

Century Club News

An annual magazine about the members of The Dressage Foundation's Century Club.

ISSUE 27 / JANUARY 2023



Century Club – A Goal Achieved

Team #577 Shaaron McCabe and Tuxedo N Tail

Photo credit: John Borys Photography

Congratulations, Century Club Members!

Team #597:
Diane Little
and Slogan



Photo credit: Lisa Michelle Dean Photography

The Dressage Foundation's Board of Directors and staff would like to welcome the 2022 Century Club Members and thank the donors who support this inspiring program.

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Reaching Goals and Realizing Dreams

Wow! In 2022, there were 73 amazing horse and rider teams who joined the Century Club, and we are thrilled to share their stories with you.

Achieving goals is a common theme in Century Club stories. The goal of learning to ride, the goal of owning a first horse, the goal of doing well in a competition, the goal of a happy partnership with the horse, the goal of joining the Century Club.

After Sally Gries (Team #544) achieved one of her lifetime goals of joining the Club, she shared, May all dressage riders have dreams and goals, and never give up on the journey to achieve them!

We recently received an email from Century Club member, Elizabeth Gathright (Team #203 from 2015). She told us that she s decided to learn something new Western dressage! She shared, As I m now sayinga t age 82, try something new!

No matter your age, it s never too late to set (and achieve!) new dressage goals. We think the following stories will give you just the inspiration you need!

Jenny Johnson
Executive Director

Sara Weiss
Director of Grants and Programs



Sara Weiss and Jenny Johnson

To join the Century Club, the ages of horse and rider must equal at least 100 years.

The full list of Century Club members from 1996-2022 can be found at www.dressagefoundation.org > Grants and Programs > The Century Club.

Team #542: Barbara Stark and Dipped in Chocolate

Palm Beach, Florida

When I was a child, my parents took me riding (on a leadline) in Columbian Park. I was terrified, but to paraphrase Eleanor Roosevelt, we should do something that scares us every day. My usual scare is riding my adorable German Riding Pony. I acquired Dipped in Chocolate, whose barn name is “Devin,” five years ago to help me transition to dressage from the hunter discipline, which I rode when I took up riding at the age of 40.

Devin is steady and unflappable, having spent his first seven years in Germany as a jumper. After moving to upstate New York and learning what having a seat means, he is training at Fourth Level. I am still learning, but thankfully Devin knows what to do.

Barbara and Dipped in Chocolate completed Introductory Level Test A on January 16, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Barbara Stark: 77 | Dipped in Chocolate: 23 | Combined: 100

Team #543: Judith Streisand and Cartujo VIII

Wellington, Florida

This ride is dedicated to my best friend, psychiatrist, physiotherapist, and the most amazing horse ever, Cartujo VIII. I can't believe that we have been together so long and survived to do a Century Club ride! It has been a wonderful journey that we have both enjoyed. After several unavoidable delays, we finally did it at the combined age of 103!!

I was born a horse and dog person. It must have been a mutation because I didn't inherit the disease from anyone in my family. I have pictures of myself at age two on a pony, a donkey, and a llama in Argentina. I also loved a merry-go-round pulled by a horse.

While young, I galloped horses on the streets of Caracas for \$1 per hour, went to a horse camp, and rode at a boarding school in Maine with Skipper Bartlett. I had a little three-year-old mare that I rode on the streets in Mexico City for a year, rode a horse belonging to my high school principal in Miami, taught Girl Scouts how to ride in Long Island, and learned dressage on an ex-racehorse, More Than Somewhat, with trainer Karen Peterson up to Third Level.

Thanks to my husband, Shelly, I got my first Warmblood, Dominique, who finished my USDF bronze medal, and then my first "horse of a lifetime," a five-year-old Westphalian, Foxi, who finished my silver medal. He retired at 18 due to an injury and lived to be 28 years old.

In 1999, I met my second horse of a lifetime. Cartujo was a cute little three-year-old, barely started PRE. Growing up in Latin America, I always wanted a Spanish horse, but at the time, he was just too young. Two years later,



Judith Streisand: 77 | Cartujo VIII: 26 | Combined: 103

when he was old enough, we bought him. With the help of my trainer, Holger Bechtloff, we started at First Level (and got a performance certificate) and gradually went up the levels. He was hot, but willing, and always did his best. Holger showed him at Grand Prix and got another performance certificate.

When we retired him from showing I continued riding him, but I didn't have a goal. Then I remembered when Max Gahwyler started the Century Club and wondered if we would ever last long enough to do it. I never thought we would be this old! Riding is physical therapy for both of us.

I am grateful to IDA Farm for providing a great place to train, and to Marisol Burssens for taking such good care of my horses for almost 25 years. But most of all, I thank my best friend and husband, Shelly Streisand, for being so supportive of my incurable habit, even after he stopped riding.

Judith and Cartujo VIII completed Intermediate I on January 20, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #544: Sally Gries and Madison

Cleveland, Ohio

As I rode my 27-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, Madison (Maddie), down the centerline for our Century Club ride, I could feel the cadence in her trot and broke out into a big smile. Halt. Salute. Trot. Away we went, two experienced female athletes going through our test. Maddie was great that day, attentive and fluid in her gaits and transitions. When we came to our final halt and salute, my smile broadened. It had been one of my life goals to become a Century Club member while riding Madison. My dream came true that day!

What were the odds that at 76 years of age I would be riding my own beloved Madison, coming 28 years of age, in a recognized show and becoming a member of The Dressage Foundation's Century Club?!

It took a village to get us there. My journey started with buying Madison in 2005. She helped me a lot in my development as a dressage rider. I had retired from riding Amateur-Owner Hunters. When it came time for me to move on, I couldn't sell Maddie, she had a special place in my heart. Fortunately, my full-time trainer Kate Poulin and her mom, Sharon Poulin (my sometimes trainer), came up with a solution. They arranged a lease with a wonderful trainer in Florida, Lisa Smit. So, while I was developing my skills and reaching for and achieving my goals of USDF bronze and silver medals on Count Sinclair, Lisa was continuing Madison's training and development so that her wonderful rider, Liz Kulyassa Cuomo, could reach her goals with Madison.

My plan was to do our Century Club ride in the summer of 2020 when we both reached 100 years of age. However, COVID put a stop to



Sally Gries: 76 | Madison: 28 | Combined: 104

that. So, after a two-year delay, there we were, two aging athletes with high spirits, riding down the centerline. It was an extraordinary feeling. To top it off, I achieved a personal best score of 76% (at age 76!), won the class, and was the high score adult amateur rider of the show.

Best of all, Kate, Sharon, Lisa, and Liz were there to share in the joy. Our ride would have never happened without their incredible help over the years. I am so grateful to them for preparing Madison and me for our once-in-a-lifetime ride. And, special thanks to my beloved Madison. Because of this wonderful team, I was able to achieve one of my lifetime goals!

May all dressage riders have dreams and goals, and never give up on the journey to achieve them!

Sally and Madison completed Training Level Test 1 on February 5, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #545: Susan Smith and Fiado H

Boynton Beach, Florida

I fell in love with horses at an early age while hearing stories from my grandfather about all the horses in his life. I finally talked my parents into group riding lessons around age eight and continued riding until age 12. Life intervened and I rode occasionally with the vow that someday I would get back to lessons and learn dressage when I finished my Ph.D. program in counseling psychology.

When I was in my early 60s, I began to ride again. I found my way to a French Classical trainer and began dressage lessons. I became enamored with Spanish horses after a trip riding at Epona in Spain. In looking for a horse, I took my trainer's advice to find one that I could have fun with and feel safe on. I found an affordable candidate within reasonable driving distance from Chicago, and announced to my beloved/patient husband, Michael, that we would take a road trip to Alabama.

Driving through tornados, we arrived in Alabama and found Fiado, a registered Andalusian. With trees blowing and huge puddles in the outdoor arena, his trainer suggested I get on him. I did so apprehensively. I found him lively, willing, confident, rideable, and not spooky. He was just turning eight and I was 66.

We started at Training Level and went to First Level. In addition to dressage, we did some liberty work and trail riding. I also used him in my equine-assisted therapy program.

In 2015, we moved to Florida. I had some lessons, no showing opportunities, and a very busy household. I was caring for my 97-year-old



Susan Smith: 79 | Fiado H: 21 | Combined: 100

mom, my husband, Michael, whose Alzheimer's began to advance rapidly, and my grandson, Andros. In 2018, I met Carmen Franco whose loyalty, skills, integrity, friendship, and knowledge of Spanish horses were such a gift. We were able to complete one schooling show at First Level just after Michel passed away, before COVID set in, and I took on homeschooling and full-time childcare for Andros, whose mom had passed away.

In 2020, I moved Fiado closer to home and began working with Jeffrey Lord. Again, I was truly blessed as Jeffery's patience, confidence, and skilled encouragement set the stage for working on our Century Club goal. Fiado remains healthy, sound, feisty, and has a solid work ethic. I am feeling fitter, stronger, and more optimistic about continuing to ride and making more progress on riding goals.

Susan and Fiado H completed Second Level Test 1 on February 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #546: Stella Gordon and Diamond

Conroe, Texas

My Second Century Club Ride

The highlight of the show that day was not an 80-year-old woman riding a 23-year-old borrowed horse.

The highlight was yet to come. After the ride, a little girl on a gleaming white pony was led in and placed right beside the 80-year-old woman, that would be me, on a 23-year-old horse. Then the little girl reached her little hand up to me for a high-five!!! Stunning! Totally darling. This was all planned by the show manager, Lynette Diamond of New Horizon Stables, in Hockley, Texas. What a super surprise!

Now, you see, this was my second Century Club ride, my first having taken place when I was younger, only 75, on another borrowed horse. Just by chance, both horses were palominos, the former being a Welsh Cob, who taught many a child to ride; the last one a palomino Quarter Horse, who was a champion in her own right, as in her show career she was a champion reining horse. It was difficult for me to ride her as I was not as well trained as she was with all her cues, which were very delicate. Without even realizing that I was legging a cue spot, I rode her right out of the dressage arena, right over the railing. She never faltered, just stepped right over when I reined



Photo credit: Anastasia Henson

Stella Gordon: 80 | Diamond: 23 | Combined: 103

her back in and kept right on going. Y all gotta be laughin by now.

I first learned of The Dressage Foundation from a friend who mentioned to me that she was going to do a Century Club ride. I immediately took it as a 100-mile ride, and I was ready to join it, only to learn what it really was. I decided that if my friend could do it, then I could, too. Then, of course, I did the paperwork, and I was in! She did English and I did Western dressage. I always wanted to be a cowgirl.

Folks, my horse story pretty much follows the lines of all the others—a horse-crazy little girl who never outgrew that love. And so on.

Thanks to The Dressage Foundation for all the good things they do for others.

Stella and Diamond completed WDAA Introductory Level Test 4 on March 6, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #547

Mary Modaff and Caspian

Tuscon, Arizona

Straight from the horse's mouth

Hello, I'm Caspian. You can see from my pictures that I'm quite a handsome, 17.1-hand Holsteiner at the tender young age of 29, which, by the way, is nearly 90 in human years! Being the eldest member of this Century Club team, I will tell you how we got here.

First, I never would have guessed that after an illustrious career of eventing and dressage (and standing stud) I'd be lugging an old woman around a dressage arena just so she can cross this Century Club thing off her bucket list. However, it appears to make her happy like carrots do me.

But Mary isn't my human. My human is Cathy Schreiber who is a trainer and the best mom ever. She gives me great nutrition and Bemer and Masterson treatments could be why I look so young!

My rider, Mary, lets me take her on trail rides (I love to trespass up the neighbors' driveways) and eat mesquite beans because I'm pretty done with working. Even though Mary is a senior, she too had a dreamy horse life before she met me.

Mary and Caspian completed Introductory Level Test B on February 11, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Mary Modaff: 71 | Caspian: 29 | Combined: 100

Team #548: Peggy Seleske and Renegade

Fort Worth, Texas

I began riding dressage in the mid-1980s and competed mostly at Training and First Levels. I purchased a horse in 2016 that was trained and competed through Prix St. Georges. I achieved my Second and Third Level scores required for my USDF bronze medal and Second Level freestyle scores towards my bronze freestyle bar. Unfortunately, due to some complicated body issues, and then a more severe injury that required long-term stall rest and lengthy rehab, it was decided in his best interest to retire him from competition. Then to make matters worse, in May of 2021 I had a fall that resulted in a fracture of my right femur, which kept me from riding for several weeks. It was beginning to look like I might not be able to return to competition, much less move up the levels, or even be able to ride on a regular basis.

But I have been blessed with many wonderful equestrian friends—one who has offered her lovely Prix St. Georges gelding, Royal Jester, for me to ride and compete, so I can continue my journey. While talking with one of my friends, Shelby Neece, I expressed my desire to one day do a Century Club ride but did not have a horse that met the age requirements. Shelby suggested I do my Century Club ride on her retired 28-year-old FEI gelding, Renegade. Together we decided to pull him out of retirement and see if he could handle returning to light work. Renegade (affectionately known as Gator) proved he was more than up to the challenge.

About three months before the scheduled ride, I began to ride Renegade on a regular basis. Not only was I able to complete my Century Club ride, but I also completed my first ever FEI ride, at Prix St. Georges!



Photo credit: Shelby Neece

Peggy Seleske: 74 | Renegade: 28 | Combined: 102

Without the support of all my friends, lovely horses, and excellent trainers, I would not be able to continue my dressage journey. Many thanks to all of them, as well as to The Dressage Foundation for recognizing the importance of the older rider and older horse and what we can bring to the sport of dressage.

Peggy and Renegade completed a Prix St. Georges test on March 19, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #549: Jill Saudan and Sky Ridge Barrister

Louisville, Kentucky

I grew up riding in New Zealand. At an early age I became a member of the Christchurch Pony Club, and for many years rode under the watchful eyes of Mrs. East and Mrs. Montgomery or Mrs. Monty as we used to call her. Pony Club occurred every Sunday, rain or shine, at 2:00 p.m. Both women were childless, so we, the Pony Clubbers, became their children.

Like many New Zealanders, at the age of 21, I put horses behind me and embarked on my Overseas Experience. I took a ship from New Zealand to England, skied in Europe during the winter, played there in the summer (including living on a Greek Island), and worked in London for a year at Eon Productions, maker of James Bond films. I then went on to Canada where I spent a year, New York for six months, and finally to San Francisco where I met and married my husband.

In 1980, when my daughter Justine was five, I enrolled her in Marin County Pony Club and started riding again. This time I discovered Morgans, in the form of a 15-hand black Morgan named Allegro. Like most Morgans, he was capable, intelligent, loyal, and cooperative and became my heart horse for 22 years. I rode Allegro in three-day events, hunter/jumper shows, and taught many people (adults and children) how to ride him.

That brings me to my present horse, Sky Ridge Barrister Barrett or Mr. B for short. He is another Morgan: liver chestnut, lively, talented, and funny. I rode with a dressage trainer and, as Barrett had not done any dressage, we started with the basics and have continued to grow them. We now live in Kentucky and, as Justine runs a horse business on 400 acres with 25 miles

Photo credit: Lisa Michelle Dean Photography



Jill Saudan: 77 | Sky Ridge Barrister: 24 | Combined: 101

of trails, he gets to live a lovely life of eight-hour-a-day turnouts, schooling in the indoor arena on cold days, and hacking through wide open meadows, streams, and hills with Justine and other adventurous members of the barn family.

It was a privilege and honor to compete for my Century Club ride at the Kentucky Horse Park, and I am grateful to The Dressage Foundation for this opportunity. I have many people to thank for a lifetime of riding: my parents, NZ family, Mrs. East, Mrs. Monty, riding friends, trainers, and my husband of 50 years, John, for his unwavering support. I cherish the encouragement from my daughter, Justine Saudan, and my adopted daughter, Lyndsey Estes. Those two are, quite simply, the best.

Jill and Sky Ridge Barrister completed First Level Test 1 on March 26, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #550: Cassandra Ann Thompson and Byriels Murphy

Greenacres, Florida

I did not start riding regularly until I was almost 60 years old. I had moved to Texas from New York City to assist my newly widowed father and established a new career as a Pilates studio owner. One of my clients, Jackie Nixon Fulton, generously let me ride her two upper-level horses in exchange for private Pilates sessions.

I grew up in Colombia, South America, in a petroleum camp in the jungle. We had access to many of Mother Nature's gifts, but formalized ballet, riding, and piano were not among them.

Fast forward to my high school years in the U.S. and taking up ballet at the advanced age of 13. I did not care that everyone else in the class was eight years older. In three years I auditioned and was accepted by North Carolina School of the Arts. I headed for New York City at 18 and somehow ended up modeling. From there a business career in the fashion industry was formed.

Between the frequent traveling and living in Manhattan, where only carriages and policemen had horses, my exposure was minimal, but not my desire.

Two years after moving to Texas, I bought Byriels Murphy. He was a 14.2-hand, 18-year-old Connemara, and had been trained by Morten Thomson and Lena Wedenmark. This was the pony I had dreamed about since I was five.

I had emergency neck surgery in the summer of 2020 and moved to Wellington, Florida, in December. An amazingly generous and talented trainer of young horses, Anna Forbes, had the patience and generosity to put me on Murphy while on a lunge line and start the slow journey back. At 71 and after surgery (and an old hip



Photo credit: Johnny Robb

Cassandra Ann Thompson: 72 | Byriels Murphy: 29 | Combined: 101

replacement), fear was a huge obstacle. Anna is really the reason I was able to get back in the saddle.

A special thanks to the people who helped me get acquainted with the horse world when I first came to Wellington. Johnny Robb, who took my horses and me in, helped me get my bearings in the middle of the 2021 season, and gave me invaluable advice and pointers. Also thank you to Cesar Torrente and Bent Jensen, whose reputations are well known but their generosity in being so supportive of my horses and me exemplifies to me the true spirit of the sport. And a special thanks to Sue Sandidge for the best BBQ ribs ever and for feeding me and encouraging me for months!

For our Century Club ride, I am immensely proud that my 29-year-old Connemara gave his all for possibly his last time in the arena. The feeling of being in it together as a team, taking care of each other, and helping each other achieve our best, was more exciting than anything else.

Cassandra Ann and Byriels Murphy completed Training Level Test 1 on April 16, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #551: Ellen Fox and Nick of Time

Aiken, South Carolina

My journey with Nicky began at the Pleasanton, California, racetrack. He was six years old. Fortunately for him, my veterinarian, Diane Isabell, also worked at the track and found him for me. I rode him at the track, and we felt he was a good fit. I bought him the day before he was to compete in a claiming race, hence the name Nick of Time.

When Nicky arrived at my stable in the middle of January 1999, he was a handful. I realized I needed someone who could deal with off-the-track Thoroughbreds. I was lucky to find Nadine Pestana, a dressage trainer and rider who had dealt with a lot of racehorses growing up. They were a match!

We had several years of flatwork, but my passion was jumping. I had competed with my previous two horses in adult amateur jumpers and Medal Classes. A jump instructor moved into one of our barns and we started jumping lessons, mainly group lessons at home and a few local shows.

Nicky and I moved to Aiken, South Carolina, in November 2011. He finally had the freedom to live like a horse, grazing in pastures all day. We have been together for 23 years through all the hurdles in life, both mine and his, and we have always come out the other side together.



Ellen Fox: 77 | Nick of Time: 29 | Combined: 106

I have been taking jumping lessons for about eight years with my instructor, Lynn Coates Holmes, whose disciplines include eventing and dressage. She, as well as many friends, encouraged me to honor Nicky and our 23-year partnership by completing a Century Club ride.

I could not have achieved this goal without Lynn, who organized the whole event with USEF S judge, Amy McElroy, and the support of good friends. We completed our ride at my community dressage arena with friends cheering us on.

I am grateful that Team Nicky and Ellen were able to achieve this milestone in our lives together.

Ellen and Nick of Time completed Training Level Test 1 on April 11, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #552: Barbara Johnson and Hearrtbreaker

Monterey, California

Today, we can do this I am so thankful! That is what I often say to myself as I am riding Hearrtbreaker on Carmel Valley trails, or when we are working cows, or schooling dressage.

I first met Breaker in 2003; it was a rocky beginning, but she has a generous and forgiving spirit! At that time, I set three goals: a) maintain and improve my relationship with Breaker, b) continue to learn (I guess it is nearly impossible to be a horseperson and fail to learn something new from your equine partner almost daily), and c) have fun!

Breaker is a good sport; she is a willing partner in dressage, cow work, and trail rides. We do not perform spectacularly or even remarkably well in any of these disciplines, but when we work together, we strengthen our partnership, learn new things, and have fun.

My Century Club ride is an exercise in gratitude. Special thanks to Paula Langan who organized the schooling show for our Century Club ride; judge Joan Williams; scoring assistant Gera Slijkoord; members of the Carmel Valley Chapter of the California Dressage Society who volunteered at the show and gifted us with flowers; Susan Baxter, who was my reader and support; Jane Gardner, my Wyoming sister who provided support and who assisted with everything; my friend Teri Andreas, who helped



Barbara Johnson: 73 | Hearrtbreaker: 27 | Combined: 100

set up the event and bar-b-que luncheon; my friends and fellow equestrians who attended our Century Club ride; and Tully and Jacquie Weidman who bred Hearrtbreaker, entrusted her to my care, and were there to celebrate our ride.

And especially to my team partner, Hearrtbreaker, who is such a good sport and such a good friend!

Barbara and Hearrtbreaker completed Third Level Test 2 on May 1, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #553:

Evelyn Bunnell and Obviously Set

Belmont, New York

I cannot remember a time I did not love horses. I would often ask my parents for a horse but was told they were too expensive. Plus, I was too young to care for one.

When I got my first job right after graduating from high school, I obtained my first horse and another soon after. The second one, Stormy, was a great horse and was the first horse I competed. He was 19 at the time and a real trooper. Then came Ruler's Jewel, Bingo, Tawny, and finally Obviously Set. Each has taught me to be a better rider and how to better care for horses.

Obviously Set (aka Sid) has been with me since the beginning of his ninth year. I purchased him from a lady who had rescued him from an abusive situation. It took eight months for anyone to be able to walk in front of Sid without being bit. When he discovered he was not going to be hurt any longer, he became the sweet fellow he is today. Riding Sid has always been fun though, and he has also had a very successful career as a hunter in numerous shows.

Due to some injuries, I had to stop riding. Four years later, some of the injuries have been rectified. Sid had not been ridden during that time either. As I missed riding, a friend suggested I try dressage. She even let me ride her horse



Evelyn Bunnell: 75 | Obviously Set: 26 | Combined: 101

until the weather became better and I could travel with Sid to the facility to work with him twice a week. My friend also suggested I consider the Century Club.

I have never done a dressage test before, but my trainer and friend encouraged me to do this. I was very happy to see that there were walk/trot classes for adults in dressage tests.

I look forward to continuing riding and learning more about dressage.

Evelyn and Obviously Set completed Introductory Level Test B on May 7, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #554: **Nina Turley and Lady Travler**

Cedar Park, Texas

Our journey began in 1997 when I purchased a green broke four-year-old Montana Travler mare after arriving in El Paso, Texas. I had never heard of this breed and was delighted to discover that Lady Travler's heart, intelligence, and athletic ability were amazing. Together we explored the deserts and mountains of West Texas and Southern New Mexico where we rode with the Sun Country Trail Riders and Back Country Horsemen.

Our family moved to Arizona and there, with the awesome equine community of the Cave Creek Saddle Club and Arizona Cowgirls, Mandy and I discovered the beautiful trails in the north, south, east, and west of the state. We competed in some trail classes, did an endurance ride or two, and camped out for weeks in the mountains. Mandy gamely made possible my certification by NARHA, now PATH International, when we converted to the English discipline riding patterns required for the test.

Then we moved to Houston, Texas. We discovered the Airport Rangers Mounted Security Group. We rode the many trails around Bush International Airport for pleasure and kept an eye out for any breaches that could threaten the security of the airport. My grandchildren learned how to ride on her gentle back, and we explored the bayous and trails in the area.



Nina Turley: 73 | Travler: 29 | Combined: 102

We moved to Cedar Park, Texas, where Mandy was a part of the creation of Happy Trails Horsemanship and Literacy Program, LLC, and contributes to the program to this day.

Our latest endeavor was to complete Century Club ride. We worked many months under the guidance of trainers Ashleigh Grace Fleener and Kathy Ellerbeck, and my wonderful barn family at the TriStar Equestrian Center in Austin, Texas. All I can add is a grateful thank you to Lady Travler what a wild and wonderful ride, sweet friend.

Nina and Lady Travler completed Introductory Level Test A on March 5, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #555: **Ann Bresson and Abigail**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

I started riding as a young girl, renting horses with lessons in Virginia. I stopped riding during college but started again when I moved to Colorado after college. I rode Western on trails in the foothills of the Rockies, using horses borrowed from my sister-in-law. I bought my first horse, which was registered in the half-Arabian registry. I gave my mare to my daughter for her 12th birthday and trained her foal so we could ride together.

When I moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, I brought my horse with me. I started taking dressage lessons with Dianne Faye-FitzSimmons, one of Mr. Charles de Kunffy's prize pupils, who was teaching at the stable where I boarded my horse in the East Mountains of New Mexico. I rode in my first dressage show there. We scored a 63% on a walk/trot Intro test.

After my horse had to be put down, I used school horses until I graduated from Nursing School. I then leased Jamaica Rain from Susan Reed for about a year and a half, continuing my dressage lessons with Dianne. After I returned Jamaica Rain to Susan, I used school horses at Cherry Tree Farm to continue my dressage lessons. I am now taking my dressage lessons with Susan, a pupil of Dianne.

Abigail is a foal of Jamaica Rain (Team #223 in 2015). She was trained by her owner, Susan Reed. Susan uses her for lessons with her advanced students and for competing in the New Mexico Dressage Association shows.

Ann and Abigail completed First Level Test 3 on May 8, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Ann Bresson: 77 | Abigail: 23 | Combined: 100

Team #556: Janet Mitchell and Applebee

Eugene, Oregon

It was a summer s day in 1998. I was working from home in Massachusetts when I got a call from a trainer in New Jersey who had heard I was looking for a new eventing horse. The horse he had for sale was a four-year-old. I said, No, way too young for me, I m an amateur! The trainer persisted and told me his registered name was Applebee. I figured this must be a sign, as my grandmother s maiden name was Applebee. I headed down to New Jersey to try him, and the rest is history!

Applebee s sire was a Hanoverian named Abundance and his dam was a Thoroughbred. He did not have a barn name, so I named him Jamie, after my grandmother s father, James Applebee.

We started eventing together one year later, and he won two of his first three outings. In the many years that followed, we competed up to Preliminary, and in almost every state on the East Coast. Jamie and I went to the American Eventing Championships twice. Our last event was in 2015 where he finished third in a very competitive field in New York at the age of 21. We moved to Oregon in 2016 where Jamie has excelled as a schoolmaster for novice dressage riders.

Our Century Club ride was truly the capstone of Jamie s career and of our long partnership.



Janet Mitchell: 72 | Applebee: 28 | Combined: 100

We rode Training Level Test 3 with a score of 67.59%. Jamie loves to compete, and this dressage show was no exception. He knew that this was a special day and loved posing for the many, many photos. Alongside us in the photo is my husband, Jerry, who groomed for us at many events, and our daughter, Genny, who was still in high school when we drove to New Jersey to pick Jamie up.

Janet and Applebee completed Training Level Test 3 on April 30, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #557: Linda Doran and Mystic's Romeo

Westerly, Rhode Island

Seven years ago, on a Sunday in May, I was admitted to the surgical trauma unit at Yale New Haven Hospital following a fall while riding. Unplanned dismounts are not uncommon, certainly not when you start riding at age 50 and decide that competing in schooling horse trials would be a good idea. That fall, however, resulted in a subdural hematoma brain hemorrhage and a longer recovery. A year of healing, followed by a year at a therapeutic riding center, and finally returning to my home barn, Mystic Valley Hunt Club in Gales Ferry, Connecticut.

Sally Hinkle Russell, the owner, put me on Romeo, a sweet, forgiving, calm fellow who was working as a school horse following a jumping career in Canada. He was much loved by kids and adults, and I know I would not be riding again if not for him.

Amanda Grace Rollinson was by my side that first fear-filled year and I owe so much to her patience and wise instruction. Two years ago, I made the decision to purchase Romeo. I am deeply grateful to Sally for making Romeo available to me. The opportunity to own him is something I work hard to deserve every day. He is a treasure.

My present instructors, Deb Bakoleadis and Zoe Neville Freese, give us the ultimate compliment



Linda Doran: 74 | Mystic's Romeo: 26 | Combined: 100

by expecting that we can set goals and accomplish them. I don't know how to adequately thank them for their expertise, patience, and great good humor.

So, on another Sunday in May, Romeo and I completed our Century Club ride. The circle is complete.

Lastly, to Diane, my wife of almost 30 years, you make everything possible while keeping it fun. And Di, did I mention there is now a Century Ride in eventing? Who knows, anything is possible.

Linda and Mystic's Romeo completed Introductory Level Test B on May 15, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #558 Gloria Beduhn and Levi

Sadler, Texas

My second Century Club ride was supposed to have been with my wonderful old palomino gelding, Acey Deucy. But when he developed soundness problems, I figured one black-and-gold ribbon would have to do. Then my friend, Judy McElroy, gifted me with her sweet old Holsteiner, Letorno, who just happened to be the same age as Acey.

I nicknamed the big black gelding Levi and decided to see if he could manage one more trip to the show arena. He got into shape quicker than I did, and we attended the Fairview Schooling Show in May in Aubrey, Texas. Knowing our limited capabilities, I chose to ride Training Level Test 1. We did just fine under my long-time friend and ‘r’ judge, Julie Madriguera.

Many thanks to everyone who made this ride possible. Especially thanks to Judy for giving me Levi, who in his youth had let it be known that he disliked eventing. The switch to dressage worked well, and he proved to be a gentleman in the ring. Even after years of retirement, Levi was the calmest horse on the show grounds (including those in their stalls).

And of course, thanks to The Dressage Foundation for offering this award. It gave me something to work toward and kept me riding. I’m thinking there may be a third Century Club ride in my future, with my now 18-year-old mustang, Handyman. Here’s hoping we both stay sound!

Gloria and Levi completed Training Level Test 1 on May 15, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Gloria Beduhn: 77 | Levi: 23 | Combined: 100

Team #559:

Margaret McLaughlin and Hannah Synnove

Bend, Oregon

My first adventure with Hannah, a Norwegian Fjord horse, began when I called the OSU Extension Agent, Tim DeBoodt, in Prineville, Oregon, to ask a farming question. Realizing that he traveled throughout the region, I decided to ask him if he had encountered any Fjord horses. There was a surprised silence, then he told me that he and his wife were going to pick up four Norwegian Fjords that very weekend. Within a few weeks, I had visited them and purchased Hannah. They delivered her to our house in early November of 1998.

My interest in acquiring a Fjord horse began with my dream of working with horses to farm small acreages commercially. A friend of mine had suggested Fjord horses and Haflingers. After a few years of checking out both breeds, I had settled on Fjords. That said, I have never done serious farming with Hannah. Liability and equipment costs made it prohibitive for me. Instead, riding and driving her became my passion.

From 2001 until 2004, I rode Hannah on trail rides and in dressage lessons. She was calm, willing, somewhat lazy, and incredibly sweet. Then I was introduced to combined driving and Hannah learned quickly. We participated in several CDEs and did reasonably well, even though Hannah always needed nudging.

In 2009, I was given the care and use of a lovely driving Fjord, Janie, while her owner went to Australia. With Janie's eager forward way, she took over Hannah's role in CDE competitions and Hannah became an occasional riding horse. Janie tragically died in 2012. Rather than



Margaret McLaughlin: 77 | Hannah Synnove: 24 | Combined: 101

put Hannah back in the traces, I sold her to Mary Cuevas.

Mary and I did a First Level Pas de Deux with Hannah and my Fjord, Sven, in the fall of 2021. The two Fjords were a crowd-pleaser, giving us a harmonious ride with good scores. That experience, coupled with Mary's encouragement, inspired me to do the Century Club ride.

The mystery of a horse's mind prevailed for the Century Club ride. Hannah's rise to the occasion has wrapped her around my heart more securely than ever. Who knows what gave her the sense that this was the time to stay round, be forward, and listen?

I am grateful for such solid human support and appreciation from my family, friends, the Alliance Equestrian Center, and the Central Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Dressage Society. I hope we inspired others in the upcoming chain of possible Century Club rides to come, just as I was inspired by those who preceded me.

Margaret and Hannah Synnove completed a First Level Freestyle on May 22, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #560: **Sanfra Bunke and Layla Jag**

Montgomery, Alabama

I have been in love with horses forever. I crawled on any horse at any time since I was a tot. Eventing was my discipline of choice in the 1980s, but now I focus on dressage.

Layla came into my life as an unbroke 10-year-old. Now she will do whatever she thinks I am asking her for, even if I may give her confusing signals at times. We even placed third in our breed's year-end Training Level awards.

I love learning all I can about dressage, horse care, and hoof care. Layla is still going strong with the help of acupuncture, chiro, and physical therapy exercises.

Getting ready for the show is always nerve-racking. There is schooling for the test, strategizing techniques, and an equipment checklist. The thing Charlotte Dujardin said when asked about riding in the 2012 Olympics struck a chord with me. She said that she just thought of it as any other schooling ride. I said to myself, That is what I am going to do for my Century Club ride.

I had to overcome the stressors of showing by planning ahead. When putting everything together, I couldn't find my show helmet or Layla's show bridle. I had to put together alternatives and pack the trailer. (P.S. both were found later, hiding in plain sight.)

Show day focused on Layla's comfort and state of mind. After a brief warmup, the bell rang and we entered the ring to ride. Layla gave it her all. We received our best score yet and won first place in both the Training Level Test 2 and Training Level Test 3 classes. I was over the moon!

Sanfra and Layla Jag completed Training Level Test 2 on May 14, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Sanfra Bunke: 73 | Layla Jag: 29 | Combined: 102

Team #561: Ann Beckwith and Ulla

Fresno, California

I believe I always had a love for horses. I lived in a small farm town on the Utah/Idaho border and had a grade school friend who had a horse. She and I would ride double on her horse, bareback. There was a stable just up the street from our house and the owner would occasionally let me ride his horse, too.

Years went by and horses didn't come back into my life until the mid-1970s when my husband and I purchased horses for our girls to ride. I was living vicariously through my daughters, the dreams I had as a kid of owning my own horse. My oldest daughter moved to a ranch after she was married and boarded horses for friends. One of her friends became pregnant and needed someone to ride her horse, so in 2003 this became an opportunity for me to get back into the saddle.

Of course, that led to me getting my first horse, Tuner, in 2004. My granddaughter, who was four at the time, also got the horse bug, and in 2005 we bought a pony, Pecan, and she, my daughter, and I would trail ride all around the neighborhood.

When my daughter sold her ranch in 2012, I moved my horse to where my fabulous trainer, Meghan Flores, was working. I watched her train a group of young girls in dressage. It looked like a wonderful way to ride, so the lessons started! In 2019 Meghan suggested I try my friend's horse, Ulla, who was for sale. Some thought Ulla and I seemed like an unlikely pair and even I



Ann Beckwith: 77 | Ulla: 23 | Combined: 100

questioned Meghan's sanity in suggesting it! But we were a team made in heaven, and she has become my true heart horse!

Ulla is a Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred cross. She is very smart and teaches me so much. But she is a worrier. I don't think she liked or trusted me much for a long time. She wouldn't let me catch her and it could sometimes take upwards of 30 minutes to finally get her haltered. Fortunately, after I would get her bridled and saddled, she was a gem.

Meghan had mentioned the Century Club in a passing conversation a while back, so when the 100 years age total between Ulla and me became a reality this year, I decided I wanted to do this Century Club ride. I thought how great this was to accomplish something just for being old! All my barn family were so supportive and truly made this one of the most memorable days of my life.

Ann and Ulla completed First Level Test 1 on May 21, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #562: Marianne Rutherford and Locero

Orlando, Florida

As I write about my Century Club ride, I am drawn back 60 years to my first equine. Nipper was a 12-hand Paint pony who brought friendship, love, and the spirit of the wind into my life. I was totally captivated, and I still am!

My youth was spent barrel racing, pole bending, and soaking up horse knowledge and experience. Eventually, in my teens, I took periodic Western riding lessons. In my 20s, married with two children, I realized that it was time to learn dressage, prompted and encouraged by my dressage-riding husband.

Suddenly, my husband died, and I began to ride and live dressage with a passion. I found Blackie, a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood. During this time, I met a horse, Locero, with whom I felt a deep connection. He wasn't for sale, and I already had a mount.

After being my teacher for 11 years, Blackie was euthanized due to a twisted colon. He left a hole in my life. As I began the search for a new dance partner, Locero's owner contacted me wondering if I would like to purchase him! YES!!

Locero, an 11-year-old Half-Andalusian stallion, came to live with me and my husband in Reddick, Florida. In two short years, I earned my USDF bronze medal. (One of those scores was earned by me and Blackie!) During these early years, I worked with USDF Certified Instructor, Jean White. Locero and I showed at several Region 9 Championships; one year we were the Third Level Freestyle Champion.

In 2008 we moved to Orlando, Florida, and



Marianne Rutherford: 69 | Locero: 31 | Combined: 100

I began training with Susanna Benne. Susanna encouraged me to have higher confidence while working with Locero on correct flying changes. My goal was to obtain my USDF silver medal with Locero. I reached out to Jill Hardt, a dressage rider and trainer in Plant City, Florida. Thus began five plus years of driving more than three hours four to five times a week. Then in 2016, it all came together SILVER MEDAL!

The 21 years we have spent together have been blessed and tried in many ways. Locero is amazing and no one that meets him can believe he is 31 years old. I thank God every day for this incredible horse who is always kind and willing. My final goal, the Century Club, is finished! Locero is still being ridden three to four times a week and is now teaching my granddaughter how to ride.

My gratitude goes to my family, trainers, and friends who have always been both my supporters and cheerleaders.

Marianne and Locero completed First Level Test 2 on May 29, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #563: Nancy Ann Brown and Pono

North Plains, Oregon

My childhood fantasies about horses were nurtured by the books I could get from the bookmobile every month. As an adult, I am still in love with horses. While living in California, I found an old barn near my house that had multiple horse paddocks attached. I introduced myself to the owner/trainer, Della, and talked her into letting me clean stalls in exchange for watching and learning from her. Soon, I was riding. Of course, the next step was to buy my own horse. Della knew of a Thoroughbred mare who was pregnant and starving. We nursed

Missy back to health and she became my trail riding companion.

I had always wanted to learn to jump, so in 1976, I registered to take my horse (Missy's now-grown colt) to a three-day event schooling program at a nearby barn. One day, while training at this barn, he spooked, and I came off and suffered a head injury. This accident left me in a coma for six weeks and another two months in ICU. After coming out of the coma, I spent several years in physical therapy. During all this time in recovery, I never found anything to replace my love of horseback riding, so when I was able, I began to ride again.

In 1981, I decided to take a trail ride. As I started along a logging road, I passed a few men with boxes who were picking huckleberries. Unfortunately, a bit further down the road, there was a black bear picking his own berries. My horse spooked and left me on the ground with a broken collarbone and dislocated sacroiliac. Physical therapy again.



Photo credit: Stacey L

Nancy Ann Brown: 77 | Pono: 28 | Combined: 105

Graduate school interrupted all thoughts of horses until 1992. At that time, I was offered a position as a postdoc at the Oregon Regional Primate Center and moved to Northwest Oregon. I was still in love with horses, and I wanted to overcome my fear and ride again. I took lessons on a schooling horse for several years and then bought a 10-year-old Quarter Horse gelding whom I named Pono. I moved Pono to a dressage barn in 2009, and we both began to learn dressage. In 2020, while riding on my own in the outdoor arena, something scared Pono, and again, I hit the ground. This time, the fall left me with a broken femur. I told my physical therapist that my number one goal was to ride again. After a year, I was finally back in the saddle.

Pono and I began planning for our Century Club ride. My instructor worked with us for several months, and we achieved our goal! Pono was a perfect gentleman, it was a fantastic day, and a wonderful accomplishment. Thank you to everyone who supported me along the way!

Nancy Ann and Pono completed Introductory Level Test B on May 28, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #564: **Marlene Mims and Good Friday Eclipse**

Kalispell, Montana

I have always loved horses but never was able to own my first until I was 17 years old. Being from Arizona, I was involved in Western riding and breeding Appaloosas that competed on a national level.

Dressage was a foreign entity to me until I moved to Montana in 2008. My Quarter Horses appreciated me learning a balanced seat from learning dressage. I started with my first instructor in 2010 and never looked back.

I started showing my Quarter Horse mare, “Good Friday Eclipse,” at our first schooling show in 2012 when I was 70. Friday and I stayed the course working our way up to First Level and having fun doing it.

My instructor, Linda Snyder, believed in me and Friday through our grand finale—the Century Club ridewinning our class at The Show at Rebecca Farm on June 4th. It’s been the journey of a lifetime!

Marlene and Good Friday Eclipse completed First Level Test 1 on June 4, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Marlene Mims: 80 | Good Friday Eclipse: 21 | Combined: 101

Team #565: **Linda Co and Traditions Sarah**

Middletown, New York

So, I said to the orthopedic surgeon, when can I ride again?

He looked up from the chart where he had chronicled his treatment of my six broken bones and said, NEVER.

Mmmmm, I replied, not happening.

Merry, my beloved Welsh Cob, had never put a foot wrong until the day, out of the blue, when he had lost it and launched me. During the months that I had been in the hospital and in rehab, friends and my trainer had worked with a world-class vet and a world-class saddle fitter, but Merry had made it very clear that he needed to be retired.

The last person to work with Merry had moved him to a friend's hunter-jumper barn. Recently widowed and shaken by my fall, I entered a whole new world. I met Chris, Brittany Cooper, and Traditions Sarah.

Chris, the classic barn mom, took me under her wing and taught me about the hunter-pleasure world. She advised me about the hunter show routine and turnout, helps keep me in the saddle when it seems too cold or too hot to ride, and has become my riding buddy. She is also showing Intro dressage!

Brittany, owner and trainer at Black Ridge Farm, works equally well with tiny kids, teens, adults, and my 79-year-old self. I found that my lessons were not very different from the dressage lessons I'd been taking for years: forward, straight, bend, and balance.



Photo credit: Renee Zernitsky

Linda Co: 79 | Traditions Sarah: 22 | Combined: 101

Sarah, when I first met her, was the "SAFE" school horse. She would ignore extraneous aids, canter on the correct lead, and stay under her rider. Puddles, umbrellas, blowing paper, falling chestnuts, and hay deliveries hold no terrors for Sarah. I give thanks daily for this lovely, versatile mare. We are now training First Level and riding in a quadrille team. She keeps me fit and engaged. Both her delightful owner, Vanessa, and I love her to bits!

A Century Club ride has been a goal of mine for many years. It's a wonderful program keeping older riders in the saddle for a little longer. Many thanks to The Dressage Foundation.

Linda and Traditions Sarah completed First Level Test 1 on June 10, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #566: **Susie Simon-Visser and Sam I Am**

Rockford, Michigan

Ellen (Susie) Simon received a BS in Education from Central Michigan University and a MA in Education from Michigan State University. She is a teacher, homeschool mom of two children, and widow of 15 years.

Around 1997, Susie's riding career began as her daughter, Suzannah Wise (six years old at the time), started riding lessons. After her husband passed away in 2007, weekly dressage lessons became welcomed therapy towards reestablishing confidence, motivation, and moving forward in life with two teenagers.

Susie has ridden in several schooling shows and rode the Century Club ride, Introductory Level in 2022, scoring 60.9%. All her riding has been with partner Sam I Am, a 33-year-old Hanoverian Warmblood.

Susie and Sam I Am completed Introductory Level Test A on June 10, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Susie Simon-Visser: 72 | Sam I Am: 33 | Combined: 105

Team #567: Dik Lasnier and Dee Oh Gee

Ravenel, South Carolina

I was 48 years old when I started riding horses. We were living in Connecticut and my wife, Carol, bought me a gift certificate from a local trainer named Amy Sauyet for a riding lesson. I became hooked. I was the only male rider in our barn and the young ladies offered me tidbits on how to improve my riding.

It wasn't too long before we purchased an Appaloosa/Quarter Horse cross named Dakota Gold for my wife and me to ride. We rode this amazing horse for many years. After retirement, we moved to South Carolina. Unfortunately, we could not take him with us due to the extreme temperature change.

I felt that my equestrian days were over, and I would no longer have the good times I had with Dakota. But as fate would have it, while I was watching my wife's dressage lesson with her trainer, Sarah Sharpe, Sarah mentioned a horse that might rekindle my desire to ride again. Shortly after this conversation, I met a horse named Dee Oh Gee and his owner Katrina Dempsey. Within two weeks I was taking my first dressage lesson with Lauren Palmer and loving every minute of it.

Dee Oh Gee is a Percheron/Quarter Horse cross. For several years he was an awesome whip horse on fox hunts. He is a gentle giant who takes care of his rider whether doing dressage,



Dik Lasnier: 77 | Dee Oh Gee: 24 | Combined: 101

going over jumps, or just out for a trail ride. Dee Oh Gee has the reputation of being loved by all who have ridden him and is well known in the Charleston area.

I learned about the Century Club through my wife, Carol. Becoming a member of the Century Club was an honor for both Dee Oh Gee and me.

Dik and Dee Oh Gee completed Introductory Level Test A on June 11, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #568: Janet Tisch and Gidget's Gadget

East Lansing, Michigan

My first exposure to horses was at five years old when my oldest sister acquired her first horse. I sat in her saddle on the fence, pretending to ride, and like many little girls with great imaginations, I was brave, fearless, and rode like the wind.

When I turned 16, my parents purchased a lovely Arabian gelding for me, and so began my life passion for horses and riding. I was a dedicated trail rider but always rode in an old dressage saddle, as I had become enamored with dressage when the Spanish Riding School Lipizzaners came from Austria to perform in Detroit under the direction of Colonel Alois Podhajsky. I began to read books on dressage and attended every dressage show I could.

I moved to Florida in 1980 and moved back to Michigan in December 2018. I brought my 18-year-old Warmblood/Arab cross mare, Promises Kept, with me. Promises had enjoyed a good start in dressage and was doing nice Second Level work. Through a series of events, I was fortunate to end up at Stapleton Farm owned by Ruth Hill-Schorsch. For the first time in my life, I was going to have the opportunity to take lessons from an accomplished professional like Ruth (USDF gold medalist). Unfortunately, Promises and I developed medical issues that required me to move to an Assisted Care Facility. Promises health continued to decline and after two years of dedicated care by Ruth, a skilled veterinarian, and other medical experts, she was humanely euthanized. My heart was broken.

Ruth had a school horse, a Thoroughbred cross mare named GG, who had just been retired from giving lessons. She had an idea to keep GG working enough to keep her healthy and a way to



Janet Tisch: 76 | Gidget's Gadget: 24 | Combined: 100

keep me a part of the world I love so much. GG became my therapy horse. Trading her dressage tack for western tack, she graciously carried me around the ring. So of course, I began to study and learn about Western dressage. After a few months, Ruth and I discussed a Century Club ride. At Ruth's urging, I thought, I can do this; it's now or never.

We entered a schooling show in June 2022, Western Dressage Introductory Level 4. It required no canter, but to me, it was as exciting as anything I have ever done. When GG heard the bell ring, she gathered up, and I could feel her take charge.

I was thrilled to win the class with a 70.25%, but more importantly, receive a wonderful comment from the judge, "Lovely horse who knows just how she should travel to be a great partner." Ruth and GG gave me something I will hold in my heart forever—a real partnership, and at 76 years old, a dressage test I will never forget.

Janet and Gidget's Gadget completed Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 4 on June 11, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #569:

Martin Costello and All Zippbarred Up

Stevensville, Maryland

It was my wife of 51 years, Wendy, who got me involved in the equestrian world some 35 years ago. Wendy was a farm owner, breeder, stallion owner, and dressage rider. I was a pasture mower, fence fixer, and foal wrangler. I added rider to my resume 15 years ago when Wendy purchased the perfect husband horse for me. That was All Zippbarred Up, known as Junior, a Quarter Horse that I could safely be a passenger on while he transported me around the farm in a Western saddle. I enjoyed a great partnership with Junior for 10 years before moving him along to a new owner who could benefit from his incredible temperament and training.

It was Wendy's dream to complete a Century Club ride on a Hanoverian horse she had bred, but a rare terminal cancer in 2020 prevented her from realizing that dream. Following my 75th birthday in August 2021, news of a Century Club ride on Facebook piqued my curiosity. I recalled Wendy's dream, and wondered, "How old is Junior now?" A quick check of his file revealed him to be 24 years old. OK! In the spring of 2022, he would be 25, and our combined age would be 100. I resolved to do a Century Club ride in Wendy's honor. Two things then had to happen: Junior's new owner would need to allow me to reunite with him for the ride, and I had to learn how to really ride by entering a dressage training program.

Junior's owner, Marie Dungey, happily agreed to let me partner with him for the ride. Anne Thibo, a dressage and vaulting trainer, was delighted to help me achieve my goal, but



Martin Costello: 75 | All Zippbarred Up: 25 | Combined: 100

I would need a horse to train with. Elizabeth Schneider offered me one of her lesson horses for as long as it took to get me ready for a Century Club ride.

I began training in October, taking lessons twice a week and attending a series of schooling shows. I worked with Elizabeth at Thistle Dew Dressage to transition to Junior and get registered for the Potomac Valley Dressage Association's Ride for Life show. This long-established show is a fundraiser for the breast cancer center at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Coincidentally, Johns Hopkins Hospital is where Wendy received her excellent cancer care and treatment.

I successfully completed the Century Club ride in Wendy's honor at the Ride for Life surrounded by friends, family, and supporters. It ranks among the highlights of my life and confirms that "it takes a village."

Martin and All Zippbarred Up completed Introductory Level Test B on June 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #570: Helen Hedtke and PS Miss Defy

Centennial, Colorado

The beginning: coming out of the womb loving horses.

At age eight, my grandpa bought me a white Shetland cross pony. Whity was my first experience learning animal communication. If no bridle was in view, she wouldn't charge me. If I had a bridle in hand, her ears would be flat and she would whirl to kick me when in range. Then at age 11, Grandpa bought me a 15-hand sorrel mare of unknown origin. Gypsy Red, supposedly six years old and trained, turned out to be four years old with minimal training. Gypsy taught me gymnastics! Learning how to place my body against her neck as she galloped under the nearest low tree limb. Our first year together was learning to remount several times per ride and advancing to sticking the dropped shoulder and sudden whirl. Eventually she accepted her 11-year-old person and we proudly performed as a Square Dance team on horseback.

Adulthood allowed for some occasional riding when my two daughters joined Pony Club with Laura Backus as their lifelong trainer. When circumstances would allow, I also trained with Laura. Before my Century Club ride, I had not ridden for 17 years and never competed. Laura's suggestion of joining the Century Club was daunting at 83 years old! It only took her a year to convince me as she slyly slipped practicing dressage tests into my lessons.

My patient sweet mount, Missy, I've known since she was four days old and born at Laura's Pendragon Stud Equestrian Center. Missy is



Helen Hedtke: 84 | PS Miss Defy: 19 | Combined: 103

a former eventer and flawlessly trained. She patiently waits for me to get it right. I love this little mare.

With Laura's encouraging training and Missy's patience, I rode my very first competition on a borrowed horse, with borrowed tack, in a borrowed shirt, tie, jacket, and my daughter's white breeches from her Pony Club days.

To quote John Wayne, "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."

Thank you, The Dressage Foundation, for a privileged and exciting accomplishment to be a member of the Century Club.

Helen and PS Miss Defy completed Introductory Level Test B on July 2, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #571: Alice Bennett and Rosie

Park Forest, Illinois

When I was 13, I was granted the dearest wish of every horse-crazy girl, a horse of my own. Jingo was a three-year-old Welsh Pony/Mustang cross who'd never been ridden. She cost \$75, and they threw in a McClellan Army saddle. All I knew about horses had come from storybooks; the only time I'd ridden, the horse ran away with me.

My father was not a rider, but he'd grown up with workhorses, and between the two of us we got Jingo saddle broken. Dad taught me to post, and from there on I was on my own. I never had a lesson, never owned a helmet, and had never been to a horse show or seen a horse jump.

Jingo was not sweet-tempered, but I loved her dearly and by some miracle, I didn't get killed, though my father frequently threatened to shoot her. I had to sell Jingo when I left for college, and on her last day with me, I jumped her bareback over a single bamboo pole set at four feet.

Fast-forward to my 40s, after my children were launched. I started taking riding lessons, where I first heard about leads and diagonals and jumped real jumps. One day my trainer said, "I've got just the horse for you." He was right. I bought Dream Weaver, a 14-year-old Thoroughbred who, unlike Jingo, was sweet-tempered, and we evented until he was in his 20s.

When Dream died at age 33, I assumed I was done with horses, but after a year or so I still wanted to ride. At 69 I thought I was too old to buy another horse, which my daughters definitely would not want to inherit, so I started taking



Alice Bennett: 83 | Rosie: 21 | Combined: 104

lessons at Winsom Farm in Beecher, Illinois. At 78 I found I wanted to jump again. Steve Farkos, my wonderful trainer, had his doubts, but he let me try. I jumped for four more years.

I'm still riding lesson horses, and Rosie is the latest in a long line. She's a Quarter Horse who'd been ridden Western in a hackamore until she came to Winsom, so we've had to teach her new aids and a new way of going. So I say, don't stop doing what you love until you absolutely must. I hope to be good for a few more years.

Alice and Rosie completed Introductory Level Test B on July 10, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #572: Nancy Sherbrooke and Hondo

Greenwich, New York

Around 2017, I acquired my second off-the-track Thoroughbred, and one day he did a prop and wheel athletic movement and I ended up breaking two ribs and a lumbar vertebra. I didn't want another episode like that.

I told a trainer in the area about the horse who threw me. I said I'd give her that horse but needed a pasture mate for Fabio, my other off-the-track Thoroughbred. She thought that the horse would be a good addition to her stable and was happy to have him.

I signed over the papers, and then asked about the pasture mate. The horse was thin, almost emaciated—a bay with a blaze and three white socks. Evidently, Hondo had been a rescue and with her about a month. I brought Hondo home and learned more about his story. His owner had a stroke, and when she was in the hospital, no one knew that she had horses or took care of them, so the horses were basically abandoned. Hondo had been in a stall with no food or water for a while. Eventually, all five horses were rescued.

I slowly fed Hondo, and he started to gain more weight. By fall, he was doing much better.

I found out later that Hondo had been a Grand Prix jumper/field hunter. Through dressage lessons with a local trainer, we watched Hondo grow and learn to bend into corners, to go round, to balance himself better. He became quite a project.

I took Hondo to shows, starting at Intro Level, and we progressed as he grew in strength. He was doing so well last year at First Level, that I posed



Photo credit: Q2 Photography

Nancy Sherbrooke: 77 | Hondo: 25 | Combined: 102

a question to one of my instructors. I wondered if we could actually do a Century Club ride. Then I asked if she thought we might be able to someday try for a USDF bronze medal, which would make us have to excel at Third Level also. Well, old Hondo was doing so well that we thought we could train up to that level, too.

I had small hopes of getting the bronze medal, but figured the Century Club ride was going to be fun. Our Century Club ride ended up being our second 60%+ ride at Third Level at a recognized show with different judges, so it also qualified us for our USDF bronze medal on that very same ride!

Hondo is a fantastic horse, with great talent and a terrific brain. He loves his work and loves horse shows—you just can't find a better or more willing partner. He loves his peppermints and follows me all around the pasture looking for his treats. Recently we found he loves glazed donuts, too. We call him Hondo but gave him a show name of *Absolutely Fabulous*, because he is!

Nancy and Hondo completed Third Level Test 1 on July 21, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #573: Joyce Martin and Derawnda Ricardo

Brownsville, Vermont

I think I was born loving horses. I grew up in Boston, and as a child, I pestered the mounted police asking to pet their horses. I didn't get the time to learn to ride (with beginner lessons) until age 26 after my two sons were born. I then purchased my first horse, which was an \$800 Appaloosa. Toby taught me how to survive in the saddle! In 1972, I met Karl Mikolka, formerly of the Spanish Riding School, and that was when my riding education really began. Karl was my mentor for nearly 40 years. Karl died in 2019, and I still miss not being able to contact him and ask questions.

A small group of us started a dressage club on the South Shore of Boston, Heritage Dressage Association, which is still in existence today. In 1985 I purchased Forte, a Trakehner, as a two-year-old. I lunged and long lined him until he was four when Bill Warren saddle broke him. I continued training him with help from Bill and Karl. In 1993, I bought my next Trakehner, Lennox, in utero from Tylord Farm in Vermont. I did ground work with him until he was three. He was trained to drive and was saddle broken by Larry Poulin at age four, then I continued his dressage training. I imported Lindor, a Holsteiner, in 2005 as a saddle broke four-year-old. I enjoyed dressage on Lindor until he died in 2019. That is when my friend, Jenny Kimberly, offered Rick, a Morgan, for me to ride. Rick was not my first experience with Morgans as I had bought two Morgans in 1992, Flash and Flirt, who I learned to drive.

Rick (Derawnda Ricardo) has done almost 2,000 miles of competitive trail riding and 300 miles of distance driving. He won the Eastern States 100 Mile Challenge Trophy with Jenny,



Photo credit: Creek Dreams Photography

Joyce Martin: 80 | Derawnda Ricardo: 21 | Combined: 101

which requires the same horse and rider combination to have the highest placing in three of the East Coast 3-day 100 mile Competitive Trail Rides. Wilson Groves competed with Rick in the Live Oak Combined Driving Events around 20 times. Rick was in numerous sleigh rides in Vermont with both Wilson and Jenny. Rick won the Justin Morgan Performance Competition in 2019 and 2021 with Jenny. To win this competition the horse must win a half mile driving race, half mile under saddle flat race, and a ladies pleasure class under saddle. In addition, the horse has to win The Stone Boat, which consists of pulling a 500lb stone boat for 20 feet straight. He truly is the versatile Morgan Horse.

At the age of 20, I started teaching him dressage. So here we are an old hag on an old nag! We want to thank The Dressage Foundation for this opportunity to add dressage to Rick's extensive resume.

Joyce and Derawnda Ricardo completed First Level Test 3 on July 24, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #574: Nancy Sawyer and Frisbee

Long Lake, Minnesota

I've had a strong love of horses since childhood. I began riding bareback on my uncle's farm as a seven-year-old but had no formal lessons until moving to a small hobby farm in my 50s.

Khourismaar (barn name Frisbee) was born literally into my arms on May 4, 1998. Little did I know that this spunky chestnut colt would teach me volumes about understanding horses and their needs as he grew and matured.

What I didn't anticipate upon his birth is the multitude of challenges, physically and emotionally, he would present as his life unfolded. His extremely low IgG level (prediction of immunity) after birth necessitated a transfusion of IgG serum at one day of age. Though better protected, he tended to overreact to vaccinations and had frequent episodes of colic and allergic responses to typical allergens in his environment.

A kick in the shoulder at age two required months of stall rest. I added physical therapy to increase his range of motion and increase the probability that he would be rideable. Stall rest boredom was a clean slate for learning tricks such as fetch, pick it up, drop it, show me, and step on it.

Contrary to predictions, Frisbee proved to be not only rideable, but able to compete. His greatest achievement was that of Reserve Champion First Level at Regionals in 2015. This is despite being blindsided by the occurrence of



Nancy Sawyer: 77 | Frisbee: 24 | Combined: 101

an ethmoid hematoma (benign tumor) in his sinus in 2008 necessitating surgical removal. The stress and frequent treatment continued through 2011. This guy has proven to be not only a champion but a stalwart survivor.

A side note: we have a non-profit organization on our property (The Garden of the Sleeping Angels), serving families who have lost babies and children. Frisbee has shown amazing sensitivity and awareness to those enduring the death of an unborn baby.

With indescribable gratitude, joy, and celebration I rode a Century Club ride freestyle to the jazz brass version of Barbara Ann with my heart horse and friend, Frisbee. Thank you to judge Sue Vikstrom who awarded us a score of 81.33% with the comment, I honor you and your Frisbee!!

Nancy and Frisbee completed a First Level Freestyle on July 23, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #575: Cathie Sims and Ima Goer Cowboy

Princeton, New Jersey

Cathie Sims and Ima Goer Cowboy, a registered Appaloosa gelding, spent 17 years as partners in trail riding, occasional Western riding, competitive English pleasure, and dressage. Several years ago, they began learning classical French dressage, which excited and revived them after a five year break due to Lyme disease.

Cowboy excelled in Children's Hunters with a child rider in the same years Cathie was competing him in dressage. Shortly after their Century Club ride, Cowboy passed away.

Cathie is a pediatric nurse and former therapeutic riding instructor whose retirement allowed for those wonderful years with Cowboy; she is looking forward to more great years with her new pony. A second Century Club ride seems unlikely; but one never knows.

Cathie and Ima Goer Cowboy completed Introductory Level Test B on July 21, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Cathie Sims: 78 | Ima Goer Cowboy: 22 | Combined: 100

Team #576: Esther McGann and Dewey

Laramie, Wyoming

Before I had horses, I worked for over 20 years for the University of Wyoming Foundation in planned giving, then I resigned to open a private practice as a Certified Financial Planner. My husband is a professor emeritus from the University of Wyoming's College of Business. We are both the outdoorsy type. We hunt, fish, shoot trap, and hike. Animal involvement has been primarily with Labrador Retrievers, not horses.

We're fortunate to live in Wyoming and enjoy its beauty, majesty, and wildlife, which includes wild horses and mustangs. Mustangs are tough and smart and very much a part of Wyoming's history.

The horse I rode in the Century Club ride is a Wyoming Mustang. He has a brand, unique to him, given by the Bureau of Land Management when he was rounded up and then offered for adoption/purchase. His name is Dewey after the Dewey Decimal System and his birth year, 2000, is part of the brand.

I started riding about six years ago. Ignorant, but interested and fascinated by the history and majesty of dressage. I met Connie Woodruff, the owner and trainer of Dewey, and my teacher. She also owned the only store in Laramie that sells English tack, THE TACK ROOM. She gave me the opportunity to ride her Wyoming Mustang and to take lessons. Bless her to the moon, she must have seen that, while ignorant, I was



Esther McGann: 77.5 | Dewey: 22.5 | Combined: 100

humble and wanted very much to learn.

Connie and Dewey were meant for each other. He needed to be loved, trained, ridden, and to be brought to full health. Connie was his Godsend, and she says Dewey was her Godsend. Their bond will last forever.

How green was I when she took me on as a student? When told I would not be allowed to ride without a helmet, I showed up in a bright blue bike helmet! Connie has taught me everything I know. Through countless mistakes, lessons, and repetitions, I have learned to respect and revere dressage. Connie's first words to me about Dewey were about his kindness. Never had I heard the words horse and kind together. Now I know that I am forever blessed.

Esther and Dewey completed Introductory Level Test A on July 23, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #577

Shaaron McCabe and Tuxedo 'N' Tail

Elmwood Park, Illinois

I began my quest to learn dressage in 1993 on my beloved and wonderful Arabian, Wizard of Oz. Oz began dressage with Jennifer Kotylo and did very well. After five U.S. and Canadian National Championships, it was now my turn to show Oz. However, he began shaking his head and striking at his face; it was trigeminal neuralgia. I spent 10 years caring for him. In 2007, I found a place I could trust to care for him as I had, where he lived and worked happily until he was 22, beloved by all.

Enter Maurizio—a lovely, sweet, and talented Second Level Arabian/Trakehner cross. But from the moment he entered our barn, he became a super spook. I never came off, but there were close calls, and I became afraid to ride. I bought Cool Hand Luke, a remarkably sensible four-year-old Arabian/Quarter Horse cross.

Now and then Luke had a hitch in his giddyup. A bone scan revealed he had congenital arthritis from poll to tail. No adult could ever ride him again. Off he went to Equine Dreams to be ridden by children. Now I was 71 and having a real pity-party. But on July 4, 2014, my trainer's mentor called her and said,

We have to get this horse for Shaaron—he's perfect! They described him: Tuxedo 'N' Tail, 15 years old, a 17-hand Percheron/Paint cross, and schooling Prix St Georges. Sounded great but I said, Have you guys looked at me?! I'm 5'1" with short chubby legs! How am I going to mount him, with a catapult?!

But I fell in love! Yes, I need a four-step mounting block, but Tux has gaits that are good



Shaaron McCabe: 79 | Tuxedo 'N' Tail: 23 | Combined: 102

enough to score in the 60s and so soft it's like riding a big old couch. He is virtually bomb-proof, very sweet, and the perfect teacher.

Tux was very healthy until April 2022 when he began stumbling. He tested positive for EPM, but improved with treatment and was able to be my partner for the Century Club ride. It was a great party but bittersweet, as he was retired two days later.

The vet had said I could continue to ride Tux at a walk and at a trot very lightly. I began to do so, and he never put a foot wrong! The stumbling was gone! Our vet cleared him to canter in late October!

It has been a genuine miracle. Tux was off for nearly six months and needs re-conditioning but he's stronger every day and is happy to be working again. To say that I am thrilled is the understatement of the century. Every day is a gift, and we are having the time of our lives!!!

Shaaron and Tuxedo 'N' Tail completed Introductory Level Test B on June 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #578: **Bev Sloop and Parissa E**

Wildwood, Missouri

My life with horses began at age 28, and I now have decades of memories the horse world provided me. I hope to continue riding and showing as long as I can swing a leg over my horse.

My first competitions were local hunter/jumper shows while boarding my horse. After convincing my husband to purchase a horse property, we acquired additional equines, large and small. My daughter joined the local Bridlespur Pony Club. I soon discovered the fun of eventing and my husband, not to be left out, started to ride. He even rode in locally organized steeplechase racing on my event horse.

I was privileged to participate these past decades in hunter/jumper, foxhunting with the Bridlespur Hounds, eventing, and dressage. I am a long-time member of our local USDF Group Member Organization, St. Louis Area Dressage Society, and serve as a board member and current treasurer.

My Dutch Warmblood mare, Parissa, is happily sound, enjoys daily pasture turn-out with her mare friends, and is teaching me Second Level movements. I have just competed in my first USDF Regionals (Region 4) on my German Riding Pony, DBF Moon River, taking two fourth-place ribbons in First Level Test 3. I hope to show both horses next season.



Photo credit: Bethany P Photography

Bev Sloop: 75 | Parissa E: 25 | Combined: 100

I am thankful to my fellow riders and trainers at Quarterline Dressage and BZ Dressage for their encouragement and support.

You don't stop riding when you get old, you get old when you stop riding.

Bev and Parissa E completed First Level Test 2 on August 7, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #579: Neide Cooley and Liberty Bend Nicodemus

Sedalia, Colorado

I got my first Morgan horse for my 12th birthday. I showed her under saddle and driving until I left for college.

Fast forward 40 years when I got my second Morgan, a 12-year-old gelding. In the interim, my husband and I had raised our daughters in Breckenridge, Colorado, and worked in the outdoor and ski industry. In 2009, we moved to a ranch south of Denver. I had been borrowing friends horses for trail rides and had taken riding trips with my daughter all over the world—South Africa, Patagonia, Mongolia, and more—but now that we lived on a ranch, it was time for me to get my own horse.

Nic had been a show horse in both Western and English pleasure until I bought him. The transition for him to become a trail horse was not always graceful! Having ridden all over Colorado, he is now a fit and agile trail horse.

In 2010, I became one of the five founding members of the Western Dressage Association of America. I am proud of our work becoming a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, becoming aligned with USEF, and developing state affiliate organizations. Western dressage is now one of the fastest-growing disciplines in the equine world.

When not trail riding, Nic and I trained in dressage, both traditional and Western, with Frances Carbonnel. We won the Level 1 division of the Western Dressage Association of Colorado.



Neide Cooley: 78 | Liberty Bend Nicodemus: 25 | Combined: 103

We were scheduled to complete our Century Club ride in August 2021, but I had a stroke two weeks before the show date. After much physical therapy and lots of riding, we were ready to try it again in August 2022.

Dolly Hannon, USEF S judge, with such kindness and support, judged our Century Club ride. Dolly has been a dedicated supporter of the growth of Western dressage, especially the judge's training program.

Nic is an amazing athlete, strong and sound. After the fun and joy of accomplishing our Century Club ride, we have spent well-earned time on the trail celebrating our partnership.

Neide and Liberty Bend Nicodemus completed Western Dressage Level 2 Test 2 on August 13, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #580: Rita Dunn and D Grande Finale

Lenoir City, Tennessee

When I was five years old, I wrote in my baby book that I wanted to be a horse trainer. I did not ride consistently until I went to Meredith College and rode in their saddle seat program in lieu of traditional physical education classes.

I married an Army Officer in 1966, got my first horse in 1972 at Fort Ord, California, but didn't start dressage until 1974 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on a lovely Quarter Horse I had bought as a field hunter. I got to Second Level with the Quarter Horse and to Prix St. Georges on a big moving Thoroughbred that I trained.

For 35 years, I had my own lesson program teaching kids on my ponies, taught dressage to private students, and did much teaching with Pony Club as well as being head instructor for Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program. I was a USDF Certified Instructor and a NARHA Certified Advanced Instructor for both physical and cognitive disabilities. Along the way, a divorce intervened but the horse activity continued. In 2001, I retired from teaching and moved to Tennessee to be near my son's family, taking one horse and a pony for my grandchildren.

When I was 61, I was ready for one final horse and went searching for a German Riding Pony. In 2004, I purchased a just-backed three-year-old Welsh Cob/German Riding Pony gelding bred by Klaus Biesenthal that I named D Grande Finale.

It was my plan to have a horse I could do clinics with, but he turned out to be so much more. At each stage of training, he excelled and kept saying, "I can do more!" I earned my USDF bronze, silver, and gold medals, as well as my gold freestyle bar on him. I have also competed with



Rita Dunn: 79 | D Grande Finale: 21 | Combined: 100

him at Level Five in Working Equitation and have attended Cattle Working Equitation clinics. He excelled at that, too.

I have done all the training myself with much lesson help from Elizabeth Lewis Page, Gigi Nutter, and Jim Koford. Without their expert guidance, we wouldn't have had the journey we had. Special thanks to Susan Hill and Lynn and John Holtman whose help was invaluable over the years. Finale is only 15.2hh but has competed successfully with the big boys. He is my heart horse!

Rita and D Grande Finale rode Third Level Test 1 on August 20, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #581: Linda Curtis and Simon

Newbury, Massachusetts

I love horses. It is no surprise that my astrological sign is the archer who is a centaur half man, half horse. The summer I was 10 my mother signed us up for riding lessons. After the lesson, we'd sit on the tailgate of the station wagon and eat lunch in the shade of a tree near the barn. It was heaven.

Fast forward to my first job after graduating college when I actually had some money. A coworker said, "Let's go for a horseback ride, which turned into, 'Let's take lessons!' They were expensive! \$9 a lesson! I was hooked! I continued my Saturday lessons and added an after-work Wednesday lesson. There I joined Kate the nurse from Mass General, Robin the bookseller, and Betty the schoolteacher (and now Century Club member!).

I got married and we bought a house with a barn. The day after my daughter was born, I was reading the Boston Sunday Globe's horses for sale section from my hospital bed. I bought a five-year-old Appaloosa and named him Hobbit. We learned to event with Bill Woods and Keith Angstadt and did low-level dressage shows with Olana Laffey. He stayed with me through the second baby, as a pony for the kids, and all that raising a family entails. My final ride with him was on my 50th birthday.

I thought that was the end of my horse days but after Carrie put me on her new horse, I started to horse shop, this time using this new thing called the internet! Simon came into my life from Vermont about a year before my new barn was completed. Cindy helped me with the low-level dressage shows and he was terrific on the trails.

About five years later I had a health scare and I realized I may never do things earmarked for



Linda Curtis: 70 | Simon: 30 | Combined: 100

later. I quit my job and took my savings to buy Wings, my dream horse and schoolmaster. With a very patient Cindy, he taught me passage and piaffe. He could canter pirouette and excelled at flying changes. He was gorgeous and lovable. We were Second Level champions at Regionals, and earned my USDF bronze medal and Master Challenge awards at Third and Fourth Levels. I had 15 wonderful years with him. I miss him still.

Simon suffered a paddock injury last year, which limits our riding these days, but he continues to surprise me. He performed our Century Club ride better than I could have ever hoped for. Because of him and my village of exceptional humans, I had a day I can never forget.

Linda and Simon completed Introductory Level Test B on August 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #582

Margaret Holmquest and Buttercup

Pinehurst, North Carolina

My horse tale began in the summer of 1974 when we bought a small farm in Ringoes, New Jersey. My husband and I wanted our two children to enjoy a childhood in the country atmosphere. Little did we know that this was in the center of the Amwell Valley Hounds and Pony Club.

The day after we moved in, our neighbor welcomed us and asked if the front and back acreage could be used for a horse event. We had no idea what this was but agreed immediately. The following morning, we were awakened by the sounds of a John Deere tractor cutting the fields and a group of folks setting up small white fencing with letters. Who knew this would be the first of many dressage and three-phase events we would experience?

Shortly after, we acquired our first horse, Brownie. He was so patient with my daughter, Jen, and me as we learned to ride. My son decided early on that if he had to shovel the stalls and take riding lessons, he wanted no part!

Over the years, several ponies joined my daughter, and I bought a four-year-old mare named Honeybunch. What great care she gave me as I learned to fox hunt and do horse events. She became my daughter's trusty mount through many years of Pony Club.

As time passed, Jen went off to college and Honeybunch became too old to ride. For 15 years or so, I did not get on a horse until we moved to North Carolina and found McClendon Hills Equestrian Center. Samantha Southard has patiently worked with me as I try to relearn how to ride. Her horses, Casey and Buttercup, are treasures as I regain some skill and confidence.



Margaret Holmquest: 79 | Buttercup: 30 | Combined: 109

One of the boarders volunteered to have a horse show and Sam told me about the Century Club. What excitement! Aboard the patient and kind Buttercup, we entered. All the support from Sam, Jen, and my barn family made it a wonderful day! There was even a surprise party with cupcakes that sported 100 signs and horses!

Now energized and motivated, my daughter and I went looking for a horse that would let me continue to learn and trail ride. Enter Mojito, a 15-year-old Quarter Horse, who came to McClendon Center on September 20th. How very blessed I am to have such supportive family and friends, and I thank The Dressage Foundation for creating the opportunity to celebrate my age and horning experience!

Margaret and Buttercup completed a dressage test on August 20, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #583: Jerry Kleffman and Purple Rain

Shoreview, Minnesota

After being raised in a mining town, I did separate tours with the Marine Corps and Peace Corps before pursuing, what turned out to be, a variety of work careers as an engineer, teacher, registered investment advisor, and seller of commercial printing.

I am twice married with several children and stepchildren. My first wife and I enjoyed 26 years together before I lost her to brain cancer a week before her 50th birthday.

Unlike most Century Club riders, I didn't start riding until age 55, and my current wife of 29 years must take full responsibility. Early on in our dating, she asked if I would like to horse around, after which she promptly introduced me to Windy Ridge Ranch (WRR) in Woodbury, Minnesota, where she was taking riding lessons. On that first visit, I didn't realize the great opportunity and camaraderie that were about to open up for me.

After almost 30 years of riding and still hearing heels down, I can attest that WRR is a unique riding school gem. It is home to over 40 well-mannered schooling horses that are used in horsemanship, English, dressage, jumping, and eventing lessons as well as for gymkhana and trail riding.



Jerry Kleffman: 84 | Purple Rain: 16 | Combined: 100

Purple Rain (Louie), my riding partner, was foaled June 24, 2006, stands at 17.3hh, and is a gelded gray Irish Draught Horse. The Big Guy and I had a great time riding Training Level Test 3. The judge's comment, well matched pair, on our test paper made the ride feel even more special.

Jerry and Purple Rain completed Training Level Test 3 on August 28, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #584: Cheryl Holekamp and Windfall *PG*E

Ocala, Florida

For nearly 40 years I have been involved in the world of dressage, initially teaching basic levels to our young horses, and then in the last 20 years, I have earned USDF bronze, silver, and gold medals on Trakehner horses that my husband Tim and I bred. These same horses allowed me to earn all needed scores to progress through the USEF Dressage Judge Licensing levels to my current active status of USEF S dressage judge.

However, the truly amazing part of the $70+30=100$ equation is our beloved Trakehner stallion, Windfall *PG*E, who has had a long and accomplished career in eventing. Windfall came to us as an eight-year-old we purchased and imported from Germany after he had been produced to advanced level by Ingrid Klimke. Rider Darren Chiacchia and Windfall earned a spot on the USA bronze medal team at the Athens Olympics after winning individual and team gold medals at the Pan American games in 2003.

Windfall retired sound in 2009 and then learned a bit more about collection (a difficult task for an eventer) and competed at the Grand Prix level of dressage, first with me and then under our friend Jodi Ely, who earned some required scores for her journey up the dressage judge path.

Not only did Windfall reap the highest accolades as a competition horse, but he also sired many successful offspring to follow in his footsteps; in fact, selected mares continue to be bred with his frozen semen now. Our home bred Tsetserleg most closely followed those footsteps



Photo credit: Jayden Eckroth

Cheryl Holekamp: 70 | Windfall *PG*E: 30 | Combined: 100

by winning individual and team gold medals representing the USA in the Pan American games in Lima, Peru, and then became a Team USA horse in the Tokyo Olympics alongside another Windfall son, Vandiver, who also excelled in showjumping. As I am writing this, Tsetserleg is in France with Team USA preparing for the World Equestrian Games at Pratoni, Italy.

On August 31st, Windfall and I celebrated our combined 100 wonderful years of life. We trotted down centerline at the beautiful farm of Autumn Schweiss and were panel judged by USEF S judges Natalie Lamping and Jodi Ely.

Windfall has led us on an unforgettable life journey, and it is my great privilege to bookend his incredible career by joining the Century Club. Thank you to The Dressage Foundation for the opportunity for a final celebration honoring this amazing horse.

*Cheryl and Windfall *PG*E completed Training Level Test 1 on August 31, 2022, to join the Century Club.*

Team #585: Sarah Asby and Alusion of Fire

Lake Oswego, Oregon

On a sunny Oregon day in September, I rode my Arabian horse Alusion of Fire, aka Rocky, down centerline at the start of my second Century Club ride in five years. This ride was special in two ways. First, Rocky has been with me since he was born. Second, in the five years since my first Century Club ride, I had open heart surgery to correct a defective heart valve.

Rocky was born 21 years ago at about 1:00 a.m. on the morning of Mother's Day. I was able to see him being born since I was sleeping in the barn so as not to miss the event that I had been waiting 11 months for. The mare acknowledged him by licking him and nudging him to get up. He tried and tried but kept falling back. Upon talking to the vet, she said to give him a couple of hours to get up and if he did not, call her back.

Still, he did not stand, so the vet arrived and we sedated the mare, so we could get the first milk from her into the baby for nourishment and that all-important colostrum. Rocky still lacked the strength to stand up. I bought a supply of Foal-Lac Powder and spent the first night bottle-feeding him so that he would gain strength to eventually stand and nurse from the mare. The strategy worked and by day two he was standing and nursing from mom and was able to go outside and run around in the arena. The name Rocky was penned because of his Rocky start!

Soon after my first Century Club ride with my long-time partner, Benny, I was getting my annual physical when my doctor noticed a



Sarah Asby: 80 | Alusion of Fire: 21 | Combined: 101

strong heart murmur. With further tests, it was determined that I needed to have my ventricle valve repaired. The repair worked and today I have regained my strength and stamina to be able to partner with Rocky and enjoy the ride.

I want to thank Bill Burke, my trainer, who is also a Century Club member, for his encouragement and knowledge to make this Century Club ride a reality. Next year we hope to take Rocky from Training Level to First Level classes at local dressage shows.

Sarah and Alusion of Fire completed Training Level Test 3 on September 2, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #586: **Ethlynne (Lynne) Woodford and Master Doc Leo**

Olympia, Washington

I have been a horse enthusiast since I was a child, but I was not able to purchase my first horse until I was in my mid-40s. My first horse was a lovely off-the-track Thoroughbred named Sweet Tequila who introduced me to trail riding and dressage. I have ridden consistently for over 35 years and paired up with my current dance partner and best friend Leo in 2014.

Leo is a 22-year-old bay Quarter Horse. We enjoy practicing dressage, Parelli natural horsemanship groundwork, and an occasional trail ride through the neighboring berry fields. This last year, I joined my grandson in the United States Pony Club when I signed up with the Lincoln Creek Pony Club chapter in Washington State.

I have always enjoyed classical dressage and had the pleasure of riding with several talented instructors including Charles de Kunffy, and recently Elizabeth Tukey. Dressage allows me to truly connect with the horse while riding. I was very excited and still am about my Century Club ride at Summervale Prestige Dressage in Roy, Washington.

I am very grateful to my friend, Julie Peterson, who is an outstanding coach, show groom, and support crew. I want to thank my family and my friends from the Lincoln Creek Pony Club for all the support.

Ethlynne (Lynne) and Master Doc Leo completed Introductory Level Test A on September 3, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Ethlynne (Lynne) Woodford: 81 | Master Doc Leo: 22 | Combined: 103

Team #587:

Larry Siemiet and General Mighty Star

Canon City, Colorado

Larry Siemiet and Mighty joined the Century Club riding Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 3. After a career as a Navy diver for 27 years, this 100% disabled Veteran took to the mountains of Colorado to ride the Rockies.

In the meantime, Mighty was raising Larry's future daughter-in-law and many other students that were privileged to ride him too. All the years of supporting his wife and daughter through their dressage adventures made Larry happy to join in, riding his first dressage test to join the Century Club!

Larry and General Mighty Star completed Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 3 on September 10, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Larry Siemiet: 74 | General Mighty Star: 27 | Combined: 101

*Do you know a rider
interested in joining
The Dressage
Foundation's
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Visit www.dressagefoundation.org
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Team #588: **Beth Nicholson and Rico**

Boulder, Colorado

I have always loved horses. But despite a supportive husband and three daughters who also love horses, they were rarely in my life. All this changed when I met a horseman at a wedding dinner in Boston, and he insisted that I come out to the Walden Pond area and ride his new horse. Eventually, I agreed to give it a try. What Bill hadn't told me was that Chief was a 17.3-hand-high former Grand Prix jumping horse. Dressage lessons commenced and I got used to riding in an English saddle.

In 2005, we moved west to Boulder, Colorado. Chief had reminded me just how much I wanted to have horses in my life. At the age of 60, I finally bought a horse of my own. My wonderful trainer, Karen Whitman, helped me improve and move ahead with new horses as one thing or another would happen. I have learned that life with horses is highly unpredictable!

My current horse, Rico, is a Danish Warmblood who became my schoolmaster after a very impressive dressage career. He always does his best and tolerates my mistakes unless I tighten my knees—he hates that. He is a master of lead changes and makes me so happy when once in a while we can lay down a line of two tempis. But most of the time we work on all the basics and just have a good day, which we always do.

Rico and I would like to give a big thank you to all our supporters at Nighthawk Equestrian Center; to Karen Whitman, our tireless trainer; to Janet Foy for judging our test; and to The Dressage Foundation for making the Century Club ride a dream come true for so many of us.

Beth and Rico completed First Level Test 1 on September 8, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Beth Nicholson: 77.5 | Rico: 22.5 | Combined: 100

Team #589: Edward Woods, MD and Cold Mountain

Richmond, Virginia

Dreams Do Come True

I had a 50-year hiatus in riding because of my careers first as a Naval Aviator during the Vietnam War and then as a Cardiac Surgeon.

I began again nine years ago at the encouragement of my grandchildren on Derby, my 14-year-old off-the-track Thoroughbred who means the world to me. We fox hunted and evented. I never thought at 78 years old I would get to do these things!

I knew I wanted to event, but I did not understand the importance of dressage. I thought it looked stiff and rigid. I called my Marine Corps aviator friend whose father had been an Olympic equestrian coach. He said, Well then, you have missed the point. Dressage is everything. Dressage shows the discipline of the horse and rider as a team. Stadium jumping the athleticism of the Team and Cross Country the endurance of the Team! Then I loved It.

Derby became unrideable two years ago and I was discouraged. I thought my riding career was over. Then I had the most vivid dream of my life that I should ride a Percheron. I grew up with the story of my great-grandfather, who was born in a covered wagon, importing a Percheron stallion from France before World War I. I told no one of this.

Emily Kolokowsky, Oakdale farm manager, and Terry Adcock, the owner of Oakdale, knew how sad I was. They decided to bring Emily's 25-year-old eventing horse, Cold Mountain (Larry), out of retirement for me to ride. Jane Kelly, my teacher, thought it was a great idea. Brenda, my dear wife, heartily supported the idea.

A week after I started riding Cold Mountain I asked Emily, So what breed is Larry anyway?



Edward Woods, MD: 78 | Cold Mountain: 25 | Combined: 103

Emily answered matter of fact, Oh, he is Percheron.

I feel it is unfair to compete on Cold Mountain as he can read the letters and do the test on his own. I feel him energized as we approach the letters. People say Oh, he gets that from you. No, he does not. He does it on his own. We negotiate everything. On trail rides, we discuss where to make the best stream crossing. He is always right.

People would say that flying jet planes in the Navy must be the most exciting thing I have ever done. To which I answer, No. Riding my horse is. And it is true.

Edward and Cold Mountain completed Training Level Test 1 on September 10, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #590: Suzann Bobley and Fargo

Schuylerville, New York

I cannot recall an exact date when I fell in love with animals, and horses in particular. My parents took me to a riding stable where they rented horses, and they sent me to horse riding camps, but all I ever wanted was a horse of my own. It wasn't until I was married that my dream came true!

In the 1960s, when dressage came to the North Shore of Long Island, New York, I was in my 20s and taking serious riding lessons. A group of us, with our teacher, started Long Island Dressage and Combined Training Association. We went to shows and had fun. I had a beautiful Arabian horse named Azakoia, who taught me a lot.

The years went by, and I got involved in Thoroughbred racing, so my riding consisted of trying to make riding horses out of my retired racehorses. Eventually, we built a farm in Saratoga Springs, New York, and I concentrated on taking care of all the racehorses that we owned when they came off the track. We stopped racing in 2016. I now have all my retired racehorses living out their days on my farm.

When I turned 80, my friend Laurie Scott got me a 20-year-old retired pony hunter named Good Heavens, who we call Amy, and I got back into riding again.

I heard about the Century Club from another good friend, Mary Anne Kocon, and decided to try the test with my pony, Amy. Unfortunately, Amy's age caught up with her and she was not going to be able to partner with me. Again, my friend Laurie came through, loaning me her 23-year-old retired show jumper, Fargo.



Suzann Bobley: 84 | Fargo: 23 | Combined: 107

I could not have found a better horse to do this test on. Fargo has an enormous show record in the jumpers, competing in Grand Prix jumping classes and many speed classes. Fortunately, now that he's older, Fargo has slowed down quite a bit and has become a specialist at teaching young riders how to navigate jumping courses. High-level show jumpers are taught a great deal of dressage to make them adjustable and rideable between the jumps, so he knows how to do anything I may ask.

I loved preparing for this day and want to thank all my friends for the love and support that they have given me.

Suzann and Fargo completed Introductory Level Test A on September 18, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #591: Beth Roy and Sarina

Beemer, Nebraska

I have had a love of horses as far back as I can remember. I grew up on a family farm where I developed my love of riding from my father, Howard. He knew every aspect of how to care for horses, including being their farrier and veterinarian. When I was five, he bought me a Shetland pony named Taffy, and soon after, a part-Quarter Horse named Ginger. Taffy taught me how to ride, and Ginger and I could beat the neighbor boys at a quarter mile on country gravel roads.

Growing up in rural Nebraska, Western pleasure was the only way of riding I knew. I rode on our farm, worked with cattle, and occasionally rode in the local town parade. Then I went off to college, began a career that took me to the Washington D.C. area, married, and started a family.

For over a decade I was only able to find occasional opportunities to ride. At that point in my life, I had never heard of dressage. A friend who knew I loved horses took me to her barn in Maryland where she had a dressage horse. Before long, I started taking dressage lessons and later bought a sweet Thoroughbred mare named Obies Indy. After Indy retired, I was ready to continue to pursue dressage and started looking for a special horse.

I purchased a four-year-old 16.2-hand Dutch Warmblood named Sarina. She was imported from Holland as a broodmare because of her good bloodlines. She is a granddaughter of Voltaire. But it turned out that she was not suited for that role, and lucky for me I bought her. It was apparent early on that Sarina is an ambitious mare who likes to work. She has a lot of energy and is a challenge but fun to ride



Beth Roy: 78 | Sarina: 23 | Combined: 101

because she is very forward and she never seems to tire. Sarina likes to train, and in my opinion, is a classy horse. But Sarina is most happy heading out on country roads and riding in our farm's soybean, corn, and alfalfa fields. And yes, we fit in dressage work on those country rides.

We have taken dressage lessons for most of our 20 years together, first in Maryland and later in Nebraska. After I retired from a position in Maryland, I built a horse barn on my family farm in Nebraska and moved Sarina there in 2013. I started taking dressage lessons and working with a wonderful trainer, Shan Lawton of Omaha, Nebraska.

I am very appreciative of TDF for the honor of recognizing me as a member of the Century Club. I am now one of three Nebraska women who have completed this challenge.

Beth and Sarina completed a Second Level Musical Freestyle on September 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #592:

Ann Rubenstein and Jackson Blue McGuire

Auburn, California

Always a horse-crazy girl, Ann grew up in the big city and rode at stables, on family trips, and at camps around Los Angeles. At one horse camp, she rode for a week on back roads from Calabasas to Santa Barbara and then in the Fiesta Parade in period costume. On other family trips, when she was 13, she rode down the Grand Canyon and overnight at Phantom Ranch, then up the Bright Angel Trail the next day. Another time, she and her dad rode a five-day pack trip through the high country around Yosemite. She did the five-day Death Valley Ride with one daughter and the Grand Canyon ride again with both daughters. Ann is the mother of two daughters and has six grandchildren.

Ann is a retired attorney. She has competed in endurance riding and has completed four Tevis 100-mile rides in her 1,000 AERC miles with her Arabian, Schezzan. She has ridden 600 miles of the Trail of Tears with the Chief Joseph Ride, on drill teams, and in three Rose Bowl Parades on her Appaloosa, Sally.

With Jackson Blue McGuire (Jake), she has finished endurance rides, Riverside Sheriffs' Mounted Posse, Norco Sheriffs Mounted Posse, Cowboy Lawyers camping, day rides, Tahoe Forest Patrol, Folsom Lake Mounted Patrol, and gaited drill team performances.



Ann Rubenstein: 78 | Jackson Blue McGuire: 22 | Combined: 100

Training for Western dressage on her gaited horse with Nicole Schoppe, Jake and Ann have entered the Century Club with a performance at the Northern California Walking Horse Association show in Penn Valley, California.

Ann expresses her appreciation to Nicole for her help and to her husband, Jonathan Zerin, for his support for this crazy passion!

Ann and Jackson Blue McGuire completed Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 3 on September 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #593: Jane Wettstone and Tootsie Roll

State College, Pennsylvania

Tootsie Roll, my round and brown pony, has been the battery that has recharged my life. I had ridden Western, mostly Quarter Horses, as a teenager. My friends and I started a 4-H horse club so we would learn about horses in a good way. When I was 25, my folks sold our farm, and we sold all our horses. For 47 years, I was without a horse in my life.

My best friend bought her first horse, a 16-hand off-the-track Thoroughbred, and I went with her to all her lessons and to the shows as her groom. She thought it would be nice if I had a horse so I could trail ride with her, but I have a stiff back and was not able to get on a tall horse. Her trainer suggested a Haflinger because it would be small enough for me to get on and sturdy enough to carry my weight. I was lucky to find Tootsie. She is a Haflinger cross, a bay, but with the Haflinger personality. I got her for my 72nd birthday.

Together we have gone to a trail riding clinic with Patrick King, an obstacle course clinic with Gina DeSantis at Let's Dance Dressage, and a trick training clinic with Melissa Ashcraft of Transitions Equestrian. We have also been good about taking riding lessons twice a month. We have had various trainers who have helped us go from a disjointed, rough-to-ride pony and an unbalanced rider to a smooth-going pony and a more balanced rider.

My very first riding instructor was a Russian Captain at Pennsylvania State University and our current trainer is Sarah Liddick, a barrel racer. Fortunately for us, she has a strong background in basic horsemanship and has been willing to study dressage techniques. She works well with



Jane Wettstone: 80 | Tootsie Roll: 21 | Combined: 101

and understands this senior rider and pony.

Tootsie has been a willing partner and has helped me achieve my goal to improve our scores at local dressage shows each year.

The opportunity to do a Century Club ride has created the excitement and energy I needed this year to keep on riding. I have had a lot of support from the folks at Tadpole Lane Farm where Tootsie is stabled, and our local riding club, Keystone Dressage and Combined Training Association, as I worked toward this event. I am the first rider from our area to take part in the Century Club ride, but I am pretty sure I won't be the last.

Jane and Tootsie Roll completed Introductory Level Test B on September 24, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #594: Peter Martin and Rusty

Meriden, New Hampshire

I began riding summers as a six or seven-year-old when staying with my dad and stepmother on their farm in southwestern Pennsylvania. We were early Pony Club members, but I didn't compete. We took lessons, did some trail riding, and helped exercise horses and hounds (Chestnut Ridge Hunt was based at our farm). There was no riding while I went to college, medical school, residency, marriage, and divorce. I began dating and then marrying Lynn, who describes riding as her drug of choice! So, for nearly 40 years, horses have been a major part of our lives together.

Lynn got me into eventing, and I competed up to Training Level. I was fitting in riding, including lessons and clinics, while I was practicing OB/GYN and then specializing in infertility treatments, including IVF. On nearly every vacation we would take our helmets, and we usually found an opportunity to ride, from Australia to British Columbia to Chile. We moved from Massachusetts to New Hampshire in 1990. I commuted to, and continued to practice in, the Boston area. I was re-introduced to foxhunting and was hooked. After a few years, Lynn started hunting, and she was hooked too. We could spend more time on horseback than in the trailer (foxhunting vs eventing)! We hunted up and down the East Coast and bought a hunt box in Virginia. We hunted like crazy folks, sometimes four times a week, for close to 15 years, and made four trips to Ireland to foxhunt.

I stopped riding about two years ago except for the occasional trail ride. A month ago, after



Photo credit: Bambi Prigel

Peter Martin: 77 | Rusty: 23 | Combined: 100

watching the FEI World Equestrian Games in Denmark I asked Lynn if she thought I could do a Century Club ride. Why not? One of her horses, Rusty, was 23 and I was about to turn 77.

Lynn bought Summon (aka Rusty), her first dressage horse, in 2011. Over subsequent years, she slowly transitioned from foxhunting to dressage. Rusty is an American-bred Dutch Warmblood, home schooled. Lynn has done a great job with him, now schooling Prix St. Georges.

Lynn was a tough coach (aided by Iris Eppinger and Deb Dean-Smith). The team came through on September 18 at the Central Vermont Dressage Association schooling show, held at the Green Mountain Horse Association; I received a 64.828% riding Training Level Test 3!

I thank The Dressage Foundation for the Century Club, for getting me back on a horse, and for trying dressage. I'd like to do another Century Club ride, at a higher level, on a younger horse!!

Peter and Rusty completed Training Level Test 3 on September 18, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #595: Jane Helmboldt and Lazy Creek Mr. Jim Dandy

Woodstock, Illinois

Jane Helmboldt and her loyal Morgan steed, Lazy Creek Mr. Jim Dandy, joined the Century Club at the Fox Valley Saddle Association (FVSA) Dressage Schooling Show in Hampshire, Illinois. The show is part of the Illinois Dressage & Combined Training Association (IDCTA) schooling show series.

Jane and Dandy competed in two classes at the show: the USDF 2019 Introductory Level Test A and Test B. Not only did they earn entry into the Century Club, but they also earned high score champions among all adult amateurs competing in the show's Green As Grass and Introductory Level classes.

After Jane and Dandy's second ride, FVSA presented the pair with the Century Club's gorgeous black and gold ribbon. Participating with Jane and Dandy in the ceremony was the dressage judge, Jenna Strauss; Jane's trainer, June Pedersen; and show Secretary, Linda Holzrichter.

Jane, an IDCTA member, and Dandy have been regular competitors at FVSA shows over the years. Jane, a retired nurse, has loved horses since she was three years old. The first time she rode a horse was a friend's pony when she was five. As Jane got older, she would try to ride here and there whenever time allowed, but she did not have the opportunity to devote significant time to her riding until she was in her 50s. She first started working at a barn, taking a weekly lesson.



Jane Helmboldt: 78 | Lazy Creek Mr. Jim Dandy : 22 | Combined: 100

Then, 20 years ago, she walked into June Pedersen's barn, Castle Ridge Keep in Crystal Lake, Illinois, and everything just fell into place. After just three lessons there, June found Jane a perfect horse, a Morgan mare named Maddie. After Maddie passed, June located another mount for Jane, a Morgan mare named Stormer, which June bred. Jane purchased Stormer's colt, Liam, and June trained him to ride and drive. Liam continues to be Jane's driving horse.

But you ask, What about Dandy? Well, Dandy came to June's barn about a dozen years ago. When Stormer retired, Jane and Dandy paired up as a riding duo, and the partnership has been magical ever since.

Jane and Lazy Creek Mr. Jim Dandy completed Introductory Level Test B on September 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #596: **Lynn Kendrick and Shamir**

Phoenix, Maryland

As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child, it took the ladies at my barn to get me and Shamir to the Century Club ride. We were trailered, groomed, and pampered. I could not have done it without them.

I have been counting the years to when Shamir and I would qualify for the age requirement. I have been interested in the Century Club since trying to get my dear friend, Jill, to ride for it, but she passed and that never happened. I wish she was here to share this with me.

I have been riding since I was six years old with weekly lessons until my aunt and uncle won a pony at the local carnival when I was 11. Everything changed, for the better. From there, we graduated to more ponies and horses, to showing and fox hunting. At 15, I retrained an off-the-track Thoroughbred racehorse.

Shamir, a purebred Arabian, came into my life when I was going through a difficult time. He was just what I needed! Together we logged miles and miles of trails, paper chases, and the latest, a Century Club ride. Always the character, Shamir is 27 and I am 74 years young.

Thank you to The Dressage Foundation and the Maryland Dressage Association for their support of our Century Club ride. I loved every minute of it and so did Shamir.

Lynn and Shamir completed Introductory Level Test A on September 25, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Lynn Kendrick: 74 | Shamir: 27 | Combined: 101

Team #597: Diane Little and Slogan

Springfield, Ohio

I was born into a non-horsey family, a child with the horse lover gene and little opportunity to ride. My young adult years were busy with college, marriage, a child, and working to help my husband complete his medical training and military obligations.

At age 37, I could finally quit work and be a stay-at-home mom. I was bored. One evening I bet my husband that Carolina would beat Duke in a basketball game. I won the bet, and he bought me a \$500 Quarter Horse. Shortly after that, I bought Zane, an off-the-track Thoroughbred.

My love of dressage stems from a trip to Portugal with a friend. We went to a riding school to ride the Lipizzaner stallions. While there, I experienced riding with a full bridle and felt a piaffe for the first time. I was blown away and wanted to learn more. Unfortunately, there weren't many people in our area that taught dressage, so I mostly learned from clinicians and once-a-month lessons with Bill Fields.

On our 30th wedding anniversary, my husband gave me a brown paper bag. In it was a black bridle. He told me to go buy myself a good horse to fit the bridle. Little did he know that I would go to Germany to look for that good horse. Wolfgang Amadeus (Wulfi) was three years old, and I owned him his entire life until he was 27.

In 2019, after Wulfi passed, Bill Fields called and declared, Diane, I have the horse for you! I was very skeptical as I hadn't planned on another horse for myself. However, after meeting Slogan, I thought Bill just might be right. Slogan was



Photo credit: Lisa Michelle Dean Photography

Diane Little: 80 | Slogan: 23 | Combined: 103

imported from the Netherlands when he was 11 and went to a dressage barn in Florida, then was sold into Alabama as a 14-year-old Fourth Level schoolmaster. He had been retired for about two and a half years when Bill contacted me. I was given 30 days to try him, and it quickly became obvious that he knew far more than me. As he taught me, he started building more muscle. Soon he started looking and moving like a younger horse. When I learned we could do a Century Club ride, I decided to try showing him. It has been a dream come true to earn some scores at Second and Third Levels toward a USDF bronze medal.

Every rider should have a horse like Slogan. He is sweet, brave, patient, and obedient, and I'm so happy that we found each other. I would also like to encourage younger riders to not let their age, or the age of their horse, define their goals.

Diane and Slogan completed Third Level Test 1 on October 16, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #598:

Diane Berry and B A Imagination

Dryden, Michigan

Growing up in the city of Detroit was not easy for a horse-loving girl. Until about 10 years old, my exposure was going to Belle Isle and riding ponies and driving little pony carts. As I got older, my dad would take me to riding stables outside the city. I do remember fawning and drooling over the Twin Pines horse-drawn milk wagon delivering milk in some of our older neighborhoods.

Fast forward to 1971, married and with a baby put a halt to almost all horse activities, until I saw an ad in the Detroit News for a horse. The horse was listed for \$125.00, the exact amount of moolah I had in my Christmas Club account at the bank I worked at. You guessed it, I cashed it in and bought the horse. My total knowledge of horses back then was I knew which end to feed. Jackie Riener took me under her wing and started me on my journey. She encouraged me to take classes and lessons, which I did and still do. I started out saddle seat, moved on to Western, and was introduced to dressage by Jackie. My first formal dressage lesson was on my second horse, a half-Arab, with Carole Grant.

Over the years I've had a very broad and interesting assortment of experts. I'd like to give credit to Sue Sherry, Sandy Tull, and an assortment of clinicians. I spent years not just a few lessons with these people. The one I learned so much from as an older woman was Major Robert Borg, retired Army. Five years wasn't enough, but a stroke put the end to riding for a while. In fact, if it weren't for Sandy Tull I wouldn't be where I am today. She brought me back with patience and a horse I wasn't afraid of. My coach now is Carol Ley. She came to my home and coached me all summer before my ride



Diane Berry: 76 | B A Imagination: 24 | Combined: 100

in September so I wouldn't have to haul to her farm. I ride one of her school horses also.

I was very excited and still am about my Century Club ride. My husband made the small ring perfect for my outdoor arena, which is a grass arena. We had about 18 friends out and a party afterward. My judge was Nancy Brandt of Oxford, Michigan. Bonni Hazen scribed, and Chris Snow was ring-side reading. My groom for the day was Kara Van Hooser. B A Imagination, Ben, was a saint that afternoon.

In four years I'll be 80 and Merlin, my Morgan rescue, will be 20, so we're training now for the next Century Club ride. To all my fellow Century Club members, we've got to keep swinging that leg over, and happy trails.

Diane and B A Imagination completed Introductory Level Test B on September 22, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #599: Mary Wright and Banner

West End, North Carolina

To say the least, Banner and I have followed the “road less traveled” to finally complete our Century Club test.

My earliest memories include loving all animals, but especially horses. Born to a distinctly non-horsey family, I lived where horses were almost nowhere to be seen. There was one exception, however, when I visited my grandparents in the heart of Toledo, Ohio. Now I am really dating myself when I confess that the highlight of these visits was waiting on the street curb for the old horse that pulled the milk wagon.

After much begging, I was allowed to start riding at age six. The lesson horses were polo ponies who needed exercise between matches. The groom for the ponies was the teacher whose instruction consisted of stay on the ball, Mary. At age 10, I got my own pony (Tony the Pony), then later a horse, and spent the next eight years learning to ride by the seat of my pants.

I did not receive structured riding instruction until college and young adulthood. In my 30s I discovered dressage, but my life situation again precluded easy access to training. I was still riding mostly on my own.

My husband and I were living in the hilltop wilderness of Putnam Valley, New York, 26 years ago when Banner entered my life. He was the son of our very calm and gentle Morgan mare who he was supposed to emulate for my later years of riding. Instead, he was exuberant, pony-



Mary Wright: 79 | Banner: 26 | Combined: 105

smart, and very opinionated. After several years of trying various training methods for Banner, it was dressage that finally saved the day for both of us.

When Banner was 10, we moved to an equestrian community in North Carolina. It was the first time Banner lived in real civilization and had so many new challenges to experience. It was round two in his life of getting him settled and rideable.

Recently we have had the good fortune to work in dressage with Allison Cino, a very patient and knowledgeable trainer from our area. I am so grateful because instead of seeing this milestone as the end, I feel like this is a new beginning for Banner and me together in our advancing years.

Mary and Banner completed Training Level Test 3 on August 20, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #600: Sally Lacy and Concord River Rachel's Hope

Jericho Center, Vermont

Hope is my first pony, but not my first equine friend. My first two horses, spanning pre-teen through adolescent years, were gifts from friends. The first, Lucky, was a 17.2-hand chestnut sweetheart who cared for me as I learned to ride all over the rural township where I grew up. He kept me safe from Frank Sinatra, boys, boredom, and silliness. He was followed by a 15-hand Saddlebred, Ladybug, who continued my education.

Then a hiatus as I entered the world of education, employment, marriage and offspring, civic duties, and finally a 15.3-hand bay off-the-track Thoroughbred, Time Time, whom I boarded near the USET headquarters. I haunted James Cox Brady's old stables in Gladstone, New Jersey, watching the jumping team prepare for international competition (including the first woman, Kathy Kusner), observing dressage pioneers Hilda Gurney and Keen and Edith Master and Dahwitz prepare for the Olympics, and meeting Dr. Max Gahwyler.

I learned to be a sheep farmer and Border Collie handler, skills I worked on for 25-30 years. I loved it but kept my horse love alive at rental stables and a long trail ride in Scotland. I was with dogs in Scotland preparing for our National Sheepdog Finals trial when I had my first stroke (not recommended). I recovered enough to continue raising sheep and training my Border Collies for several years, but eventually shed that and moved to Northwestern Vermont, still attending big sheepdog trials in the UK and Ireland. There were the prettiest, friendliest ponies everywhere in Ireland, roaming the moors, coming to accept pats and blackberries.



Sally Lacy: 94 | Concord River Rachel's Hope: 21 | Combined: 115

While recounting this to my physician upon my return, he tired of my encomium and said, I prescribe a pony. There! I was galvanized to find a Connemara not too old and not too young. With help, I found a well-bred pony. She turned out to have a perfect name for what she brought to me: Hope. She is a 14-hand bay mare who hadn't been ridden in years. She proved to be an amiable, not ambitious, somewhat spooky horse. At first, I was too stiff to get on or off, but eventually, all those early challenges were met, and her true Connemara disposition prevailed.

I needed to learn how to quell motion-induced 'wobblies in my brain' left over from my first stroke. With concentration, relaxation, and practice, cantering gradually became enjoyable again. All seemed well until January 2021, when a second, more severe stroke came close to finishing me. Hope was called upon to be a therapy pony again. I have needed all my horses, from 1940 to 2022, Lucky to Hope.

Sally and Concord River Rachel's Hope completed Introductory Level Test B on October 23, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #601: Judith Spaulding and Applebee

Eugene, Oregon

Although I had always had a love and fascination for horses, my riding adventures didn't begin until my 58th year when I went to a friend's barn one evening. I mounted a large, one-eyed Warmblood named Calvin and found myself posting at the trot in a very dark arena. I was sold!

A few months later, I purchased a horse with a friend. Sampson quickly became all mine when he bucked my friend off. We spent glorious times camping and riding in the Oregon mountains. I had decided that dressage would be my focus, however, Sampson had an agenda that did not include dressage.

I purchased a Second Level dressage horse that was plagued with injuries, which required intense rehab and minimal riding. I kept both horses into retirement where they were well-loved and horribly spoiled and happy.

My true dressage experience began three years ago when Janet Mitchell came to our barn with a lovely, retired eventing horse. I began riding Applebee (aka Jamie) and fell in love with the horse and dressage.

Jamie is a tall, handsome Hanoverian Thoroughbred cross with a heart of gold. He's eager to go, confident, and patient. Janet completed her Century Club ride on Jamie in April and urged me to do the same. It was a big



Judith Spaulding: 75 | Applebee: 28 | Combined: 103

step for me as it was my first show and Century Club ride. It was a dream come true when I completed it.

I thank Janet Mitchell, Leslie Chapman, my current trainer Emily Park, and Silver Tail Farm for the support and celebration, my family, and all my supportive barn pals. Thanks to The Dressage Foundation for providing this wonderful opportunity for the mature rider and horse.

What a ride!

Judith and Applebee completed Training Level Test 3 on October 29, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Team #602: Kathleen Posthumus and The Hot Shot

Eden Prairie, Minnesota

The first time I met Hot Shot he was being ridden by his owner at the time, Janet Hendrickson. He was a big and beautiful Paint and had sky-blue eyes. This was at Cross Creek Stables in Cologne, Minnesota, where Janet was a barn manager. I signed up for some lessons that day, although not on Hot Shot. I used an available school horse, but I couldn't keep that big Paint out of my mind. When the school horse left the barn, Janet asked if I would like to lease Hot Shot. Without a second thought, I said, Yes, please!

After leasing him for two years, in September of 2005, Janet gifted me Hot Shot. In her words, she said, You belong together. It was the start of a friendship like no other. Heather Salden-Kurtz was the in-barn trainer at that time, and she used Hot Shot as a school horse on a regular basis. Hottie is a patient, polite, and generous teacher. He played a role in teaching many students to ride.

Hottie and I worked hard and did some shows. As a child, I dreamed of getting a blue ribbon at a real live horse show. Hottie made that dream come true. We also share long trail rides, swimming sessions, and cozy cuddles. He is my best friend who I trust, confide in, and is the keeper of my deepest secrets. Never have I



Kathleen Posthumus: 71 | The Hot Shot: 30 | Combined: 101

known of such a friendship and bond that he and I share.

A year ago, I was quite ill and didn't know if I would be able to accomplish this Century Club ride. I had thought about it for so long, but it seemed out of my reach. I am so grateful we were able to accomplish this ride together. I am so very blessed for each day he is in my life. He will always be in my heart.

Kathleen and The Hot Shot completed Introductory Level Test B on November 5, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #603: Lynn Fitch and Killian

Taylors, South Carolina

I have been horse crazy since birth! It wasn't until after college and marriage that I finally bought my first horse, an Arabian/Quarter Horse named Charlie. I learned everything I could by reading books and by the seat of my pants! My marriage ended and I moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I bought a farm, started a boarding stable, and started breeding Trakehners. I hunted locally and did lower-level eventing and dressage.

At age 50, I adopted my first daughter and moved to South Carolina. Over the next five years, I adopted three more daughters. I hunted occasionally and showed in a few local dressage shows. When I adopted my two sons in 2001, there was little time for riding. I sold my hunt horse, Jonathan, as well as most of my riding and barn equipment thinking that chapter of my life was closed.

After several years, Jonathan was re-homed to me in his advanced age, and the door reopened to riding. My daughter, Heidi, had an interest in jumping, so I went on the search for a suitable horse. I found Killian online in Kentucky. I saw a video of him and really liked his way of going. However, it took three months of looking at other horses before making the decision to take the trip to see Killian and try him out. He was ridden on a snowy, sleety day in an open field over home-made jumps, and he never missed a beat.

Two years later, Heidi went off to college. After 12 years of not riding, I decided I would ride Killian. Hunter paces have been his favorite



Lynn Fitch: 76 | Killian: 26 | Combined: 102

competition, and he earned Reserve Champion in 2018. Camping trips and trail riding are favorite activities as well. He can be headstrong and used to getting his way, but we have come to an understanding over the years and built a lot of trust. I learned of the Century Club a year ago. I thought it sounded interesting, but I believed we had been away from dressage too long to participate.

Through encouragement from my friends, Debbie Knebel, Sherry Wyatt, and Kari Tankersley, owner of Twin Tree Farm, Killian and I began practicing to ride a test. The November day of our Century Club ride was cold and rainy. While dressage is not Killian's favorite activity, he gave me his best effort that day just as he has on every other occasion. It has been a thrill to add this award to Killian's record of achievements!

Lynn and Killian completed Training Level Test 1 on November 5, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #604:

Catherine Mayes and Reine de Coeurs

Marshfield, Massachusetts

I was introduced to riding by my four-year-old son when I was 50. Mike had weekly lessons at a nearby stable. He rode Nugget, who was gentle and unflappable, the perfect horse for my non-verbal autistic son. When asked to do anything while riding Nugget, Mike always surprised me. He would turn himself completely around in the saddle for round the world, he could do multistep trail activities, and he would end each lesson cantering, sharing the saddle with his instructor. He said his first full sentence at the farm, which brought everyone in earshot to tears.

One day, the owner said to me, If you learned to ride you might better understand what Mike is learning and doing. A week or so later, I was partnered with Sugar. That was the beginning of an understanding of what Mike was accomplishing and how much better the world was on horseback. Five years later, Mike moved on to Pop Warner Football and I was off to a trail riding barn.

In 2009, I was introduced to a small brown mare named Reine de Coeurs, aka Hearts. I slid open the door to her stall, she poked her head out, and as I scratched behind her ears, I thought, There you are. I like to think she felt the same way.

Hearts had been recently purchased as a therapeutic horse for the autistic daughter of some acquaintances. There were some articles in the local newspaper about my work as an Educational Advocate and coordinator for a community-based social program for teens with autism. The family reached out to ask me to be their daughter's advocate. They asked if I would



Catherine Mayes: 77 | Reine de Coeurs: 23 | Combined: 100

like to ride Hearts with the understanding that after I rode, their daughter would join us in the arena and ride her pony. That was the beginning of my partnership with Hearts. Hearts, like Nugget, was calm and solid. Because she was such a good girl, I felt very protective of her.

During the next 10 years, I offered to purchase Hearts multiple times, but her family wanted to keep her. Finally, persistence won, and with my husband's help, we were able to make Hearts part of our family. For the past three years, every single day when I go to her stable, I can't believe my good fortune to have a partnership with this beautiful and kind little horse.

I hope we have many more years to enjoy each other's company and am thrilled that we celebrated our partnership by becoming members of the Century Club.

Catherine and Reine de Coeurs completed Introductory Level Test B on November 6, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #605: Laurie Dainer and What's It All About

Pleasanton, California

My parents met while on horseback and it only seemed natural that I would become a horse person. My first horse, a dappled grey Welsh pony arrived via Santa on my eighth Christmas. My pony was a pony, and I learned how to stop his running away with me by jumping off, holding tight to the reins, and hoping the weight of my body dragging on the ground would slow him to a halt. In turn, I taught my pony to rear on command while I sat on his back trying to imitate the white knight in those Ajax commercials of the 60s.

I bought *What's It All About*, also known as Alfie, in November 2001. My event trainer, Mogie Mueller, and I flew a redeye from California to Virginia to search for a new horse. We had three nights and four days to find a horse and it was on the third day that we met Alfie. He had three wonderful gaits, a great attitude, and loved to jump. A month later, in time for Christmas, Alfie arrived in California and became part of our family.

We quickly learned Alfie was a bit of a clown, goofy, and would scare himself whenever possible, especially when confronted with fluttering award ribbons and tumbling plastic bags. This year, Alfie has decided to become an escape artist, and we now perform double checks on the snaps and latches of his stall door and turnout gate.

Although I evented Alfie, I also took him to dressage shows. We frequently did well, even



Laurie Dainer: 69 | What's It All About: 31 | Combined: 100

capturing a one-day high-point adult amateur award. His talent for dressage also helped us in competition at horse trials. Alfie loved cross-country and show jumping but at age 19, I retired him from eventing. Through the years I've continued to ride Alfie on our ranch in Pleasanton. We are lucky to have a graded track, and when the ground is soft, I let Alfie gallop — he still considers himself an event horse.

Two months before our Century Club ride, I brought Alfie back to the arena to practice our dressage movements. My trainer, Kelly Mykrantz, patiently worked with me to get Alfie in shape. As I guided Alfie through the trotting serpentine and canter transitions, he moved forward with confidence, and I felt that familiar partnership we had formed long ago. It was as if Alfie was telling me, "Mom, I got this." And that was the best part of our ride.

Laurie and What's It All About completed Training Level Test 3 on October 30, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #606:

Kathy Jorgenson and Showy

Healdsburg, California

Kathy (nee Reinecke) Jorgenson has been riding since she was nine years old. In her early years, she competed successfully in the world of jumpers in Northern California. When she met some of the founding members of the California Dressage Society, she began training in dressage and even did a bit of eventing.

Kathy began rehabbing horses from the racetrack and developed a Thoroughbred stallion. She later sold him to France as a Selle Francais stallion. In later years she began to specialize in dressage, training horses and riders. Now Kathy is semi-retired but still breeding a few nice horses and doing a bit of teaching.

Showy, the true hero of this pair, is a 29-year-old pony that has done almost everything with everyone, and quite successfully too. As a schoolmaster, he was very successful in dressage, eventing, and jumpers. He has faithfully carried innumerable riders, including three generations of Jorgensons. He is the superstar of Yonder Hills Farm and just the best.

Kathy and Showy completed Training Level Test A on August 21, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Kathy Jorgenson: 72 | Showy: 29 | Combined: 101

Team #607: **Juergen Slupek and Doc's Drifting Star**

Cincinnati, Ohio

I was born in Germany and moved to the United States in 1970. In 1998, the year I turned 50, my wife and I started to take riding lessons. First at the Winton Woods Riding Center, which is a part of the Hamilton County Park system, then later at Old Stone Riding Center in Millville, Ohio.

One of the horses I rode in lessons there was a young Quarter Horse named Doc's Drifting Star. He is now semi-retired, but still sound for light work. It took the two of us only a short while to work together again for the Century Club ride.

Over the years, I have ridden Western, dressage, some low-level jumping, Western dressage, and even some medieval equestrian games.

Juergen and Doc's Drifting Star completed Introductory Level Test B on October 23, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Juergen Slupek: 74 | Doc's Drifting Star: 28 | Combined: 102

Team #608:

Christine Dean and Remington Steel

Apex, North Carolina

Although neither of my parents were horse people, I was born loving horses. My first documented ride was on a pinto pony that made the rounds for photographs. My parents said that I ran after the photographer and tried to buy that pony. My father was in the U.S. Army, so we moved a lot. My first riding lessons were when I was seven or eight when we were stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. I next learned Saddle Seat equitation when we were stationed at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. We then were transferred overseas, and I did not ride for four years.

I next rode when I attended Sweet Briar College, where I learned hunt seat riding and jumping. Then I went to Duke University Law School and was too busy to ride. I got my first horse, a Thoroughbred mare, two months before I married my husband, Joe. She later developed a cyst in a hoof, and I donated her to Auburn University for their breeding program. She had her first foal about the same time I had my first child.

I returned to riding after I watched my children take riding lessons, and knew I had to get back on a horse. A few years later I bought my second horse, a Thoroughbred gelding named Darby Glen. When he was about 24, in December 2006, I got my current horse, Remington Steel (Remi), a Friesen/Thoroughbred cross. I retired Darby a year later; he died at age 29.

I retired in January 2007 as an Assistant United States Attorney and began to ride more consistently. Remi liked to jump and was not pleased to be asked to lift his back and engage



Christine Dean: 75 | Remington Steel: 26 | Combined: 101

his core. We no longer jump as I do not bounce anymore if I fall. Remi is a very kind and forgiving horse, as well as beautiful. He also takes care of me and insisted I learn to sit up and not forward over his withers. Dressage has worked well for him.

Apart from the white on his muzzle and around his eyes, Remi does not look his age. My husband has supported me and read my tests for me. Doing a Century Club ride was a goal of mine, so I am happy to have been able to have now accomplished that feat.

Christine and Remington Steel completed First Level Test 1 on November 19, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #609: Marrilynn Samuelson and Abbey

Hilliard, Florida

I think that I have loved horses all my life but never had the opportunity to be around them until I was in my mid-40s. I started with Western pleasure and did not like being in the ring with so many other riders, so I decided that dressage would be a better fit for me. It is one horse and rider in the ring, and even though all eyes are on you, it is still way less scary.

I bought my first horse within a year and then a second and a third and a fourth and then sold that first horse because she was not a good fit for me. We bought another horse for my husband, but he started having stifle issues so we donated him to a Boy Scout ranch where he would not be worked very hard or often. I mean I fell head-over-heels for horses. Now I have only one of my own left, and he is no longer able to be ridden, so I am riding a school horse.

I have stopped and started riding several times through these years for different reasons, but have owned horses the whole time and taken lessons off and on through the years. I have been riding Abbey since about 2009. Abbey is so much like my Arabian mare in that she has always taken care of me and never put me on the ground.

I have found that dressage is very much a learning experience for me. I am learning new things every time I ride. The breakthroughs are



Marrilynn Samuelson: 77 | Abbey: 23 | Combined: 100

amazing. All at once, I feel connected, and then it is on to the next thing. I am not a quick study but when it gets through to me, I feel as though I have accomplished something.

I have, through the years, done mostly schooling shows at Training Level but my dream is to eventually ride a First Level test at a show. I may have to find a younger horse. My trainer is sure I will be able to do this next year.

Marrilynn and Abbey completed Introductory Level Test C on November 19, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #610: Barbara Kennedy and Noblesse

Georgetown, Texas

I was told that I began riding in the saddle in front of my dad at six months old, as he was checking fence lines. Growing up I was usually on a horse galloping bareback through the pastures of our farm. As a teenager, I competed in the local county fair in the pick-up race with my sister.

After a 20-year hiatus, I returned to riding taking English and jumping lessons at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas. In 1990, when our daughter went off to college, I began riding again and competed for a number of years in the hunter ring.

A transfer to Australia with my husband presented the opportunity to take dressage lessons with Julia Battams. I would return every two years to visit and learn more from Julia's lessons.

In 2005, I began riding dressage exclusively under Lurena Bell in Willis, Texas. She coached Casper and me to Third Level. Now I am in Georgetown, Texas, riding with Carol and Rich Schmickrath. Carol was generous enough to encourage me to ride her horse, Noblesse, for my Century Club ride.

Barbara and Noblesse completed First Level Test 1 on December 3, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Photo credit: Elise Kirk

Barbara Kennedy: 74 | Noblesse: 27 | Combined: 101

Team #611: Carol McKibben and Titleist

Cameron, Texas

Carol began riding dressage at age 55 and has earned her USDF bronze medal. She is a published author of some 16 novels and still works as a revisions editor for New Degree Press. She lives on a 27-acre farm in Central Texas with her husband Mark and assorted fur babies.

Titleist is a 22-year-old Dutch Warmblood out of Idocus. He is owned and loved by Cean Embrey of Leander, Texas. Titleist is an FEI Grand Prix horse and earned his owner a USDF gold medal.

Carol and Titleist completed their Century Club ride at Brookstone Farm in Georgetown, Texas.

Carol and Titleist completed Third Level Test 1 on December 3, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Photo credit: Elise Kirk

Carol McKibben: 79 | Titleist: 22 | Combined: 101



A Show for the Ages!

Austin Dressage Unlimited, a dressage club in Texas, hosted a Century Club Show on December 3, 2022. Four teams joined the club that wonderful day:

- Barbara Kennedy and Noblesse
- Carol McKibben and Titleist
- Carol Schmickrath and Ramiros
- Evelyn Davis and Pfighter Pilot

Thank you, ADU, and everyone who made this such a special day for the horses and riders!

Left to right: Carol McKibben, Evelyn Davis, Barbara Kennedy, Carol Schmickrath



Team #612: Carol Schmickrath and Ramiros

Georgetown, Texas

Growing up on a farm and ranch in South Texas, I was on a horse with my dad before I could walk. Riding working cow horses taught me to be loose in the saddle and feel the rhythm of the horse. I first sat in an English saddle when I was in graduate school in Denver, Colorado. A generous German lady, Elizabeth Wolf, let me take lessons on her jumpers and introduced me to dressage. She took me to see a dressage show and I was hooked.

My husband and I moved to San Diego, California, in 1973 where he adopted my passion for riding. We were able to meet Hilda Gurney and Keen at a demonstration ride and later watch Lilo Fore teach. By the time we moved to Midland, Texas, in 1977 we owned six horses. By good fortune, Franz Rochowansky (Rocky), came to Midland several times a year. We received our foundation for dressage from Rocky and were also able to import Dutch Warmblood breeding stock. While in Midland, we were able to train with Jeff Moore, who also sent Baron Von Blixen Finecke to us. Walter Zettl came several times a year to train. Then Michael Poulin took over as our main trainer.

Our next move was to purchase Brookstone Farm in 1984 in Georgetown, Texas. We were intending to move there with our breeding stock but took a detour to Maine to train with Michael Poulin at his farm for six years. Michael campaigned one of the horses we bred, Lighten Up Jack, at Intermediare Horse of the Year. Michael made the 1992 team as an alternate on



Photo credit: Elise Kirk

Carol Schmickrath: 77 | Ramiros: 26 | Combined: 103

Bombadier, a wonderful black beauty that we bought from Canada. In 1996 another horse we bred, Duke of Earl, was long-listed for the team with Michael aboard.

In 1995, we moved permanently to Brookstone Farm to continue our breeding and training. Over the years I managed to earn my USDF bronze, silver, and gold medals and have coached four students to earn their gold medals.

Ramiros, my Century Club mount, came to me via a student, Karen Holmes, who had to retire from riding due to a neck problem. I showed him at Prix St. Georges and Intermediare 1 before he retired as a schoolmaster.

It was such a pleasure to ride in the Century Club Show with three other riders. It is a testament to dressage training that horses in their 20s and riders in their 70s can perform so well.

Carol and Ramiros completed Third Level Test 1 on December 3, 2022, to join the Century Club.

Team #613: Evelyn Davis and Pfighter Pilot

Pflugerville, Texas

I've been in love with horses my whole life, but it wasn't until I turned 30 that I was able to actively fold them into my life. Even then they were last on my list because I had a young family, a husband, and a full-time job. It took another eight to 10 years before I could ride often and regularly.

I bought my first horse in my late 40s. Soon after that, my husband bought us a house with acreage so that we could keep my horse at home. We then went from one horse to five horses over a period of several years.

With age catching up to us, we started paring back to one horse until late 2021. Then I bought a new horse and both horses are with my coach and trainer, Carol Schmickrath, at her training barn Brookstone Farm in Georgetown, Texas. My older horse is a Dutch Warmblood imported from Holland and the new horse is a Hanoverian mare imported from Germany.

I truly believe horses are magical. They have kept me sane, happy, and healthy. Because of them I have met so many wonderful people along the way.

Evelyn and Pfighter Pilot completed First Level Test 1 on December 3, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Evelyn Davis: 78 | Pfighter Pilot: 25 | Combined: 103



Team #614: Madeline Young and Lionheart

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Ever since I was a small child, my passion has been horses: I ate, slept, and breathed horses even though I couldn't have one or even ride. That is until I was 22 years old when I bought my first horse, a Western Quarter Horse type, and learned to ride by the seat of my pants.

In 1983, when I was able to realize my dream of returning to horses, I began riding English and getting good habits! Dressage was a tool for basic education for me and my horse. Eventually, I found my niche in competitive and endurance riding where I competed successfully for a number of years. Now I'm retired but still ride for pleasure only!

A note from Lionheart's owner, Amy...

I would like to add that every horse person who knows Madeline thinks she is a total boss! She comes out and rides multiple times a week, goes on trail rides by herself, and generally shows up everyone at the barn in her dedication to her horse. Her own horse is not old enough for the Century Club ride, so she happily hopped on my 17-hand Clydesdale/Thoroughbred retired eventer to try him out, even though he is kind of hugely intimidating in looks (not in temperament though). She looks fabulous on him!

Madeline and Lionheart completed First Level Test 1 on November 19, 2022, to join the Century Club.



Madeline Young: 81 | Lionheart: 19 | Combined: 100

About the 2022 Century Club Teams



Number of Teams:

73 New Teams

From:

30 States

States with the most rides:

8

Texas

7

Florida



Oldest Rider:

Sally Lacy

94 years

Team #600

Oldest horse:

Sam I Am

33 years

Team #566



Highest combined age:

115 years

Team #600: Sally Lacy (age 94) and Concord River Rachel's Hope (age 21)



Popular Horse Breeds:

- 11 Dutch Warmbloods
- 9 Quarter Horses
- 5 Arabians
- 5 Morgans

Unique Horse Breeds:

- Sachsen Anholt
- Rocky Mountain
- Montana Travler
- Mustang



Applebee

a two-time Century Club member in 2022:
Team #556 with owner Janet Mitchell
Team #601 with friend Judith Spaulding



About The

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"I am so honored and grateful to have received a grant from The Dressage Foundation. Dressage is my life, and I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to grow in this sport. To me, continuing my education not only allows me to bring myself and my horses up the levels, but it allows me to understand each horse and their physical and mental needs more deeply. It also allows me to bring back knowledge and teaching skills to my students. Not only will I gain priceless tools for my own 'tool belt,' but also for each horse and rider I will help in the future."

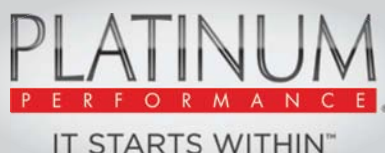
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Thank you, *Century Club* Donors!

We appreciate the individuals and businesses who donated to the Century Club in 2022. Thanks to their generosity, a ribbon and plaque were presented to each new Team, and this newsletter has been made available to you. Our deepest gratitude to all!



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Patricia Barlow	Linda Curtis	Sue Kolstad	Judy Seeherman
Maryal Barnett	Rena Evelyn Davis	Kate Kouba	Clare Sig
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Susan Becker	Dorothy Demis	Claudette Lawton	Diane Skvarla
Estelle Beemer	Barbara Doherty	Linda Lempe	David Smith
Diane Berry	Jeanne Doll-Peyron	Cathy Liston	Jann Smith
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