

OCTOBER 2011  
VOLUME XXXV No. 5



# Walking Horse

## NEWS



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

# Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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## On Our Cover

Susan Fisher  
is shown here  
on a lovely,  
sunny fall day  
with her  
TWH mare,  
Chance Footsteps,  
(aka 'Brassy').  
Susan purchased  
Brassy  
from Lissa Townsend  
of Cochrane, AB,  
and Lissa sent the  
photo in to *WHN*.

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Dear Subscribers,

There's a PhD study underway at Cornell University in New York, attempting to discover what genes are different in horses that do any of the soft gaits rather than trot. It will be the first study of this kind done using DNA. The doctoral student doing it, Ann Staiger, has an article starting on page 17, and is asking for help from owners of any gaited horse. If you'd like to participate, read her article, then read how Backyard Walkin' columnist, Allanna Jackson, went about getting the measurements and video clips on her family of TWH mares. Just think what firm DNA information on this could mean to all breeders of gaited horses!

We have interesting stories, from Torggrim Rustad riding the Nee Me Poo Trail on his TWH, 'Montana', to the Kinches being invited to ride their Walkers on Long Beach, Vancouver Island on the one day of the year that horses and riders were allowed. Germscheids held a 'Horse Camp for Kids' while Charis Cooper and Lissa Townsend tried out 'The Canadian Cowboy Challenge' on their Walkers. We also have the story of Jack Chapman, an Alberta pioneer in the Walking Horse world. Hope you enjoy their adventures. Please send in *your* stories for next time!

Below you can see what occupied all too much of *my* time during August - but that was the last load, and we should be well fixed for feed this winter. Hope all of you can say the same.

*Marjorie*



WHN makes a  
great gift!

October, 2011

# Walking Horse News

**"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA"**

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Send *your* news and photos to WHN for December!

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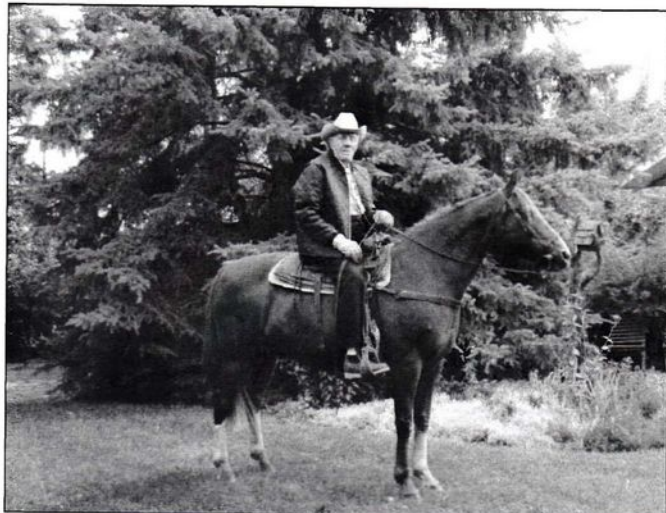
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*Thank you  
for Advertising  
in Walking Horse News!*

## HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

### HOW I GOT STARTED WITH WALKERS

#### Jack Chapman's Story by Madeleine Chapman



*Jack Chapman on Walkaway Moondancer, aka Joe, photo taken August, 2011. Jack's beloved 'Tony' died in 2010, and Madeleine says, "Although Joe isn't Tony, he is sure a nice old horse to have around. I'm hoping to use him to teach our two year old grandson to ride one day."*

In the late 1930's, before he went to war, Jack worked for a man south of Erskine [near Stettler, AB] who raised Kentucky Whip horses. They were a gaited horse and he was impressed with them. So, in 1959 Jack purchased a dark chestnut Walking Horse mare at the Calgary Horse sale, consigned by a man from High River. She was carrying a palomino filly that became one of Jack's part-Walker brood mares [Goldie]. Unfortunately the Walker mare died of a kinked bowel the following year before she foaled.

In 1967 Jack arranged to meet Lloyd Falls of Thunder Bay, Ontario at the old Polo Park racetrack in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Ellwood Smith accompanied him as he did for many other trips. Lloyd was bringing a two year old TWH stallion with him. The purchase price was to be \$500.00 if Jack liked the horse, and \$50.00 for his trouble, if not.

The horse was Rhythm O' Rolling Hills by Sun's Merry Man out of Melody O' Rolling Hills (Colonel D. x Black Beauty Allen). I believe Melody was bred by Marie McBroom in Montana and came from Calvin Miller's Double Diamond Ranch in Rhame, North Dakota carrying the colt.

Rhythm O' Rolling Hills 658791USA and #57 CAN became known as "King" and sired many part blood Walkers for Jack and many friends and neighbors. He was a flashy "roan" with white stockings and bald face, with

white under chin and jaw, and flaxen mane & tail.

In 1975 Jack purchased the mare, Shadows Lyrical #695790 (Shadow's Brantley x Little Toot Wilson by Thunderbird) and her 2 year old stud colt, Prairie Breeze #732966 (by Laddie's Monte Ray) from Allan Ball of Perdue, Saskatchewan. Jack also bought the stallion Laddie's Monte Ray from Allan Ball when he bought Shadows Lyrical. Ellwood Smith purchased Ray after Jack had used him for a season. Both the mare and stallion had come from Pearl Tompkins' MT ranch.

Known as "Darkie", Shadows Lyrical became a trusted saddle horse and valued broodmare. She had many foals including the noted stallions, Prairie Breeze, Chapie's Topper, Darkie's Last Chance and Chapie's Shadow King. Another well known sire Jack owned was Kings' Stormy Mist #771871 (Beauty's Sage King and out of Doll O' The Mist). He purchased him as a yearling in Beaverlodge, AB. Jack used him as a stallion for ten years, after which he was gelded and became a saddle horse for our 7 year old son.

Tim's Blue Canadian (Canadian Blue x A Masterpiece's Pixie) was another stallion used extensively after Stormy. Jack's last stallion was Dark Celtic Chance (Misty Dark Delite x Heather's Angel) raised by McDonalds of Pouce Coupe, British Columbia.

Jack has raised countless purebred and partblood Tennessee Walking Horses over the past half century and only parted with his last broodmare in spring, 2011.

*Below Madeleine, on Shadow's Lyrical in the mountains, holding Jack's horse, a different "Tony" (out of the original palomino from the mare from the Calgary horse sale). Ralph McDonald checking the saddle.*



# FOAL CALL

**BAY COLT** (Sunny's Greatest Glory x Victorian Quatro Luna Z)

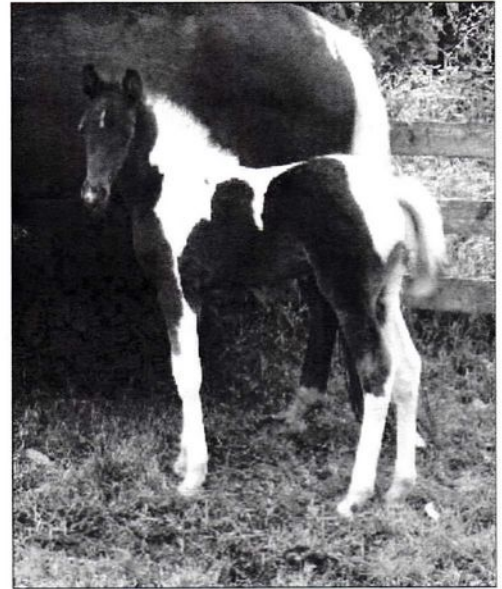
**BLACK TOBIANO FILLY** (Dressed For Success x Beta French Maid) Don & Jo-Anne, McDonald Farms, Pouce Coupe, BC

*Photo right*

**SORREL FILLY** (Darkie's Last Chance x Sun's Prairie Lady)

**SORREL COLT** (Darkie's Last Chance x Panola's Rose)

*Photo below* Pielaks, Niton Junction, AB



## BUCKSKIN FILLY

(Cherokee's Dark Knight x Thunder's Last Stand)  
Karla & Pat Freeman, Ride Easy Ranch, Bentley, AB

**PALOMINO COLT** (Uphill Heir Trigger x Cherokee's Silver Mystery) Lacys, Uphill Farm, Edson, AB (*above*).

**BAY SABINO FILLY** (NFF Society King's Opus x Tsuniah's Triple Copy)

**CHESTNUT COLT** (NFF Society King's Opus x Tsuniah's Shaker's Reward)

**BLACK COLT** (NFF Society King's Opus x Tsuniah's Ultra Threat)  
Roberta Brebner, Williams Lake, BC

**BUCKSKIN COLT** with four high white stockings (Ebony's Blue Carbon SW x Chance of a Rainbow LS)

*Right*

**LIVER CHESTNUT ROAN FILLY** (Ebony's Blue Carbon SW x Beauty's Touch Of Elegance)

**BLACK FILLY**, no white markings (Ebony's Blue Carbon SW x Gen's Blue Calypso)

Helen Pawluk, Champion Rainbow Walkers, Athabasca, AB



# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

## ALBERTA NEWS

From KIM PIELAK, NITON JUNCTION, "Finally found time to send pictures of the foals. Been a busy summer. The two foals were born in May this year. I was lucky enough to see the whole birth of Panola Rose's stud colt. Lots of white on this little guy - blaze and four stockings! (See his photo in Foal Call.) Sun's Prairie Lady had a filly. Both are by Darkie's Last Chance."

"We did get to go on our annual camping trip into the Willmore Wilderness. We went for nine days. We had four riding horses and 5 pack horses. Rode one hundred miles and saw some of the most beautiful country a person could ever see. It is always something that we as a family look forward to every year. The weather was nice, considering how much it had rained early in the summer. We went out the first week in July. Hope all your trails were many and safe."



Lacys of Uphill Farm, Edson, and Roys of Woodhill Walkers, Grindrod, BC are pleased to congratulate BRENDA PITTS of OKOTOKS on her purchase of Uphill Lady By Chance, a pretty bay daughter of Darkie's Last Chance and Uphill Sand'N Sable. We wish you many happy hours of trail riding together.

Above is a 1999 photo of 'Lady' as a foal, with her dam, Uphill Sand'N Sable, and sister, Uphill Penny By Chance, in the background. Darkie's Last Chance is the sire of both Lady and Penny, above, and of Pielak's 2011 foals (opposite page). 'Chance' is now 22 years of age. You can see a photo of his dam, Shadow's Lyrical, and one of his sons, Walkaway Moondancer, aka 'Joe', on page 3.

From KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY, "I hope no one blinked or sneezed this summer, 'cause if you did, you just may have missed it! Around here we have had 13 inches of rain from June first to Sept. 1st. Seems like that's all it did - rain, mosquito, rain, blow, rain... not conducive for outside work. I am looking forward to fall, and that seems to be here already! I'd eagerly awaited the magazine last month, and enjoyed Franne Brandon's article about her old time Walkers. I sure liked the picture of Franne on her mare Tanasi Gold. Nice Mare!"

"I have a nice batch of 2011 babies, and am enjoying getting them halter trained. It's such a pleasure to work with them, and neat to see how quickly they catch on. I have been working on my four year olds, getting them going in harness, and starting them under saddle. They are taking to it well, and of course I am always so pleased at how responsive they are!"

"I had a really nice phone call from a fellow in B.C. who had bought a Tennessee Walking Horse. When he looked on the papers to see who the breeder was, he called me up to ask if *All* my horses were as nice as him. I am so pleased that the papers were passed on, and he could contact me about this wonderful gelding, with awesome walk and fantastic horse-on-ality! The horse is Karlas Double Time Trouble. He was by Karlas Magic Shadow out of Karla's Black Diamond. Now this fellow's wife is looking for a Walker, so she can keep up! I love happy endings! Happy Trails to all!"

This photo and note from GREG WALKER,

BLUE-SKY, AB who purchased a Tennessee Walker weanling colt, Shaker's Yankee



(Canadian Shaker x Yankee's Melody Maid), from McDonald Farms in the fall of 2010. Greg is very proud of 'Shaker'. The colt is doing just great and stands approximately 15.2 hh at just over 1 year old!

See Greg & Shaker, above.

## COWBOY CHALLENGE by L. Townsend



I wanted to let folks know about a new venue that is now underway for those who like a little challenge in their horse world. Charis Cooper on her TWH, Trinkette (*below*) and I, on Toddy's Apollo (*above*) took part in a clinic July 23/11 hosted by Danita Phelan and Jon Cooper, the founders of a new group called Canadian Cowboy Challenge. It is the Canadian version of the US Extreme Cowboy Racing.

This was a great day, very well hosted, that had the first half of the day putting us thru various obstacles, and informing us just how the scoring of the event is done and what the judges are looking for. The afternoon had us actually do our first 'race' and we were given the breakdown of how we were scored. I believe this entertaining event is going to really 'take off'. It's a lot of fun and really does test your horsemanship skills as well as the willing partnership between you and your horse. If you are interested, have a look at their website at [www.canadiancowboychallenge.com](http://www.canadiancowboychallenge.com).

Photos are courtesy of Pam Asheton who was photographing at the event. She is the author of Alberta Backcountry Equestrian 'One Day Trail Guide'. The book is very thorough and informative, with all kinds of



other information on plants, terrain, and wildlife. We have followed quite a few of her day rides mapped out for us in advance.

This book is worth spending the money on!

Pam can be reached at her website at [www.pamasheton.ca](http://www.pamasheton.ca).

## July Horse Camp for Kids 2011

by Maureen Germscheid

We started July 1 with our entry in the Entwistle Parade. We rode this year with our 2 year old granddaughter, Zia, on her pony as well. On July 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were working at the Entwistle Rodeo and welcoming participants who were arriving for our Horse Camp. We had 14 kids, ranging in age from 10 to 15 years, at Magnolia Meadows for the first week of July. As well, one day we also added 3 young children. The girls stayed in our log cabin and the boys stayed in an outfitter tent. We had my sisters, Teresa Jones and Eileen Jones, as camp cooks and chaperones.

There were 2 sessions of riding each day for each of the groups, sometimes with as many as 12 horses, and then we also added several other activities. We offered instruction in roping, packing, ponying, trail riding, harness work, knots, hobbling and picketing, gymkhana events, carving, and diamond willow walking sticks, ground work and working with foals, camp set up and sauna construction. In the evening, we had entertainment from the kids and the hosts. We were lucky with the weather - until the last day when we had 4 inches of rain. It did make for an interesting camp breakdown, but we were able to move to the indoor arena for our finale and into the shop for our meals.

The kids came from as far south as Medicine Hat and as far west as Vernon BC. It was an opportunity for these kids, many of whom live in the city, to learn a lot about horses and to make new friends as well. From Alberta we had:

Joe, Max and Abe Barry, Banff  
Kayla and Sarah Barry, Calgary  
Jonas Germscheid, Evansburg  
Tselem and Korbon Hamar, Entwistle  
Sierra Hopkins, Medicine Hat  
Zia Hull, Sangudo  
Emily Klingspohn, Entwistle  
Heather Latimer, Bowden  
Aimee Michealas, Bragg Creek  
Shayne Pohl, Entwistle  
Justin Seely, Entwistle  
Cedric Turgeon, Canmore

And from BC:

Brody Jones, Vernon

Hope you all had a great time!

# Horse Camp for Kids 2011

Germascheids held a horse camp for kids at Magnolia Meadows, Evansburg, AB the first week of July.



*Above:* The girls stayed in our log cabin.



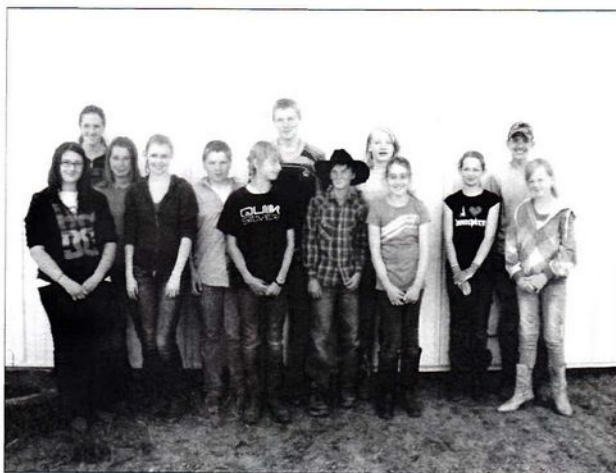
*Above:* The boys set up an outfitter tent.



*Above:* One day we also added 3 young children.



*Above:* We offered instruction in gymkhana events.



*Above:* We had 14 kids, ranging in age from 10 to 15 years.



*Above:* There were 2 sessions of riding each day.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

From GEN AMY, SKY KEEP RANCH, LONE BUTTE. "It has been quite a strange season (won't call it summer). We had the opposite problem from most of the country - it was cold and wet here until well into August. Then there was a dry spell, still cold, about a week of nice weather, and then frost at night and changing leaves. I had nice flowers, but not a lot of success with vegetables, needless to say. Hay grew four feet high, and the foolhardy who tried to cut in the four sunny days in July made silage."

"The horses have not had a lot of work this summer so far, but the trails are calling (they are saying "I'm dry at last!) and Boomer and Delite have new shoes. We are adding on to the barn, and building new fences. We had a roof put over our mobile home, and a deck that overlooks the corrals. Boy, are we broke! But the place is looking more and more like something 'set up for horses'."

"I got my Standardbred mare into training, and have been riding her on trails. She is quite amazing. I also bought a grey Standardbred mare online this spring. Must have had cabin fever pretty bad, because this horse is *so* not for us. She is a lovely junior jumper, dressage, show hack type, way too light and hot for me, and I sure would not put Sandy behind her in a buggy, which was the original "reason" I bought her. So now I have to sell her, no doubt at a loss. I think there is a curse on me, preventing me from ever making money on a horse."

*"The picture below is Finally, my son Peter and granddaughter Gwen, who is meeting a real horse for the very first time, fascinated and totally unafraid. Note the "Awww, it's a baby" expression on Finally's face. Gwen, with the help of father Peter, had her first ride moments later, and wanted more."*



"My second son, Eric, has come up several times and we put him on Boomer. They did so well that we all went for a trail ride, which proved to be quite exciting. We saw a young black bear galloping through the firebreak just behind our place, heard crashing in the brush ahead, and decided to take another trail. For the rest of the ride, Finally saw bears under every leaf, but fortunately Boomer and Delite didn't care, and everybody got home safely. The next day, Delite could not be caught, Finally was seeing bears EVERYWHERE, and Boomer lay down with Eric in the saddle. I thought the old horse was having some sort of attack, got Eric off, got Boomer up and untacked and turned him and Finally back out. They both ran away laughing. Let's face it - Boomer had my number from day one - and I'm the tough guy."

"I hope we get another wonderful autumn like we did last year. Happy Trails, everyone, and remember. "No hour spent in the saddle is ever wasted."

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "Trigger and I are taking advantage of this summer weather (don't tell her it's really September). We had a lovely ride with our trail buddies today and last week. Dakota, Lynn's Appaloosa, likes to be "da man" and blazes the trails very efficiently. Today a blue plastic bag on the trail almost did him in, with Trigger giving him a disgusted look as if to say "What's your problem, you Wuss?" Lynn went into her bomb proof clinic mode and the score was Dakota 1, plastic bag 0. What a gorgeous day for a ride, and the blackberries on the way home a treat for all. (How does Trigger DO that without walking away with piercings?)"

"I kept forgetting to tell you about the drama with Trigger in July. She suddenly developed a cough on the 4th of July that sounded like whooping cough. One of those head down, deep, deep, hoarse (that's not a typo) whoops. (No, she wasn't celebrating, what with being Canadian and all.) Yikes! Call the doctor, quick, quick, then do blood work. The diagnosis was Tracheal Inflammation, Dyspnea Allergic Airway Disease (try saying that with your mouth full). 15 days of Ventipulmin & Hydroxyzine, \$400, and bed rest, (I mean stall and pasture rest), and she was her old sassy, arrogant self. So July was a write off as far as trail riding went. We're trying to make up for it since. I sure hated seeing her so listless, and am so thankful that Debbie and Dave were so diligent administering her meds. She lives in the best place!"

"I hope everyone in TWH land is having as much fun cowboying up as I am. I always did want to be Roy Rogers and am certainly living my dream. Doesn't get any better than that!"

# ON THE NEE ME POO TRAIL WITH MONTANA AND LITTLE JOHN

by Torgrim Rustad, Cranbrook, BC

For three years I studied the history of the Nee Me Poo trail. In my mind it is one of the most amazing and tragic stories in the whole of Western history.

For thirteen hundred miles, starting in Wallowa County in Oregon, the trail goes down to the Snake and Salmon Rivers through deep and steep canyons and mountains. From the Salmon River the trail goes past Cottonwood in Idaho and east into the Clearwater River at Kamiah. The crossing of the Bitterroot along the Lolo Trail (more rightfully the Nez Perce Trail) towards Missoula is through wooded mountains where the Nez Perce Trail basically follows the ridges.

From one ridge to another we would plunge down to the creek /river and up onto the next ridge.

The trail continues down Bitterroot Valley, east southeast to West Yellowstone City where we crossed the Continental Divide a couple of times.

At the Big Hole we joined the Appaloosa Horse Club's "Chief Joseph Trail Ride" - 250

Appaloosa horses plus my QH Little John,

and my TWH, Montana (aka Storm's Artic Fun). The club ride has been restricted to Appaloosas, but we were allowed to join them for that one week because we were completing the entire ride in one year. It was quite interesting, riding my pinto Walker along with nearly two hundred fifty Appaloosas!

We rode through Yellowstone Park and the Absaroka Wilderness area, coming out at the Clark Fork Canyon, north of Cody, Wyoming. Meeting a thousand buffalo, several grizzlies and black bears was quite exciting for me and for the horses. From the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone we turned north, past Billings, across Big Snowy Mountain into Missouri Breaks and up to Bear Paw close to Chinook, Montana. Towards the north the riding was much restricted by private properties, but we were still able to ride quite a bit of that stretch. The Missouri was a challenge in itself. We were not able to cross the river due to the high water levels and worn out horses.

We did not want to take any chances. We'd had some rain and the mud down there is absolutely crazy, a gumbo-type clay that sticks to everything in big loads. Dry weather is a must down there. Nevertheless we got down to the river and back safely.

From the Missouri, it is basically just the home stretch up Cow Creek and across to the Bear Paw where Chief Joseph surrendered to General Miles in early October, 1877. An absolute tragedy as they were only one days ride from the Canadian border and safety.

We did not ride the whole thirteen hundred miles but we were able to cover some six hundred fifty to seven hundred miles of the trail. The trip required

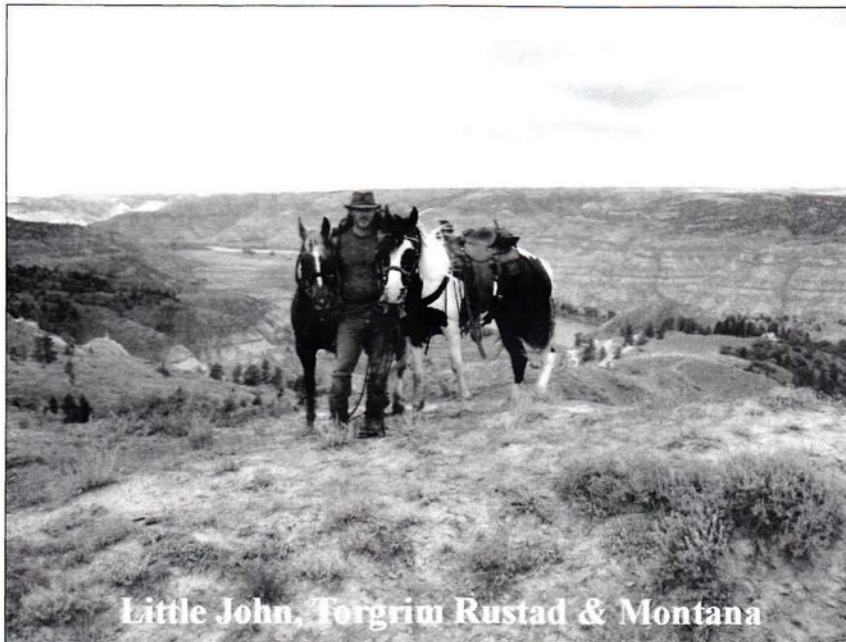
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Horse, "Little John", and my favourite, the Tennessee Walker, "Montana". Officially known as "Storm's Artic Fun" he is US reg #2060303 by April's Artic Storm Can.2014 US.973651 out of Mz Funny US #933583. I purchased him from Roger and Jana Jacobsen of Cranbrook, B.C. (They actually named him Arnie but I have a friend named Arnie in Norway so that would not work out! So my horse was renamed Montana. I hope Jana and Roger will forgive me.) We had an Appaloosa pack horse with us to Bear Paw but he was ridden just some parts during the last couple of weeks.

It is not that the Appaloosas could not have made it; however, that part of the team went home a week early for personal reasons. As some of you know, the Nez Perce tribe was famous for their Appaloosa horses which are known for being able to travel hard and fast over a long time. They are steady and surefooted and a really hard-working riding horse.

*Concluded on next page*



Little John, Torgrim Rustad & Montana

ON THE NEE ME POO TRAIL... *continued*



Montana enjoyed being in the front basically all the way and my good hardworking Little John, a powerful, stocky built horse, had to trot basically for seven hundred miles to keep up. Hey! Can you imagine that?

Montana had no problem keeping up with the Appaloosas, except for one. That one was a horse in his prime that had been ridden much in the steep and hard Snake/Salmon River country for many years. Nevertheless, Montana was the horse that was ridden the most and traveled all the way, with Little John, to the end of the trail at Bear Paw Mountain in Montana.

We were all skinny, tired and very happy to load up in the trailer and go home. Home to green pastures and nothing else to do other than eat and sleep for a while!



*I have started to think about riding the Continental divide from Mexico to Canada... If someone is interested in this adventure, please contact me on [tru100@shaw.ca](mailto:tru100@shaw.ca).*

**Torgrim at Cranbrook, BC**

## B.C. NEWS

From TERRY KINCH, ERRINGTON, "Thank you so much for sending the renewal form with our last issue. I would hate to miss one. I was going to renew with my April issue but then the mail strike hit and I didn't want to take a chance that my cheque would get lost in the subsequent backlog."

"I am not sure who saw the poster made up this year by HorseCouncil B.C. for Ride B.C. Week in June? Anyway, in the lower photo of the beach is a shot of Joe & me on our Walkers, Dusty & Max, riding on Long Beach on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. This was the only day of the year anyone was allowed to ride on the beach, and then only by special invitation. There were about 16 of us and it was beautiful, a cold but sunny October day."

"That day was chosen because it was the lowest tide of the year. We took our GPS system with us and rode 22 kms up and back down the beach, 11 kms each way, in just over 4 hours. Dusty and Max were very well behaved, but a little leery of the crashing waves when we got a little closer to them. The noise of the pounding surf can be deafening."

"In a couple of the photos you can see a surfer in the background. There were a lot of them there that day. They loved to watch us riding on the beach, but weren't too crazy about how our trailers took up most of one whole parking lot! Parking is at a premium on the good surf days."

"There were a few rules we had to adhere to: stay off the dunes, no feeding horses outside of their trailers, and take all manure back with us, but it was worth it. Afterwards we had a small campfire on the beach, everyone brought some food to share, and then the long drive home again. We'd met at 7 am just west of Qualicum Beach and didn't get home until almost 7 pm. A long but exciting day for all."

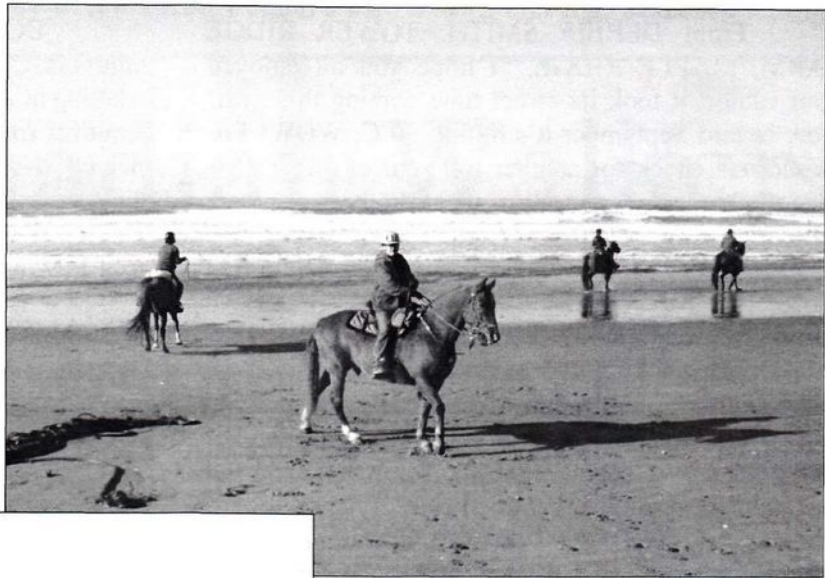
"I will get the cheque in the mail tomorrow and look forward to our next issue. (I have already read the June one from cover to cover). Thanks a lot for all your hard work keeping the magazine going."

*See the photos from Terry & Joe's adventure on next page.*

MARION TAYLOR, VICTORIA, writes, I really enjoy the magazine and I really enjoy my walkers! I bought Image from McDonald Farms almost six years ago, and like her so much that I bought Jester last summer. He is also a McDonald bred horse that came to Victoria from Grant Kihn in Alberta. I don't think I would have found either horse without *Walking Horse News*."

"Now that my husband and I can ride together, I hope to have some adventures to share."

# What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers ?



Joe & Terry Kinch were lucky enough to ride on Long Beach on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. This was the only day of the year anyone was allowed to ride on the beach, and only by special invitation.

*Above:* Terry at the start of the ride.

*Left:* Joe & Terry on their Walkers, Dusty & Max.

*Below:* As you see, they got an unusually sunny day. There were a lot of surfers there that day.

Below is the photo of Terry & Joe & their TWH featured on the poster made up this year by Horse Council B.C. for Ride B.C. Week in June.



Send your photos to **What Do You Do...**  
**WHN,**  
Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5  
Or (as a small jpg file) to [whn@telus.net](mailto:whn@telus.net)

From DEBBIE SMITH, TOWER RIDGE FARM, MAPLE RIDGE, "I hope you all enjoyed your summer; it took its sweet time coming this year! Now in mid September it's hitting 30 C. WOW! Enclosed is a check for another full year of the *WHN* - love the magazine, and all of us at the barn compare notes after reading it."

"We had a wonderful few days riding at Skykeep Ranch, 100 Mile House, with Genevieve Amy. The weather was HOT with very few bugs except for a huge fly that decided to die late one evening. The trails start right out their back gate and you can go for ever (if you don't get lost!) Lynn had her first *glide ride* on Boomer ("Dark Toms Strutter") and he did his best to take real good care of her. Hope we can convert Lynn to a Walker after riding trotting horses for many, many years! Genevieve rode her favorite little mare, 'Finally, and I rode Dark Star Delite, the old mare we used to own, and what a delite she was! Sure do miss that horse, except the catching part. Delite turns into a wild pony with all the time off. The Cariboo wild flowers are gorgeous and everywhere, acres and acres of daisies. The poplar trees were Boomer's favorite place for resting."



*Gen Amy on Finally, Lynn Byer on Boomer and Debbie Smith holding Delite at Skykeep Ranch, 100 Mile House.*

"Some of the boarders here at Tower Ridge Farm took in a de-spooking clinic in Chilliwack given by Bill Richey, the founder and Director of National Mounted Police Services, Inc. and a POST certified mounted police instructor. He worked with Atlanta Police Mounted Unit in preparation for the 1996 Olympics and is also involved in reorganizing the unit. He has over 30 years experience as a mounted police officer, and almost as many as a trainer/instructor. He has spent countless hours training officers and civilians from all over the United States, as well as their mounts, to perform safely and professionally, from the trail to the show ring to Mardi Gras. The horses learned to walk calmly through thick smoke, ignore a bothersome dog, walk through scary items without worry, and overall have better confidence. It was tons of fun and lots of laughs and jumping horses at first."

"BC Parks just celebrated their 100th year Anniversary and our horse club enjoyed a weekend of camping at Alco Park. We rode the miles and miles of beautiful trails in Golden Ears Provincial Park and met up with two RCMP officers in their dress red surge near the corral at Allouette lake. They came walking down the trail heading towards the beach to do a PR presentation and provide photo-ops for visitors. Here is a pic of Chris Smith on her Walker gelding Smoke Party (registered name Maximus Decimus). Below: *Busted for speeding - the fastest*



*Walker in the west! Chris Smith on her gelding Smoke Party (Maximus Decimus) meet & greet 2 RCMP officers celebrating BC Parks 100th Year Anniversary.*

"Have a good fall and winter to all...and many, many happy trails...from Debbie and Dave Smith."

FRAN THOMAS, PRINCE GEORGE, writes, "My Sage King's Gypsy Bay turned 30 on May 18th this year. She is from McDonalds in Pouce Coupe, a good ole' girl." Below: *Sage King's Gypsy Bay when she was younger, with Cindy Botkin riding.*

"I still have the big mare, Dakota. My son just got home from Toronto and rode her on Monday."

"I am still very much missing my little mare and have not sold the big mare, though she is really



too big for me. It was such a shock losing Tana. I'd still like to sell Dakota and get a smaller mare, more like Tana. I'd like to get a weanling or yearling so I can train it myself like I did with Tana."



# The Canadian Walker

Volume 10, Issue 5

[www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)

October, 2011

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## CRTWH TRIPLE CHALLENGE

*Deadline for 2011 entries is October 31/11.*

### PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE - BRONZE & /or SILVER & /or GOLD

TRAINING LEVELS CHALLENGE - BASIC SKILLS IN HAND, DRIVING, HORSEMANSHIP & TRAIL RIDING LEVELS, and OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### RIDE/DRIVE YOUR WALKER PROGRAM

You have until December 31 to accumulate miles and send in your signed affidavit.

Send DVD to **Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3.**

*For more info*

See [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca) or email [treasurer@crtwh.ca](mailto:treasurer@crtwh.ca) or phone 403-271-7391

## CRTWH CENTURY PARTNERS

Walking Horses tend to be long lived - and so do many Walking Horse owners. We have members, well up into their 70's, 80's and even 90's, who continue to ride and enjoy their special Walking Horses.

We invite you to nominate CRTWH friends and mentors whose age combined with that of their horse adds up to 100 or more. Send the name of your nominee, a short write-up and a good photo if possible. We'll create a website display in their honour.

To date six people have been nominated. We have been working on getting the photos and stories organized for the website. The nominees so far are Charis Cooper & Peppi; Jack Chapman & Tony (& now Joe); Jack Gurnett & Sundancer; Jo Kingsland & Candy; Bill Salt & Austin; and the late Bev Skowronski & Beau.

## CLINIC or GATHERING ?

Would you like to have a TWH clinic in your area? CRTWH will sponsor a fall clinic (Trail Riding, Gait from the Ground Up, Starting a Young Horse, etc.) if someone from the area is ready to organize it & find a venue and participants. We are also open to the idea of a GATHERING in your area to assess or video horses for the PFE or Training Levels Challenges.

If you are interested, contact Bill Roy (250-838-2066) in BC, or Dianne Little (403-271-7391) in AB.

*The Board continues to receive inquiries regarding horses for sale. In some cases people are looking for certain old bloodlines, or a specific colour, or horses related to ones they owned previously. Unfortunately we also get inquiries from people who have not received the papers of registered animals they have purchased. When a horse is sold as a purebred, registered animal, the seller must supply the registration papers for the horse. This does not always happen. Always get a dated Bill of Sale that fully identifies the horse at purchase.*

## MANITOBA NEWS



From PAT LEWIS, STE. ANNE, "Karla's been bugging me to send a picture of the mare I bought from her a few years ago, so here it is, *above*."

"The mare is Karlas Cotton Kandy, aka 'Karla', (Cherokee's Dark Knight x Karlas Last Onyx Adonis)."

"She is wearing an M & W Trooper saddle, said by some to be the most comfortable saddle made."

## NOVA SCOTIA NEWS

YVETTE HYAM, UPPER STEWIACKE, writes, "Would you please send a year's subscription to Tim Ward and Eric Hill of Upper Stewiacke, N.S.? Tim bought Ann Matheson's filly, Gem's Alegria, by Eldon's Rainbow Generator. I have him at my place. He's a very gentle stud, 17 hands high."

"No, I'm not getting back into breeding! I just have the two I brought with me and now "Bo". No plans to expand the herd anymore."

## ONTARIO NEWS

ANGIE JANSEN, ZEPHYR, writes, "I got the August issue and saw Kim Pringle's "Goodbye" to Ice. Ice was here with me the first week, but Dex (Northfork Blue Chip) took a real dislike to sharing his herd, so Sharon moved him. I enjoy seeing what all are doing but am slightly jealous, being so far removed My kingdom for a trailer! Well, *ONE DAY*, I'm sure, I will have the visit I dream of."

"Loving the *WHN* subscription."

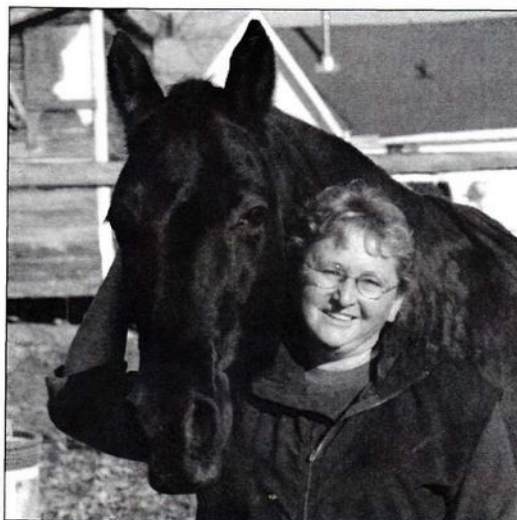
From SUE GAMBLE, SWASTIKA, I enjoyed the *Walking Horse News* and want to send you an update on Koki's trailer loading. I don't have any pics, though. Of course we got him on and now he loads with no halter or line. (I'm not saying he will do that *every time*...)"

"The summer has gone 'way too quickly. I really didn't make as much progress with my riding as I wanted, due to the terrible bug season we had this year. When it was cool enough to be out in the evenings the mosquitoes and flies were pretty vicious. We run a mosquito catcher in the yard but still it was an annoying bug season. And our days were **hot**. The only rain we got was with a thunderstorm. And after every thunderstorm there was a new crop of bugs!"

From KIM PRINGLE, ARDEN, "Hi, Everyone. Tracker and I completed the 12 mile ride at this weekend's Provincial Endurance Championships. We finished Fit to Continue (yay!). The heat index was very high and the vets said they were close to canceling the ride. Many riders were pulled from the event. It was a Tough Ride - we had to ride to the weather conditions and challenging trail. I learned a lot this summer about knowing how to look after my horse. But, **TRUTH BE TOLD**, my horse, Tracker, looked after me. We are the only Tennessee Walking Horse team competing."

"Next year I would like to ride Tracker in the 25 Mile rides and start Evie (my new mare) in the 15 mile rides."

"Thanks to everyone who cheered us on this summer. We had many fans, 2 mile endurance mileage rides, one Competitive Trail Ride of 15 miles, and one Set Speed ride (15 miles). My partner, Tracker, **ROCKS**. God bless him. He got better and better as the summer and training went on. Now we will take it down a notch, and just pleasure ride this



fall and winter." "Thanks to all of you who cheered us rookies on all year!"

## LOADING KOKI by Sue Gamble

In the August *WHN* I reported that we had left Koki (Koko's Smokin' Surprise) at home while taking Fixie (Dixie's Chocolate Fix) to a clinic because Koki wouldn't load. I had assumed (wrongly) that because he willingly does everything so well that he would also load with no problem. It was about a week before the clinic that Dave mentioned that it had taken awhile to load Koki for that first trip home (400 miles), and that Koki's former owner had gotten pretty strong with him. News to me!

When we tried to load Koki days before the clinic, we found that he had decided he would rather not go on any more long trips. One evening we worked with him for three hours, and he threw everything a horse can throw at you to *not get in* a trailer. When the moon and mosquitoes came out, I decided I couldn't go on any longer. We had a problem. I was annoyed with myself for not checking Koki's trailer loading sooner. Koki would miss the clinic. My mistake! Not Koki's fault!

After the clinic we promptly parked the trailer in the horse enclosure with the ramp down. I put a few barrels near the front to keep the horses away from the wires and from hurting themselves on the hitch. Koki was pretty wide eyed and snorty about this monster in his stomping grounds but in a day or two it became 'old hat'. Dave began his morning on-line training sessions around the trailer including "touch it".

Fixie loaded easily while Koki watched as we loaded her every day. Finally Koki got brave enough to put his feet on the ramp at liberty. Then one evening I decided to get serious about loading him. A review of my Parelli trailer-loading DVD revealed that I had not persisted until he was totally calm while being "squeezed" over the ramp. And I had asked for the squeeze into the trailer too soon. (See Parelli DVD for method.) I started by "squeezing" Koki between me and the ramp, and then over the ramp. I must have squeezed Koki over that ramp at least thirty times before he walked over calmly with no rushing. We stopped right there. Besides I needed a rest.

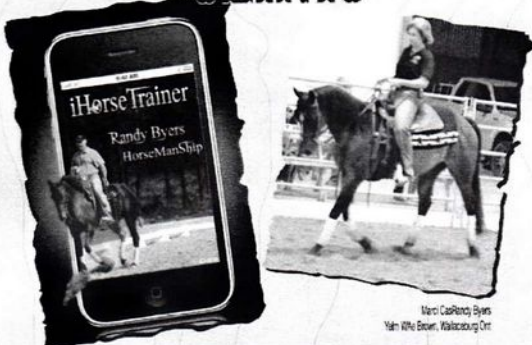
I asked Aaron, our teenage friend, to take Koki for a walk. This gave Koki a mental break and time to think. I doubted if I would get Koki into that trailer for hours, if not days. When we resumed, I stood by the ramp and asked Koki to "squeeze" up the ramp and into the trailer. Surprise! Up he went with all four feet in the trailer! With lots of stroking and a few treats we stopped right there!

After that we loaded both horses every night. Eventually, it was great fun to watch from the house as the horses loaded themselves. I laughed the day Fixie loaded in one side, backed out, and re-loaded in the other side - as if to see which side she preferred! Soon we could load them simply by pointing up the ramp - no halter or line. Sweet!

The trailer was removed only when it became so familiar that it turned into a toy. Koki decided to drag the mats out and then turned his attention to gnawing on the lights, while Fixie decided to play with the tires. Enough was enough, as we still wanted a trailer in the end! It has been a month now and we have not asked Koki to load, but I have a very good feeling about the next time!



**2011 KINGSTON FALL FAIR**  
and **KIM PRINGLE** present  
**NEW TO KINGSTON & AREA**  
**COWBOY DRESSAGE CLINIC**



**THURSDAY, SEPT. 15, 2011**  
**KINGSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**SORRY Rider Spots SOLD OUT! • Gaited Horses are WELCOME!**

**FREE Western Dressage Demo**  
Thursday Evening.

**Kim Pringle Eq Sc - Owner - Fresh Heir Gaited Horsemanship**  
For more information & to book future  
Western Dressage Clinics & Classes through out the Kingston Area  
go to [www.freshnet.com](http://www.freshnet.com) or Kim Pringle on Facebook.

[www.CANADIANASSOCIATIONOFWESTERNDRESSAGE.com](http://www.CANADIANASSOCIATIONOFWESTERNDRESSAGE.com)

*I received this poster from Kim too late for the Aug. issue but thought you would be interested to see it anyway. It is intriguing to see Cowboy Dressage in Ontario and Canadian Cowboy Challenge in Alberta becoming popular. Maybe we should promote the CRTWH Training Level Challenges along these lines. They were set up especially for our Tennessee Walkers!*



## NEWS FROM OUR U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

GRACE LARSON, HIGH PLAINS WALKERS, FORSYTH, MONTANA, writes, "I am sending off another photo of Mom's today, with information on the horse. Temperatures have been in the 80's this week so not too bad. The weeds sure liked all the rain we had this spring. Weeding is my morning recreation right now!"

"Fawn and Marigold are wearing muzzles to prevent founder on all the green grass. Marigold doesn't mind the muzzle but Fawn doesn't like it at all. I bring them in days and give them some hay; that way they can be free of the muzzles for a while and in the shade. The aging process isn't any better for horses than it is for people. They need to eat less ... and we have to watch what *they* eat!"

"Our 15 year old grandson, Kaci, spent a month with us this summer. His mother, my daughter Rene, brought him out to our place from Red Wing, MN. Rene was able to spend a few days with us which we really enjoyed."

"I have lots of Walking Horse magazines left and quite a few books. The set of Stud Books has been sold, along with some of the antique books & horse books. Since none of my children are into horses I want to be sure these go to people who will enjoy them." (See list in *July Heritage Highlights*.)



**BLAKE'S MELODY # 561211**  
(Chestnut) DOB: 09-19-1955

owned by: Sandy Haener (sister of Abe Haynes )  
Sire: Spiller's Gold Dust # 451748 (Palomino)  
Owned by Abe Haynes  
Dam: Golden Slippers # 510775 sired by Allen's Gold Ace out of the mare: Mai Gill.

Blake's Melody produced eight foals; three were sired by her sire, SPILLER'S GOLD DUST.

My Little Marigold #600071 (Palomino), a stud named Triple Action #601029 (Chestnut) and a chestnut stud, Melody's Dark Ace # 687889. Three were by CHIVAS REGAL # 590236, a chestnut stallion owned by Betty Schiller. sired by Golden Sun Allen owned by Bill Nolf, a long time Northwest Walking Horse breeder. Melody's Lullaby # 621061, Melody's Town Gossip # 642029 both sorrel mares, and Melody's Boulder # 706051 (Chestnut stallion) were by Chivas Regal.

Melody's Revolution # 672853 (Chestnut Mare) was sired by CHAMPION KIDD # 601325 (Lit Up Palomino). He was owned by Louise Haener and sired by Spiller's Gold Dust.

Walking Sock's Mist # 654637 a sorrel mare sired by WALKING SOCKS # 591192 (Lit up Sorrel Stallion) owned by Abe Haynes.

Abe Haynes was a well known Idaho breeder of walking horses.

In researching Blake's Melody, I saw that lots of inbreeding (line breeding) was part of Mr. Hayne's breeding program. Spiller's Gold Dust had so many good attributes along with a gentle disposition and an excellent walk that seemed to allow for this.

The Canadian Walking Horse News has several issues with information on Spiller's Gold Dust: September/October of 1996 - January/February of 2001, and October of 2009.

The Walking Horse Journal (September 2009) also has information on Spiller's Gold Dust.

Abe Haynes said small children could ride him around the pasture bareback without a halter, and he was a natural when it came to his walk.

Only two of Blake's Melody's get produced registered foals.

Melody's Revolution had a chestnut stud and a palomino filly both by Phil's Thunder # 621834, a chestnut stallion sired by Spiller's Gold Dust out of the mare Sylvon Princess.

My Little Marigold had a chestnut filly by the sorrel stallion, ALLEN'S TRACER # 431934, a lit up sorrel whose sire was Henry Allen # 390156 by Joe Allen # 360063.

Spiller's Gold Dust was the sire of the first Tennessee Walker born on our Big Arm, Montana ranch.

Chief O' Chiefs #481485 was later owned by Frank Smith near Lethbridge, AB. Frank's sons, Ron and Ted Smith, were active in AB Walking Horse circles a few years ago.

# GENETICS BEHIND GAIT?

CORNELL UNIVERSITY SEARCHES FOR THE ANSWER

by Ann Staiger, PhD Graduate Student

Have you ever wondered why gaited horses gait? Why some gaited horses can trot *and* gait? What is it about the gaited breeds that makes them so unique? The discovery of 3.5 million year old Hipparion footprint tracks, found encased in volcanic ash in Tanzania (E. Renders, Nature 1984), raises the question of which was the ancestral state: trot or running walk? Comparison of these ancient predecessors of the horse to modern-day horse tracks revealed that the Hipparion gait was similar to the running walk, not the trot which is seen in most modern day horses.

Since domestication, horses have been polymorphic, have different forms of, the pattern and timing of the way they move: they are also able to switch between different gaits such as the trot, pace, or running walk. Uniquely, horses are the only mammalian species found to have such a wide range of locomotion. At intermediate speeds, horses can perform either a lateral or diagonal footfall pattern, and can use either 2 beat or 4 beat cadences. The two beat gaits are the trot and the pace; the trot is diagonal and the pace is lateral. The four beat lateral gaits include the running walk, rack, tolt, and paso gaits; the diagonal four beat gait is the fox trot. A horse with the ability to perform these four beat gaits is commonly called a "gaited" horse.

This diversity in gait could have been a useful adaptation to the transportation of man and was likely enhanced by human selection pressures placed on domesticated horses for desirable traits. Shortly after domestication, horses were primarily utilized for transportation purposes: to wage wars, plant the fields, and take the family on afternoon picnics. Since the industrial revolution, horses are now used for sport and recreation resulting in a wide range of size and conformation. We now have horses as large as a Shire, and as tiny as a Fallabella, illustrating the success of selective breeding for body size.

For years, horsemen have been selecting and breeding horses specifically to be gaited. The Horse of America in his Derivation, History, and Development (1893) by John Hankins Wallace illustrated that horsemen knew training alone could not transform the trot into an ambling gait; even then, the only way to produce a gaited horse was by breeding at least one gaited parent. If the resulting

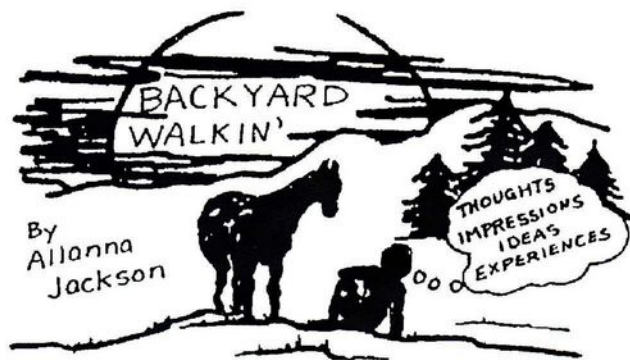
foal couldn't gait, it was culled from the breeding program. In reality, the horsemen were selecting not just desirable gaits, but also for variations in the genes.

Genes are regions of DNA that code for a specific biological function or characteristic, such as eye color or blood type. Genes have different variants known as alleles; these are responsible for the differences we see among individuals. For example, everyone has the gene responsible for eye color, but some have the allele for blue eyes, some have the allele for brown eyes, and yet others have the allele for green eyes. The alleles have different sequences of nucleotides or bases, the basic building blocks of DNA. There are four bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine (T). Strung together in different combinations of a long chain, the bases provide the code for reading DNA and subsequently the genes.

Gait is influenced by several factors: the conformation and neurobiology of the horse, and to some extent, environmental factors such as human intervention in the form of shoeing and training. Each of the physiological aspects are influenced by several other components. Conformation is impacted by bone length and thickness, muscle mass, and shoulder and hip angles. Nerve types, calcium and potassium concentrations, and synapse receptors and transmitters control the neurobiology. Several genes influence each of these components; therefore, it is unlikely that just one gene is responsible for gait, but rather a specific combination of genes and their alleles.

Each horse has a unique combination of alleles that can help in the discovery of the genes and the neurobiological interactions influencing gait, especially by comparing them to other horses. At Cornell University, we are attempting to uncover those genes. We have started a study with the initial goal of identifying the genes that are dissimilar between trotting horses and gaiting horses. Once we have found these, we would like to go even further and find the genes responsible for more subtle differences in unique gaits. By identifying these genes, we hope to provide breeders, owners, and trainers with a unique tool to aid in their horses' management.

Concluded on page 19



## GATHERING DATA FOR GAIT STUDY

by Allanna Jackson

On August 1, 2011, the deadline for the Sept 2011 issue of the *Walking Horse Journal*, I received an email from Nya Bates with the subject line 'Gait Study at Cornell'. The message contained only a web link: [http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/brooks/study\\_intro.html](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/brooks/study_intro.html). Intrigued, I clicked on the link, read what I found and promptly emailed the researcher, Ann Staiger. The two TWH mares I have now, April Velvet and Back Yard Cinnamon, are half sisters out of the mare Sam's Blue Blaze. The lady I sold Blue to lives just up the hill from me so I can get the information on Blue and her youngest filly, Merry D. All three daughters are by different stallions and have somewhat different gait behavior so I thought these mares would be valuable subjects for the study. Sure enough, Ann Staiger was excited to hear about the family of mares and promptly mailed me the kits for data collection.

She wants data from horses in other countries, not just the USA, especially rare gaited breeds. Horses with unusual gait behavior such as running walk without pace, trot, or rack would be very valuable additions to her study.

Ann is taking the measurements in inches. The kits she mailed me included a tape measure, detailed written instructions for how to collect the data and stamped self-addressed envelopes for returning the hair samples and paperwork for each horse. For the DNA she's collecting mane hair samples using the same procedure CRTWH uses for registration. The forms and instructions can also be downloaded as PDFs from the Cornell University / Brooks lab web site listed above if you need extra copies, but of course the web site doesn't supply SASEs or tape measures. Along with the release and measurement forms Ann wants a still photo of side view and head profile of each horse plus three

generations of the pedigree or, if the horse is registered, a copy of the registration certificate(s). Filling out the paperwork for one horse took me about fifteen minutes. Pulling the hair for the DNA sample takes only a few minutes and can be done at the same time the horse is measured.

Ann's measurement instructions are well-written and illustrated. Most of the measurements can be done by one person but Ann recommends having two people work on measurement. I was working alone the first time I measured Cinnamon's conformation on August 18, and did Velvet by myself August 19. Any horse that's halter-broke, stands tied and is used to being groomed will probably accept the measuring. Putting fly spray on the horse before measuring will help reduce the fidgets. Cinnamon "helped" with my measuring Velvet by standing on the clipboard I had the paperwork on, leaving muddy hoof marks and dirty nose smears on my instruction sheet. Velvet would have offered the same sort of 'help' with measuring Cinnamon if I hadn't done it while she was still eating breakfast after Cinnamon had finished her smaller ration. I doubt that Ann was thinking about the problem of other horses "helping"! The reason for having two people is that a few of the measurements require two people to obtain an accurate measurement. All of them are just plain easier to do when the horse handler is not also trying to hold the measuring tape.

Ann says the horse does need to be standing square for the measures or at least have its weight on all four feet. The horse should be standing on flat level ground. The neck length and withers to croup measures should be taken from the highest point of the withers. For the neck length measure, the horse's head should be level with the withers or as close as possible to level.

On August 20 my parents joined me to make a three person team for measuring the horses. Doing it with three people proved to be even faster and easier. Dad and I took turns holding the horse or measuring while Mom was the scribe who read the instructions and recorded the measurements. The people who are measuring the horse need to know horse conformation well enough to find the anatomical land marks used for some measurements. The scribe needs to be an accurate note-taker but does not need to be a horse person. Measuring the horses took about half an hour per horse.

For the gait videos all she's asking the horse and handler to do is go in a straight line at walk and the horse's favorite intermediate gait for only 10 seconds or 5 strides from side, front and rear views both in-hand and ridden (if the horse is rideable). That's three 10 second videos per gait but she's only asking for two gaits - basic walk and the horse's favorite intermediate gait so that's only six 10 second video clips. Ann is interested in video of additional middle gaits of multi-gaited horses but anything more than the three views of walk and one 4-beat gait is optional.

The video files can be filmed with a digital camera or digital camcorder. Before filming the video be sure to select the camera's video recording option that is compatible for playing back in the QuickTime Player program that is part of most of the newer Microsoft Windows and Mac personal computers and in a resolution suitable for emailing. We found, after doing some of the videotaping, that the video default setting on some digital cameras is for a high definition video that results in a file size too large to email.

Lunging will work for the in-hand videos. It will be best for her analysis if the person with the camera is in the center with the person holding the lunge line, but it'll still work if that's not possible.

My biggest problem with this project was dodging the daily thunderstorms that rained enough to make mud for the horses to roll in and left the ground too slippery for riding. Dodging thunderstorms broke the project up into several segments over a couple of week and required extra time spent currying enough mud off the horses so we could measure, photograph and videotape horses instead of animated mud balls. Due to the mud I had to take the extra step of washing a section of mane on each horse before pulling the hair for the DNA sample.

Videotaping the horses in hand took about 45 minutes for two horses but we did 35 video clips of several gaits and changed horses a couple of times during that time. Finding suitable places to videotape under saddle was more time consuming for me than the actual videotaping. However, once we got set up, the filming took less than an hour to get 15 video clips of Cinnamon doing several gaits, not just the six videos of walk and one middle gait Ann asks for.

Gathering the data to send Ann Staiger for this study is not hard but does require some time and effort.



*Continued from page 17*

## **GENETICS BEHIND GAIT?**

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY SEARCHES**

**FOR THE ANSWER**

by Ann Staiger, PhD Graduate Student

Breeders will be able to use their horses' DNA as a guide in their sire and dam selection; owners and trainers will have a better idea to which gaits their horses are predisposed and can adapt training and riding style accordingly. Our hypothesis is that gait is controlled primarily by genes coding for central pattern generators (CPGs) in the central nervous system. CPGs control the left-right movement in all animals and it is likely the case that gaited horses have the ability to regulate the functionality of these pattern generators based on sensory input from the horses' environment (terrain, shoeing, training, etc.).

The gait study is looking at all breeds of gaited horses: Tennessee Walkers, Rocky Mountain, Kentucky Mountain, Icelandic, Paso Fino, Peruvian Paso, Missouri Fox Trotter, Spotted Saddle, Saddlebreds, Standardbreds, and gaited Morgans, to name a few. Rare breeds like the Tigre, Marwari, and Boerperds, are especially important. Participation in this study requires a pulled hair sample, 34 body measurements, profile pictures, a three-generation pedigree, and a short video of the horse's intermediate gaits. The body measurements are used to capture the conformation of each horse and to help find any correlations between conformation and gait. The videos are used to capture the timing, footfall sequence, and stance duration of each horse's gait and helps in grouping the horses for genetic analysis.

### **Study Participation**

If you are interested in participating in the study, please contact either the lab (equinegenetics@cornell.edu, or 607-254-8217) or email Ann Staiger (eas347@cornell.edu).

Or you can download all of the forms, including the Consent Form, and mail the completed forms, hair samples, pictures, pedigree, and video to:

**Ann Staiger  
Cornell University  
437 Morrison Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853**

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My new e-mail address is [crwalkers@mcsnet.ca](mailto:crwalkers@mcsnet.ca)

My phone number is now 780-689-8220

Contact Helen Pawluk, Athabasca, Alberta

**EBONY'S BLUE CARBON SW #20412727** Blue roan stallion, son of Ole Blue's Double Vision and an Ebony Masterpiece daughter. Stands about 14:2 hh, has no white markings, and was broke to ride by his previous owners. \$2000.00

**DELIGHT'S PRIDE FANTASTIC #931687** Black broodmare, daughter of WGC Delight of Pride and an Ebony Masterpiece daughter. Stands about 15 hh, has no white markings. She was keeping the stallion company this year so she is in foal. \$2000.00

**PUSHER'S HELLCAT #20603823** Blue roan mare, daughter of Pusher's Big Score and a Pride's Beam daughter. Stands about 14.2 hh. One white hind and a star, is broke to ride. Not bred. \$3000.00

**CHANCE OF A RAINBOW LS #20304807**  
Perlino tobiano broodmare, daughter of Chance's Liberty Spirit & a Dressed For Success daughter. Stands about 15 hh, and has only produced buckskin foals. Not bred. \$3000.00

*The following foals will be weaned  
by the first of September and are offered for sale  
with TWHBEA application for registration.*

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(Ebony's Blue Carbon SW x Beauty's Touch Of Elegance)  
*(Photo right)*

**BLACK FILLY, no white markings. \$500.00**  
(Ebony's Blue Carbon SW x Gen's Blue Calypso)

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**TWH WEANLINGS FOR SALE:** 2011 foals by Diamond Dun-dee (flaxen sorrel) and Kentucky Hummer (buckskin). For pictures go to my website at [www.eldonshorses.com](http://www.eldonshorses.com). To contact me write to [ceadie@telus.net](mailto:ceadie@telus.net) or phone **403-933-3627**. TURNER VALLEY, AB

**DOLL'S HONEYDEW** (Honey Boy's Rebel x China Doll) Cdn 2568. Born 2000. Black sabino mare, star, strip & snip, 3 white socks. 14:3 hh. Compact, gentle mare. A real sweetheart.

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**VARIETY OF REGISTERED TWH** for sale, including a very nice four year old gelding going nicely under saddle. Standing at stud for 2011: **BLACK TOBIANO TWHBEA** colt, Miracle's Painted Warrior. For details please visit <http://rafterdiamondl.tripod.com>. Lesa at [lgluchak@hotmail.com](mailto:lgluchak@hotmail.com) or **780-768-2014** T W O H I L L S . A B . j-f 12

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