

JUNE, 2018
VOLUME XLII, No. 3



Walking Horse

News

INSIDE

*CRTWH
AGM
&
CLINIC*

*TRIPLE
CHALLENGE
REPORTS*

CANTERING

*AND MUCH
MORE!*



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On Our Cover

Les Zaharichuk of
Cochrane, AB
and his long time mount,
Hot Rum Toddy,

at

Whitehorse Falls,
Cadomin, AB.

Photo courtesy of
Les Zaharichuk

.....
2018-06

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Volume XLII, # 3

May/June, 2018

Dear Subscribers,

We are definitely into spring and summer activities now, with clinics and rides and new foals abounding! Best wishes to all of you who have taken on the challenge of training, riding and enjoying your Walkers as part of 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge. It was great to see those who participated in it last year receiving their certificates and awards for 2017 at the AGM in May. Congratulations to All! See photos and Awards on pages 10- 13, 14 & 15.

The Ultimate Canadian Horse Award was presented to three new horses and owners for 2017. (See pages 14 & 15). To achieve this a horse must qualify for the Bronze, Silver and Gold in the Program For Excellence, then horse and owner must work up through the Training Levels from Basic Skills to Horsemanship 3, and then choose *any two* of Trail Riding Level 3 or Driving Level 3 or Optional Activities, plus a live public promotion of your horse out in the 'real world'. It's not an easy project, and takes talent, skill, determination and the help and co-operation of others as well. As Bill Roy, the first person to achieve this award in 2011 with Woodhill's TS Trooper, said, it was the *journey* to Trooper's and his Ultimate Canadian Horse title, not the title itself that was most memorable for him. And they could not have done it without the help and support of his wife, Susan, and the co-operation of his grandsons, *below*. See page 13 for a farewell to Troop.

Marjorie



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June, 2018

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AT THE AGM & 'DRESSAGE for GAITED HORSES' CLINIC

From FRAN KERIK, CHRYSTAL STAR RANCH, TWO HILLLS, AB: "On the May 12-13 weekend I headed down to the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking horse. I also attended the Gaited Dressage Clinic with Clinician Dianne Little."

"Both events were great! At the AGM we handed out the year end rewards. My mare, CSR Blaise of Glory earned her Level Three Trail. And we had not one, not two but THREE Ultimate Horses named! Congratulations to Alynn Ward, Kristy Coulter and Windi Scott. You all worked so hard for this special achievement. One day I too hope to join your ranks." (Photo below)



"The clinic was a lot of fun, with loving encouragement from our clinician, Dianne, and the other riders. We all learned so much!"

"I learned that I have a twisted back and that is why I can't engage my left seat bone or lift it up – may explain all my side passing woes! So some exercises, a trip to the chiropractor, and fixing the seat in the bus I drive are all in order."

SHIRLEY WESSLEN (below right) was presented with a bouquet and a specially decorated cake in recognition of her many years serving as the secretary-treasurer of The Alberta Walking Horse Association. Leslie Hunchuk (left) made the presentation.

Below, Les Zaharichuk was the winner of the hand made halter and lead shank at the CRTWH AGM. Paige Stern of Knotted Up donated these for a draw. The names of all attendees were placed in a hat, Paige pulled out a name - and it was Les' lucky day.



So you see, it pays to attend the AGM! Thank You, Paige.

Thank you, Shirley, for all you have done for TWH in Alberta.



NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

From FRAN KERIK, CRYSTAL STAR RANCH, TWO HILLS, AB, “Spring came in a great big rush and now we are enjoying +25 temperatures. Kidding went well, as most of my May kidders ended up having their babies in March!”

“Cindy Lashowski and I went on our first endurance ride May 5 at Bellis. Cindy was riding CSR Money’s Gold Penny and I rode CSR Blaise of Glory. The photo above is through Blaise’s ears, with Cindy up on Penny and our endurance guide riding her Rocky Mountain Horse. The ride was very well organized, with a different loop for each distance. We just did the 10 mile introductory ride, (*below*) but Blaise could easily have gone further as I was holding her back lots. We are hoping to do the 25 mile loop at Tofield on May 20.”

dressage ring (either 20 by 40 meters or 20 by 60 meters with this mnemonic: All King Edwards Horses Make Big Families - or something like that... LOL!”



“I have had a few good little rides around home since the snow melted. I still can’t believe how much water is still lying around, but the mosquito population definitely supports that (or maybe it’s the other way around.) I am looking forward to a summer of riding and I hope to see many fellow Walking Horse lovers on the trail this year. Take Care, All! And ride safely!”

“I also attended the Mane Event. This year AWAH co-hosted with CRTWH and it was a great booth! Lots of information, very friendly. We had many visitors, both new gaited horse owners and experienced owners. Always full of people!”

“Next I’m off to the Gaited Dressage Clinic and our AGM. The best part of attending these events is seeing everybody. Winter can be a bit isolating on my small farm, so I really enjoy getting out.”



KARLA HANSEN, RIDE EASY RANCH, PONOKA, AB writes, “It was nice to see the good turnout for the CRTWH Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 12. And I did learn a few things about dressage at the clinic – yes, *me*, actually! Did you know that you can remember the letters for the

BOBBIE BUCK, WHITECOURT, AB working with her new mare, Duplicate Diamond (Uphill Heir Trigger x Maybee’s Memory).



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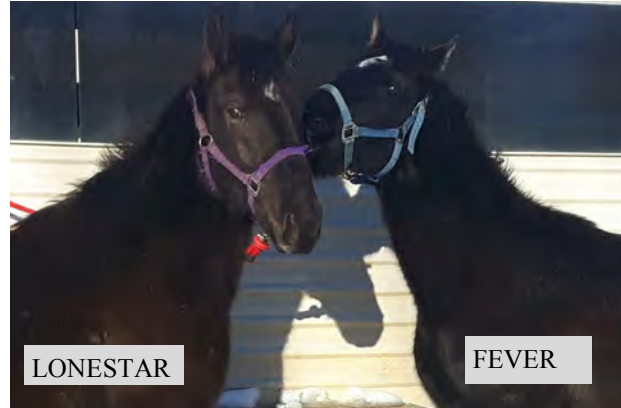
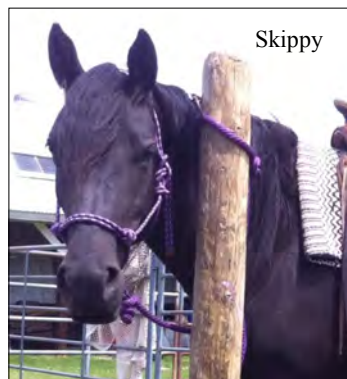
PASSING HANDS

BRENDA BAKER, FOOHLLS COUNTY, AB writes, "Well, April has started out differently than I'd expected. Yes, there was snow, and lots of it, but there were also a few people out horse shopping while the ground was too white to ride on! Early in April a young couple from Onoway purchased Lola Victoria, a 4 year old palomino mare, to be one of the first two TWH they've owned. Lola had about only 30 days of riding last September with Rick Bates, then had the next six months off. A week after arriving at her new home Lola participated in a clinic with her new people. I'd say the new owners might be happy with her! I sure am."



"A week later a lovely couple from Rimbey decided to add Skipitty Do Dah, a 6 year old black mare to their collection of TWH. I'm sure "Skippy", is enjoying all the attention that comes with being the new horse. She'll have a great life with her people as they continue to explore the trails out west on horseback."

"We are trying out hay nets for round bales this spring. The mares thought the 2 inch spacing was okay but my fatties were dismayed when they were presented with the 1 inch! There are only two of them tinkering with that net for now so they aren't pressured to move off before they get enough to eat. Keeping weight on the mature horses is never a problem."



LONESTAR

FEVER

From FRAN KERIK, CHRYSTAL STAR RANCH, TWO HILLS, AB, "Congratulations to David Bow-Noskiye. David has purchased both the 3 year old black geldings advertised in the last *WHN*. CSR Lonestar and CSR Saturday Night Fever will be going to live in Fort Vermillion, AB where there are miles of wonderful sandhills to ride. Happy trails!"

From AMY LAUZON, CAYLEY, AB, "I'm very pleased to congratulate Ashley Stroud and Greg Wiebe of Onoway on their purchase of the big black mare, Kit's Gotta Be Fabulous. They're absolutely smitten with Gotta! I'd like to buy them a year's subscription to *WHN* to welcome them to the wonderful world of Walking Horses."

"In addition to selling Gotta, Canada Day Cayley Eh returned to Mane Gait TWH after a two year absence. Her nine year old owner moved out of the country with her family. But already Cayley has found a new home with Linda Mackay of Millarville AB. Happy trails, Linda! Please send her a one year subscription to *WHN* from Mane Gait TWH with my compliments."

SHELLIE PACOVSKY, SLUSH CREEK WALKERS, BAINVILLE, MT writes, "Congratulations to Arna Erhart of Ardrossan, AB on her purchase of SCW Midnight Fantasy. Best of luck with this pretty black filly, sired by SCW He's A Midnight Legend out of Slush Creeks Lollipop! Many folks in Alberta will remember her great grandsire, Delight's Shadow Man, and her grandsire, Delight's Midnight Legend, who was bred in Alberta."

Send *your* congratulations to owners of new TWH.



THIS N' THAT

from the

ALBERTA WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION

The AWHHA Board of Directors would like to welcome Joanne McKenzie as Secretary and Samantha Johnson as Events Director. Thank you to Lisa Parrish and Brenda Woodall for their contributions to the Board.

Mane Event: April 27-29, 2018, Red Deer. The AWHHA/CRTWH booth was a great success. Hope to visit with you next year.

Fort Assiniboine All Breed Horse Rally: May 25-27, 2018 Contact Alynn Ward alynnward@gmail.com

Summer Solstice Walking Horse Trail Ride: June 23-24 Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Recreation Area: Contact Fran Kerik

2018 Gathering: July 21 & 22 Sawhorse Ranch AWHHA & CRTWH Games & Challenges designed to enhance your equine partnership. Register: gathering@awha.ca

2nd Annual AWHHA Scavenger Hunt: July 23-27, 2018 Whitehorse Falls, Cadomin. Sorry, event is full.

Ya Ha Tinda: August 13-17

AWHA Windup: Willy Bronze Poker Rally, Donalda Sept 29-30

For more details & registration go to www.awha.ca

Find us on

Alberta Walking Horse Association

HAVE A GREAT DAY & WALK ON!



Karla Hansen & Sheila Rodney at the booth.

members in the booth to greet and converse with interested new people. Also, *Thank you* to all who helped get the booth put up, and to the great team who worked to take it down and pack it up. *Karla Hansen*

Right, Alynn Ward, President of AWHHA presents the draw winner, Nicolas Brown of Westlock, with the prize, a horsey gift basket.



MANE EVENT 2018



Hello, and Happy 'Sprummer'!

Well, after a rough and thoroughly wintery winter, it would appear we have sprummer! (Spring just sprang into summer!) I don't think I slept through spring ... No, no I was busy, getting ready for the Mane Event at the Westerner, Red Deer, AB!

It was very well attended this year, the first year the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse amalgamated with the Alberta Walking Horse Association to present the Canadian bred Walking Horse to the public, and it worked out very well.

Thanks to *All* who helped out. It was very nice to have more



COGITATIONS ON GAIT, GENETICS AND BIOMECHANICS

by Ron Smith

Most days I have a good chat with my good friend Victor Burton. Victor was raised in southern Saskatchewan back in the thirties when they still rode six miles through blizzard and flood to school and when the train got stuck in fifteen foot drifts in winter and waited there until spring when the snow melted enough so that it could be dug out. Each day brings a new tale of railroad or horse that makes one wish to have lived in a different time. Long before cell phones were thought of, Victor sent Morse code from the railway stations for a living, just like in the old west movies. He has a thousand horse stories from Kentucky Whips to Half Arabs and Standardbreds off the track. Victor is now eighty-nine years old but still rides and trains horses. For the past twenty years, he has been breeding and raising Tennessee Walking horses. Between Victor's twenty years and my fifty years with Walkers our conversation always turn to the easy gaited horse from Tennessee.

Our favorite topic is to discuss the latest edition of the *Walking Horse News* from cover to cover. It is somehow satisfying to flip through the pictures and analyze the gait and conformation of all the horses. We get particularly agitated though when we find a pacing horse being presented even on the front cover. A little side trip on a recent vacation has however given me cause to reflect on the matter, thus my cogitations.

A year ago, my wife Carol and I went to Brazil to visit my daughter, Maya. She married a young man from Brazil who was also doing a study abroad in the Netherlands. (Some of you may remember her showing in the leadline class at Westridge Stables south of Calgary back in about 1991.) Below she's atop Chim-Chim-Charoo and another daughter, Carley, is holding the certificate).



Now in Brazil they are mighty serious about their gaited horses. There are more than 200,000 registered

Mangalarga Marchador horses in Brazil. They have seventy-two branch organizations of their National Breed organization spread all over the country. Associação Brasileira dos Criadores do Cavalo Mangalarga Marchador (ABCCMM) boasts 7,000 members. On top of this they have nation-wide competitions, breeding selection programs, educational programs, and even their own television program. They even have a ranking system for their breeding stallions and feature a breeding individual on their TV channel.

I thought this to be a great opportunity to see how they went about things down there so asked my son-in-law to take us to a horse farm near São Paulo. We headed south-west through a maze of green wooded hills. The tree cover was mostly farmed groves of eucalyptus. They like those because they grow fast and are straight with few side branches. The natural forests had long ago been clear-cut I suppose to ship the hardwood to the stately halls of Europe. After winding through the hills and passing the little town of Alumina, we left the pavement and travelled the red dirt back-road to the crest of a hill overlooking a couple of picturesque white buildings nestled in the vale. Horses on the hillside pasture let us know we were in the right place. Our little rental car could barely handle the deeply rutted grade approaching the haras (Portuguese for horse farm) below. As we approached the six-stall stable and the small bungalow with whitewashed walls, a red tile roof and blue trim around the windows, we were met by a friendly young lady who spoke good English. They had just purchased the place and were in the process of building up their pleasure riding stable. She introduced us to her father Raul, a professor with a doctorate in horsemanship specializing in the Mangalarga Marchador. He had had a stroke and was wheelchair bound but still conversed well enough with his little English and my little Portuguese. We hit it off instantly.

One of the reasons for our visit was to take a ride and experience the Marchador gait. Pedro and Lucas, a couple of his students brought our horses after we had visited for about an hour. I was hesitant to mount up as my 210 pounds was more than a bit over the recommended twenty percent rider to horse weight percentage. Now here is the interesting thing. My horse did a broken albeit smooth trot the whole time. After we got back Lucas got out his lap-top and explained that there are two types of gait in the Mangalarga Marchador breed: Marcha Picada -

a stepping pace with knee action) and Marcha Batida (a broken trot with knee action but without the suspension between the diagonals like a regular trot).

To test the trueness of the gait, they build sounding boards or ride on concrete so you can really hear the footfalls. I of course had to ask if they had any horses that were neither pacey nor trotty, that were just in-between. He said there was no such thing as marcha do centro. I of course had my Android along and showed him a video of my Blackie on Youtube doing what I thought a pretty square gait but he judged it was marcha picada.

Our hosts treated us like old friends. We sat around on the patio sharing their hospitality and enjoying the peaceful setting including the roosters in the yard, cilantro bushes up to our chests, all shaded by avocado trees. After sandwiches they shared brigadero (a Brazilian chocolate fudge desert) and little demi-cups of Brazilian coffee. Unfortunately, being Mormon, I had to refuse the coffee but heartily accepted the camaraderie.



Lastly, I had to take a photo of a spur they had hanging on the wall. What in the world would anyone want with an eight-inch shank and a four-inch diameter rowel? They could not tell me, but I will propose my theory later.

Ever since the trip I have been stewing about gait. Is stepping pace so bad? I have ridden some reasonably smooth stepping-pacers. In Brazil, they have whole shows dedicated to Marcha Picada. They have over 100,000 horses registered and bred to step-pace. Trail Rider Magazine claims that in 1994 a Marchador entered the Guinness Book of World Records with the longest endurance ride of 8,694 miles. Dr. Susan Garlinghouse's Tennessee Walking Horse, John Henry, has completed five Tevis Cup challenges. I contacted her to ask what gait he did over the ride and she replied, "John Henry does eight different gaits but usually defaults to the stepping-pace." I have read several authors who claim the stepping pace leads to unsoundness. Perhaps this opinion is unsound. Let us examine the genetics and biomechanics of gait.

To be continued

READERS WRITE

From MELYSSA BYVANK, HINTON, AB, "I just wanted to write and tell you how much I enjoyed the article on Black Dust M.R. by Franne Brandon. I love reading about the old time walkers that helped develop our wonderful breed. As I was getting to the end I was pleasantly surprised to learn about the son of Black Dust MR who made it to Canada and who sired Bold Victory. Bold Victory is the sire to my gelding, Jack (Victory Walker)."

"Jack is out of Absaroka Snow White who my parents purchased in foal in 2003 from Laurindale Stables. At the time of purchase it was unclear if Snow was in foal but as the months passed it was no longer a question. Jack was born just after Easter 2004 during the tail end of a spring snow storm. He was the first foal my family ever had and he made things easy for us. He is my most trusted trail horse; I started to work cattle with him last fall and he is now teaching my husband about horses and how to ride."

"Jack will be 14 on April 14. While I never met Bold Victory, I can imagine what he looked like from the photos in the article. It's always a pleasure to learn more about the history and blood lines that make up a horse. I can appreciate Jack even more now. I've attached a photo of Jack, below. It is amazing to me how colour can shake out through the genetic tree."

Ed. Note: Jack's dam was a white maximal sabino. Bold Victory was a heterozygous black. Their son inherited the hidden red colour his parents carried and turned out to be a flax sorrel with minimal sabino!



DIANE SCZEPANSKI, WHITEHALL, WI writes, "Enjoyed the Black Dust M.R. story. I had a chance to meet Betty Sain a couple of years ago when I was in Tennessee. Very interesting woman. She sure knew what she was doing breeding great horses."



The Canadian Walker

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June, 2018

CRTWH EXECUTIVE

President:

Sue Gamble, ON

705-642-3746

president@crtwh.ca

Vice-President:

Marjorie Lacy, AB

780-723-2547

vice-president@crtwh.ca

Secretary:

Leslie Hunchuk AB

403-931-2105

secretary@crtwh.ca

Treasurer:

Dianne Little, AB

403-271-7391

treasurer@crtwh.ca

BOARD MEMBERS

AB Hilton Hack

1-403-826-0308

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WOODHILL'S TS TROOPER #3412

May 1998 - May 2018



We are very sad to hear that 'Troop', the very first horse to be awarded the CRTWH TRIPLE CHALLENGE ULTIMATE CANADIAN HORSE died recently, only a short time after his 20th birthday.



This bay gelding by Tsuniah's Dark Delight x Beauty's Breezy Bay was owned from birth by Bill Roy. Bill raised and trained him and gave him to his grandsons. In 2011, Troop and Bill were the first team to challenge and be awarded the title of Ultimate Canadian Horse, the highest honour in the Canadian Registry.

But Troop was that and more, a reliable mount for Brandon, Matt and Tommy as they grew up, and Bill's companion on many miles of mountain trails. Twenty years of memories. He will be deeply missed.

The "RIDE YOUR WALKER" CHALLENGE 2017

Certificates and Patches for the hours ridden were presented at the AGM. Congratulations to all of you who participated in the Program last year!

Allanna Jackson

Alynn Ward

Bobbie Buck

Brenda Woodall

Cheryl Peressini

Fran Kerik

Kim Pielak

Kristy Coulter

Krystal Tuftin

Les Zaharichuk

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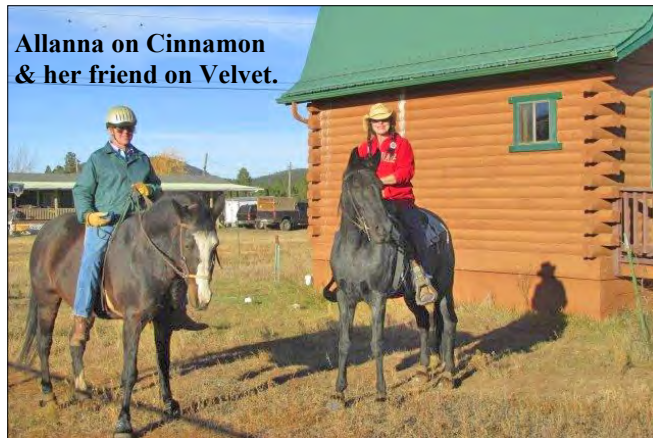
Photos on following pages.

Brenda Woodall, Ride / Drive Coordinator, writes, "As a group a total of 1731 hours were logged and if we were to convert those hours into traveling distances, our group could have gone from Calgary to Vancouver, then Vancouver to Prince Edward Island, and then back to Calgary again. That's quite an adventure!"

"This is my last year as the Ride/Drive Program coordinator and I'd like to thank Bobbie Buck for volunteering to take over as program coordinator."



The Canadian Registry of the
Tennessee Walking Horse
is pleased to
Congratulate the 2017
Ride Your Walker participants:



Allanna on Cinnamon
& her friend on Velvet.



Alynn & Rocky



Left:
Brenda on Grace

Right:
Bobbie on Java
in front of group.



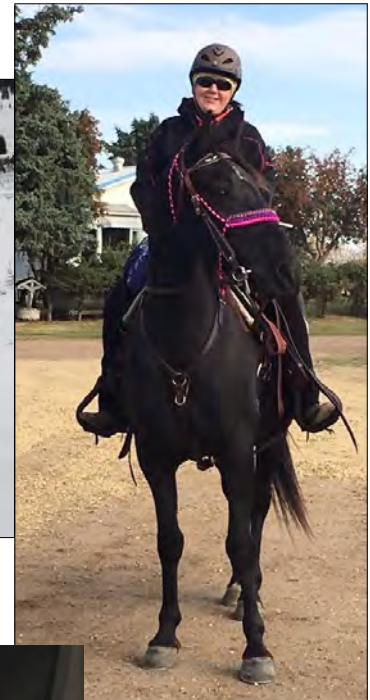
Casper & Kim



Cheryl & Treasure



Congratulations to ALL the 2017 Ride Your Walker participants!



Above center:
Karla on Raven leading Super Trooper

Above:
Tina & Tucker

Center right:
Kristy & Lady

Below:
Stephen & Cisco



Above:
**Krystal
& Horton**

On the cover:
Les & Toddy

Below:
**Fran riding
Blaise & leading
Penny.**

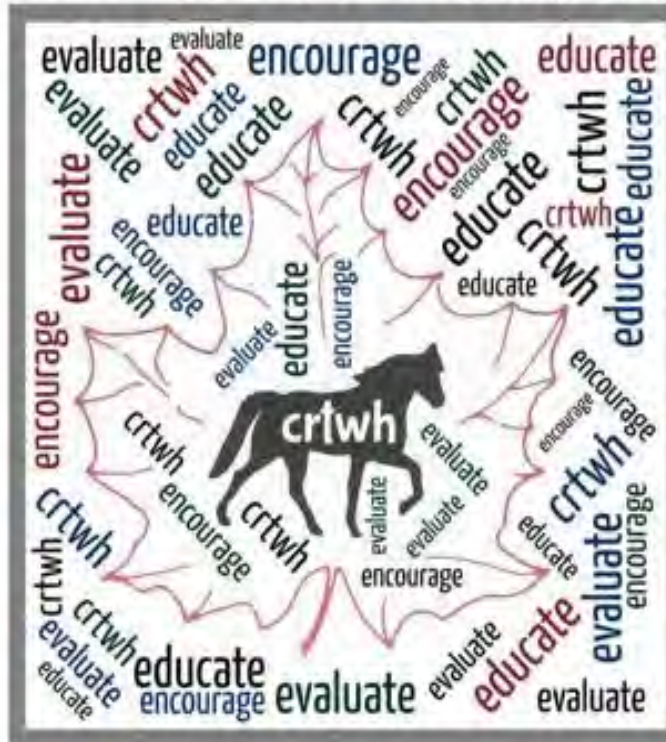


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OF THE
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who achieved these TRAINING LEVELS in 2017:

Basic Skills in Hand

Uphill She'za Legacy Too - trained by Paige Stern, owned by Marjorie Lacy

Champion's Copper Shadow owned by Josie Coulter

CSR Blaise of Glory owned by Fran Kerik

Trail Riding Levels 1,2, and 3

CSR Blaise of Glory owned by Fran Kerik

Jus' One Dark Beam - exhibited by Kat Brennan, owned by Windi Derman

Horsemanship Levels 1, 2, and 3 & Live Performance

Gen's Shadow Shaker Rocky owned by Alynn Ward

Ghost of Future Past owned by Windi Derman

Lady's Investment owned by Kristy Coulter

Alternative Activities

Gen's Shadow Shaker Rocky owned by Alynn Ward – Driving competition.

Ghost of Future Past owned by Windi Scott – Freestyle demo at liberty.

Lady's Investment owned by Kristy Coulter – Competitive Trail Ride.

2017 ULTIMATE CANADIAN HORSES!

GEN'S SHADOW SHAKER ROCKY owner Alynn Ward

GHOST OF FUTURE PAST owned by Windi Scott

LADY'S INVESTMENT owned by Kristy Coulter



THE CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE



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The 2017 'PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE' Award Recipients

BRONZE

Uphill She'za Legacy Too - Bred by Jack Gurnett, owned by Marjorie Lacy.

Champion's Copper Shadow - Bred by Helen Pawluk, owned by Josie Coulter.

BRONZE and SILVER

Smokey Mountain Melody - Bred by Jo-Anne & Don McDonald, owner Bill Roy.

R. Diamond Smoky Autumn Gold - Bred by Maureen Hummel, owner M. Lacy.

Goldwells Treasure - Bred by Beverley Skowronski, owned by Cheryl Peressini.

SILVER and GOLD

Lady's Investment - Bred by Morley Holman, owned by Kristy Coulter.

BRONZE, SILVER & GOLD

Northfork Red Duchess - Bred by Jack Gurnett, owned by Marjorie Lacy.

Gen's Shadow Shaker Rocky - Bred by John & Yvonne Ady, owner Alynn Ward.

Ghost of Future Past - Bred by Randy Arden, owned by Windi Derman.

2017 ULTIMATE CANADIAN HORSES!

Lady's Investment

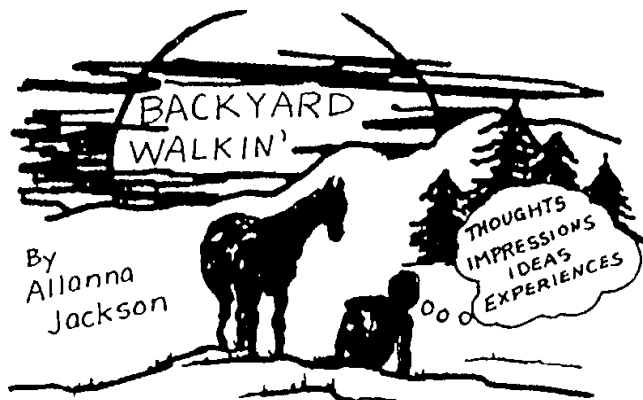


Gen's Shadow Shaker Rocky



Ghost of Future Past





BACKYARD WALKIN'

CINNAMON'S SADDLE SAGA Part 5

by Allanna Lea Jackson ©

On May 16, 2017, Dr. Sarah Matyjaszek and Dr. Laura Waitt Wolker at the Midwestern University Equine and Bovine Clinic in Glendale, Arizona, determined that Cinnamon's difficulties with cantering, inconsistency in middle gaits, stumbling, cinchiness, occasional bucking, and scrambling in the horse trailer were all caused by left lumbar epaxial muscle atrophy due to chronic improper saddle fit. I treated Cinnamon with two weeks of rest, banamine, the back massage I could give Cinnamon myself, and a new saddle. After Cinnamon's rest I started riding her bareback.

Cinnamon's neurologic score of zero along with clean lumbar spine x-rays were very good news because they indicated the saddle had not yet done irreversible damage. Cinnamon's lameness score of one was attributed to the back problem. It was a relief to find a single, curable, cause for all of Cinnamon's issues! Unfortunately, Cinnamon was in this predicament because none of the saddles I'd tried fit!

I asked the vets for recommendations about a suitable saddle for Cinnamon. Dr. Waitt is actively involved in the sport of Endurance so she asked the Facebook group she's a member of about saddle fitters. I also asked the vets what was wrong with the fit of the saddle I'd been using. Basically, the tree was too long.

Dr. Waitt explained that Cinnamon, like most TWH, has a short back. She also explained there are several ways of measuring back length that yield differing answers. For saddle fitting the critical measure of back length is from the back edge of the horse's scapula to the last rib when the horse is standing square. When Dr. Waitt placed her hands on these places it was easy to see just how short Cinnamon's back is. On May 18 Dr. Waitt emailed a list of four saddle makers that were recommended by

the Endurance Facebook group.

May 16, Cinnamon and I got home from Glendale in time for me to turn around and take my Mother down to Scottsdale May 17 to bring my Father home from the hospital. Consequently, it was several days before I realized my truck was losing a quart of oil every two days! It was 10 days before my favorite mechanic could fix it. That unexpected expense on top of the costs of the Glendale trip strained my finances before I had a chance to look at saddles.

When circumstances calmed down I reviewed all the tack catalogs I had and made a list of every saddle I knew did not fit Cinnamon. I went online to view websites for the recommended saddle makers and another saddle maker who specializes in gaited horse saddles that I'd heard about at a clinic. Reading the websites eliminated three of the saddlemakers because they used standard, mass produced saddle trees in sizes I already knew did not fit Cinnamon.

The gaited horse saddle maker listed only two tree sizes. A local friend had purchased two saddles from them so checking that option was as easy as riding Cinnamon over to my friend's house and trying her saddle. That saddle did not fit Cinnamon.

I checked the local feed stores, a pawn shop, and a tack consignment shop. The consignment shop had a Sport Saddle treeless saddle I could borrow. June 10, Cinnamon and I tried the Sport Saddle on a trail ride. The treeless saddle was comfortable, except for the way the stirrups were attached. The girth arrangement was rather odd but it stayed in place better than I expected. Cinnamon seemed happier with the Sport Saddle than with any other saddle I'd put on her, but when I unsaddled after the ride I could see the treeless saddle was putting pressure on her withers. The Sport Saddle went back to the consignment shop.

On May 26, I emailed Alleghany Mountain Trail Saddles in South Wales, New York. This was the only saddle maker that offered custom tree fitting. They responded promptly, but all of their fit kits were out with customers so I had to wait. Shipping fit kits and saddles by ground from New York to Arizona takes a week. The AMTS fit kit was a set of 10 fiberglass forms. The instructions said to stand the horse up square, then photograph each form from 45 degree angle at both shoulders, and a straight side view, then walk the horse slowly forward while taking a short side view video of the form. I also added 45 degree angle rear views because Cinnamon's saddle fit issues were affecting her loins. Based on the photos and videos, AMTS offered one of their Western style demo saddles at a

discounted price. When the saddle arrived I tried it on Cinnamon for a short trail ride, in addition to photographing it on her. Cinnamon and I did not like the fit of the saddle. When AMTS saw the photos they emailed: "Send the saddle back. It does not fit your horse!" AMTS paid the return shipping and gave me a credit for the saddle.

Next AMTS sent an endurance saddle tree and several more fit forms for me to try on Cinnamon and photograph. Obtaining satisfactory photos and videos took several tries, but I could email AMTS a dropbox link to deliver the images. This continued all summer before AMTS was satisfied they knew how to fit an endurance style saddle tree for Cinnamon. Cinnamon's back is so short a Western saddle was not an option.

I ordered a new saddle for Cinnamon on Sept. 20, 2017, and shipped the saddle tree and fit forms back to AMTS. In mid November, 2017, Cinnamon's new, hand-made, custom-fitted, endurance saddle arrived. (Below) Cinnamon is still cinchy but out on the trail she's moving more freely and is more consistent in gait than before.

We're still working on physical straightening and strengthening for Cinnamon and I've started taking dressage lessons.



FOAL CALL



BLACK COLT
(Northfork Top Traveller x Velvet's Summer Chance)
Born May 5



SORREL COLT
(Northfork Patch of Gold x Northfork She'za Legacy)
Both owned by Brenda & Stephen Woodall, Linden, AB.

BLACK FILLY (Walkien Jesse Skywalker x NFF Angel's Lucky Star) Born May 14. Owned by Diane Sczepanski, Northern Foundations Farm, Whitehall, Wisconsin This is Jesse's first USA born foal, a big filly, only minutes old here!





FOAL CALL



BLACK FILLY (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Kodiak's Golden Girl). Born April 17. Tanya Johnston, Rocky Mtn House, AB says, "I think we'll name her Kodiak's Miss Sabrina. She's a curious and friendly little filly; I can't wait to see how she grows up." *Photo right.*

SMOKEY BLACK? COLT (Northfork Top Traveller x N-Mile Golden Fantasy).

From Lawrence Baraniuk, Hinton, AB. "A new foal landed here about 06:30 am on April 3rd, in -15 degree weather. I had an open faced horse shelter with a small round pen attached. I also hung a heat lamp from the rafters for comfort but Tazzy had her foal in the cold end of the shelter."

"Upon inspection the foal proved to be a stud colt. He is perfectly healthy, frisky, athletic, and full of attitude. The sire is black with a small white diamond on his forehead and a bit of white on his hind feet. The dam is palomino with amber eyes. The foal has a black mane and tail with a black dorsal stripe, black muzzle, white inverted teardrop on his forehead and a bit of white on his hind feet. Color? Started out almost black, then became silvertip with some buckskin mixed in. His color reminds me of a Grizzly bear so I call him "Grizzly". It suits him now - but if he changes colors then I may have to make some adjustments. And who knows what color his eyes will end up being? They are not as dark as a regular horse's eyes. I haven't thought about a Registered name as yet. This all happened at our Easy Livin' Ranch, west of Hinton."



CLASSIC CHAMPAGNE FILLY (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Banner's Sippin' Champagn).



Fran Kerik, Two Hills, writes, "My mare Banner's Sippin Champagne had a sweet little filly from Rascal that I've named Sparkle. She is a classic champagne and can motor around like nobody's business Here's a photo I took of her when she was a few days old. She is a real character; has to play in the water and paw the hay. She's going to be small just like her mother and father I have her earmarked for my next riding horse." *Photo left.*

BLACK TOBIANO COLT (Success Marshall Dillon x Blue and Blonde) Born May 12, and already racing around like he thinks he's Secretariat! Don & Jo-Anne McDonald, McDonald Farm, Pouce Coupe, BC.

BLACK TOBIANO COLT (Success Marshall Dillon x Silky Reward) Born May 17. Paige Stern, Bluffton, AB

*Are there any new foals at YOUR place?
Please send WHN a birth announcement!*

TEACHING THE GAITED HORSE TO CANTER

by Windi Scott



Part One: CONDITIONING FOR THE CANTER

Gaited horses have many different ways of moving. Some of them find it very easy to canter and for others it is a challenge. I have nine Tennessee Walking Horses in my pasture and when I call them up they come running in about nine different ways. Some trot up to the canter, some pace, and some just transition right into it. One of my little racking mares canters like a startled antelope. The other prefers a flying pace over any kind of canter. This is why the ‘third gear’ of gaited horses needs attention in different ways. However, the approach to the canter calls for one thing that is common to all of them; their need for pre-conditioning.

Most of us know that horses need to be in shape (as we humans also do) to perform athletically challenging tasks. Even carrying a rider over flat ground at a walk is an athletic task for a horse. Cantering with a rider is extremely taxing when collection and rate are called for.

Before you start, it is necessary to determine the physical condition of the horse. Are there issues with soundness such as arthritis or prior injuries? Does the horse have a poor body score? Are there issues with saddle fit or back soundness?

In all honesty it would be unfair to inflict pain or even moderate discomfort while training for the canter. The sessions have to be comfortable and rewarding for both horse and rider.

So, assuming you have a fit and healthy horse that can already carry you comfortably, we will begin conditioning for the canter.

There is a simple exercise that can be done both in hand and in the saddle. I learned to do a *rock-back* at a clinic with Dianne Little. I had never consciously done this one before but it intrigued me and I find it beneficial. If the horse can do it on the ground, it can certainly learn to do it under saddle. This exercise teaches the horse to transfer its weight to the back end and stand like that for increasingly longer times, and eventually be cued to rock back while mounted, moving and ultimately achieving a nice canter departure. You can cue off the halter, and later, the bridle.

I believe that *backing* is the single most critical element in conditioning for the canter. The horse needs a strong back end in order to do canter departures correctly. The canter sequence starts from behind on one back foot, and the front end must be light enough to allow the horse to balance back on this single point.

Back your horse in hand whenever you are leading it. Do both the rock-back exercise and backing interchangeably using different cue-strengths for each so he learns the difference. You can ground-drive and long line for this also. Back up and down hills and in soft or even slightly deep footing. Back your horse under saddle. Teach him to back with very little ‘ask’ and back him up and down small hills and in soft footing. Teach him to hold a stop on a hill in both directions.

Driving is also an important tool for developing strength in the back end. Backing in long lines is great, but even better is training to pull. Horses develop great back end strength when pulling. Taking the time to safely train a horse to pull (even a hay bale on a rope) can be beneficial.

All of these exercises are helpful for conditioning horses for the canter. They will be using muscle groups that they aren’t accustomed to; therefore it is important to develop them slowly.

In the next installment, I will offer some techniques for helping the horse to understand what you are asking when you want him to do a canter departure under saddle.

To be continued



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- DAINTY** (Arrows Boy Trigger x Cocoa Latte Lady)
- ORO** by Arian's Jack Daniel's x Dancer's Glayva Z. (left)



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BUCK'S CROWN RUBY 21100817 - Cremello, 15:1 hh. In foal to Tsuniah's Dark Delight for 2018. High percentage chance for a buckskin foal. May purchase with foal at side or separately.

DANCER'S GLAYVA Z 20805152 -15:1hh, shimmering amber gold champagne. Quiet, under saddle.



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MANE GAIT TENNESSEE WALKERS

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The last foal crop of **KIT'S ROYAL PRIDE** (*right*)
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x
Sundance Kit
(Sundance Lad x Sun's Fair Lady FF)

All three of these mares are CRTWH Registered
and also Eligible for Heritage Registration.



KIT'S ROYAL PRIDE



RUBY

KITS RUBY TUESDAY 2013-[CAN]3745 -
Chestnut 15:2 hh mare, coming 5 year old.
Well started under saddle. *Photo left.*

SOLD KITS GOTTA BE FABULOUS -
2014-[CAN]3807- Smokey Black, 16 hh, coming 4
year old. Very well handled, will be really easy to start
under saddle.

KITS WICKED WAR 2014-[CAN]3809 -
True Black, 16.1 hh. 2014 mare bred to
Northfork Patch of Gold (*below*) for May/June foal.
(‘Gold’ is also the grandsire of Ruby & Gotta, above)

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Palomino sabino, 16 years, 15.3 hh.



Northfork Patch of Gold

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KARLAS PRISCILLA PERL (R.A.F)

Her dam, Karlas Fancy Raven has achieved the Silver Award in the PFE, making her daughter an excellent prospect. 'Pris' is a spirited gal, also halter trained, friendly, and easy to catch & handle feet. Palomino, connected star, stripe, snip; hind half stockings.



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- ABSAROKA DANI:** 2004 TWHBEA registered chestnut mare, 15.2 hh, short coupled, sturdy horse. Broke to ride, fast moving, not for a beginner. Dani has been ridden mostly by herself out on the trail, in bush & fields. Proven broodmare.
- SKIPITTY DO DAH:** 2012 CRTWH & TWHBEA registered black mare. Skippy has a small feminine head & compact build. Broke to ride, energetic & obedient. Skippy is 15.1 hh. Will be great for a small experienced adult rider. **SOLD**
- DOLLY DAPPLES:** 2012 CRTWH & TWHBEA registered golden palomino mare with black feet. Dolly is a real sweetheart; an affectionate horse. She is small, 15 hh, broke to ride and very forward moving under saddle.
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- LOLA VICTORIA:** 2014 CRTWH & TWHBEA registered palomino mare, a big mover, with good bone and black feet. She is extra friendly, green broke, & should mature to 15.3 hh. **SOLD**
- CRAZY LEGS:** 2015 CRTWH registered chestnut filly. She is halter broke, stands in cross ties or tie stall. Nice moving, smaller type TWH.
- BLONDE JANE BLONDE:** 2001 CRTWH & TWHBEA registered mare. Blondie is a great moving mount for an experienced small adult. Wonderful broodmare.
- VICTORIAN ORA BELLA Z:** 2003 TWHBEA registered palomino mare, 1200 lb, 16+hh. She is broke to ride; a huge-moving, cheerful mount. Proven broodmare.
- SLIPPERY SOCKS:** 2016 CRTWH registered chestnut gelding. Well made, well bred fellow that should mature to 15.2 hh. He is halter broke and sensible.

For pictures of any of these horses go to www.triangleb.com. To view pedigrees go to www.clrc.ca.

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COMING EVENTS

FORT ASSINIBOINE All Breed Horse Rally: May 25-27, 2018 Email Alynn Ward at alynnmward@gmail.com

AWHA SCAVENGER HUNT: July 23-27, 2018 is our 2nd Annual at Cadomin Campsite, AB. Contact Alynn Ward alynnmward@gmail.com

SUMMER SOLSTICE Walking Horse Trail Ride: June 23-24. Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Recreation Area: Contact Fran Kerik, **780-603-3391** or franceskerik@gmail.com

2018 GATHERING: July 21 & 22 Sawhorse Ranch AWA & CRTWH Games & Challenges designed to enhance your equine partnership. Register: gathering@awha.ca

YA HA TINDA: August 13-17. Contact AWA.

GAITED HORSEMANSHIP with Jennifer Bauer – August 31, Sept 1 & 2, at Discovery Ranch Arena, Grenfell, SK. Cost is \$425 for the weekend, including lunches, camping and stabling. Deposit of \$200 required. Call or text Nancy Maurer at **306-697-7645**.

'THE CANADIAN' EVENT – Reserve September 1, 2 & 3 and join us at the Almond Arena near Ponoka, AB for an all new TWH Event including in-hand and under-saddle classes, evaluative classes, fun classes and others not typically seen as part of a traditional Walking Horse show. For more info contact Dianne at **403-271-7391**, Calgary, AB or ddlittle@telus.net.

AWHA WINDUP: Willy Bronze Poker Rally, Donalda Sept 29-30. Alynn Ward at alynnmward@gmail.com

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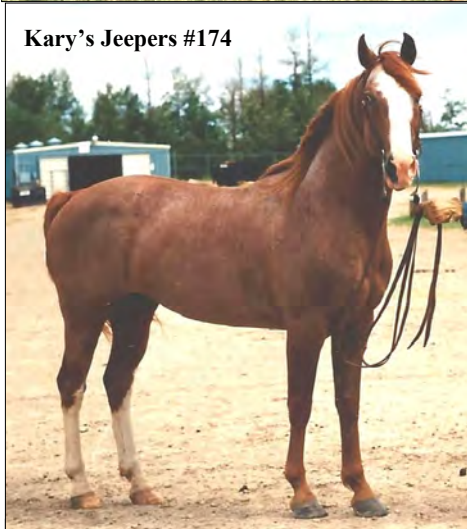
Prince Radar #37



Beauty's
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Go Shadow Go
#129

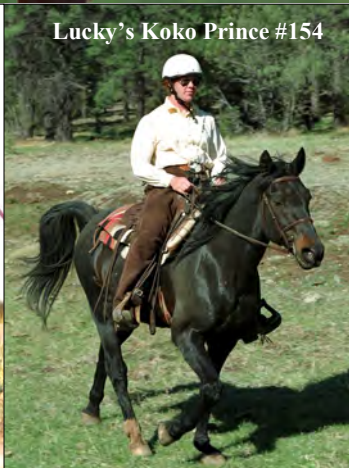


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