

JUNE, 2017
VOLUME XLI No. 3



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

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

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pages of *Walking Horse News*
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On Our Cover

*Susan Garlinghouse
& John Henry,
who holds the record
for the most Tevis Ride
completions by an easy
gaited horse.*

*Susan says,
"Coming into
the finish line
of the Bryce XP ride
in 2011,
John had done
250 miles over 5 days,
and won
Fastest Overall Time
amongst the few horses
that also did
all five days."*

*See pages 17 to 20
for the conclusion to
Sue Gamble's interview
with Susan.*

*What an amazing story
of a true partnership.
Congratulations!*

*The photo was taken
by Tony Wilkie.*

Deadline Dates

for Jan/Feb issue
JANUARY 7

for Mar/Apr issue
MARCH 7

for May/June issue
MAY 7

**for July/Aug issue
JULY 7**

for Sept/Oct issue
SEPTEMBER 7

for Nov/Dec issue
NOVEMBER 7

Volume LXI, # 3

May/June, 2017

Dear Subscribers,

Forty years ago I sent out the first *Walking Horse News*, a three page mimeographed newsletter, to 33 people I knew of in Alberta who owned or were interested in Tennessee Walkers. The cost was to be \$2 for a quarterly to cover postage, paper and duplicating. Here is what I wrote in that first ever *WHN*. It is just as appropriate now!

To have a successful newsletter, NEWS is needed. Let's hear what you have been doing. Have you bought some new horses? Are there new foals at your place? Do you know of any fairs or shows where Walkers will be exhibited? And if you have a horse for sale or swap, or are searching for one, send in a short ad. Letters with your views, ideas, tips on training, etc. will be welcomed. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your messages of support for *Walking Horse News*. I appreciated hearing from those of you who phoned, wrote or emailed. I'll carry on, with some changes and we'll see how it goes.

The subscription rate will be \$24 per year, with renewals for only one year at a time. I am not sure how this issue will be mailed, but if it is by Publications mail I am not sure how to remind those of you whose subscriptions are running out. The expiry date is on each mailing label, like this: 2017-06. That shows that your last issue will be the sixth month - June, of this year - 2017. So please watch for your expiry and renew right away.

I'll also accept email subscriptions for *WHN* for \$10.00 per year. Some people like to get their magazine that way; others prefer an actual paper copy to read. It's your choice.

I'm still happy to send a free invitational copy of the magazine in email form to your customers and new TWH owners, but for a paper copy I'll have to charge \$5.00 to cover the printing and mailing costs. And I really appreciate the sellers who give a *WHN* subscription to a new Walking Horse owner!

There are lots of interesting articles, reports and pictures here, so enjoy. And let's hear from *you* for next time!

Marjorie

Walking Horse News

June, 2017

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

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A One Year (6 issue) Subscription in Canada is \$24, made out to *Walking Horse News*. An email subscription is \$10.
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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Thank you for advertising in

WALKING HORSE NEWS!





CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE
HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT



WALKING HORSE NEWS IS 40 YEARS OLD!



Marjorie & the *WHN* 40th birthday cake presented at the CRTWH AGM May 6/17

Walking Horse News begins its *next* 40 years with this issue!

Started in 1977 to address the absolute dearth of information about Tennessee Walking Horses in Canada, and Western Canada in particular, it has grown from a few stapled, mimeographed pages to the paper you are holding now. And there's even a digital version for those of you who prefer it that way!

From an initial letter to 17 people in May, 1977 to a high of 475 in the late '90's, *WHN* is now down to a circulation of around 225. The instant communication on the internet has cut into both our circulation and advertising, and last year *WHN* actually showed a loss. So to continue to have your own Canadian TWH breed publication, it's important that you support it with subscriptions, ads, news, and articles.

Thank you to all the loyal subscribers and friends who have been there for *WHN* through the years, and to new folks just starting with our breed. Walkers are great horses. Let's continue to celebrate them in our own magazine.

Marjorie

ALBERTA WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION NEWS

I would like to introduce the new Board for the AWhA:

- Secretary Lisa Terrie-Parrish,
- Treasurer Shirley Wesslen,
- Facebook Leslie Hunchuk,
- Event Co-ordinator Les Zaharichuk,
- New Member Promotion Windi Derman,
- Past President Debra Blower,
- Director Brenda Woodall
- President Alynn Ward.



On behalf of the new AWhA Board the first thing we would like to do is thank all the previous Board Members who have worked so hard to develop this association over the years. The hard part of creating and developing the AWhA has been done and we hope to continue your work and make you proud.

Our next Board meeting is on June 1st and we have 7 event proposals to discuss. All these events are scheduled for this year so keep an eye out on the Alberta Walking Horse Association group on Facebook for updates. We have changed our Facebook site from a page to a group so make sure you update your favourites.

The Facebook group allows for interaction between our members and you can post and let your fellow members know if you are looking for someone to ride with or information. Leslie is doing a wonderful job of posting information on there for all of us. At this time we do not have a web page.

Les is working on a form for event proposals. You can contact him at les.zaharichuk@gmail.com if you would like a copy of the form. I can be contacted at 780-706-1724 or alynnmward@gmail.com. Memberships are \$20 a calendar year for single and \$30 a calendar year for a family. Contact Lisa at lissaparish72@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you at the events!

Alynn Ward

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



AMY LAUZON, CAYLEY, AB writes, "Mane Gait Tennessee Walkers would like to congratulate Catherine Pruden on her purchase of the chestnut gelding, Full Moon Buzz (The Full Monty x Kodiak's Moonstone). Buzz and Catherine will be spending many hours riding in their Kananaskis Country backyard. Pictured above is Buzz all cleaned up ready to go to his new home."

"Also we are the proud new owners of a lit up chestnut sabino foal from Slush Creek Walkers in Montana. SCW Brassy Bold and Brazen - pending, is out of Kodiak's Bella CF by SCW Counting Cadence. Just SUPER excited!"

Photo of Brassy below.



TERRY KINCH, ERRINGTON, B.C. writes, "I have found a wonderful new home for Joe's TWH, Max (Prime Times V Max) down in Victoria. A very nice lady named Heather MacNab fell in love and took him home. It was a very hard decision for me to sell Max, but I knew he was too much horse to be just sitting around most of the time waiting for someone to call his own."

"He is at a stable facility with about 24 other horses so will not lack for other horse companionship. He has his own run-out paddock and in summer will share a large grassy pasture with 3 or 4 other geldings."

"In the meantime, Dusty (Breezes Dust Storm) is learning to adjust to being an only child. He called quite a bit for a couple of days after Max left, but has settled down nicely and only calls when I come out for feeding time or if he thinks he hears someone riding down our road. Will be getting him out tomorrow for his first ride without Max in a lot of years, but don't anticipate any problems. I will have a couple of friends along on their horses, so I know Dusty will like that. Could you please send along an issue of *WHN* to Heather with my compliments? I will send her address to you."

"I also want to thank you for your help with the information I needed to transfer Max's registration papers to Heather. Joe & I never had any intentions of selling either of our Walkers; we planned to retire all at the same time, and I didn't have the first clue how to go about it. I sent in all the papers yesterday to the CLRC. The lady there, Pamela, was very nice and helpful. I ended up having to send a whole lot of copies of everything because Max wasn't in my name, but it was all worth it. He is at a wonderful home now."

Also, I was so sorry to hear about Jo Kingsland; she was a great lady. I met her at a Mane Event. If I lived out your way I would love to be able to give you a hand with getting the magazine out. It is such a great source of information and I have every issue since I first got Dusty way back in 1999. I do hope you will be able to continue publishing. I will be mailing my \$24.00 for the next year and if the price has to go up a little because of the postage system, it will be well worth it."



FOAL CALL



BLACK COLT - SCW Mount Calvary (SCW Counting Cadence out of Kodiak's Gemini CF,) born Easter Sunday.

BLACK COLT - SCW Dashboard Drummer (SCW Counting Cadence out of Kodiak's Miss Reflect CF) born 4-19-2017. He is a huge colt.

BLACK COLT - SCW Cinco De Mayo My (SCW He's A Midnight Legend out of Slush Creek Kiss This). Heritage eligible, born 5-5-17. *Photo right.*

BLACK SABINO FILLY - SCW A Midnight Fantasy (SCW He's A Midnight Legend x Slush Creeks Lollypop)

SORREL SABINO FILLY - SCW Brassy Brazen & Bold, (SCW Counting Cadence out of Kodiak's Bella CF.) . She is already sold and will be going to Canada.

Above are owned by Mark & Shellie Pacovsky, Slush Creek Walkers, Bainville, MT.



BUCKSKIN TOBIANO COLT. AKA- Storm (LL Chance's Red Rascal x CG's Gold Sweetheart) Born April 13

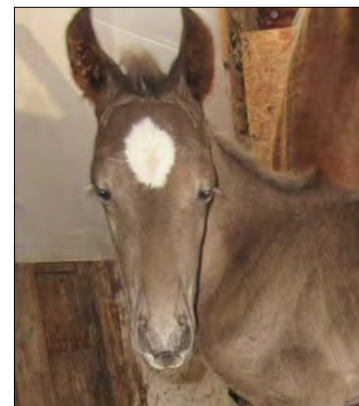
BAY COLT (LL Chance's Red Rascal x Bellissima Donna Z) Foaled May 5. *Photo below.* Both are owned by Lesa Luchak & family, Two Hills, AB

COLT (Generator Top To Bottom x Summer's Gold Nugget) Colour to be determined!
Neil & Joan Adams, Rocky Mountain House, AB

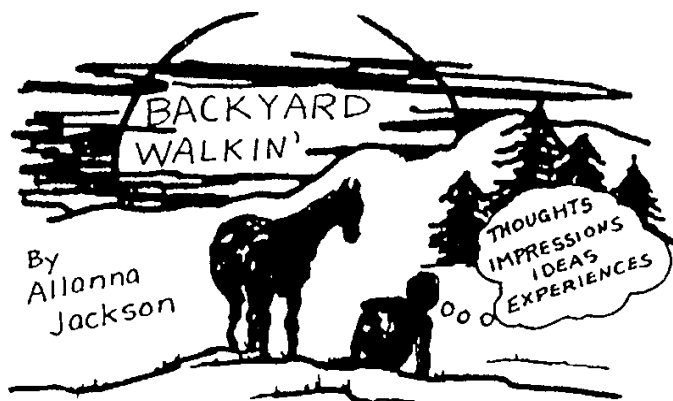
BUCKSKIN COLT (Uphill Heir Trigger x Karlas Alanza Jewel) Born May 2. Owned by Karla Hansen, Ponoka, AB *Photo below, checking out Boots the cat.*



BLACK FILLY
(Allen's Midnight Rascal x Power Play's Pixie)
Born May 13.
Fran & Gord Kerik,
Two Hills, AB
Photo right



Let's have a foal announcement and photo from YOU



© May 2017

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE HEAD!

The evening of April 26 my Mother called me with the report that my Father had crashed his mountain bicycle and was being transported to the Emergency Department by ambulance! We immediately drove down to the hospital. We were allowed into the exam room where my Father was. My mother called my brother, who is a flight paramedic with Air Evac medical helicopter service. He happened to be on duty that day and was able to come to the emergency department immediately. The Emergency Department doctor told us my Father's injuries were serious enough he needed to be flown to a level one Trauma Center. The Doctor and my brother immediately began making arrangements to have my father flown down to Scottsdale by helicopter which involved having my brother's supervisor relieve him for the rest of his shift and take the flight herself. While this was being arranged the Doctor informed us: "It's a good thing he was wearing a helmet. The helmet saved his life!"

Just a few minutes after we'd arrived one of the Firefighters from Timber Mesa Fire and Medical who had responded to my Father's accident told me they had put his bicycle in his garage. We stayed with my Father until they loaded him into the helicopter and watched it launch, then went home with my Mother to plan what we needed to do next. Sure enough, when we got to my parents' house there was my Father's bicycle in the garage. His helmet was in a paper bag on the garage floor beside the bicycle. The front of the helmet was split in two with a chunk missing from the front! This extensive damage confirmed the doctor's assertion that the bicycle helmet had saved my father's life.

Though we may not like to think about it, wearing a helmet when riding horses is just as important as wearing a helmet when bicycling. Riding horses can be even more dangerous than riding bicycles because

unlike bicycles, horses have minds of their own and are less predictable in their behavior.

Shortly after buying my first horse, Sacia's Pride, back in October, 1981, I decided it would be a good idea to obtain some first-aid training so in the fall of 1982 I enrolled in a Basic Emergency Medical Technology course at the local Junior College. At the end of the course the instructor was so certain I would pass both his final exam and the state certification exam he invited me to join the committee that was creating an emergency medical system for the town of Pinetop and Lakeside, which had none at the time. We volunteers put an emergency medical First Response truck on the road in February, 1983, and I continued to work volunteer shifts as an EMT at least once a week until 1991. My EMT training and continuing education increased my awareness of the risks and consequences of head injuries.

I first began wearing a helmet when horseback riding back around 1983. I was riding Sassy bareback and had asked her to gallop so Sassy was doing nothing wrong when I fell off as she turned the corner. I hit the ground hard enough to knock the wind out of me and scratch the lenses of my glasses. My first thought when looking at the scratched glasses was: "Next time it could be my head." I promptly bought an equestrian helmet in addition to replacing the damaged lenses of my glasses and have been wearing a helmet when horseback riding ever since. At least 10 years after buying that first equestrian helmet I read an equine safety expert's recommendation that a helmet should be replaced every 5 years or after any impact even if there is no visible damage to the helmet - so I replaced my helmet.

Fast-forward to October 1999. Sam's Blue Blaze had arrived only three weeks earlier when she bolted while I was riding her bareback in my own backyard and sent me somersaulting through my back fence. As I tumbled through the fence my left arm hit one of the T-posts, which snapped my upper arm bone in two. I landed sitting on the ground facing southwest. Blue was running northwest when she lost me. It happened so fast I don't actually remember the fall itself. I was wearing my helmet. So far as I could tell I did not hit my head in that fall, but I bought a new helmet anyway because the helmet was more than 5 years old and I didn't know whether it had impacted the ground or not. In 2001 I took Blue to a clinic where the clinician, Gary Gang, publicly complimented me for wearing a helmet while doing ground work with Blue.

April Velvet has always been so timid and reactive that I've been a little concerned about having an accident with her, so I have been extra careful when

riding her, and always wear my helmet. After 13 years of riding Velvet it finally happened this April 19... Velvet dumped me off with one of her slither-spooks. We were just slow-walking home along one of the neighborhood dirt roads only a quarter mile from my house. Velvet was calm and strolling along nicely on a loose rein. The road is only one lane wide so when I saw one of the neighbors coming home in his truck I steered Velvet off the road to the left beside a fence. Velvet suddenly noticed something leaning against the fence, curled left to gawk at it, then suddenly spun right into the road. I went off her left side and landed on my back in the road, then got up immediately still holding Velvet's reins. The neighbor grew up around livestock so he was driving very slowly and was able to stop instantly. He asked if I was okay and I told him I thought so. He sounded relieved as he half-jokingly said, "You're supposed to stay *on* the horse, not fall off." He wondered aloud if perhaps the tires crunching pine cones had spooked Velvet. Velvet was scared when I came off but immediately calmed down. I led her off the road and beyond the neighbor's truck, then mounted and rode the rest of the way home without further incident. After Velvet and I were safely going the other way the neighbor continued home. I suffered only a few minor bruises but it's a good thing I was wearing a helmet because it could have been a lot more serious if I hadn't been! The helmet had a tag dated 2008 and I did feel it bump the ground when I fell so I bought a new one that happens to almost match the color of my hair. Interestingly, Velvet has been doing less slithering and has been more attentive to me every time I've ridden her since the fall and we've gone by the spot where I fell off several times with no problems.

My Father is gradually and steadily recovering from his bicycle crash. His recovery is expected to take at least three months. The prognosis is for a full recovery to the same condition he was before the accident, partly because he was wearing a helmet when he crashed.

Remember,
 you only have one head -
 so for the sake of your loved ones
 and your own welfare -
 please wear a helmet!



RIDE/DRIVE/ALT PROGRAM 2016



Allanna Jackson & Cinnamon- 326.3 hours



Brenda Woodall & Grace - 300 hours.



Stephen Woodall & Cisco - 100 hours.



RIDE/DRIVE/ALT PROGRAM 2016

In 2016 the Ride / Drive / ALT Program had 12 active participants and the total hours logged for the group was 1,905.

So... 1,905 hours... If we walked at a leisurely speed for our Walkers of 4 mph that would be 7,620 miles covered.

Google tells me that from Red Deer, Alberta to Nashville, Tennessee is 2,115 miles one way. Which would allow us to go to Nashville and back for a visit, then head there once again, maybe to pick out a nice new gaited horse saddle and get half way home before we ran out of available mileage to burn.

So to those of you who haven't signed up for the Ride / Drive program yet... it's your fault we are all stuck in Cheyenne, Wyoming!

*Submitted
by
Brenda
Woodall,
Ride/Drive
Co-
ordinator*



*Right:
Kristy Coulter
& Lady
- 45 hours.*



*Above:
Norma Lovell & Gypsy - 217 hours.*



*Left: Sharon
Turkovich
& Ice -
75 hours.*

*Right: Tina
Barrett-
Hamilton
& Tucker's
Cruzin'
Tunes -
52 hours.*





RIDE/DRIVE/ALT PROGRAM

2016



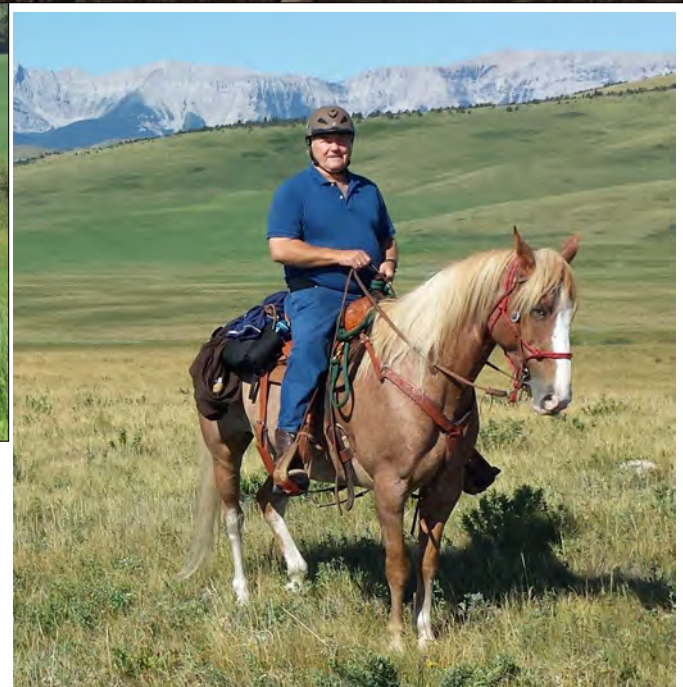
Left: Alynn Ward & Rocky - 145 hours.

Below:
Cheryl Perissini & Treasure - 196.75 hours.



Below: Fran Kerik & Belle - 82.5 hours.

Below right: Les Zaharichuk & Toddy - 174 hrs



Photos of
Brenda Woodall,
Stephen Woodall and Allanna Jackson are on
page 7.

PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE 2016

Congratulations to all PFE & TLC Achievers!

CSR RASCAL'S PUZZLE who achieved the **BRONZE AWARD**

Owners are Stephen & Brenda Woodall.

and

CSR MORNIN'S BELLE who achieved the **BRONZE AND SILVER AWARDS**

Owner is Fran Kerik.

TRAINING LEVELS ACHIEVEMENTS

IMAGE'S BLACK PEARL - Basic Skills, Trail 1- Owner Loren Lewis

CSR RASCAL'S PUZZLE - Basic Skills, Driving 1- Stephen & Brenda Woodall

CSR MORNIN'S BELLE - Basic Skills, Trail 1,2,3 - Fran Kerik

HOT RUM TODDY - Basic Skills, Trail 1, 2, 3 - Les Zaharichuk

GOLDWELLS TREASURE - Basic Skills, Trail 1, 2, 3 - Cheryl Peressini

JUS' ONE DARK BEAM - Basic Skills - Windi Scott

GHOST OF FUTURE PAST -Trail 1, 2, 3 - Windi Scott

ENCORE'S MAXIMUM BLING - Trail 1, 2, 3 - Windi Scott

CSR MIDNIGHT CUPPA JAVA - Basic Skills, Trail 1, 2, 3 - Bobbi Buck

APRIL VELVET - Trail 2 - Allanna Jackson

*WHN will feature pictures of these horses and their people in an upcoming issue.
People, please send me your favorite photo of the two of you before the next deadline!*



This clinic emphasized ways that connections between horse and human can be enhanced for a more rewarding and enjoyable experience for both. Communication, relaxation and rhythm are key elements.

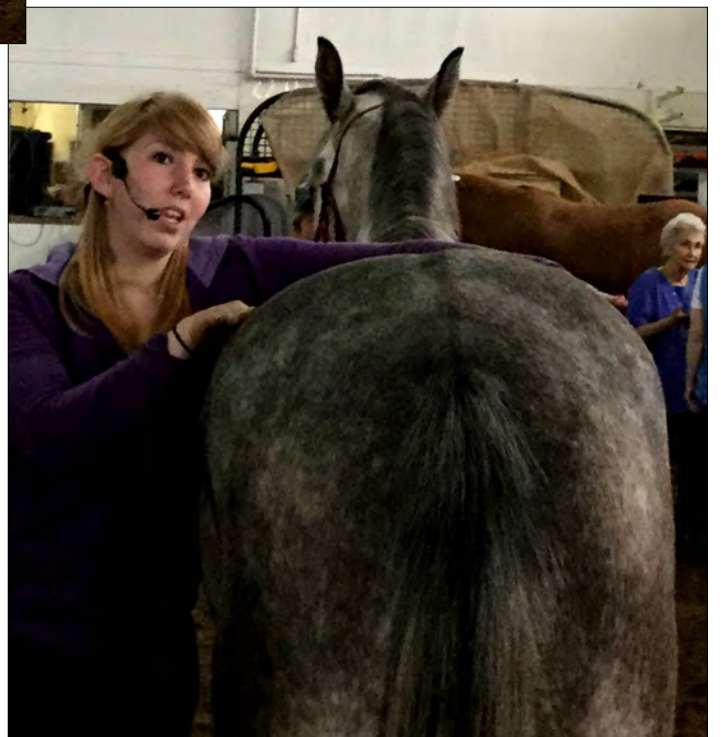
There are many ways for the horse and rider to connect, starting with the human understanding the role of biomechanics, conformation and posture for themselves and for the horse. Through in-hand work, leading, long lining, and driving, understanding between horse and human improves. Equine body massage may help a horse with soreness and stiffness that makes it difficult to bend or flex when asked, and can also help the horse relax.

All these strengthen the bond between horse and human, and the greater their connection and communication, the more rewarding their time together as riding partners will be.

Clinic photos courtesy of Leslie Hunchuk.



"CONNECTIONS CLINIC "





The Canadian Walker

Volume 16, Issue 3

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June, 2017

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2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The 35th AGM of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse was held on Sat, May 6, 2017 at Klondike Victory Farm west of Red Deer, Alberta. There were 24 members in attendance and seven guests. Marjorie Lacy, Vice President, chaired the meeting in President Sue Gamble's absence.

Secretary Leslie Hunchuk gave her report, emphasizing that "We can only hope that all owners keep accurate records of their horses, complete bills of sales and duly ensure that registration papers are transferred to the new owner. It is the law: *'If an animal is sold as purebred, as registered or as eligible to be registered, the SELLER is obliged to provide a duly transferred certificate of registration to the buyer within 6 months of the sale.'* Often, this is not the case, making it difficult for an owner down the road to have their horse transferred into their name. When you sell a horse, be sure to send in the transfer so that it can be recorded at CLRC even if the new owner states they are not interested in the registration papers. Someday, someone may want the papers."

Treasurer Dianne Little informed us that in 2016, Unit costs at CLRC were up, and we sustained a loss of \$547.56 and spent \$13,921.06. (We'd have had a small surplus had we not made a \$1000 donation to the Fort McMurray fire equine rescue fund at our 2016 AGM.)

President Sue Gamble stated that 2016 was a year of maintaining the CRTWH in good standing for a bright future and an even better 2017. A new Director's Manual was compiled and completed by the Board of Directors, the "Horse To Remember" tribute page on our CRTWH website was introduced, and a Strategic Planning process was begun. Sue said, "If you as members have ideas of something you would like to see the registry do or improve upon, please do not hesitate to contact me or another Board member with your suggestion."

After several items of new business, it was time for the Triple Challenge Awards - Brenda Woodall presenting the Ride/Drive/ALT Awards, and Dianne Little presenting the Training Levels and Program For Excellence Awards, all of which are featured on separate pages in this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm for supper and visiting.



THE MANE EVENT 2017



April is Mane Event month in Red Deer, Alberta. And for the past 10 years the Canadian Registry has had a booth there manned by various board members and members at large. We like to think that our booth is *the* gathering place for Walking Horse enthusiasts from all over Western Canada! It's a great place to see old friends, meet new Walker owners and ask questions. This year was no exception.

This year at the booth we were able to help people connect with other TWH owners for organized trail rides and casual rides. We had lots of discussion on saddle fit and how a Walking Horse moves. We also explained the different programs that the Canadian Registry offers; there truly is something for every type of horse and owner. Whether you are an avid trail rider, interested in gaited dressage, driving, liberty work - we offer programs that acknowledge all the hard work you put into your horse. I also explained about our 'Virtual Futurity' and how it enables breeders and owners from across Canada to participate.

Karla Hansen was our Committee Chair for the booth again this year and she did a fabulous job, with help from her volunteers, of organizing, setting up and taking down the booth. A lot of hard work goes into the three day event – but it's worth it!

Fran Kerik, CRTWH Director, Alberta

Photo above left: President of the Alberta Walking Horse Association, Debra Blower, Past President of the CRTWH, Fran Kerik, and Karla Hansen, Chair for the Mane Event Booth committee are 'in the frame'.

Photo above right: The Canadian Registry Booth.

Photo left: Cheryl Peressini, far left, with two friends, 'in the frame' at the Mane Event.

Nearly 100 people signed the Visitors Book, and many more than that stopped in for a quick question or visit but didn't leave their names. It is really gratifying to meet new owners who are so excited about owning a Walking Horse - and we love to help others looking for one. See *you* next year!



Legacy of the Tennessee Tradition: Sun's Midnight Mark by Franne Brandon

Midnight Sun was one of the last foals sired by Wilson's Allen, recognized at the end of his life as the premier sire of show walking horses. Midnight Sun, as a son of Wilson's Allen, was trained for show competition as well, and twice achieved the pinnacle of the breed by being crowned World's Grand Champion at the new Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee, in 1945, and again in 1946.

After retiring to the stud at Harlinsdale Farm in Franklin, Tennessee, Midnight Sun courted a large number of mares, many of which went on to become show horses, like the 1949 World Grand Champion Midnight Merry, the first offspring of Midnight Sun to wear the floral horseshoe.

Other offspring of Midnight Sun, however, found other niches, and one of these was a tall, stout, dappled black stallion who lived and died the property of his breeder, Horton Elrod of Readyville, Tennessee. This horse was Sun's Midnight Mark 633977, *below*.



Sun's Midnight Mark was sired by Midnight Sun and out of Black Lady Nell, a daughter of Little Merry Boy. His second dam was by Wilson Allen Jim, a Wilson's Allen son, and the third dam was by Charlie Wall. Sun's Midnight Mark carried a wealth of older lines bred for the natural walking gait, and Mark himself was capable of performing a natural, fluid running walk under saddle without resorting to the shoeing techniques that were being utilized when he was foaled in 1963.

Billy Taylor of Confederate Hills Farm in

Franklin County, Tennessee, bred a number of mares to Sun's Midnight Mark.

He recalls *"I don't know much history about him; at one time I owned five fillies and two colts by him. I thought he was a good breeding horse, for natural going horses with a good mind. Harlin Hayes saw Horton Elrod riding him one time; Hayes said that he was the best saddle horse that he had ever seen."*

"Mr. Elrod was the one that told me about Harlin Hayes saying that about Mark. Leon Oliver knew that Mr. Elrod owned a Merry Go Boy stud, we went there to see him, and after looking at him, Mr. Elrod said that he had a stud by Midnight Sun. He really got my attention then, since I was very interested in owning some close-up Midnight Sun fillies. Ole Mark was in his late twenties then, but he had good conformation, good bone and good size, he was 15.3 hands. The first mare I bred to him was a mare by P.O. Harrison's Pride horse, out of Red Bug's Lady Bug. The next year, 1991, I bred Mark's June Girl (Dolly), the Jab Faulkner mare, Angel's Evening Star, and Taylor's Merry Girl. In 1992, I bred Dolly and Angel's Evening Star. I got two fillies from that breeding, Myriah and Bonnie, that made real good mares; they both died young, Bonnie in 2007 and Myriah in 2008. 1992 was the last year that Mark was able to breed. I was interested in the old natural going bloodlines at that time, because I wanted to breed horses that could running walk without a lot of gait training. Mark produced that type of horse."

Billy's mare Angel's Evening Star, by Angel's Go Boy, produced Midnight Angel Dust 923049 and Sun's Midnight Myriah 931751. Mark's June Girl, Billy's bay daughter of Mark's Crackerjack, produced Sun's Midnight Rena 923050 and Sun's Midnight Bonnie 931754. Taylor's Merry Girl, Billy's other Crackerjack mare, produced Sun's Midnight Merry Jane. The sorrel Pride's Ramblin Son daughter, Pride's Dixie Ann, produced Mark's Midnight Allen 923051 before she was sold to Germany in the fall of 1992.

Billy sold the black colt Mark's Midnight Allen and the filly Midnight Angel Dust to Bruce Burke of Alberta. From Bruce Burke's program came the continuation of the Sun's Midnight Mark line in Canada.



Fran Kerik of Chrystal Star Ranch in Two Hills, Alberta, relates how she became a walking horse stallion owner.

Allen's Midnight Rascal was purchased from Bruce and Betty Burke of Nestow, Alberta, shortly after his birth as a two month old colt the summer of 1998. Bruce had gone on a shopping trip down to Tennessee and was so impressed with the Heritage walking horses (which at that time I don't believe were formally recognized) that he bought several mares and a stallion from Billy Taylor. Bruce bred his mare Merry Go Boys Black Angel to Mark's Midnight Allen, a son of Sun's Midnight Mark and the resulting colt was Allen's Midnight Rascal. Rascal was a little thing, but so impressed Bruce that he knew this one was a stallion prospect. Through the grapevine he called Fran Kerik, knowing she was "one day" in the market for a smaller stallion. He convinced her to make the drive to come see Rascal and she bought him. He wasn't really much to look at in that department, but was a very sweet boy, and so talented. He demonstrated a wonderful 4 beat walk right from birth. His new owner didn't know much of the bloodlines, but some good mentors assured her that his bloodlines were very desirable, getting away from the big lick lines that were becoming more prominent in Alberta.

"Rascal came to Chrystal Star Ranch as a 4 month old colt and has lived his entire life here. At the age of 19, he has sired many babies that are now spread through-out the country. He was started as a 2 year old, lightly ridden as a 3 year old and sent for a bit of training as a 4 year old. After that he has been in demos, trail rides, parades, and cattle drives. He stayed small, 14.1, but has sired foals from 14.1 up to 16 hh. He has passed on his good bone, big, loose walk, and a to-die-for canter."

'Right now at the age of 19, he is working his way through the CRTWH programs, achieving so far Basic Skills, Trail 1, 2 and 3 and Horsemanship 1.'

Through Chrystal Star Ranch's purchase, the bloodlines of Sun's Midnight Mark continue to thrive in western Canada. Meanwhile, in Middle Tennessee, Danny Taylor's Mark son, Sun's Smokey Midnight 935357, out of a black sabino mare carrying the distaff bloodlines promoted for decades by the Faulkner Brothers of Fayetteville, Tennessee, stood at stud at Elk River Farms for almost twenty years, siring foals with size, sense, and good walking gaits. A son of Smokey and Sun's Midnight Merry Jane lives in Texas. Other sons stand at stud or have stood at stud in Arkansas, Montana, and Ohio. Billy currently has a black sabino stallion by Smokey and out of Chance's Society Paige, a Paige's Echo daughter, with four of the mares at Confederate Hills Farm.

Mark's descendants are found over all the United States, in western Canada, and even in Europe. Sun's Midnight Mark was a close link to the older lines of walking horse that gaited as the foundation breeders intended, preserving that wonderful nodding gait for others to enjoy for generations, equine and human, to come.



An Interview with

Endurance Rider Susan Garlinghouse, DVM, and John Henry

by *Sue Gamble*

Conclusion: Interview with Susan Garlinghouse

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Sue Gamble: What gait do you ride for most of an endurance ride? Does John Henry do a run walk on an endurance ride? Does a Walking Horse have an advantage in being able to change gaits to rest a particular set of muscles while using other muscles?

Susan Garlinghouse: Other gaited people are much more sophisticated than I am about gaited horses. They can put their horse into specific gaits, a rack, a run walk, whatever, and they much more closely control the gait they're in... John is something of a space alien. He has probably twenty different gaits, and ten which I have no name for. And I've ridden with other gaited people, and we have no idea what he is doing. He does all of the normal gaits. He does a run walk; he does a rack; he does a single foot; he does a fox trot; he does what we call cantelopes or rackalopes; all kinds of different gaits. I would say that his primary gait, his working gait, is probably a stepping pace. But he can maintain it all day long. He gets to change gaits on his own probably every quarter mile or so.



Lisa Schneider and John Henry in the 2016 Tevis Fun Ride.

Thank you to Gore / Baylor photography for the use of the photo above.

Sue G: So he changes the gaits himself?

Susan G: Yes he does. And so he is constantly changing from one muscle group to another. And our deal is that I choose the speed, and he gets to choose the gait. And because they're all efficient, at least for him, they are all comfortable for me to ride, as long as he is not doing a hard pace, which he rarely does, then I really don't much care what he does. And because he is switching it up so much, you know he is cantering he switches his diagonal, switches leads on his own, so he doesn't over develop on one side or another. So what I do with John I wouldn't necessarily recommend for any other gaited horse on the planet, but John is just weird. As a matter of fact I've always told people that the only gait that he does not do is a trot. And two weeks ago, we had an exchange program. We had a group of Australian Junior riders come to the U.S, to ride an AREC ride and we set up a ride for them and we had a wonderful young Australian rider, Kenzie Robertson, and she had never ridden a gaited horse before. So we met her at base camp. So we threw her up on top of John, and said 'go on out and get a feel for him a little bit'. I said 'Don't worry about posting you're not going to need to post because he does not trot.' So what did he do all the next day? He trotted. And we have ride photos of him and he is absolutely trotting.

Sue G: Do you suppose he picked it up from her?

Susan G: I think absolutely, he just heard me say don't worry about posting because he doesn't trot. So he said 'okay, watch this'.

Sue G: Or she started to post and he got into the rhythm with it.

Susan G: Probably, yeah. But she had a great time! He didn't trot all day long, he was still doing his transitioning from one gait to another. She said she had never felt anything like it in her life. So she had a blast. He took real good care of her.

Sue G: How quickly does John Henry recover in the days after an endurance ride?

Susan G: Really, really quickly. He's a multi-day horse. So there have been many, many, many times we have gone on a fifty mile ride. Of all of his miles, about half of them are top tens and half of those top

tens are top fives. So he's actually a really competitive horse considering gaited horses are not supposed to be considered competitive. And a lot of those rides are multi-days so he'll go out and he'll top ten, and he's ready to go again and do exactly the same thing the next day. What I figured out with him is that if he vets out after the ride and everything's okay, and he's eating okay, feed him well, then check on him during the night. If he is banging his bucket around by three a.m. then all is well. The litmus test for John every single time, if I am going to go out and do a multi day, and I'm thinking about going again the next morning, is that if I come out the door, and I saddle him up, and the last thing is I hold out his headstall for him, and he will step away from his food and he will push his head into the headstall voluntarily. If he doesn't do that, we don't go... There has only been one time that his body language... was just that 'I am really not enthused about doing this', and so I went and told the ride manager we're not goin' that day. And I think that was the right choice for John. But as soon as he sees that bridle in your hands, he'll voluntarily step away from his food and come over and he's reaching for the bit, reaching for the bridle. So if he does that, then I know that he's good to go.



Lisa Schneider and John Henry

Sue G: The interesting thing is that you're listening to him and you're having a conversation with him. You can actually talk to him about it and he is confident that you won't force him to go if he doesn't want to.

Susan G: Yes, absolutely. He is an amazing horse and when we go out for a ride, we never plan on how we were going to do that day as far as placings. He pretty much tells me what he wants to do. And if he says that he is going out and he is going to conquer the world, he's probably going to. And... he will tell me if today he wants to go out, and you know, kind of bop along and do a mid place finish or something like that. And there are other times that he is obviously on the hunt, and he's going, and he's looking for other horses and when he sees them he's going to run them down and pass them. And if I argue with him about it, like if I say let's not run down those horses, he gets really angry with me about it.

Sue G: He understands that it is a race?

Susan G: He understands. He really does. And when he is running down other horses, he is never a runaway or out of control, he is very intent on his job, and he knows what his job is, and he is really, really good at it. Considering that he doesn't have the metabolic advantage. If you just look at him standing out in the pasture, he just looks like this funny looking, dumpy, big, red horse. You would never look at this and go 'that horse has the record for gaited horse Tevises'.

Sue G: And Is he quite heavy?

Susan G: Yeah... we weighed him on a scale just last spring before he went into a ride and he was just a hair over 1100 pounds. So yeah, he's a pretty solid guy.

Sue G: And that's in his form for going on these rides?

Susan G: He was maybe just a little bit heavier than normal, but still he was fit enough that six weeks later he finished Tevis.

Sue G: So when he does the Tevis what weight would he be, roughly?

Susan G: Probably his starting weight would be 50 to 75 pounds lighter. So just a little bit over 1000 pounds.

Sue G: So what are the advantages of a rider using an easy gaited horse for endurance riding? Are there any?

Susan G: Oh yeah. Obviously they're easier on the knees, so for those of us who are not 20 years old any

more. I think they have a really good work ethic. I mean I haven't handled a lot of gaited horses like other people have, but John is just a bear for work. Like I said he really, really knows his job and he likes it, and he is good at it. He doesn't waste a lot of time being a tourist out on the trail. He's not spooky. He's not spending his time worrying about other horses around him. He knows we're out there for a long day and he is out there to get his job done efficiently. And I think that is a breed thing. And I think that is a huge advantage, that when he comes into a vet check he's all about taking care of himself. He eats. He drinks. He has a power nap, and then ten minutes before he knows we're supposed to get out, he wakes up and he's looking around and waiting for his saddle, waiting to get tacked up. They do have a metabolic disadvantage against some of the Arabians but you can condition them so you can be competitive. John is certainly competitive with the Arabs. I don't know if that is just him, or if it is because he has a solid base on him so he is just a well conditioned horse. I think a lot of it is just playing to the horse's strength. They are not going to be as good on the flat as Arabians. They're not going to be a horse that is going to go out and gallop at the same speed for a hundred miles but man, they are just mountain goats when you get into the mountains. And ah, John clocks up hill pretty well, but I would put him up against any other horse in the country on down hills. I clocked him a lot of times going 13 – 14 mph downhill for miles without pounding his front end. He just tucks that little butt underneath him and he goes down sometimes in a weird way.

Sue G: What gait would he be doing at that speed?

Susan G: I would say it is something either a running walk or a stepping pace but he does not have a typical head nod of the Tennessee Walker. His gait is more lateral and I don't think it is a true run-walk. It might be a rack. It is really smooth. It is really fast, and I would say that probably every time that he has come in top three at a ride or if he has won a ride, it has always been rides that have a significant amount of climb and downhill footing. You can pass a lot of horses when you can do 14 mph downhill for mile after mile after mile. I think that all gaited horses have the potential to be incredible downhill horses. You know you would have to teach them to engage, bring up your back end, tuck up that butt underneath them, so they are not pounding on their front end, and then we go.

Sue G: That speed downhill is amazing. And how do you feel riding that kind of speed downhill? Where do you put yourself?

Susan G: The first time that I let him, and it wasn't even

14 mph at that time, it was like somewhere around 7 or 8 mph, and I was going like 'holy cow this is really, really fun'. And then as we got to know each other a little better we were going a little faster and a little faster. And now actually when we're planning out a ride season I'll try to find rides that have that kind of footing. Normally I would never take a horse going that speed downhill, and I have always been one that would not even trot my Arabs downhill at any kind of speed. We would kind of jog on down and kind of take it really easy, and get off and run along side or something. But there is no suspension phase in his stride when he is doing that, he's well supported, so he's gotta be either a run-walk or a rack, because even the stepping pace has some suspension to it, and that gait does not. He's gotta be either in a run-walk or a real rack.

Sue G: What about special shoes? Do you do anything for special shoes for him?

Susan G: I do. He has a tendency to over reach and that is one of his weak points. He overreaches and if he is not trimmed and shod exactly right, then pulling off shoes, or pulling off boots, boy we've worked ourselves through just about every type of boot or shoe, and what has finally worked for us, the glue on shells from Easy Care. And he has to be trimmed just right and exactly the right angles and exactly the right shortness. We have to modify the boot so he has a really fast break over and they have to be glued on by a trimmer that really knows what he is doing. The first year I rode him he had nailed-on steel shoes and he actually pulled one of his shoes and we had to put on a boot. And he finished in a spare tire boot and in the three Tevis's after that he has been in glue-on boots.

Sue G: So is there any particularly memorable moment with John Henry that you would like to share?

Susan G: I would say our best moment was that first time we did Tevis. I told you that story about how we crossed the river and it was so dark you can't see your hand in front of your eyes. And John can see what is going on in front of us and I can't see anything. I ride with maybe one or two glow bars wired to his breast collar but I don't use headlamps or anything like that, so I asked him 'what speed would you like to go' and he was the one that picked up a hand gallop, and there was no saying No to him. And at first I was going 'holy cow you can't see your hand in front of your face and here you are galloping along in the pitch dark...' You know a lot of people, when they are riding a 100 mile ride like Tevis, they talk about going over Cougar Rock, or they talk about crossing the finish line, but the best moment I think I have ever had on any horse was galloping through the dark.

Sue G: And trusting your horse

Susan G: And absolutely trusting him. And I remember thinking at the time, you have just ridden this horse over 90 miles... We had already done some incredibly technical trail. This was kind of a home stretch and I know it is incredibly anthropomorphic to just say a horse is saying something to you, but he was just so confident. He was just telling me "Mom, I've got this". You could just sit back and just ride. And it was fabulous! That was one of the best moments I've ever had. I think one of the most humbling moments I've ever had was the first time I ever rode him in a five day multi-day, and we had already done four days and this was, I'm trying to remember... This was in Bryce canyon, and we did the whole trail, a lot of altitude, a lot of technical trail. There's not a lot of horses that will do all five days and he had been pretty competitive every day. We won fastest over all time for the five day horses, and the fifth day I came out and I was really, really questioning whether we should go ahead and try to ride on the fifth day. I didn't know if he could do it, and it had been raining all day, so we were going to be going out in the cold, and the wet and mud. I came out of my rig to go ahead start saddling John. And when he saw me coming out of the rig, he stepped away from his food, and he turned and he was looking for me, and he was nickering, and I saddled him up, and when he had every excuse to say 'I don't want to go out again' and he stepped away from his food and was reaching for his headstall even before I had it untangled and ready for him. He was reaching over and putting his head into it, and trying to get into it. And as soon as I put on my helmet, and put on my gloves, he was just standing there. A war horse. He's ready to go, and that is a really humbling moment to have a horse like that. He's my brother.

Sue G: What are your plans for his future?

Susan G: His five 'gaited' wins are his highest achievement. As long as he keeps telling me that he wants to go, he can go.

Sue G: Are you going to do another Tevis with him?

Susan G: We hope to do Tevis again this year. We have the record but that last record stood for forty years, but I would like his record to stand for another forty. I think he's got a couple more Tevises in him. He's sixteen and a half now. So I think he's got a couple more Tevises in him. It's one thing for a horse to say 'yeah yeah, let's go', but I still take him and I x-ray his hocks and his fetlocks every year, year and a half, to see if there are arthritic changes. And because I don't trust my own bias

in looking at the x-rays I send them to a friend who is an equine orthopedic surgeon for him to evaluate. He still says the same thing. He swears that I am sending him the wrong x-rays because every single report comes back saying 'he (John Henry) has the hocks and fetlocks of a two year old'.

Sue G: Is there anything you would like to add to the story?

Susan G: Holy cow, I have just about talked your ear off as it is. You know, I think I've told you everything. I think with John he has been a really successful horse, and he's been a competitive horse, and it has been really fun just because you show up at a ride with this kind of funny lookin', square built horse that looks like he should be on a ranch string, not a competitive endurance ride. People look at you kind of cross-eyed like 'you're not going to actually try to go out with the front of the pack, are you?' That is when it is really, really fun - when you not only keep up with the front of the pack, but you eventually disappear over the horizon, and wave bye-bye to them, and it's kind of like 'hah hah'.



Best friends John Henry and Susan, above.

But I think with John, the really rewarding part, it's not about top tenning, it's not about winning, it's not about best condition, but he's just - he's my best friend. Aside from my husband, my husband is my best human friend, but around the forest he's (John Henry's) got my back, I've got his. He really is, he's my lifetime horse.

***Sue G: Thank you, Susan Garlinghouse,
for the insightful interview
of your journey with your 'war horse',
the wonderful, one and only, John Henry!***



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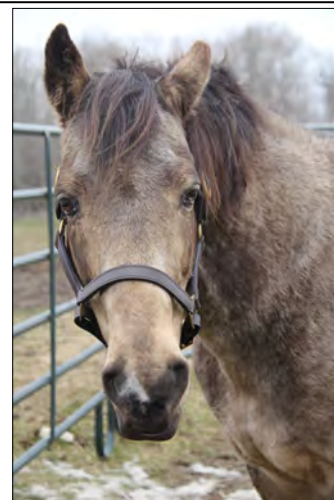
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TWH INFORMATION

THE ECHO OF HOOFBEATS – by Dr. Bob Womack, published by Dabora Inc, Shelbyville, TN. Traces the history & development of the TWH breed.

BACK YARD WALKIN' Training Tips by Allanna Jackson and **BIOGRAPHY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE** by Ben Green. The history & background of the TWH. Available from Four Craftsmen Publishing, P.O. Box 177, Lakeside AZ 85929-0177 **1(928) 367-2076**. Visa or Mastercard payments accepted thru Four Craftsmen Publishing website: www.fourcraftsmen.com

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

FOSH'S COLLECTION OF TWH TRAINING ARTICLES - 23 articles on training Tennessee Walkers using common sense, good horsemanship, and empathy with the horse. www.fosh.info or **1-800-651-7993**

TRAIL RIDING, Train, Prepare, Pack Up and Hit the Trail by Rhonda Hart Poe. No one who trail rides on a Walker or other easy gaited horse should be without it! Storey Books 2005, available in bookstores and on-line.

COMING EVENTS

COWBOY CHALLENGE CLINIC - June 17 and 18 at Lionel Jackson's Arena, Crossfield, AB. Contact Brenda at **403-546-0047** or thewoodalls3@gmail.com

AWHA TRAIL RIDE - June 24, 2017 at the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Recreational Area east of Edmonton. Contact Fran at **780-603-3391**

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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