



AUGUST 2017
VOLUME XLI, No. 4

Walking Horse News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

Walking Horse News, Box 7326, Edson, Alberta T7E 1V5

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Walking Horse News

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On Our Cover

The mare herd at
McDonald Farms
enjoys a sunny
summer day lazing
around the waterhole.

Don & Jo-Anne
have been raising
Tennessee Walkers
for over 40 years
now, and both are
CRTWH
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*Photo courtesy of
Jo-Anne McDonald
Pouce Coupe, BC.*

2017-08

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Volume LXI, # 4

July/August, 2017

Dear Subscribers,

Well, with Susan Bank's help, *Walking Horse News* has found a company in Calgary that will mail the magazines, so that's another hurdle cleared. 'SSDM' got the June magazines into the mail the very day the boxes arrived at their office, so that was amazingly fast.

Advertising rates will remain the same, so please support the magazine with your ads. Revenue from ads makes the difference between our breaking even and losing money. And *WHN* has helped sell a lot of TWH over the years!

The magazines will no longer have reminder notices for expiring subscriptions in them. They will have the date highlighted on your mailing address label. So if you see **2017-08 or 2017-10 highlighted on your label**, renew right away. It saves me the time and trouble of sending a reminder, and keeps you from missing an issue!

Subscriptions will be \$24 per year for a mailed paper copy; \$10 a year for the email version. I'd prefer that you renew for only one year at a time.

WHN is back on track and will continue, with your support. Let's hear from you with news and views, photos and ads. And enjoy this issue with all the stories and photos and achievements of our special breed of horse. There's always something new to learn!

Marjorie

Our sincere condolences go out to Bill Roy and family. His wife, **SUSAN LELLMAN of FALKLAND, BC** passed away on July 6 after a short battle with brain cancer.

Susan had years of knowledge of the BC Walking Horse world and was Bill's collaborator on his articles. She was also a gifted gardener, and her interest in health and nutrition was an important factor in his approach to horses.

Bill tells me they are planning a celebration of her life for friends and family at their place near Falkland in October

If friends so desire, donations in her memory may be made to the hospice in Vernon which provided Susan and her family with a true refuge and respite for her last days. It is run by the Northern Okanagan Hospice Society, 3506 – 27th Ave, Vernon, BC V1T 1S4. 250-503-1800. www.nohs.ca

Walking Horse News

August, 2017

"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977"

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To the U.S.A it's \$32 in US Funds or \$10 email, with cheque made out to Marjorie Lacy.

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WALKING HORSE NEWS!



CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT



CANADIAN TRIPLE CHALLENGE AWARDS

achieved by descendants of Luckys Koko Prince (as of 2017), compiled by Allanna Jackson

ULTIMATE CANADIAN HORSE AWARD: earned in 2012.

Rag's Fantasy Romance 2004-3036- (Dude's Ragtime Man x Dixie's Hot Fantasy Bay, by Dixie's Hot Chocolate, by Luckys Koko Prince) gelding, owned & trained by Lori Dyberg, AB.

TRAINING LEVELS CHALLENGE:

Back Yard Cinnamon 2002,-2827- (Luckys Koko Prince x Sam's Blue Blaze), mare, and Allanna Jackson: Basic Skills; Driving 1; Horsemanship 1,2; Trail Riding 1,2,3; Optional Activities 1,2,3.

CSR Rascal's Puzzle 2008-3440- (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Dixie's Just Push Play, by Dixie's Hot Chocolate, by Luckys Koko Prince), gelding, Stephen and Brenda Woodall: Basic skills, Driving 1.

CSR Midnight Cuppa Java 2006-3320- (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Mornin's Cuppa Koko, by Dixie's Hot Chocolate, by Luckys Koko Prince), mare, and Bobbi Buck: Basic Skills; Trail 1,2,3.

RIDE/DRIVE/ALT HOURS:

Back Yard Cinnamon 2002,-2827- (Luckys Koko Prince x Sam's Blue Blaze), mare, and Allanna Jackson, Arizona,. Platinum Award

KC Koko Cowboy 2000-2472- (Koko's Rocky 1 RMW, by Koko's Smokey, by Luckys Koko Prince x Chapie's Daisy May), gelding, and Ralph Livingston, British Columbia, most hours 2010.

CSR Midnight Cuppa Java 2006-3320- (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Mornin's Cuppa Koko), mare, and Fran Kerik, Alberta, 2010.

CSR Mornin's Cuppa Koko 1999-2423- (Dixie's Hot Chocolate x Top O' The Mornin'), mare, and Fran Kerik, Alberta, 2010.

PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE:

Gold Award:

Rag's Fantasy Romance 2004-3036- (Dude's Ragtime Man x Dixie's Hot Fantasy Bay), gelding.

Back Yard Cinnamon 2002-2827- (Luckys Koko Prince x Sam's Blue Blaze), mare.

Bronze Award:

CSR Rascal's Puzzle 2008-3440- (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Dixie's Just Push Play), gelding.

Allanna writes, "I was reading the Canadian Challenge results this morning. I was delighted to discover more of Koko's descendants are earning awards! That got me interested in tracking how Koko's family is doing in the Triple Challenge program. Koko sired only 12 CRTWH registered foals and had only 3 sons (all out of Canadian Flicka) who carried on his line. This is what I found, and I may be missing some."

Have you ever checked out how the descendants of your favorite stallion or mare has fared in the Canadian Registry's Triple Challenge? It's an interesting exercise. We'd like to know what you discover. MCL

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



From SUSAN BANKS, CALGARY, AB, “Tom calls this photo ‘Ebony and Ivory’. Velvet (Traveller’s Black Velvet) is out of the old Summer Velvet mare who was out of Summer Solstice. I really like that line. Maybe they’re not as big as I like but everything else they have makes up for that. I had Velvet in the mountains last year for the first time and will be taking her again this year. The light coloured horse is one by dad’s stallion, Northfork Top Traveller out of the mare Neitak’s Golden Stardust. He looks as though he will be a much bigger (taller) horse, so I’m hoping he will be my everyday riding horse, and I’ll then retire Velvet as a broodmare.”

JULIE GILES, OKOTOKS, AB writes, “Ringo (Ringo Starr) is doing great! We’ve also had Genie (Genie’s Final Reward) now from Jo-Anne & Don McDonald, for about a year. The two are going well!”

“We did end up having custom saddles built. This was on the recommendation of Brenda. A world of difference, both in his walk, and his attitude. First ride out, he walked out like never before! Eamor (JD) did an amazing job on them.”

CAROL HALL, WESTRIDGE FARM, CALGARY, AB, writes, “I would love to have the email subscription. Things have been a bit crazy around the farm. I have been busy juggling the barn and my Dad’s health. He had open heart surgery in April and required a lot of care. He is now back on his feet and we feel somewhat back to a normal schedule. I am down to only three Walking Horses and they are all in their 20’s. Hard to believe that! I mainly ride them for pleasure now, but they still like to get out and move.”

(Our best wishes to Ron Williamson on his continued recovery.)

From ARLENE BOLES, THREE HILLS, AB, “Thank you for a wonderful magazine. I enjoy reading it from cover to cover – all the articles and photos of horses and foals - and the training tips are good too. Many thanks. I’ve enclosed a cheque for renewal for another year.”

JOYCE THOMAS, DREAM CATCHER MEADOWS, FORT SASKATCHEWAN, AB writes, “I have no babies coming in 2017 but will be breeding five mares this year. I do have a stud standing for breeding if anyone is interested. I will send details next month, as May/June can be busy.”

“I have been dealing with a few things lately. One of them is the passing of a good friend, Ross Hanson on the evening of May 23. I have been talking with his oldest daughter, Jacquie, and we are setting up a trail ride in his honor with all money raised going to cancer. This will be a yearly ride.”

“As most of us know Ross had a palomino TWH that helped him successfully in his sliding stop. He loved the Walker breed and spent many hours enjoying my herd. He especially liked my red roan. Unfortunately she was sold to me under the pretence that she was full Walker. With the help of Dianne Little we found that she is part Walker and part Singlefooter. So she is being registered under CLRC’s CAN I.D. equine program. She will now carry the name DCM Ross Hanson’s Rodeo Rose. We’d named her Rose, but Ross called her Rodeo Rose so we named her in his memory as he did training with her.”

“I’ll send some updates about my stud, and what’s been going on at Dreamcatcher Meadows Inc. soon.



KARLA HANSEN’S RIDE EASY RANCH, PONOKA, AB has a number of “ride-on lawnmowers” at work.

From ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, "Velvet and Cinnamon and I had a nice trail ride to the Ice Cave today. I rode Velvet and ponied Cinnamon. Velvet did a Fantastic job! We met several groups of hikers, some with dogs, we passed three dude strings and briefly followed two dude strings, which required Velvet to go very slowly. We met a mountain bicyclist, and three little boys running down the trail toward us squealing. Velvet kept her cool the whole time and did not spook at any of it! It helped that she had Cinnamon right behind her on the lead rope, but leading into all that busyness is quite an accomplishment for Velvet. God's miracle for Velvet is still unfolding."

Best wishes to KEITH DOLL, DOUGLAS, MANITOBA. Keith had another operation on his leg so has been out of commission for several weeks. I know he's been fretting at missing all those dances! We hope you make a complete recovery and are back in the swing of things soon, Keith.



PRESIDENT ALYNN WARD and a number of the new Alberta Walking Horse executive committee met with Leslie Hunchuk, Dianne Little, and Shirley Wesslen in Lacombe, AB in early July and presented each with one of the new AWhA/CRTWH jackets. *See above.* Later they visited Marjorie Lacy in Edson and gave her one as well. *See photo right.* This was in recognition of the work these women have done on behalf of the AWhA and for the promotion of CRTWH Tennessee Walkers over the years. Thank you! It was a very nice gesture by the AWhA. (And the jackets are great! Fashion central! Check them out – available from Bobbie Buck, see AWhA page to follow.)



From TRISH McCARTHY, MOOSOMIN, SK
 "I'm sending some pictures of me and our Walker named Moses (Dusty's Touch'N'Go) as we were preparing to ride in the Moosomin Canada 150 parade."



Below is a photo taken at UPHILL FARM, EDSON, AB the day that the AWhA contingent came to call and presented me (Marjorie) with one of the new AWhA jackets. The horses had to come and see the visitors too of course. Betty (Uphill Sand'N Sable) is soaking up some loving from Windi Derman while her daughters Sugarlump (Uphill Star) and BiBi (Uphill Heiress) look to Milena Brunke for their share. .



From FRAN KERIK, “Hi from Chrystal Star, Ranch, TWO HILLS, AB, “Can’t believe that we have been raising TWH for 20 years now! And I am just as excited and passionate about my chosen breed as I was back in 1997. I have some wonderful descendants of my very first mare, Top O’ the Mornin’ (Northfork Sky Walker X Chapies Belle) and her filly, Mornin’s Glory (by CR Sweetwater Sundance). This year I am riding a mare by the name of CSR Blaise of Glory, a filly out of Mornin’s Glory.”

“I did spend part of the winter re-doing my website. I think it looks pretty good! Check it out at www.csrwalkers.com.”

“Blaise and I have ridden in a couple of AWA sanctioned events already this year - The Cowboy Challenge Clinic down in Crossfield near Calgary and a trail ride held at Blackfoot Trails, just east of Edmonton. This meant that I got to ride with most AWA members north *and* south this year and it is only July! Blaise did fabulous at the clinic. She is very brave and willing to try anything I point her to. I finally learned a really easy way to turn on forehand, turn on haunches, and hips over while walking along the rail! These maneuvers are pretty basic in completing all the obstacles. Al Bignel, our instructor, was the most patient man, but also firm in insisting that our horses *could* do that obstacle. I’d like to thank Brenda Woodall for putting together a most enjoyable weekend. I am now ready to enter a few Cowboy Challenges this summer.”

“We also went on a fabulous trail ride at the Blackfoot on June 24. It rained all around us, but not on us! Weather was perfect! All the horses got along great, trails were a bit muddy and there were some pretty big trees down, but it just made for an interesting ride, and anyone working on their training challenges was certainly able to meet the trail requirements.”

“I have also managed to get a few rides on CSR Money’s Gold Penny in the Blackfoot as well. My friend Cindy and I headed out on a couple of Saturdays. The trails were rather empty. Other than the marathon runners, we encountered very few people there.”

“We are heading to The Gathering at Windi’s Sawhorse Ranch out by Mayerthorpe in July. I have gone to the previous ones and always have such a good time! It is like a retreat

for TWH owners. This year I am taking Lucky and Blaise. I am going to see how many challenges I can complete on Blaise. We got a good start last year, but didn’t submit anything. But I did submit tests for CSR Mornin’s Belle and she received her SILVER AWARD (conformation and gait) in the program for Excellence, and Basic Skills, Trail 1, 2 and 3 in the Training Levels. And I outdid myself with personal riding hours of 85! That is the best I have ever done.”

“I would like to congratulate Donna Homer on her purchase of CSR Lucky to be Gold. I know she is very excited about him! I’m saddle training him ready for her to pick up in August.”

“Looks like the weather might take a turn for ‘less wet’. There are still crops out there right now that were not combined last year and this year they just can’t get the equipment in the fields with all the moisture we’ve had. So I am going to wish everyone ‘happy haying’! And good riding!”

Below are the participants at the Blackfoot Trail Ride in June. Looks like a very good turn-out. Photo courtesy Windi Derman, Mayerthorpe, AB.



A new edition of the classic best seller, Storey’s Guide to TRAINING HORSES: Ground Work - Driving - Riding by Heather Smith Thomas is now available. I found it at our local library. It looks extremely comprehensive and practical. If you have a young horse to train, this book would be a very good investment.

PASSING HANDS

ULLU ALEXANDER, RIDING MOUNTAIN, MB says, "Chiquita (Aristocracia Chiquita Z) is going to Souris, MB. These folks also purchased Bionda last year. Chiquita is bred again to "Tuffi" (Tsuniah's Dark Delight) for a 2018 foal."

From JO-ANNE McDONALD, POUCE COUPE, BC, "McDonald Farms congratulates Paige Stern on her purchase of Silky Reward – 2011-3574- by Sunny's Greatest Glory and out of Beta's French Maid. This pretty black and white tobiano has been sold safe in foal to Success Marshal Dillon for a 2018 foal. Please extend Paige's *Walking Horse News* subscription with our compliments. Cheque to follow."

SHERRY DEASE of PONOKA, AB is the new owner of Shirley's Squirrelly, from Shirley Cook. This pretty three year old sorrel filly is Sherry's first TWH and we wish her good luck with her.

SHELLEY VOIGHT of CRESTON, BC has found a new home for her mare, Banner's Sippin' Champagne. 'Missy' has gone to raise babies at Fran Kerik's Chrystal Star Ranch at Two Hills, AB.



Above is a photo of 'Missy' from her days as an active saddle horse.



From BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, "Above is Cocktail as a baby with his dam, Ora Bella's Brandy Z. He's now a 4 year old and he has just made the cross country trip to meet his new owner in Bailieboro, Ontario. I'm told he trailered well and unloaded like a gentleman at his new home so things can only improve from there! This gold champagne gelding is the "pale image" of his sire, Toddy's Royal Bonanza and a paternal half-brother to the two beauties on the front cover of the February *WHN*. His dam in the picture above, Ora Bella's Brandy Z, has gone to a new home near Chestermere AB. Her new owner is an experienced horse woman who will be giving Brandy all the attention and riding adventures a horse could hope for."

DONNA HENRY of BLUESKY, AB has purchased the black mare, Rainbow Legacy, from Shirley Wesslen, Blackfalds, AB. This mare and Donna's other TWH, Ace's Dark Star, are currently in training near Ponoka. Wishing you smooth trails ahead, Donna!

LORNA & RICK WRIGHT of CARNWOOD, AB are the new owners of Ridgewalker Lucky Drifter. Now you have two TWH and can ride together! Congratulations!

The pretty buckskin mare, Kodiak's Golden Girl (Uphill Chasing Gold x Kodiak's Fire Fox), bred by Dwayne Molle of Lloydminster, SK has a new home. She is now owned by TANYA JOHNSTON OF ROCKY MTN HOUSE.



THIS N' THAT from the ALBERTA WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION

The Alberta Walking Horse Association has been busy since the AGM in May. The Board of Directors have put together a busy summer for its members.

Equine First Aid Clinic: April 29 2017, held at Brenda Woodall's, Linden, Alberta. Clinicians were Roberta Rouse and Becky Taylor.

Cowboy Challenge Clinic: June 18 & 19 2017, Lionel Jackson Arena, Crossfield, Alberta. Clinician was Al Bignell, President of Canadian Cowboy Challenge. Day 1, participants introduced their horses to obstacles "in hand", practiced introductory level obstacles on horseback.

Day 2, Mock races with feedback from the Clinician.

Special thanks to Alberta Equestrian Federation for funding received to host this clinic.

Black Foot/Fort Assiniboine Trail Ride: June 24, 2014: Well attended by AWhA members

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Brent Trout Clinic & Gathering: July 22 & 23, 2017, Sawhorse Ranch, Mayerthorpe, Alberta. Learn the elements of horsemanship needed to complete the CRTWH Horsemanship Levels. Enjoy the weekend with TWH owners participating in the clinic, riding the trails or practicing obstacles. Cost of Clinic is \$175 and includes ALL meals.

Contact Windi: 780-786-2115 or info@sawhorseranch.com

AWHA Cadomin Scavenger Hunt: July 24-28 2017 Whitehorse Falls, Cadomin Area
Contact Alynn Ward 780-706-1724 alynnmward@gmail.com

AWHA Hummingbird Trail Ride: Aug 11-18 2017, Hummingbird Falls
Contact Alynn Ward 780-706-1724 alynnmward@gmail.com

AWHA Windup: Date & Location to be determined

Please note: all AWhA events require AWhA and AEF Membership.

AWHA Membership: Contact Lisa Parrish 780-237-2904 lisparrish72@gmail.com

AWHA Jackets: Available for purchase.

Submitted by Leslie Hunchuk



Left: Lori Dyberg & N.F. Cotton Trim; & Right: Al Bignell & Brenda Woodall at the Cowboy Challenge Clinic.

Call/text Bobbi for info.
780-706-1706



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER & WALK ON

Find us on 

Alberta Walking Horse Association

COWBOY CHALLENGE CLINIC

by Fran Kerik

On June 17 and 18 a Cowboy Challenge Clinic was put on by the Alberta Walking Horse Association (AWHA), hosted by Brenda and Steven Woodall. Brenda is getting good at hosting these clinics! It was so well organized, from the directions with the Canadian Flags at all the important corners, to a full pot of coffee at all times, to so much food I could barely do up my jeans. It was a great way to kick off the summer. Held in Crossfield, most of the riders were a little more local, but a couple of us made the long five hour trek from Barrhead and Two Hills. 12 riders participated and we welcomed a few other breeds. A lovely Morgan and two Haflingers enjoyed learning how to tackle obstacles along with our Tennessee Walking Horses. Al Bignell was our wonderful clinician. He was firmly patient with both our horses and their riders. We all crossed an obstacle or completed a maneuver that we didn't think we could in a positive, reinforcing manner. All horses tried their best and were all heart.

We started off Saturday split into two groups: the morning group and the after lunch group. Each group started with going back to the basics (which this participant didn't know anyway) of turning on the forehand, turning on the haunches, and side passing. We also practiced giving the hind quarters while walking down the wall, a precursor to picking up the canter. After practicing these moves till we reached some semblance of comfort with them, we went to work on the obstacles. Al introduced each item and explained the goal of how to cross it. Horses were encouraged to sniff and check it out, then forward motion was encouraged. I think they enjoyed stamping on the bridge, but the tipping bridge and narrow arc bridge certainly presented challenges. The rope gate was certainly the most technical! We used side passing, backing, sidepassing again, all the while holding a little rope and not pulling over the post. I did learn the most interesting thing - that horses kept in an electric rope fence while camping will have to be taught that *this* rope is not electrified. We had a wonderful example of this with one of the horses but it

wasn't long before she was comfortable enough to let the rope touch her with Al's guidance.

The afternoon group was a little more advanced, either with horses familiar with obstacles or riders who were more familiar with Cowboy Challenge. After they practiced turning on forehand and haunches, and side passing, some of them practiced cantering. Then they tackled the course with Al's help.

We wrapped up the afternoon session around 5 and then came the next best part of an AWHA clinic - the food! AWHA provided the pulled pork and the members brought the rest for pot luck. After the wind died down we went outside for a fire and more socialization.

Sunday we split into our groups again for the morning to continue practicing what we'd learned the day before, but with the addition of more challenges. After a great lunch of leftovers we held a mock "race". 13 obstacles were set out, not all the same ones we had been using before either, and then we did a walk through. There is a

caller, so at least you don't have to memorize the course! You have six minutes to complete the course, which turned out to be lots. You are not judged on how fast you go, but rather on how well you



and your horse do the course. A good refusal is better than a bad execution... After each of our turns Al explained how he scored us and why. Some participants chose to do the smaller course of only eight obstacles. We wrapped up around five o'clock with most of us all packed up and ready to go home.

It was a fantastic weekend, thoroughly enjoyed by all. A great big thank you to the Woodalls for taking the time to host this event and to Al Bignell for giving such a wonderful clinic. Also thanks go out to the Alberta Equestrian Federation who helped sponsor the clinic and sent along a collection of books and pamphlets that members were free to take home. And finally 'thank you' to the AWHA without whose support there could not have been a clinic.



HERITAGE- BRED WALKING HORSES IN CANADA by Franne Brandon

The early walking horses, before a breeders' association was formed to record their pedigrees in 1935, were a strong-boned, smooth walking group of animals with common sense, intelligence, and a willingness to please. These horses were steady in their gaits, known for their excellent canters, and dependable everyday using and driving horses. They were shown under the title of Plantation Horses and had their following in the ring, although show audiences always screamed the loudest for the flashy action of the American Saddlebred Horses. Once the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America was formed in 1935, and these plantation horses had a group to promote the breed type, demand for the new breed of horse increased in dramatic fashion. Trends change, however, and the breed lost its impetus in the South in the fifties. Only the show horses, which were being transformed into an animal to rival the Saddlebreds in speed and flash, remained popular. Before this happened, though, the old plantation using horse had traveled to many states to the north and west of Tennessee, and it is these old lines of Tennessee Walking Horses that continue to thrive in many Canadian breeding programs.

As the show horse thrived in Middle Tennessee and throughout the Southeastern United States, the bloodlines that had formed the underpinning of the breed in its early years were neglected as breeders sought to raise what became popular in the show ring. Although a brief period of time in the mid-eighties to early nineties brought attention to older foundation bloodlines for pleasure riding, showing, and breeding, eventually the show focus became the most pronounced one. In 2003, a group of Tennessee breeders pooled resources with a breeder from Wisconsin to form the TWH Heritage Society to promote their horses' bloodlines as well as "other endearing traits" and to encourage others not to abandon older lines that had been in their breeding programs for decades. At the request of some of these breeders around the USA, the Heritage Society held two certification periods where horses of older lines could be evaluated on conformation, disposition and gait in order to also be recognized as Heritage Walking Horses.

Among the first in Canada to be intrigued by this program and make an effort to have her horses certified was *Walking Horse News* editor Marjorie Lacy. While he was in training, Marjorie sent in video footage of her stallion Walkien Jesse Skywalker, bred

by Jean Rempel of Rocky Slopes Farm near Winfield, AB. Later, Marjorie's Trigger Jr. bred mare, Uphill Sand 'N Sable also received Heritage certification.



As her equine family grew, so did her Heritage bred herd. Marjorie acknowledges "I still have Betty (Uphill Sand 'N Sable), though I won't be breeding her any more since she is already 24. And I am pretty sure that Jesse was the first Canadian bred, born and CRTWH registered stallion accepted as Heritage. I have two of Betty's daughters, Uphill Star (aka Sugarlump) and Uphill Heiress (BiBi.) that I hope can make it into the Heritage ranks but again, I find the training and video'ing are a challenge."

Also in Alberta, Fran Kerik of Chrystal Star Ranch in Two Hills was interested in older walking horse bloodlines. ([Walking Horse News](#), June 2017). With Lesa Luchak of Maple Lane Acres, also in Two Hills, she attended an auction featuring registered and unregistered Tennessee Walking Horses. There the pair discovered Moonlit Laughter, a sorrel mare, foaled in 1990 and imported to Canada in the spring of 1993. 'Dolly' was sired by Red Bud's Rascal and out of Gold Before the Storm, and had so many 1930's and '40's horses in her immediate ancestry that ANY of her foals from older lines that walked qualified as Heritage Horses. Fran and Lesa bought Dolly, taking turns in crossing with the stallion on each farm. Fran went first and got a black colt by Allen's Midnight Rascal. Next Lesa crossed Dolly with her stallion Darkie's Last Chance. She also got a colt, sorrel of course, which she named LL Chance's Red Rascal. Lesa has kept 'Jack' as a stallion, and his first crop of colts arrived in the spring of 2017. Although none of these foals are out of Heritage mares, Lesa has LL's Ginger Spice, by Carbonado's

Chief Joseph and out of Miss Kitty, which can be Heritage registered in the future, and an older mare named Golden Dreams Delight.

LL Chance's Red Rascal proved to be Moonlit Laughter's last foal. Fran did not keep the black foal as a stallion prospect, as she already had Allen's Midnight Rascal and CSR Gold Fever. She has expressed interest in the Heritage Horse program since its early years, however, and plans to send in certification videos on two of her mares, CSR Mornin's Belle, already at the Silver Level in the CRTWH Program for Excellence, and CSR Blaise of Glory.

East of Alberta, Nicole Jamieson-Jackson of Cabri, SK also was interested in Heritage Walking Horses, but approached ownership through purchase of horses from an active breeder. In 2011, she selected a colt and a filly from the crop bred by Diane Szczepanski of Northern Foundations in Whitehall, Wisconsin. The colt, NFF Society's Aristocrat, was sired by Society's Duke Allen and out of Scarlet Star Wilson, making him a double Paige's Echo colt. The filly, Tempest, was a half-sister, also by Society's Duke Allen, and out of Storm's Maud, a chestnut sabino mare originally from Middle Tennessee with a wealth of older lines.



NFF Society's Aristocrat (Crafty) with Nicole & friend.

Nicole still has both of these Heritage Horses. The young stallion, whose barn name is Crafty, has been broke both to ride and to drive. He is a gentle and sensible individual. In looks, he shows both the powerful conformation for which his sire Duke is well known, plus a striking resemblance as well to his dam Scarlet and his second dam, Red Bud Lady Scarlet. Tempest blossomed into an eye-catching mare, with the tall hind socks and wide blaze, but little sabino ticking to cause color shifting in her red coat. She also developed into a fine riding mare. There is also a Crafty baby, just now being trained to carry a saddle. This filly is not out of Tempest, Crafty's half sister, but out of a daughter of Williams Kodiak.

Older walking horse bloodlines have not been abandoned in Canada as they have been in many areas of the United States. Next issue will feature other breeders with Heritage bloodlines across Canada.

WALKIEN JESSE SKYWALKER TO NORTHERN FOUNDATIONS FARM



Uphill Farm, Edson, Alberta has sold the beautiful chestnut Heritage stallion, WALKIEN JESSE SKYWALKER by Northfork Sky Walker out of Jessie Dee to Diane Szczepanski of Northern Foundations Farm in Wisconsin.

Jesse will bring new bloodlines to her Red Bud's Rascal and Paige's Echo mares. He was bred by Jean Rempel of Rocky Slopes Farm near Winfield, and we purchased him as a yearling. He was not being used as he deserved here so *Congratulations*, Diane. I wish you every success with this fine example of a Heritage bred Walker.

Diane writes, "I have admired Jesse since we first saw his video when Marjorie applied for Heritage status for him a number of years ago. He showed he had it all - good looks, proper gait, and a wonderful disposition with common sense. The opportunity to actually own Jesse has been a huge blessing and something I didn't think would ever happen. He is a gentleman in the breeding shed & I look forward to his foals next spring. Thank you so much, Marjorie."



Jesse in 2015 with Marshall, Kolby & Tommy



CRTWH TRAINING LEVELS 2016



Above:

IMAGE'S BLACK PEARL
Owner Loren Lewis
BASIC SKILLS AND TRAIL 1.

Below:

CSR MORNIN'S BELLE
Owner Fran Kerik,
Rider in photo Sarah Torfs
BASIC SKILLS AND TRAIL 1,2,3 and
PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE
BRONZE and SILVER Awards



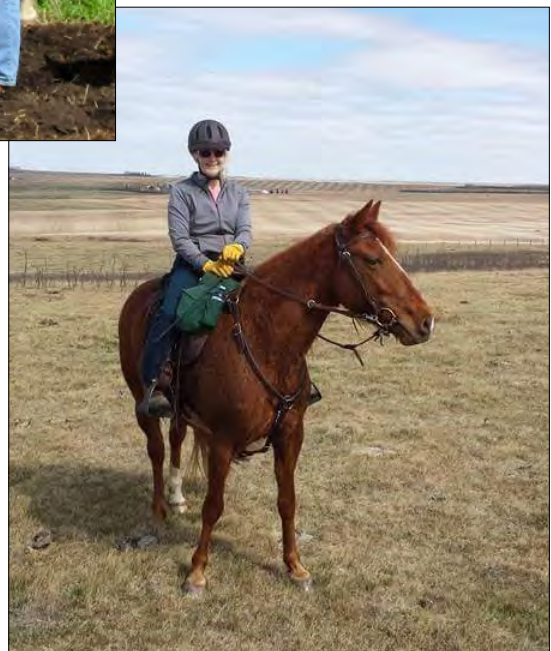
Above:

CSR MIDNIGHT CUPPA JAVA
with owner Bobbie Buck.
BASIC SKILLS AND TRAIL 1,2,3.

Centre: **HOT RUM TODDY**
& Les Zaharichuk
BASIC SKILLS AND TRAIL 1,2,3.

Below:

GOLDWELL'S TREASURE
with owner Cheryl Peressini.
BASIC SKILLS AND TRAIL 1,2,3.





The Canadian Walker

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NOTES ON BUYING A REGISTERED HORSE



The Board of Directors gets many inquiries about registration problems. Some guidelines might be useful to buyers to help avoid these difficulties and disappointments. Since owning a purebred, registered horse is important to you, here are some points to keep in mind when you think you've found a horse you'd like to buy.

1. ALWAYS ASK TO SEE BOTH SIDES OF THE ORIGINAL REGISTRATION PAPERS ON THE HORSE BEFORE ANY MONEY CHANGES HANDS.

*If the seller gives an excuse like 'Oh, but she **can be** registered,' go no further, or tell him you'll buy her when he's registered her himself. If he produces a photocopy of the horse's papers, that's not good enough. If he says he's mislaid the papers but will send them on to you, run away as fast as you can!*

2. NOTE WHETHER THE PAPERS ARE CRTWH or TWHBEA.

Ask if the seller is a member of whichever registry it is and is aware of the regulations for transferring the animal into your ownership. Too many sellers think that all they have to do is hand the horse, halter, and registration certificate to the buyer and their job is done. It's not.

3. CHECK THAT THE SELLER IS THE OWNER ON THE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

You can look that up on clrc.ca. If he's not, he can't sign the transfer into your name. There can be all sorts of complications if the animal has been sold and the papers just handed over, or even worse, the transfers written in and dated but never sent in to the Registry to be recorded. Papers like this may never be sorted out & put in your name, or if they can be, it will be costly.

4. BUY FROM REPUTABLE BREEDERS.

Of course if you are new to a breed, how can you know who is or isn't reputable? But no honest person will be offended if you ask these questions. So protect yourself and check the paperwork on the horse before you buy it. It can save you a lot of grief and disappointment later. And there is a law in place where a wronged buyer may bring charges against the seller. Below is what the Animal Pedigree Act has to say:

"No person shall, without an express statement that the animal's registration, identification or status as a purebred is from a jurisdiction other than Canada and that the animal will not be registered or identified in Canada by the person, sell, as registered or identified, or as eligible to be registered or identified, or as a pure-bred, any animal without providing to the buyer thereof within six months after the sale the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration or certificate of identification. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations (a) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars; or (b) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars."



CRTWH TRAINING LEVELS 2016



Above: Allanna Jackson
& **APRIL VELVET**
At Timber Mesa log cabin.
TRAIL 2



Above: Windi Derman with
**ENCORE'S MAXIMUM
BLING.**
He's been on several pack
trips and is a fine riding horse.
TRAIL 1,2 3.

Centre:
CSR RASCAL'S PUZZLE
Brenda & Stephen Woodall
BASIC SKILLS, DRIVING 1
Also **BRONZE** Award in the
**PROGRAM FOR
EXCELLENCE**

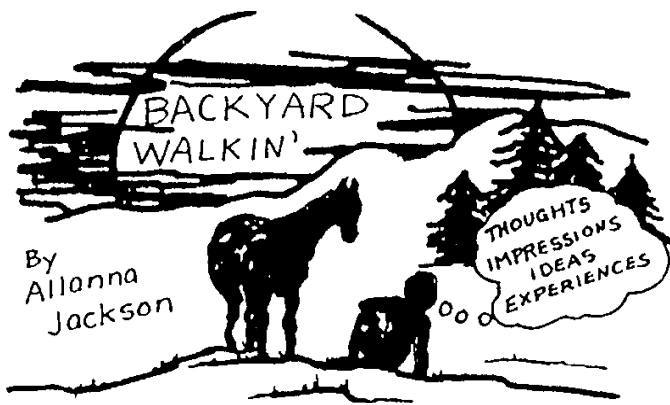


Below: Windi Derman on
GHOST OF FUTURE PAST
crossing one of the many bridges
on the way up to Athabasca Pass.
TRAIL 1,2 3.



Below: Katherine (Kat) Brennan
and Poncho
(JUS' ONE DARK BEAM)
crossing the Paddle River.
Owned by Windi Derman,
trained and ridden by Kat.
BASIC SKILLS.





Quotes from Larry Whitesell

from notes taken at the November, 2010,
Larry Whitesell clinic in Cave Creek, Arizona

'Training for the Benefit of the Horse'

"Riders need to change our frame of mind toward training. Most people work on fixing the horse because it does something that scares or upsets the rider. Most people train horses to make the rider happy. This is very selfish. In classical training you must train the horse for the horse's benefit, not yours."

"Trail riders want safe horses and they want gait. There's nothing wrong with that, but we need to train to solve the horse's problem. Too many people teach the horse tricks (doing a maneuver) instead of teaching the horse softness, relaxation, and balance. How we ride movements determines how well the horse performs. When the rider relaxes and balances the horse to help the horse, the horse will do what benefits the rider."

"Gaited horse people are obsessed with getting the horse to gait. The gaited horse world tries to make the horse gait in only two or three weeks after starting it under saddle without teaching the horse to turn, back, or halt in balance. This creates problems because the horse is not strong enough or supple enough to gait so the horse must defend himself. The behavior people don't like is simply the horse defending itself."

"All of our problems are a result of our communication with the horse. We communicate badly, then punish the horse for doing the wrong thing. Punishment is sometimes necessary in training, but must always be followed by educating the horse about the correct alternative behavior."

"Work on your riding improves the horse. Training for the benefit of the horse will result in gait. If we train the horse to be in balance while carrying a rider it will do the gait it inherited. We need to educate the horse to what the rider's aids mean."

"Lateral bend is not just the neck, it has to go the

length of the body. When asking the horse for lateral flexion, only tip the horse's nose a little off center (about 1 inch). The horse's nose should never come past its shoulder for any movement. This allows the horse to bend its spine evenly from nose to tail and stay balanced and supported by its skeleton. Never bend any joint more than it can move comfortably."

"Putting the horse on the bit and engaging the hind legs puts the horse in balance, which relaxes the horse. The horse that is balanced has its feet underneath itself, supporting itself with its skeleton and flexing its joints. A balanced horse is collected and ready to do anything we ask. A balanced horse is a confident horse. Trail riders need collection for safety."

"Touching the horse's nose to the rider's knee has become too popular. It doesn't teach collection, it overflexes the 7th vertebra at the base of the horse's neck which locks the adjacent joints and disengages the hind legs so the hind feet can't follow the horse's nose. The horse contorts its body to compensate. This is a quick method of subjugating a horse, but it doesn't teach the horse how to be ridden so it doesn't produce the desired long term results. Disengaging the hind legs puts the horse out of balance. An out of balance horse is an insecure, defensive horse."

"Riding out of balance results in the horse becoming either overreactive or dull; don't mistake dullness for relaxation. A relaxed horse has all its energy easily controlled by the rider. A dull horse seems safer but is actually more dangerous because it may explode. When the horse is out of balance he goes on adrenaline. Adrenaline is a drug. We can't educate the horse when he's on drugs. Putting the horse in balance will get the horse off adrenaline."

"Respect is a two-way street. If we want the horse to respect us we need to respect the horse. Too many people bully the horse to force it to submit. Bullying the horse does not build trust. Bullying the horse doesn't educate the horse. When the trainer respects what is important to the horse the horse trains faster."

"We punish the horse for doing wrong, but don't explain what we want. We need to ask the horse and educate the horse to the bridle instead. We need to teach the horse how to be ridden."

"Horses are very flexible in the neck. Horses hold tension in their neck. This creates braces and resistance. When the horse's atlas joint (first vertebra where the skull attaches to the spine) is stiff the whole spine is locked. When the horse flexes at the atlas joint it releases the entire spine. Tension in the horse's atlas/axis joints locks the temporomandibular joint, which locks the neck and also causes lumbar pain."

At first we don't care if the horse flexes the atlas joint, we want him to relax and release the braces on his own. Reward the horse for the correct response, even if it was an accident. That's how the horse learns what we want. Reward the correct response as soon as it happens, don't insist on completing the exercise or the horse will learn the exercise as a trick instead of learning the aid."

"Never pull on the reins. Just take a feel of the bridle so we can take the head down to get the horse off adrenaline. If the horse is stubborn there is a reason – is the handler being too sudden or too harsh?"

"We need to explain the function of the bit to the horse. Lateral flexion is directional control. Vertical flexion is speed control. Damaging vertical flexion damages speed control. Control bend with the inside rein, control speed with the outside rein."

"We need a lateral tool to teach bend. A snaffle bit, bosal, or sidepull is a lateral tool. When teaching something new, start with a snaffle bit to educate the horse."

"A shank bit doesn't teach the horse any answers. The more actions a bit has the more confusing it is for the horse. Shank bits are for longitudinal flexion, but they don't teach longitudinal flexion. The horse must be taught longitudinal flexion in a snaffle first before going to a shank bit. Use a shank bit only after the horse understands collection. Putting a shank bit on a tense horse locks the jaw. All biting problems are back problems."

"Set the rein length and keep it steady, don't pull on the horse. When the horse pulls on you and can't get relief it teaches itself to give to the pressure. The horse needs to carry the bit and be able to swallow. A horse that is licking out of the bottom of his mouth is accepting the bit."

"When doing shoulder-in the horse puts his hind foot under his center of gravity and steps to the bridle. The horse has to rotate his pelvis under to step underneath with his hind leg. Shoulder-in develops strength, suppleness, range of motion, relaxation and collection. This can't be done overnight, this exercise is needed for the horse's entire life. Release and reward the horse as soon as it has done one or two correct steps. Reward the horse while the movement is beautiful. Don't wait until the movement deteriorates. We don't want to teach the horse tricks, we want to teach concepts."

"When doing exercises with the horse ask: Does the exercise strengthen the muscles the horse uses to carry a rider? Does the exercise supple the horse? Does the exercise educate the horse? The rider can't be the

horse's balance, the horse is too heavy. Teach the horse to balance, don't just teach the movement. If an exercise cannot benefit the horse for his entire life it's a waste of the horse's time."

"The six aids are: hand, thigh, calf. "My left calf talks to the horse's left hind leg. My right calf talks to the horse's right hind leg. My left hand talks to the left foreleg. My right hand talks to the right foreleg. My thighs move the rib cage. My pelvis sends the horse forward, backward, or halts the horse."

"My legs have to mean something all the time so my legs stay on the horse. The horse has to learn to accept my leg, not run away from it. If the horse runs through my hand or leg, technically, the horse is running away even if he's just walking. If the rider can't control every single step the rider doesn't really control the horse. When I send the horse forward he should go forward, when I ask him to halt he should halt. If it's hard for you to tell who is in control you know the horse has questions about who is in control."

"The key to training is to teach the horse how I ask for things. The horse can do anything I want by answering the aids. Teach the horse just six aids, not 50 tricks. Teach the horse how we're going to communicate, then reward the horse for answering the aid. Changing the horse is easy. Changing ourselves is hard because we have to re-program our own muscle memory. We need to constantly work on our aids. I spend all of my life working on my riding."

"Trail riders can practice bend, shoulder-in, and speed control on the trail. Use every bend on the trail as a training tool, put the horse in a bend so the horse thinks about listening to the rider. Too often horses trail ride in a group with the rider paying no attention to the horse for 20 minutes. The horse is being told the rider doesn't control direction or speed so the horse just follows the herd. The rider must ride every step to control direction. If you trail ride on the aids for 3 months it will become habit. In 6 months you will have a very well schooled horse. You don't have to ride in a ring."

"How to use the pelvis for speed control: "Think of sitting on an exercise ball, how do you move your pelvis to move the ball forward? To keep the ball under you? To move the ball backward?"

Walk your horse and practice adjusting speed and stride length every few steps with pelvis and calf aids. Walk as fast as the horse can without gaiting, then walk slow, then 2 mph faster, changing speed every few strides. These frequent transitions keep the horse focused on the rider, teach the horse speed control, and develop the horse's strength, balance and suppleness. In time, practicing transitions will make it possible to keep the horse at any speed the rider wants."

How to halt the horse with your pelvis. “When you swing on a swing you use your pelvis to adjust your swing height and stop the swing by bracing your back. Ride the horse like riding a swing, brace your back to stop.”

“Do a turn on the forehand by using the calf to move the horse’s hindquarters over to make a larger circle with the hind legs than the front legs. This form of turning on the forehand will help reactive horses turn slowly and quietly.

“We aren’t teaching the turn on the forehand, we’re teaching the response to the calf so reward the horse for listening to the calf. Planting the feet to turn on the forehand may be useful to the rider on the trail but does not benefit the horse. Anything that doesn’t keep rhythm is no help to the horse.”

“Fix problems over time by teaching the aids instead of arguing with the horse. The more we argue with the horse the more the horse thinks we can’t ride. The horse doesn’t understand our goals. You have to improve yourself to fix your horse. Humans want results today, but we don’t need it today. We need progress toward it. When we reward little moves the movement gets bigger. Rewarding big moves never improves the movement. Be aware when the horse is thinking about what we ask and reward the correct response.”

“Riding downward transitions by dropping energy results in the horse slowing down by falling on the forehand; stretching tall and lengthening the leg to slow the horse results in the horse being balanced and ready to do the next thing the rider asks.”

“Riders can learn how to use just their pelvis with no rein pressure to move the horse backward in a relaxed, balanced way.”

Turn on the haunches moving the forehand in a larger circle than the hindquarters by moving the horse’s shoulder over one step, moving forward one step, moving the shoulder one step, moving forward one step. This is the same technique Larry recommends for riding a perfect circle. The purpose is to teach the horse how to turn in balance with softness, not just turn on the hindquarters. Having the horse plant a hind foot and pivot is a useful trick for the rider but no help to the horse.

“If I control my aids I control the horse.

It takes 30-60 days to really teach the horse the aids.”

Larry Whitesell is one of the clinicians endorsed by Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH). He resides in Cookeville, Tennessee, where he trains horses and gives clinics when he’s not traveling to give demonstrations and clinics at horse expos in Canada and the USA. His

primary breed is the Paso Fino but he has worked with and held judges cards for several gaited breeds. He has been successful in the show ring since 1980, earning Trainer of the Year honors in 2002. In the early 1990’s Larry began studying dressage and continues to take lessons from today’s masters of classical dressage. Larry Whitesell was one of the presenters at the FOSH Sound Horse Conference 2010, exhibiting a mare he rehabilitated in just 6 weeks prior to the Conference.

For information about Larry Whitesell’s clinics and exhibitons see: www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com.

READERS WRITE

DAVID HARLEY, BAKER, NEVADA writes, “Just a note to say how much I enjoy the newsletter that you send out. At 76 I am living my lifetime dream of enjoying horses daily along with 4 dogs (2 Great Pyrenees, a Basenji and a little Schnauzer mix), all of whom mix nicely with the horses (an MFT and a TWH - 15 year old rescued geldings, a 2 year old AQHA filly and boarding an aged Arab mare). We also have a number of beloved cats. We live in the high desert of eastern Nevada on our sons’ cattle and crop ranch. Our two Great Pyrenees keep the coyotes at a distance so our cats survive going in and out!”

“I eagerly read your informative magazine, enjoying the tips, the history and the many pictures of beautiful Walkers. Our paint Walker (below) is a people lover for certain and greets me daily for some loving. Thank you for all that you put of yourself in this work.”





FOAL CALL



BUCKSKIN COLT (Tsuniah Sage King's Echo x NFF Wilson's Scarlet Lady) May 4. (below left)

? FILLY (Society's Duke Allen x Scarlet Star Wilson) May 6. (right)
(I didn't put color because I don't know what she is; will need to test her!)

SORREL FILLY (Tsuniah Sage King's Echo x NFF Angel's Lucky Star)
May 11

SORREL FILLY (Society's Duke Allen x Wilson's Ruby Roan) June 23



Owned by
Northern Foundations Farm,
Diane Sczepanski,
Whitehall, WI



BLACK WITH SILVER DILUTION FILLY (Sure Silver
out of Shaker's Gemini Diamond) June 15. (right)
Owned by Don & Jo-Anne McDonald, Pouce Coupe, BC.
*(The mare got tangled in some wire so this filly is known
as Helpful Hannah around here since she's trying to su-
pervise all the bandaging and treating.)*

This is Summer's Gold Nugget with her colt by
Generator Top to Bottom, announced in the June
WHN. I'd say this little guy is a white maximal
sabino. Owned by Neil & Joan Adams,
Rocky Mountain House, AB.



BAY COLT (NFF Society King's Opus x Tsuniah's
Triple Copy). Born May 14. Owned by Roberta
Brebner, Tsuniah Walkers, Williams Lake, B.C.

*I'm sure there are more baby Walkers out there.
Let's have a foal photo and announcement from
YOU!*

EBONY'S BLUE SKY: TENNESSEE WALKER ENDURANCE HORSE

by Brenna Sullivan

When I was in college, my mom bought a weedy two year old TWH with some Ebony Masterpiece bloodlines out of Arizona. Ebony's Blue Sky wasn't much to look at for a few years; she was gangly, awkward and a very hard keeper. I started her for my mom and began riding her out as a favor. Sometimes you just 'click' with a horse and I found myself really enjoying my time with her. Sky loved to get down the trail but could be hot and difficult to handle at times. I wasn't sure she would be a suitable mount for my mom, who wanted an easy-going trail horse. So I purchased Sky and began riding her as my own.

We often ride and horse camp with the Gold Country Gaited Horse Club. It was on a camp-out at Point Reyes that I started thinking about doing endurance with Sky. At the end of our third day of riding, my friends commented that their horses were too tired to go out another day while my own horse was still pulling on me. I signed Sky up for a limited distance (25 mile) endurance ride in the spring of her seventh year. Sky did great all day and finished with lots of energy to spare. She seemed to really enjoy it too; I thought that this might be a sport that was suited to both of us! I did a couple more limited distance rides with Sky that year.

Riding a gaited horse in endurance is very different to riding an Arab. Gaited horses take longer to pulse down, it's harder to keep boots on their hind feet because of the torque, and the dreaded 'gaited trot-out' for the vets is something all gaited riders must learn how to negotiate. Most importantly, gaited horses and Arabs pace themselves differently. Most Tennessee Walkers can keep up an easy 7 mph gait on all terrain, while Arabs tend to trot at 10 mph on the flat and walk at 3 mph up and down hills. I had to get used to doing a lot of leap-frogging. Sky has a rack that I'll let her do on occasion, but the running walk is her most efficient gait. The great thing about riding a gaited horse in endurance is that it forces you to manage your horse well. People may be able to get away with letting their Arabs go faster than they would like, but a gaited horse does not pulse down or dissipate heat as easily. I had to learn how to ride smart and conservatively. The first LD I did was the first and only time I was concerned with my placing, preferring a goal of longer distances and longevity.

In the spring she turned 9, I attempted my first 50 mile ride with Sky at Cache Creek. Sky and I took it slow and finished strong even with the heat and climbing. We spent the year doing 50s around Northern

California from the volcanic hills of Mt Lassen to the shady trails in the redwoods. By this time, I had worked out our booting and minor saddle fit issues and I was learning about electrolyte protocols and ulcer prevention.

In 2015, I got the chance to crew on the XP Pony Express ride; this was a sanctioned endurance ride from St. Joseph, MO to Carson City, NV. I learned a lot about endurance on this event and became fast friends with another crew person who rode a Tennessee Walker in endurance! Lora Werek had hopes of completing the Tevis Cup in 2016 with her 18 year old gelding, Merlin. I had wanted to do Tevis since I was a kid, but had doubts I could do it on Sky. Still, we talked about it after XP had ended and made a pact to enter if the horses were ready. For the uninitiated, Tevis is one of the hardest 100 mile rides in North America and attracts international riders. It follows the old Pony Express route over the Sierras from Lake Tahoe down to Auburn. Due to the difficult terrain, the 24 hour time limit, the heat, rocks, dust and very stringent veterinary standards, only about 50% of the starters get a completion every year. My doubts that Sky could finish the ride were quite realistic.

Yet, as I did some more 50s with Sky, I began to appreciate her strength throughout the day. She came into every finish with an easy swing in her step, looking for the next loop. In April, I got a wild hair and signed us up for Tevis with the rationalization that I could always pull her. Lora had also signed Merlin up with great anticipation. Neither of us really had a shot of completing; we were relatively new to the sport with non-Arabs... and hers was 18 years old!

Lora and I attended the Tevis educational ride that spring and got mentored by Susan Garlinghouse and the great John Henry who also happens to be a TWH. We had a blast racking our way down the California loop with the three Walkers! Susan gave us some great tips and it was an honor to ride with such an accomplished gaited endurance horse!

By the time Tevis rolled around, I was a nervous wreck. I kept telling myself that I would pull Sky at the first sign that things were going wrong. We managed to get through the desolate Granite Chief Wilderness, over Cougar Rock, past the first hour hold at Robinson Flat and into the heat of the canyons - the hardest part of the ride. As we climbed up from the Swinging Bridge to Devil's Thumb in the 105 degree heat I could feel that something was wrong with Sky. My 'tireless' horse seemed tired. We walked into the Deadwood vet check, thankfully only a mile away. The

actually gave me the go-ahead to continue, but I knew Sky was done. I pulled her and we unceremoniously ended our Tevis journey at 55 miles. The silver lining is that I later got to watch John Henry get his 5th Tevis completion and watch as Lora and Merlin came into the lights of the Auburn stadium in the quiet hours of the morning.

I knew I had made the right decision to pull that morning in Auburn. Sky looked wonderful and I brought home a happy, healthy horse who did a 50 mile ride three weeks later with gusto! I have constantly evaluated what went wrong at Tevis and have since come to the conclusion that I didn't electrolyte her enough. Ironically, pulling at Tevis had the opposite effect than what I thought. Instead of confirming my suspicions that my horse couldn't do it, I have a conviction that we can complete the ride under the right set of circumstances.

Last fall, Sky and I did some more 50s, ending the season with a multi-day ride in November. Sky did 150 miles in three consecutive days, getting stronger each day. Around the New Year, I hauled Sky down to Death Valley where we did 200 miles in 4 consecutive days! I had kept her to a 7 mph running walk the first three days and on the fourth day, Lora and I had the pleasure of letting our Tennessee Walkers go on the last loop. They cantered and racked like machines into the finish. I will never forget the moments of limitless joy I felt on that last loop cantering through the desert on my powerful mare.

If all goes well, Sky and I will attempt the 20 Mule Team 100 in February and try Tevis again in August of 2017. I have since concluded that the question as to whether or not gaited horses can do endurance has been definitively answered. They may require more management than Arabs and are not a good choice for riders who want to race and win, but gaited horses can be seen at all distances and levels in AERC. Tennessee Walkers in particular seem well-suited for the sport with their ground-covering efficient gait and their willing hearts. My advice for somebody with a TWH who wants to try endurance is to find an easy 25 or 50 and go for it! And if you're ever at a ride in California, look for the girl on the big blue roan at the back of the pack!

WHN came by this story through Brenda Woodall. She wrote, "I have been corresponding with TWH endurance rider Brenna Sullivan and asking her about how she manages speed and gaits for the sport. I was so encouraged by her replies that I asked her if she would write an article for Walking Horse News and she did, as you've read above."

Thank you both, Brenda and Brenna!

LORA WEREB & SPIN-OUT MERLIN

Article by Mary Ann Norbom
mnorbom@leecentralcoastnews.com

Reprinted with permission
from the Santa Ynez Valley News, California

Finishing 72nd in a race might not seem like anything to brag about, unless you're Lora Wereb, and you and your horse, Spin-Out Merlin, have just completed The Tevis Cup. That's the famed 100-mile horse race, run in 24 hours through the roughest of terrains between Lake Tahoe and Auburn.

There were 175 entries, 10 dropped out just before the race started and 78 dropped out or were eliminated during the race, leaving just 87 finishers. Wereb's 72nd spot put her in the top half of the competition.

Wereb, a survivor of stage 4 breast cancer, is now battling inoperable liver cancer with daily oral medication. Merlin is her beloved 18 1/2-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse. He was an abused, broken down rescue when Wereb took him in three years ago.

That the pair would even qualify to compete in The Tevis is remarkable. "He is unrecognizable from the horse I adopted," Wereb said before the July 23-24 race. That's the result of the loving care the veterinary technician has given him, and in recent months, to the support from several in the Valley horse community, especially Peg Crowley, co-owner of Pegasus Estate Winery.

"Pegasus Estate Winery was proud to sponsor this incredible twosome to a historic finish which in our opinion was still a win," Crowley said. "We hold them both in the highest standings for taking on this challenge and training for it and completing it when nobody said it could be done with a gal still receiving cancer treatment and a formerly abused 18-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse.

"At the end of the race, he was the brightest horse in the stalls," said a beaming Wereb. "It is quite an honor to complete the race."

There are 10 stops along the trail where the horses are checked by veterinarians. Those vets can pull a horse for a variety of reasons including dehydration, lameness and pulse. If a horse is allowed to continue, the vet records his or her notes about the animal's condition in a log carried by the rider. That way the vet at the next stop can monitor the horse's condition.

(Continued on following page.)

THE "2017 RIMBEY PARADE"



With from left to right..
 Joanne Stern riding Snip -
 Paige Stern riding Phoenix -
 Susan Banks riding Thor,
 Jack Gurnett riding Rocky -
 All Northfork Farm stock.

A Great Day with
 Joanne as Anne Oakley;
 Paige as Voodoo Doctor;
 Susan in Cutback show saddle &
 (of course) Cowboy Jack.
 Anne Oakley is keeping the Voo-
 doo doctor under control just in
 case. Phoenix, the horse Paige is
 riding, is a first time parade ride
 and with all of the costume Paige
 had for both horse and rider, she

did fantastic, considering Phoenix is just
 3 years old.

It was a hot day but with
 Margaret and Molly in the truck leading
 the way and throwing candy to the kids
 along the parade route... all went well!

Below: End of the day.



Submitted by Susan Banks

LORA WEREB & SPIN OUT MERLIN concluded

Before the race, Werek had said "to finish is to win," and she is still of that mindset. She's also looking at the future, with an eye on two endurance races next month. She and Merlin may compete in the Grand Canyon XP, a 250-mile race over five days, or the Outlaw & Virgin in Utah, 200 miles run over four days.

The Tevis Cup doesn't hand out big cash prizes. Werek, like all finishers, is now the proud owner of a silver Completion Award Buckle. Completing the task - that's all she wanted, for herself and for Merlin.



This story comes to Walking Horse News courtesy of Rachel Hill who found it and asked for permission to reprint. Thank you, Rachel & Mary Ann Norbom.

Happy 90th Birthday, Jack!



Best wishes from all your Walking Horse friends.



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BLACK out of Cocoa Latte Lady.
BUCKSKIN out of Buck's Crown Ruby. (right)



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BACK YARD WALKIN' Training Tips by Allanna Jackson and **BIOGRAPHY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE** by Ben Green. The history & background of the TWH. Both available from Four Craftsmen Publishing, PO Box U, Lakeside, AZ 85929-0585. Visa or Mastercard accepted thru Walking Horse Journal website: <http://www.walkinghorsejournal.com>.

EASY GAITED HORSES by Lee Ziegler, Storey Publishing. 247 pages, Paperback. www.storey.com.

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AWHA Hummingbird Trail Ride: Aug 11-18, 2017, Hummingbird Falls. Contact Alynn Ward 780-706-1724 alynnward@gmail.com

AWHA Windup: Date & Location to be determined

THE CRTWH PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE & TRAINING LEVELS videos are due OCTOBER 31/17. It is not too early to think about making and submitting them for the 2017 TLC or PFE Programs. For more information please go to the website crtwh.ca or contact Dianne Little, at 403-271-7391 or TREASURER@CRTWH.CA or 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3

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