.
5. 61.992 Highover French Krystle (Highover Oaklyn Command x SM Forever Krystle). Ridden and owned by Angela Thayer.

## SECOND LEVEL ADULT AMATEUR

1. 64.060 Foxbrush One Tuff Juan (Funquest Erick x Timberloft Mary Mead). Ridden and owned by Sherri Spoltman.
2. 61.992 Highover French Krystle (Highover Oaklyn Command x SM Forever Krystle). Ridden and owned by Angela Thayer.



*Foxbrush One Tuff Juan and Sherri Spoltman*



# Morgan Dressage Association 2014 Scholarship Reports

*As part of the MDA Scholarship requirements, recipients are asked to provide a short narrative of how they spent their training year. Below are reports from three of last year's Scholarship winners:*

## REBECCA DARRAGH (THE LEGACY OF SCOTMADISON)

“Thank you for the scholarship money! Here is the summary of my year and how I spent my scholarship money. This year was a stepping up to Second Level, and it was a big jump. We started a little slow, but ended with a bang:

- Fall of 2013, we boarded at Foxwood Farm in Charlotte to take advantage of the large indoor and train all winter.
- We lessoned weekly with Elizabeth Austin and Deborah Dean Smith, both Grand Prix riders and excellent trainers.
- We came out in the summer competing at the following shows:
  - Dressage at Stockade I & II August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (two rated shows). We finished the weekend with a 59% and 58%. Since this was our first outing at Second Level, we were happy with our scores.
  - August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we competed at Dressage Days 1 and 2 (two rated shows). We did great we ended the weekend with scores of 62.38% and a 60% both qualifying scores toward my Bronze Medal. Yeah!!!
  - Next we competed in four Champlain Dressage Schooling Series (CDSS):
    - Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at East Hill Farm, Plainfield, VT. Second Level Test 3 with a 59%.
    - Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at Juniper Knoll Farm, Second Level Test 3 with a 65.38%, winning the class.
  - Oct 5th Triple Combination, Ferrisburg, VT. Second Level Test 3 with a 60% and a second place.
  - Aug 24 Cloverfield, Colchester, VT. Second Level Test 3 with a 63.21%, winning this class.
- We also participated in several clinics:
  - On Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, we rode with Courtney King-Dye. It was awesome! I learned a ton. She was very good. She was able to find your weakness in just a short amount of time and spent the rest of the time working on these basic fundamentals that were missing in our riding. A true turning point for Scotty and I. During these clinics, we also met Lori Barnard a wonderful trainer and USEF ‘R’ dressage judge who has been instrumental in our decision to move up to Third Level.
  - On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Scotty and I had the opportunity to ride with Ida Anderson—a rated USEF ‘S’ Judge. This opportunity was great. I learned a lot about my riding and how to enable Scotty to relax in poll and come through in his whole body.
  - We are fortunate to be able to ride again with Courtney on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and then to ride with Ida Anderson on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. I am so excited.



*Rebecca Darragh and The Legacy of Scotmadison with Courtney King-Dye*

Scotty and I are really starting to form a special partnership, and Third Level in the spring is going to be so fun.

Thank you so much for the scholarship money as it was spent very well and we will be coming out in the spring ready to show the Morgan world how special this breed really is.

Thank you” —Rebecca Darragh

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# Estate Planning for Horse Owners: What's All The Fuss About? (Part II)

By Robert E. Kass, J.D., LL.M.

*This is the second part of a three part series. The final installment will be presented in the April, 2015 MDA Newsletter.*

## **Retirement Facilities and Horse Rescues.**

There are many facilities that play a role in providing care and finding new owners and careers for horses that are considered unwanted or which were subjected to neglect or abuse.

**Retirement Facilities.** A retirement facility is one possibility. It can be compared to an assisted living facility for people, with staff trained to care for the health issues facing older horses and those with injuries. Although most horse retirement facilities are run honestly and with the best interest of the horses at heart, there have been reports of horses abused and neglected at some facilities, so please be very careful to consider the facility closely and certainly make a personal visit and do whatever it takes to do due diligence.

How do the other horses look? Is the place neat, clean and free from debris? A key issue will be whether the horses have the room they need to move around to combat arthritis, as horses standing in box stalls will stiffen up quickly. Another issue is specialized care, such as custom feed, special medical attention, and educated staff that understands the needs of your horse.



A list of equine facilities that accept horses can be found on the website of the Unwanted Horse Coalition, [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org). You can find others by researching on the Internet.

For the most part, retirement facilities are not free. You will have to pay a monthly board bill just as you would in any boarding facility.

There are other types of facilities to which you would be donating your horses and no longer own it or control what

happens to the horse. Many of these would be for specific breeds. In some cases, horses must be at least "pasture sound." Some may go on to second careers, while most will spend the rest of their days eating grass. Unsound or "pasture pet" horses will only be accepted for retirement at some facilities with your tax-deductible donation for the ongoing care of the horse.

**Rescue Operations.** You should be aware of the difference between a retirement facility and a horse rescue operation. Rescues are generally for neglected or abused horses. They provide emergency care when horses have been removed from their owners or abandoned. Horses may be adopted out when they have recovered from their trauma. These programs are generally funded by donations and operated on a non-profit basis. As a general rule, "owner initiated surrenders" are not accepted.

Retirement facilities, by comparison, are generally for older horses, or those which are unsuitable for work because of injuries. The type of care that is needed may be more maintenance than care for trauma. The horses are privately owned, and the facilities may be for-profit private boarding facilities, although this is not always the case.

**Second Careers.** You may consider a second career for your horse. This is often a solution for race horses which reach the end of their racing careers. Though they do not race any more, they are considered for stallions, broodmares, trail riding, equestrian sports, backyard pleasure or even therapeutic use.

**Equine Therapy.** Some equine therapy programs involve therapeutic riding and driving programs in which the horse is used as a therapeutic tool for people with disabilities. Therapeutic riding, driving and hippo therapy utilize equine-oriented activities which contribute positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of children and adults with special needs. Equine-related activities for therapeutic purposes are known as equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT).

*(continued on [Page 13](#))*

# Trainer's Tips

*By Sally Anderson*

In "Trainer's Tips" we will have three Morgan trainers give the reader different techniques on how to introduce a movement to a young horse, discuss problems that might happen when you execute the movement, and then give you helpful tips on how to fix the problem.

The three trainers that we will be highlighting this issue are:



- **Sally Anderson** – Anderson is a third generation Morgan breeder and has her USDF Gold medal which she earned on a Morgan. She has trained two Morgans to Grand Prix and is currently training a young Morgan stallion at Third Level.

- **Angie Bean** – Ange's specialty is developing each horse to its potential, regardless of breed. Her horses compete consistently in dressage, with success at the local, regional, and national levels. She is a "L" graduate, ARIA Level 3 certified in Dressage and Stable Management, and YDHTS Alumni. Ange instructs and develops horses and riders at their farm Straight Forward Dressage in Glenmoore, PA. She also travels throughout the United States as a clinician.



- **Dee Loveless** – USEF "R" Dressage Judge, USDF Silver Medalist, and owner of Whippet Run Farm where she teaches students and trains horses through FEI. Dee has trained and competed two Morgan horses through Fourth Level dressage, her current Morgan being PVF Power Factor (Moe) who has many year-end awards both in dressage and carriage driving (her husband Rick is the driver). She also imports Hanoverians from Germany for sale in the U.S. as amateur friendly dressage horses.

## *1. At what stage do you start to ask for shoulder-in?*

**Dee Loveless:** I start with shoulder-fore which is the beginning of shoulder-in, just with less than the required 35-degree displacement of shoulders to the track. I do this as soon as the horse is doing leg-yields, and therefore understands how to move from the inside leg. This would normally be within six months of being backed, depending on the horse.

**Ange Bean:** Shoulder-in is competed at Second Level. Like most skills, the shoulder-in needs to develop from learning the skill to developing strength and swing in shoulder-in to truly showing off the exercise before it can earn high marks from a judge.

The questions I ask of my horse to make sure he is ready for the shoulder-in are: First, can we make a correct corner, including straightening after the corner?

Second, can my horse do a 10-meter correctly? The questions I ask of my horse to see if he can do the 10-meter correctly are:

- Can I yield the inside rein for a step or two with no loss of balance?
- If the 10-meter is a circle, with each half of the circle taking the same amount of strides?
- Do the haunches follow the shoulders, instead of the natural tendency of the hind legs to swing out in the second half of the circle?

Third, can I adjust the stride length, even if just for a few strides? He doesn't need to be able to hold it for the entire diagonal, but he does need to be able to adjust it when I ask, and not after he's had a few strides to re-arrange his balance.

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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