

Century Club News

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

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2021:
Celebrating
the Century
Club's 25th
Anniversary



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25 Years in the Making

When the Century Club was created 25 years ago in 1996, could anyone have predicted how popular the Club would be? The Century Club has become a bucket list item, a final celebration, or the start of a new adventure. The members inspire other equestrians— young and old alike— from across disciplines and from around the world.

Over 500 Teams have now joined the Century Club, but it seems like yesterday when we were celebrating Team #100. We have welcomed riders from nearly every state and even three Canadian provinces.

It is an honor for The Dressage Foundation to be the home for the Century Club. We are proud to know you all, our Century Club members, and share your stories. Thank you for letting us be part of your equestrian journeys.

We can't wait to celebrate the next 25 years.

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 1996-2021 can be found at www.dressagefoundation.org > Grants and Programs > The Century Club.

Team #477:

Pam Paul and Do Wah Ditty D. Do

Elk Grove, California

Although Pam grew up with a father who trained and hauled racehorses, she really didn't start riding until the age of 21 when her family ended up with a stallion called Mr. Mitsy. Raised in Pleasanton, California, Pam's family believed that riding taught responsibility, so the older girls would supervise the younger when they went to horse shows. She remembers going to Santa Rosa, where they would crash in the corner room at the Travelodge, joining other horse-crazy friends, some in beds and some in sleeping bags, after a day of competing! They made do with a strict budget, groomed for each other, and shared tack, all to follow the passion of riding.

In those days, Pam and her sisters rode Western pleasure. Her dad ended up with a Quarter Horse race cross named Canada Joe. He was really Pam's first "horse of a lifetime!" Canada Joe came to the family only having been ridden eight times and Pam really enjoyed training him.

Pam's job transferred her to Fresno, and she began reining cow horse and cutting riding. Another job transfer to the Sacramento area meant Pam would need to switch disciplines, as it was hard to find Western riding events. She started doing hunters and then bought a 2-year-old Thoroughbred cross named Luke.

Pam describes the next few years with Luke as years where she concentrated on "staying alive." Why? Well, Luke had a little bit of spook!

But Pam's luck was about to change! Switching barns and arriving at Clay Station Ranch, Pam met her second "horse of a lifetime." Saint Sadie, or "Sadie the Wonder Horse," is what everyone calls Do Wah Ditty Ditty Do, the horse she rode for her Century Club ride. Owned by her friend Kathy, Saint Sadie hacks



Photo credit: Stefanie Poole

Pam Paul: 72 | Do Wah Ditty D. Do: 28 | Combined: 100

were now available as a welcome respite from the shenanigans of Luke and then Pam's next horse, Cory, another wild and difficult ride.

Sadie is a gray, 17.1 hand Oldenburg by Diamont. She was ridden hunter/jumper initially, but Sadie has concentrated on dressage for the past 10 years.

Sadie is the "go-to" horse at Clay Station for fearful riders, riders rehabbing from bad accidents, children who want a pony ride, and adults like Pam who just want a fun ride with no spook. Horses galloping and bucking nearby, dogs tearing across the arena, screeching chickens, swarms of bees passing through the property, hail on the metal roof of the indoor arena, and pouring rain—nothing phases this super sensible horse.

Pam and Sadie completed Second Level Test 1 on January 30, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #478: Kathleen McCarthy and Manitoulin

Worcester, Massachusetts

I met Manitoulin, a Hanoverian gelding, in the summer of 2008 when he was 20 and I was 59. I had recently moved back to my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts, after my marriage ended and I was feeling in need of spiritual repair. The happiest I had ever been as a child was when I was around horses, but after leaving home for college I never rode in any regular fashion. I decided to see if taking it up again would help me get my balance back.

I found a stable in the next town and talked to instructor Linda Davis. She gave me a tour of the barn and then the arena, where she pointed out Touli, who was so graceful that it didn't immediately register that this was a 16.3-hand horse, maybe not intuitively the best match for my five feet and two inches—but it was too late. Cupid's arrow had found its mark.

It turned out there were other ways in which we were not perhaps ideally suited. Both somewhat skittish, we were often, and most inconveniently, skittish about the same things. But we just kept on, and the moment passed when I knew Touli was going to be permanently in my life without me even being aware of it.

With Linda and Kathy Eidam as mentors, over the next several years I spent many, many pleasurable/frustrating hours navigating the "peaks and valleys" that await any rider fully engaged in trying to become a better partner for her horse.

I was planning on retiring at the end of 2017, and so, girding for the possibility that Touli might be ready to join me, I visited Pinehaven Farm, a dressage training facility that offers rehab services and retirement. The qualifications and experience of the owner, Linda Parmenter, assured me that



Kathleen McCarthy: 71 | Manitoulin: 33 | Combined: 104

this would be a good choice. Linda put us in a rehab program, addressed shoeing and diet issues that were affecting Touli, and suggested weekly training—retirement, not! Under her guidance, we progressed into schooling Training and First Level work.

When Linda first told me about the Century Club, it sounded SO unlikely to happen. As much as I wanted to honor Touli, I'm an everyday rider, not a show rider. To my surprise, riding the tests turned out to be extremely rewarding. Touli was fully engaged, willing, and confident.

I am very grateful to The Dressage Foundation for making this profoundly satisfying experience possible.

Kathleen and Touli completed Training Level Test 2 on January 31, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #479: Gail Feeley and Tantrioso

Las Cruces, New Mexico

As a child, I always asked for a horse for Christmas. One year I even said, “If I can’t have a horse, don’t give me anything.” We lived on Long Island, and my parents were not wealthy, so there was no way that they could buy me a horse. My mother’s family in North Carolina owned a dairy farm, so in the summer I would go there and ride the work horses. When I was a Girl Scout, I earned every merit badge that had to do with horses.

I married, had three children, and started nursing school. My husband was then transferred to New Mexico. Most of our neighbors had horses, so of course our first Christmas there, I decided that the kids needed a horse. I found a nice quiet horse that was well trained and needed a home. On Christmas morning at 3:00 AM, I went to get the horse and rode him home, before anyone was awake.

I finished nursing school and got two more horses. My daughter competed hunter/jumper, my husband and I joined Juan Tomas’ Hounds, and I started taking eventing lessons.

When my husband was transferred to Las Cruces, I boarded my horses at Marilyn Isaack’s farm. We became good friends and went all over the Southwest to horse trials and to a cross-country camp every year in Flagstaff. I rode with Marilyn long enough to realize that I needed to be in the ribbons after dressage to win.

I went to a friend who was a dressage rider, trainer, and breeder in El Paso, Texas. I really did not see any of her horses that I liked, so she said, “I am boarding a mare and colt that you might like.” The colt, Tantrioso, could not even lunge,



Gail Feeley: 77 | Tantrioso: 23 | Combined: 100

but his trot was to die for, and even my husband said, “If you want him, buy him.” I was a little worried that he wouldn’t be 16 hands high, but by the time he was 18 months, we were praying that he would stop growing.

People started telling me that he was too big. They said, “You will never be able to ride him,” but by then I loved him and was more determined than ever. He loved show jumping, but he had a flap and needed surgery just to breathe. He had surgery, stall rest for two months, but when I started him back, it was obvious that he had developed scar tissue and his breathing was still labored. He had laser surgery and regained 80% of his airway. A good friend and trainer talked me into keeping him as a dressage horse.

Tantrioso has always given me his all. What can I say? He is my miracle horse. Now we just walk, trot, and enjoy the day and the journey.

Gail and Tantrioso completed Introductory Level Test B on February 15, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #480: Mary Anne Porter and Bennigan

Queen Creek, Arizona

My love of horses has been lifelong, but like so many horse-obsessed kids, there was little opportunity for me to interact with horses. I was born in Jersey City, the oldest of four children in a working-class non-horsey family so riding was a very rare treat, usually a pony ride or trip to a rental stable. TV Westerns, *Zorro*, *National Velvet*, and books kept the love alive, and I swore that someday I would own my own horse. That dream came true but not until I was 53. Riding for the Century Club fulfilled both the dreams of the kid and the goals of the adult.

Over the years, family and career took me from the East Coast to New Mexico, California, and Arizona. Riding remained a chance opportunity, an occasional ride on a friend's horse or a vacation trail ride. While living in New Mexico in the early 1990s, I developed a severe and debilitating balance disorder that proved difficult to diagnose and treat. Finally attributed to nerve damage to a cranial nerve, a physical therapist suggested therapeutic horseback riding as a means of regaining and maintaining my balance. I did not have to be asked twice to start that therapy! It soon became clear that dressage was the perfect match for me, and I have been in training ever since.

With the support of my husband Brian and daughter Caroline, I adopted my first horse in 1998. Since then, I have been blessed to have owned and loved several horses who have accompanied me on this journey. In California, I trained with Carolyn Bland who early on encouraged me to be the best rider I could be, and found my heart horse, Roman Holiday, a lovely Dutch Warmblood, now gone. On "Ollie" I did my very first show at the age of 61.

At the age of 70, I retired from UC Davis and



Mary Anne Porter: 73 | Bennigan: 27 | Combined: 100

we moved to Arizona. We were lucky enough to find ourselves living near Central Arizona Riding Academy and trainer Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz. I brought with me two horses, a lovely Iberian Warmblood, who happily found a perfect rider and new mom here, and a new horse, Prophet, an Arabian gelding. While Prophet was recovering from a suspensory injury, Dorie suggested I keep building on the progress I had been making by riding her older FEI horse Bennigan, a Swedish Warmblood she has owned for over 20 years. At 27, "Bennie" has the talent, experience, and temperament to help any rider do their best.

I found riding a Century Club ride to be a very gratifying and affirming experience, and an opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the horses and people who have helped me achieve balance in every sense of the word over the years.

Mary Anne and Bennie completed Training Level Test 1 on February 27, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #481: Elizabeth Lewis and Donnerhill P

Martinez, California

I didn't have horses growing up. Family folklore has it that the third word that I uttered after "Ma" and "Dada" was "horsie." Sadly, allergies kept me horse-less, but I was still obsessed, reading everything I could get my hands on. College, graduate school, marriage, and career dimmed the dream, although I still sometimes thought about it.

My husband and I moved from Berkeley, California, to the Seattle, Washington, area in 1978, got jobs, and settled in a horsey area east of Lake Washington. Driving past some lovely barns every day, the dream came back with a vengeance, and I thought, "Why not?" So, at the age of 35, I started taking lessons.

After six months of lessons, I decided I needed my own horse. I made the well-known beginner's mistake and bought a pretty one—a five-year-old, very green, Appaloosa mare. It turned out that she was not particularly kind, so I got dumped a lot. We started eventing, and knowing nothing about the sport, I tagged along with the teenagers who loved jumping and hated dressage. But the dressage fascinated me. The Appy mare was not amused.

In 1982 I returned to the Bay Area without the husband, and with the Appy mare who was in foal. I married my second husband who initially found horses "uninteresting." It was then that I bought my first "real" dressage horse, a three-year-old Thoroughbred. I started Sharkey myself, and he was a wonderful partner until he suffered an injury at seven which ended his dressage career. Around this time, the husband started getting interested.

Several more horses followed, and I found



Elizabeth Lewis: 77 | Donnerhill P: 25 | Combined: 102

myself becoming more engaged with the horse world and less engaged in the job world. A mystery lameness of our horse, Wyvern, had me looking for treatment options, and I discovered Electro-Acuscope therapy. I got certified to use the equipment, began building a therapy business, quit the job (with the support of my now very horsey spouse), and finally had a horse-related career.

We purchased a run-down ranch in 1999, named it Wyvern Farm after the horse above, and it has been a labor of love for 22 years. As good horses sometimes do, Donnerhill P ("Donner") came to me when I wasn't even looking. He was 14, rehabbing from an injury, feisty, and a chestnut. He had a local reputation of being a bolter and I loved him. We competed from Third Level through Prix St. Georges.

Donner and I received our USDF silver medal and had lots of fun doing it. Since that time, he's helped others get medals and generously offered to come out of retirement for our Century Club ride. And, yes, he can still take off like a rocket. Thanks, Donner, for everything.

Elizabeth and Donnerhill P completed First Level Test 1 on March 14, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #482: Randy Sparks and Master of Ceremony

Olympia, Washington

We started buying horses for our daughter Allison in the late 1990s, and Master of Ceremony (Mac) was our second purchase. I started riding with Allison when we bought Mac as a young five-year-old.

Allison and Mac competed in three-day eventing. In 2001 they competed at the North American Young Rider Championship in Chicago, placing ninth in the individual competition. They were also part of the bronze medal team.

They competed at the Intermediate level of eventing for eight years. After he retired from the Intermediate level, Mac was leased by several riders, taking them to their first Preliminary level events.

I took lessons on our first horse and eventually began eventing as well. I had several horses over the next two decades but didn't ride Mac until he fully retired from eventing. He then became my ride.

Over the last several years, Mac has been ridden at least five days a week; however, I was not riding at all. So I began riding Mac once or twice a week, with the idea of eventually aiming for the Century Club ride. During this time, we also competed at an unrecognized three-day event at the Beginner Novice level and Mac showed that he still had a lot of spunk left in him.

This new partnership was quite a change for both of us, one which we both enjoyed. We



Randy Sparks: 71 | Master of Ceremony: 29 | Combined: 100

began increasing the number of rides and tried to improve our fitness and accuracy. As the Century Club ride grew closer, Mac and I worked on the patterns and paces.

The day of the event was a big deal for us. It was made even more special by the support of the Century Club and Donida Farms in Auburn, Washington. With the support of Allison and my wife, Kris, we rode the best test ever. I won't say we were very calm, but we executed the test and received nice applause upon finishing. It was truly a high point in both of our riding careers that I'll never forget. Thanks all, once again!

Randy and Mac completed Introductory Level Test C on March 20, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #483

Jim Davis and Bennigan

Gilbert, Arizona

I was born in Pasadena, California, on December 28, 1946, and grew up in what is often referred to as “the Golden Age of television.” There was no shortage of Western TV shows in the late 40s, 50s, and 60s, and as a result, I was influenced by the Lone Ranger, Cisco Kid, Gene Autry, and others, all of whom taught me values such as honesty, integrity, and hard work. However, perhaps most of all, they encouraged a determination to succeed. That message must have resonated with me because I have been chasing dreams and aspirations all my life. I must say that my childhood heroes, and they were many, had a profound impact on my entire life.

My uncle Bob and godfather owned a body shop on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. Every year he provided front row seating for the entire family to see and enjoy the Rose Parade. In 1950 or 1951, I got an entire Hopalong Cassidy outfit for Christmas and wore it to the Rose Parade. Monty Montana, the trick roper, spotted me and threw his lasso around me. I promised myself there and then that I would have my own horse and learn to ride. At the time I had no idea that it would take more than half a century to fulfill that promise.

In 2005, my wife and I decided to move to Arizona because our son and firstborn grandson were there. We sold our home in California and moved to Gilbert, Arizona. Less than a mile from our new home was a small equestrian training facility. In 2010, I decided that if I was ever going to learn to ride it was now or never. I had never given up on that dream so I started taking lessons.

I purchased my first horse, a 15-year-old Pinto/



Jim Davis: 74 | Bennigan: 27 | Combined: 101

Quarter Horse named Andy in 2013. Sadly, just two years later, he developed eye cancer. The eye was removed but cancer had moved to his brain, and he had to be put down. My current horse is a Morgan named Oliver, purchased in 2016. In 2018, the owner of the facility decided to move. That decision led me to Central Arizona Riding Academy and trainer Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz. I decided that I had come too far to simply quit and believed moving to such a facility could only make me a better rider. Having dreamed of riding Western for 50-odd years, it took well over a year to accept the notion of riding in an English saddle. I will have to admit that decision has helped make me a better rider.

I first learned about Century Club from Peter Kalman, who has done multiple Century Club rides. With the loan of Dorie’s horse, Bennigan, I have finally fulfilled a dream and promise I made some 70 years ago. It was a long trail, but it has been more than worth the effort and the wait.

Jim and Bennigan completed Training Level Test 1 on March 27, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #484:

Mary Pearcy and Holme Grove Gresham

Aiken, South Carolina

I was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1946 and was infatuated with horses for as long as I can remember. When I was five, I begged my parents to let me sit on a farmer's big draft horse named Chickie Pie. And so it began. Once-a-week lessons turned into twice a week and summer riding camps, including riding my heart out at Trail Creek Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. When I was 13, I got my first horse, Diamond Jim. During the next five years or so, Diamond Jim and then Honeybear carried me steadfastly around many horse show rings, over many fences, and across the Barrington fields with the Fox River Valley Hunt.

In 1964, I packed my helmet, boots, and saddle, and went off to Skidmore College. There I rode with the Skidmore drill team (there was no intercollegiate equestrian competition at that time). After college, living in New Jersey, I only rode sporadically for 42 years while raising two daughters and working part-time, and making sure that they learned to ride too.

After my husband retired, we moved to Aiken, South Carolina, in 2013. Snow shoveling was replaced with more golf, gardening, and especially more riding time!

I met Holme Grove Gresham, who is most definitely the best horse I have ever ridden. Chris Derr had trained him in dressage and eventing. With me, Holme Grove Gresham added fox hunting to his credits. He became my fox hunting buddy and we rode with the Aiken Hounds. He carried me steadfastly through Hitchcock Woods and various other fixtures on hunter paces and trail rides. We also participated in the Horse



Mary Pearcy: 74 | Holme Grove Gresham: 27 | Combined: 101

Show in the Woods with Holme Grove Gresham receiving accolades as follows:

2015: Fox Hunter Hilltopper Reserve Champion

2016: Adult Future Hunter Champion, Hilltopper Reserve Champion, and Best Turned Out Hilltopper

2017: Hilltopper Reserve Champion and Judge's choice Hilltopper

2018: Aiken hounds Masters Trophy

Holme Grove Gresham has been my partner and has taken good care of me. It is an honor to have ridden him for seven years and I was proud to ride for the Century Club with him as my partner.

Mary and Holme Grove Gresham completed Introductory Level Test B on April 10, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #485: Janet Beals and Mavorado's Cisco Del Rey

Peoria, Arizona

I was born loving horses and took my first riding lesson at age seven from Mr. White at Skytop Stables on a small horse, aptly named Shorty. I took more lessons at Watchung Stables for many years in New Jersey and more lessons while in college.

There was a big gap until I began taking lessons again at age 45 on school horses with several great instructors. I finally bought my wonderful "Cisco Del Rey" on my 63rd birthday. It took having the time and means for horse ownership.

Cisco Del Rey has brought such joy into my life, and we plan to ride into the sunset together. He's truly amazing, and with our combined 101 years, both horse and rider are going strong!

Janet and Cisco Del Rey completed Introductory Level Test B on March 20, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Janet Beals: 71 | Mavorado's Cisco Del Rey: 30 | Combined: 101

Team #486: Margaret Rivera and Cruise

Hempstead, Texas

Born and raised in a large city in the upper Midwest, I never had a chance to be around animals, but have always loved dogs and horses. Every snowbank and fence became my own horse to ride.

After earning my own money, I bought a horse and just rode for the pleasure of being on top of a real horse. I became the first Miss Rodeo Wisconsin in 1962, but when I married and had children, my horse would be left behind.

Many years later, my youngest daughter, who inherited my horse passion, told me I needed to get a horse. I felt I was happy just being around her and her horses. However, one day we went shopping and Cruise, a five-year-old gelding, came into my life.

I started taking lessons to learn to really ride, to not just sit on a horse, and on my bucket list I put that I wanted to be in a show...and that's how it started again.

I am truly amazed and grateful, not only for all the people who helped me get to this day, but also for the number who came out to support me. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event always to be remembered and be proud of.

Margaret and Cruise completed Western Dressage Basic Level Test 1 on May 9, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Photo credit: Erin Roane

Margaret Rivera: 80 | Cruise: 20 | Combined: 100



Photo credit: Erin Roane

Team #487:

Susan Anderson and Nova Zembla

North Andover, Massachusetts

Yes, I was one of those horse-crazy kids. Growing up in rural Massachusetts, my girlfriend and I would try to ride heifers and a donkey; neither of which were very willing participants. My parents' common sense and financial situation kept actual horses out of my childhood. I satisfied my yearning by collecting every piece of horse paraphernalia I could. Trigger and Buttermilk still sit on my shelves.

It was then off to college for a nursing degree and a very rewarding career. There was graduate school, post-graduate studies, a professorship, a husband, a home, and horses faded into the distant past. Until one day a friend wanted to learn to ride and asked me to go with her for moral support. I did, and that rekindled all the latent horse passion. So, in my mid-40s, I took my first riding lesson. I chose dressage in part because I knew jumping and galloping through the woods was not a wise choice for someone starting at my age, but mainly because the horses looked so elegant and beautiful as if they were dancing.

I leased a school pony for several months and soon learned that this was going to be more challenging than expected. I persevered and was persuaded to purchase a horse. My rational self said this was an unnecessary extravagance, but the horse passion took over and in 1990 I became the owner of an appendix Quarter Horse, Bear Elegance. We went up through First Level and then I was told if I wanted to go further it was time for a schoolmaster. Along came Sidney, a 17-hand Westphalian who brought me up to Prix St. Georges. During our time together I earned my bronze medal, qualified for a Third Level championship, and accrued scores towards a silver medal. Sidney retired in 2000.



Susan Anderson: 74 | Nova Zembla: 26 | Combined: 100

In 2003, I found my current partner, Nova Zembla. He was seven and standing on his hind legs when I first met him. My husband looked at me and said, "Is that the horse?" I sheepishly replied yes and was certainly having second thoughts myself. It was a steep learning curve, but we persevered together. Together we earned Masters Challenge Awards at Fourth Level and FEI, culminating with a silver medal in 2015. Since then, we have been enjoying ourselves, working on freestyles, hacking through the woods, and planning our Century Club ride with the help of my trainer, Samantha Williams.

From my first competition when the judge told me my biological clock was ticking, until now, has been an incredible journey. Thank goodness my biological clock is still ticking, and I can celebrate with a Century Club ride.

Susan and Nova Zembla completed Second Level Test 3 on May 9, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #488:

Monica Brett and Alouette

Novato, California

I was born in England and always felt a compulsion to ride. I was mad about horses and suffered through riding lessons on unexciting “school horses” for several years before I managed to persuade my parents to buy me a Connemara pony. I’ve ridden just about all my life. I love trail riding and I used to love to jump and foxhunt. I moved to California and started showing Arabian horses (saddle seat) for several years.

I really wanted to learn to be a good rider and thought dressage was just the thing to teach me. I started dressage lessons on my Oldenburg/Thoroughbred in the mid-1990s and I was hooked. My friend, Marsha Haden, with her knowledge of dressage, supported and taught me so much. Without her help, I would have never gotten past Training Level Test 1.

I bought Alouette in Germany in the fall of 2009 when she was nine. Since then, she has been living with my two other warmbloods at home with me in Marin, California. The horses spend all day outside and enjoy frequent trail rides.

Over the years, I have taken numerous clinics with Nick Wagman, Christian Garweg, Jeremy Steinberg, Brian Hafner, and Jane Weatherwax. I showed Alouette through Intermediate 1 and decided to retire her in 2018.



Photo credit: Samantha Barbitta Piroette

Monica Brett: 80 | Alouette: 21 | Combined: 101

I started riding Alouette with Tanya Vik last winter. She was going so well that I thought of showing her again. Then I heard about the Century Club ride, and I decided that I really must do this last thing to celebrate my years of showing.

My Century Club ride meant so much to me! Quite honestly, it was one of the best days of my life. Although my Prix St. Georges ride was less than I had hoped, it was so much fun that I will never forget how it all made me feel. To be surrounded by fellow dressage riders and so many friends, it was an emotional day for all of us!

Monica and Alouette completed a Prix St. Georges test on May 23, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #489: **Marion Kimball Riese and Freckles**

Napa, California

My brief, but special, riding career!

Once upon a time, I lived on a family farm in Johnston, Rhode Island. All the houses around me were my relatives. The Kimball family was part of the history of Rhode Island. I sat on the ol' plow horse with my cousins, and we rode back and forth from the fields to be plowed and planted.

Fast Forward! When I retired from teaching, I sang with a major opera company for seven years, and then bought my first horse.

My riding progressed through the years. Upon our arrival at Christiane Noelting Dressage Center, and training with Christiane Noelting, came wonderful and exciting things.

I can ride and complete a test, WOW!!

The Century Club ride was exciting, fulfilling, and enriching. I know that I can complete a test and get a respectable score. What more could I possibly achieve? Freckles the pony can do it all.

THANKS, FRECKLES!!

Marion and Freckles completed Training Level Test 1 on May 29, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Photo credit: Tamara Torti

Marion Kimball Riese: 83 | Freckles: 22 | Combined: 105



Team #490: Mary Stack and Cary

Greeley, Colorado

Cary and I have been together since November 2003 when I purchased him from my horseshoer as a five-year-old. Cary had been born on a PMU farm in Canada. He is 1/4 Percheron, 1/4 Thoroughbred, and 1/2 Quarter Horse. When Cary was four, he was sent to a rancher where he got to chase cows and get a year of ranch work in a snaffle bit. I liked his looks, his way of moving, and his disposition.

Cary started dressage training with Jenny Baldwin at Autumn Hill Farm. The biggest issue was the fact that he had such a good stop on him from the roping he had done, that he had trouble with the concept of “forward into the downward transition.” But he learned quickly, and I later started working with Karen Whitman of Nighthawk Equestrian Center. I started showing Cary in Training Level classes where we did very well. Later we showed First and Second Levels, winning awards along the way, then up to Third Level. Karen showed Cary at Third Level and he tied for second place in the Third Level Open Rocky Mountain Dressage Society Championship class.

The most fun I have had with him was creating and showing musical freestyles. Cary was very good about it and didn’t mind my taste in music—ZZ Top, Boz Scaggs, and the Bangles. We earned several Freestyle Championships.

We each had issues which kept us from competing more. Karen and her staff continued to ride Cary and keep him in shape and fit. He has been a good lesson horse for others.



Photo credit: Samantha Kathleen Bryan

Mary Stack: 77 | Cary: 23 | Combined: 100

When I realized we would qualify for the Century Club, I wanted to try it. Last year I was diagnosed with aggressive Stage 3 breast cancer. I was treated with chemotherapy, had surgery, had radiation and when I had the energy, I wanted to start riding again. I’ve been riding since March of 2021.

I’ve loved horses since I was a toddler. My mother took me to riding lessons in place of kindergarten. I would not read any book that wasn’t about horses. I later took hunt seat lessons and was in a horse show when there was no such thing as riding clothes for kids (major alterations were required). I have owned several horses, I’ve broken a few bones, I’ve ridden and shown Western, I’ve ridden English, I’ve started a few young horses, and found dressage in my 50s. It’s been my dream to be the best I can be. Cary has been the perfect horse for me for the last 18 years.

Mary and Cary completed First Level Test 1 on May 29, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #491: Jacqueline Asher and Jerico SVA

Albuquerque, New Mexico

My journey started when I was five and my mother would take me to the Gene Autry Riding Stables in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

When I had my daughter, we would rent horses and take Sunday rides in the mountains together. I purchased my own horse at the age of 40, then the real journey began. All the following years have been filled with the joy of learning (both the good and the hard ways!) with my daughter Elizabeth, who joined me in my lifetime adventure in the equestrian world.

Throughout the years, we had adventures with jumping, cross country, mountain riding, and dressage. I was fortunate to find my “heart horse,” Mayra, who taught me many lessons and traveled many miles over our 21-year span of time together.

I thought my riding adventures and education were over with the loss of that special horse. My heart was broken, but my daughter still had her horse, and we needed to make a move to our current boarding facility so I could have the ability to rent or lease to continue riding with her. We both enjoy the journey that dressage offers to us at our own pace and levels, yet it is something we can do together.

I met Jerico SVA (Jerry), a gentleman of a purebred Arabian, who I decided to lease from owner Kayla Romero, never knowing that it was possible to fall in love with yet another gentle giant. Man was I wrong! Jerry was over 25 when we met two years ago and retired from a long-accomplished show career as a hunter pleasure mount.



Jacqueline Asher: 77 | Jerico SVA: 26 | Combined: 103

Jerry’s education was way beyond mine and it was rough at first, but it did not take long before we were bonded. With guidance, education, and patience from my trainer, Mariah Wilson at Platinum Performance Horses, we now have an amazing relationship. I still ride four days a week, which keeps my mind and body healthy and strong.

I am now competing with Jerry in dressage and loving it and getting high scores. I truly never believed I would be capable of riding at the level to show, not to mention do it well. That is the beauty of the discipline and why it demonstrates such an elegant sense of longevity.

When I am on Jerry, I experience the calmness of meditation, peace, and happiness.

Jacque and Jerry completed Training Level Test 3 on May 30, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #492: **Patricia Elder and Paint Your Wagon**

Jacksonville, Florida

I am 73 years old, and my boy, Paint Your Wagon, affectionately known as Tucker, is 27.

The first time I ever rode a horse was just before my 40th birthday, and a month later I bought an unbroken three-year-old. Thank God for Quarter Horses! A few years later, I bought another unbroken three-year-old, Tucker.

I love my Tucker, and am thankful we got to do our Century Club ride together!

Patricia and Tucker completed Introductory Level Test B on May 29, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Patricia Elder: 73 | Paint Your Wagon: 27 | Combined: 100



Photo credits: Diana Stevens Photography

Team #493: Eileen Leek and Silent Cynic

Blue Ridge, Texas

Eileen Leek was born in Yorkshire, England, on August 7, 1953. Her love for horses began with a Shetland pony named Sugar. It progressed to riding various English breeds all over the Yorkshire countryside and around the family farm.

After getting married, Eileen moved to the United States and settled in Texas. She rode at a hunter barn for a while outside of Houston, followed by an interest in dressage, and then eventing. Her first horse purchase in the United States was an off-the-track Thoroughbred. She then began part-time work at an equestrian therapy center, where she was introduced to carriage driving, and was hooked. Apart from teaching driving to challenged drivers and able-bodied drivers, she competes with a single and pair of horses in pleasure shows and combined driving. She rides her own horses and gets to ride Silent Cynic, aka “Magic.”

Silent Cynic, an off-the-track Thoroughbred, was purchased for Jillian Wilkison (daughter of Eileen Leek) in August of 1993, when she was starting to do eventing, United States Pony Club activities, and generally learn more about horses. He did everything from helping back at the racetrack, to hunters/jumpers, dressage, eventing, and anything else asked of him, including therapeutic riding for individuals with special needs. Never did they think that Magic



Photo credit: Caitlin Demura

Eileen Leek: 67 | Silent Cynic: 33 | Combined: 100

would make this age and still be able to do small competitions. He currently resides with Jillian, where he is the barn king.

Eileen said, “It was quite something when Jillian asked if I would ride Magic at the dressage show on May 1st, 2021, as through all the years, I had never shown him. I had ridden him many times at home for exercise and schooling. He was purchased for my daughter, Jillian, when he was five years old and she was 12. He had just recently come off the track and was a handful, but nothing she could not handle. He is still very talented and full of life at his ripe age of 33. It was a fun day and great ride.”

Eileen and Magic completed Training Level Test 1 on May 1, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #494: Kathleen Calhoun and Days of Future Past

Frierson, Louisiana

I was born and raised in England where my love of horses started very early in life. I rode every chance I got at a local riding stable and when I could, I rode my friends' horses.

My family moved to Northern Ireland in the 1960s and that is when I got my first horse. I spent many happy hours riding on the beach near my home in Castlerock.

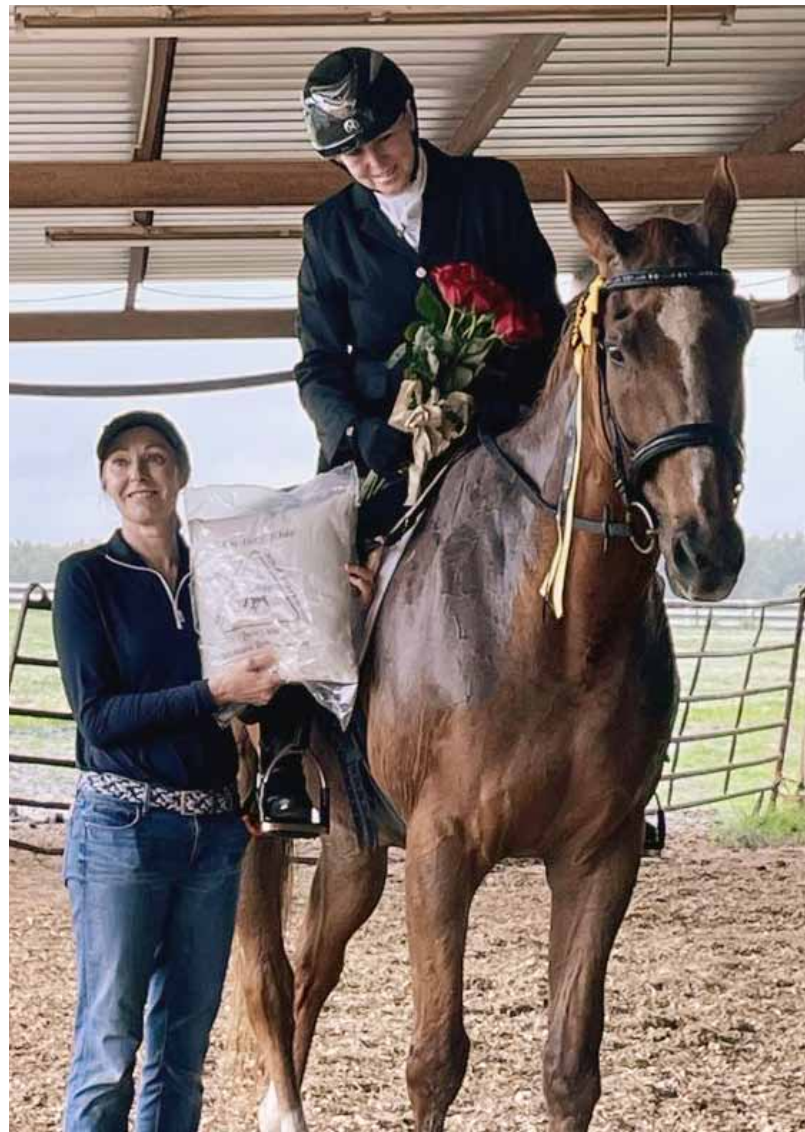
After I came to live in America, I continued to ride and even got my husband riding. We became members of The New Britton Hunt in southern Indiana. We enjoyed many exciting years with them galloping through the woods, flying over four-foot jumps and chasing the hounds for hours! We never killed a fox, thank goodness, but the chases were amazing!

My love of dressage came later in life and led me to meeting Days of Future Past (Chance). He was 17 and had started his career as a racehorse. He then went on to be a successful show hunter and later a dressage horse.

Shortly after I got Chance, he went blind in his left eye and developed skin cancer, which we still battle today. Through it all he soldiered on. We did many clinics together, showed in local schooling shows, and won a year-end award for a Pas de Deux. Chance is mostly retired now and is enjoying lazy days in his pasture. He is the kindest and sweetest of horses.

It was an honor to have done my Century Club ride on Chance (even with the rain pouring down) and I'm thankful to The Dressage Foundation for offering this awesome program.

Kathleen and Chance completed Introductory Level Test B on June 5, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Kathleen Calhoun: 71.5 | Days of Future Past: 28.5 | Combined: 100

Team #495: Joan Baron and Sailing Boy

Waxhaw, North Carolina

Joan Baron was born wailing for riding boots. An actual horse became possible following four years of college plus one year of teaching English to middle schoolers. Prior to horse ownership, Joan had had only two horse adventures: at Camp Green Cove watching her best friend being dragged by the stirrup up a mountain trail and riding double across an elevated active train trestle.

For 10 years, Joan created and then supervised a lesson program that grew to 300 lessons a month. By then there were five other teachers. These Gone to Ground Farm students competed on school horses in lower-level eventing, sporting the purple and navy farm colors. It was not unusual to take 14 school horses to an event.

It was crossing paths with Jim Graham, a USET member and participant in the World Equestrian Games in 1994, that moved Joan from fox hunting to eventing. Although eventing was a never-ending thrill, dressage became an addiction.

With the addiction came a Swedish guy who was trying to learn dressage to impress his still-in-Sweden girlfriend. He encouraged Joan to go to Sweden. "The horses are wonderful, and the prices are reasonable. My girlfriend will take you around," he said. For \$323 round-trip, Joan went. While overnighting in a grand old hotel, a message arrived that Erik Johansson had a horse in which she might be interested.



Joan Baron: 75.5 | Sailing Boy: 24.5 | Combined: 100

Yes, it was Sailing Boy, better known as Larsypooh. This was Joan's dressage horse. His walk was a 10! Being a Primor offspring, Larsypooh was sane and willing to work. His education continued throughout the years although Joan was swamped by having to run the farm and had little time for showing. Larsypooh moves actively forward, using his back and bending without effort. He is such a pleasure to ride.

At retirement, Larsypooh was doing Third Level work. Joan said, "My heart swells when I'm on him and I am honored to have had him in my life."

Joan and Larsypooh completed Introductory Level Test B on June 6, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #496: Barbi Breen-Gurley and Almar's Touch of Magic

Los Osos, California

I'm not from a horsey family. I was born in Upland (east of Los Angeles) and moved up to San Luis Obispo, California, after college. My late father had a men's clothing store and used to be a "golden glove" boxing enthusiast. In his early years, he owned and operated a steel salvage yard in east Texas. My parents have always been keen supporters of my riding. My dad got me my first horse when I turned 12—"Comet," a wonderful Arabian gelding. He was with me until he died at age 27!

I am now an active dressage trainer, competitor, USEF Senior Dressage Judge, and a USDF bronze, silver, and gold medalist with a freestyle gold bar. I own and operate Sea Horse Ranch BBG, a boarding and training facility on the central California coast. I am currently working with "Happy M," who, I believe, will be my 10th Grand Prix horse. He is presently in the top 10 nationally at the Prix St. Georges level. We qualified to compete at the 2021 US Dressage Finals but were not able to attend given some family challenges.



Barbi Breen-Gurley: 74 | Almar's Touch of Magic: 28 | Combined: 102

I am so grateful; my husband is 100% supportive.

When I decided to perform a Century Club ride, I rode one of my student's horses, "Magic." Magic is a Morgan mare, retired from FEI competition, who is now 28 years old. She has been semi-retired for several years as a schoolmaster, being ridden regularly by two lower-level students. I decided to ride her in Third Level Test 1, a test that would be fun and not too stressful for her.

Magic really enjoyed the experience, and my hope was to motivate others who may be over 70 to stay on their game and keep striving to do their best!! It was a fun day for all of us!

Barbi and Touch of Magic completed Third Level Test 1 on June 12, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #497: Mary Jane Alumbaugh and Cisco Kidd

Arroyo Grande, California

Although I always loved horses, it was only late in life that I realized my dream of owning a horse. Cisco Kidd and I found each other when I decided to take up dressage. Naively, I figured that I should find a young, untrained horse and we would learn together. Cisco was bred to be an eventer, which did not work out for him. He was looking for a new home as I was looking for my future dressage horse. And thus began our adventure together. He was such a stinker early on, refused to wear any clothes, and had great fun ripping blankets off. Occasionally he would decide that nobody was going to catch him, and that was that! He was so much bigger than I was used to, as I had only ridden Quarter Horses. But I thought, “What the heck, I’ll get used to him.” But Cisco grew, and he grew, and he grew, and when he was finally done, Cisco was a very big horse.

We matured in our dressage endeavor, and Cisco has turned out to be a solid citizen. Fortunately for me, he is the gentlest of giants. He is the sweetest boy and will do just about anything I ask of him. Though he is a spectacular dressage horse, he happily goes trotting into the ocean, horse camps, and is a trail horse extraordinaire! He will bushwhack through anything! Our favorite thing to do was a costume show in which he dressed up as the Cisco Kid and we rode to Santana’s music.

Horse people are amazing, aren’t they?! I cannot tell you how many people rallied around to help us do our Century Club ride: our trainer, Ellen Corob, who is always so patient with my fears and anxieties, and who refused to let me back out. My “ground crew” consisted of a lovely young woman, Sheridan, who trains Pony Club.



Photo credit: A.J.S.K. Photography

Mary Jane Alumbaugh: 81 | Cisco Kidd: 20 | Combined: 101

She groomed Cisco and babysat me with her three-month-old baby tucked under one arm, while her four-year-old twins acted as the “go-fers,” and her patient husband kept us all rounded up. And then there was my friend Tommie, who insisted I treat Cisco like a horse and ride.

I feel so sorry for people who do not have the “horse chip,” namely, all my kids. They tolerate my craziness but have made it clear: do NOT bequeath any horses to any of them! Fortunately, I have a granddaughter who is infected with the bug, so everything will be fine!

I know I am lucky to be able to do all this at this stage of the game, and I am so grateful that I was able to experience this thrilling accomplishment. I feel honored and fortunate to ride a Century Club ride with Cisco Kidd, and I look forward to many more years with my boy.

Mary Jane and Cisco completed Introductory Level Test B on June 12, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #498: Mary Sawyer and Unique Conversion

East Wenatchee, Washington

In 1995, I rode a couple of horses for a friend. Because I would not accept any payment, she transferred a Paint filly (Unique) into my name. I attempted to sell Unique as a yearling but was unable because of her excessive white coat. I kept her and leased her to another friend who started and rode her. In 2004, I bred Unique to a black Hanoverian. She foaled a very white filly.

In 2006, I had jumped Unique a little, so I decide to event her a few times. It was fun and Unique was very willing.

I let another lady friend ride Unique, and she did a Century Club ride on her in 2016 as Team #239. I rode my older paint gelding, Brokers Joker, in a Century Club ride in 2017 as Team #301.

This year I thought, “Well, why not ride Unique in a Century Club ride?” I started conditioning Unique over fences and in the dressage arena. In May 2021, I rode Unique in a three-day trial in Spokane, Washington, at Spokane Sport Horse Farm. We ended the trial in second place for our division. The announcer and farm owner made it known that we were planning a Century Club ride. It was a wonderful experience to have friends and strangers alike rooting us on during the competition.



Mary Sawyer: 76 | Unique Conversion: 24 | Combined: 100

Our local horse club, Appleatchee Riders, sponsors a small dressage show each year, so we entered to qualify for the Century Club. We won the class, and proved that older is better!

Appleatchee Riders has had four Century Club riders, all on Paint horses:

#239: Mary Jo Herkenrath and Unique Conversion

#301: Mary Sawyer and Brokers Joker

#341: JoAnne Percy and King’s Sunny Doll

#498: Mary Sawyer and Unique Conversion

Mary and Unique Conversion completed Training Level Test 1 on June 12, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #499: Leslie Palos and Ploof

White River Junction, Vermont

Leslie says she didn't have a Century Club ride fixed as a goal; "Who wants to be this old?" she says with a laugh. But once she and her horse, Ploof, approached the magic numbers, she started to think about it.

It's something of a surprise that Leslie is riding at all. Though she began riding as a kid in Japan where her father was stationed and rode for most of her life, she quit in 2003 when she had to put down her beloved event horse, Mystic Quest. She and Mystic won Area 1 Training Level "Horse of the Year" in 1992.

Leslie sold her trailer and her tack, but a stray lead rope led her back to the saddle in 2011. Someone needed a rope, so Leslie pulled the old lead out of the trunk of her car, which prompted the question: "Oh, you ride?" The subsequent conversation rekindled her passion, and she decided to take "a few" lessons. The school horse she rode was Ploof.

Ploof was something of a challenge when Leslie happened upon him. Even though he was 18, he was too hot for most of the students to ride. Still, there was something. So, when Leslie learned he was going to be sold, she was determined to take him on and attempt to transform the older, inverted, spooky fellow.

Leslie thought he might make a good trail horse, but he spooked at everything. She started training him to hack by walking him a short distance down a dirt road from the barn to a telephone pole and back. And then to a second telephone pole, and so on, for months. Today, 10 years later, Leslie hacks Ploof all over the trails



Leslie Palos: 72 | Ploof: 28 | Combined: 100

and he has become a reliable babysitter for young or spooky horses.

Dressage? Never! Or so said several people who knew the horse. Leslie persevered. Ploof overcame horse anxiety to compete for the first time about a year after Leslie's first ride on him. She and Ploof went down the centerline in an Opportunity Training Level class and they won.

Since then, Leslie and Ploof have successfully competed at First Level at several shows. Leslie credits their success and longevity to the "village" of people that have helped Leslie expand her dressage intelligence, including Sally Swift and her Centered Riding concept, and the trainers, veterinarians, and barn managers who have kept Ploof happy and healthy. Leslie believes the increasing number of Century Club rides is a testament to the growing sophistication of equine medicine, which keeps horses healthy longer.

Leslie and Ploof completed First Level Test 1 on June 19, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #500: Helene Dellechiaie and Finnian's Chase

Oak Ridge, New Jersey

As a child growing up in the Bronx, New York, my dad would take me to the Bronx Zoo every Sunday for pony rides. With *Annie Oakley*, *Fury*, *Flicka*, and *Roy Rogers* on television, all I ever wanted was a horse of my own. I entered every contest to win Trigger babies and Lassie puppies. At age 35, I fulfilled my fantasy and purchased my first Quarter Horse.

Finn and I began our journey 26 years ago. After returning from a riding vacation across Ireland, I knew a Connemara had to be part of my life. I had the good fortune of contacting Ginny Winkler to help with the search. Finn was a three-year-old bay gelding who was looking for his human. We made it through the hellion years and at 10 decided to give dressage a try. We danced our way through American Connemara Pony Society (ACPS) bronze, silver, and in 2008, gold medals. In 2012, we won The Cajun Billy Bert Vintage (age 20 or older) High Score Dressage Award.

According to the Chinese calendar, 2014 was the Year of the Horse, and for Finn and me it turned out to be "Horse of the Year." In Lexington, Kentucky, Finn received three National Horse of the Year awards from U.S. Equestrian, a 3rd place in English Pleasure Hunter Seat, 3rd place in Half-Connemara Hunter, and 4th place in Half-Connemara Dressage. In addition, we received the ACPS Award of Excellence Dressage, New Jersey Horse Show Association High Score Reserve Champion Pleasure Horse Award, New Jersey Professional Horseman's Association 3rd place Pleasure Horse



Helene Dellechiaie: 71 | Finnian's Chase: 29 | Combined: 100

Award, as well as my receiving the United States Dressage Federation's Master Challenge Award. At the 78th Annual Sussex County Horse Show, where new breed classes included Connemaras, we achieved the Championship after a clean sweep of the Connemara Pleasure Classes.

Finn was diagnosed with "kissing spine" in 2015 and for the past six years my dance partner and I have spent time smelling the flowers, enjoying trail rides, and happily working lateral movements in the dressage ring. I would like to thank my husband Phil for his unrelenting support of my passion and my trainers, Kara Stark McGrew and Suzanne Marshall, for their patience teaching Finn and me how to dance.

Helene and Finn completed Introductory Level Test A on June 26, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #501: Judy Beckman and Clara Ann

Ashville, Ohio

Growing up in suburban New York, I didn't have much opportunity to be around horses. One summer my mother took me for some introductory riding lessons (hunt seat) at a stable within driving distance, and I was hooked.

When my family moved to a farm in Ohio, my non-horsey parents got my brother and me each a horse of our own. It was heaven! We knew nothing and learned everything from books. Then we joined 4-H; since my brother had always wanted to be a cowboy, he joined a Western horse club, but I wanted to do hunt seat and learn how to jump. The only English 4-H club was saddleseat, so I joined that and was the only hunt seat rider. My horse was an off-the-track Thoroughbred named Master Edged and I loved him dearly.

When I went off to college, Master stayed home, and my brother took care of him until Master passed away. Then began my hiatus from riding while I focused on my education and subsequent career as an artist and educator. Twenty years later, married and with two toddlers, horses re-entered my life in the form of two older mares acquired from a riding stable. Lady and Miss B became our family horses.

My daughters joined 4-H and then United States Pony Club and moved on to more advanced horses. I was chauffeuring them to competitions, lessons, and Pony Club meetings, when finally, a light came on and I realized I could do this too! So, I began my first real riding lessons and eventing career in my 50s with a lovely Pony of the Americas, Blake Bright, who is now retired from eventing but I still own.

A friend knew I was looking for a new horse



Photo credit: Reality Studios Photography

Judy Beckman: 70 | Clara Ann: 31 | Combined: 101

and mentioned that there was a gelding at Last Chance Corral rescue in Athens, Ohio, that she thought I should go see. My daughter and I set off to see him. After trying him, the director of Last Chance suggested we try a mare she had as well. I had my daughter ride her first as the guinea pig, and then I did, and that was that. Clara Ann (Bella) was coming home with me!

Bella is an off-the-track Thoroughbred that the rescue said had been used as a children's hunter and had had a foal, but that was all that was known. She was 17 when I got her; she is now 31. I retired her from eventing at age 28. She still loves to trail ride and perform in the dressage ring. Although she looks longingly at the stadium and cross-country jumps, she has earned her retirement by being a faithful friend and partner for 14 years and counting.

Judy and Bella completed Introductory Level Test B on July 3, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #502: Janet Bostelmann and Joselito D

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Janet was born in Chicago into a large family where education was a priority, but there were no spare funds for luxury items such as horseback riding. Janet attended St. Xavier College, and then DePaul University for her Master's in Accounting. After college, she had several management positions before working as a Systems Engineer with IBM. During her 25-year career there, Janet advanced through the ranks to Global Internet Marketing Program Manager before retiring and starting her own business. Despite a demanding travel schedule and workload over the years, Janet always made time for staying fit and considers her completion of the Chicago Marathon a momentous event in her life.

In 2000, Janet and her husband, Horst, moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Immediately upon her retirement from IBM in 2002, Janet went back to school, completing the Fashion Design program at Santa Fe Community College, where she honed the seamstress skills she had learned as a child. For relaxation, she hiked in the Santa Fe mountains and other parts of the West with friends. Although for many years she played competitive USTA tennis and served as team captain, a hand injury ended her tennis days. That provided the impetus for her to return to one of her first loves, horses.

It was the week of her 71st birthday when Janet took her first riding lesson. Her lesson was scheduled with Andrea Vassallo, owner and trainer extraordinaire. At this point in her life, Janet had only been on a horse for a few vacation trail rides and was eager to get comfortable on



Janet Bostelmann: 74 | Joselito D: 26 | Combined: 100

horseback in preparation for her upcoming week at a dude ranch in Wyoming.

To her good fortune, the horse Janet would ride for her first lesson was Joselito, a 23-year-old Andalusian. Joselito's sire had competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and was purchased by a Texas breeder who brought him to the United States. Joselito was used as a breeding stallion for the first 12 years of his life, and amazingly, did not begin to train in dressage until the age of 15.

After about four to six months on the lunge line, Janet was riding around the arena on Joselito, who was now available to her full-time. During the three-plus years of lessons, Janet and Joselito have formed a bond that has forever enriched both their lives.

Janet and Joselito completed Training Level Test 3 on July 11, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #503: Marilyn Cantey and Fiona A.F.

Santa Cruz, California

I am really, really lucky to have this wonderful mare and it was pure chance that I have her at all. I had sent a check to UC Davis honoring Dr. Martin Vidal, an equine surgeon there at the time, thanking him for all the work he had done for my big Hanoverian/Thoroughbred jumper, “Sport.”

Sport had been diagnosed with an incurable neurological disease by other specialists, and I had just trailered Sport back to Santa Cruz when Martin called that very afternoon. I asked how he had heard about Sport’s diagnosis so quickly and told him I was looking for another horse because Sport couldn’t be ridden anymore. Martin hadn’t heard a word about that but mentioned that he did have a horse for sale. He and a friend were into polo and Fiona is NOT a polo pony!

This horse turned out to be Fiona A.F. (Arkenfield Farm), a big 16.3-hand 10-year-old white Dutch Warmblood mare. My trainer and I drove to eastern California to check her out and fell in love with her. She has a difficult left lead canter which I wasn’t sitting very well, and I wondered what Martin thought of me as a rider. But Miss Fiona didn’t seem to care a bit about my bouncing around, and my trainer said, “Oh, Marilyn! Buy this horse!”

Miss Fiona is truly and literally a “one-in-a-thousand” horse. She bonds with people, greets me with nickers when she sees me, and follows me around like a puppy. She is so affectionate.



Marilyn Cantey: 83 | Fiona A.F.: 17 | Combined: 100

She wants to stand so close that she gets in the way when I’m mucking. How many horses are really like that? Of course, she’s very willing to work and is so steady. In seven years, I think she has spooked twice. At my age, that makes for an ideal horse.

So, I have gotten used to the left lead canter and we do a little jumping along with our dressage. According to Amanda Harrington, her breeder, Fiona was bred for jumping and she surely knows her job. I hope that I have many more years with her. She truly is a sweetheart.

Marilyn and Fiona completed Training Level Test 3 on July 18, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #504: Susan Klingelhafer and Peregrino

Rockbridge, Ohio

Peregrino is my retired show horse turned trail companion. We never achieved the glory I imagined was in our future, but I have always loved and reveled in his beauty and spirit. I heard about the Century Club, added up our years, and started babbling to friends and family about doing this Century Club ride.

The day before our ride I went through the usual preshow rituals. I polished the brass buckles and nameplate. As I did this, I experienced such a flood of feelings. How many times have I hurried through these chores of bathing, packing, and polishing? But this day I experienced these acts as sacred rituals. I felt overwhelmed with gratitude for our journey.

My journey has taken me from a horse crazy, Southern Californian city kid, to this wonderful day in Ohio, surrounded by friends, family, and my beloved Peregrino. Peregrino is a PRE, and his name means “spiritual traveler.” He is perfectly named.

On July 25, at Amy Rothe-Hietter’s Southwind Stables in Pataskala, Ohio, we did it! It was wonderful! Our day was filled with joy and good wishes of friends, family, and many fellow equestrians. As I prepared for our ride, I pulled out Peregrino’s old dressage bridle. After each practice, I would clean and condition it. As our rides progressed the stiff leather softened, and so did we.

The Century Club ride stands out as an enormous life event. The day was made even more wonderful because my 17-year-old granddaughter was showing, same day, same show, same test. My husband, Fred, has become a locally renowned test caller and has supported Peregrino and me every step of the way.



Susan Klingelhafer: 74 | Peregrino: 27 | Combined: 101



Gracias to The Dressage Foundation, you’ve been wonderfully encouraging. Thank you to the members of The Ohio Dressage Society and the Mid-Ohio Dressage Association. You are heroes of the sport of dressage. My heart is filled with love and gratitude for all the beautiful horses that have carried me on my journey.

The Century Club ride has shown me that dreams can come true for a horse-crazy kid.

Susan and Peregrino completed First Level Test 2 on July 25, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #505: Dr. Hilary Clayton and MSU Magic J

Mason, Michigan

In 1991, a little bay Arabian was born at Michigan State University's horse farm. Farm manager Paula Hitzler named him MSU Magic J after the university's star basketball player and, with a name like that, he was surely destined for greatness. When I first met him, Magic was part of the school horse string—his job was to teach students to ride and introduce them to dressage and hunter shows.

The first time I rode him, it was like we'd known each other forever. I bought Magic in 2000 and we competed together for 10 years, the last three years at Grand Prix level. Together we earned my bronze, silver, and gold USDF medals. I gave him back to the equestrian program at MSU where he quickly settled back into the role of everyone's favorite school horse. During the time I owned him, Magic was not only a dressage star, he was also a willing participant in dozens of research studies and was the model for the photos and videos in my book/DVD *Activate Your Horse's Core*.

As the years went by and we both got older, I started to count down how long it would be before Magic and I could do a Century Club ride together. The appointed day dawned clear and sunny at Canterworks Dressage, owned by Katie Foster. The ride itself was a trip down memory lane and, as I looked between those pointy little ears, the years melted away. Sitting at 'C' was my good friend of over 40 years, Maryal Barnett. I rode Training Level Test 1, and it was as accurate a test as I've ever ridden—the telepathy between us was as strong as ever.



Dr. Hilary Clayton: 71 | MSU Magic J: 30 | Combined: 101

Afterward, we sipped champagne and enjoyed a seemingly endless smorgasbord including a cake with sparkler candles. Many of the friends who gathered hadn't seen each other for over a year due to the pandemic, so we had a lot of catching up to do and, for a few hours, the problems of the world seemed far away.

My advice to fellow golden oldies: If you have an opportunity to do a Century Club ride — DO IT and ENJOY EVERY MINUTE!

I clearly remember riding Magic down the centerline for our very first test together, for our first test at Arabian Nationals, and for our first Grand Prix.

But the most memorable of all was going down the centerline one last time for our Century Club ride.

Hilary and Magic completed Training Level Test 1 on July 22, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #506: Sue Williams and Maire Lou

Gasport, New York

Sue shared, “This past year, my good friend Jean Brinkman and I decided this would be the perfect year for our Century Club rides. We are both founding members of the American Trakehner Association and felt that our rides would be most meaningful if we were mounted on offspring of our Trakehner stallions. I wanted to ride an offspring of our stallion, Abdullah. Last fall I learned that Abdullah’s daughter, Maire Lou, was now 25 years old. Her owner, Megan Gamin, was very generous and agreed to let me ride her. In Maire Lou’s dressage career with Megan, they scored in the high 60s and 70s at Training and First Levels.”

Maire Lou’s sire, Abdullah, won the first-ever U.S. team gold and individual silver medals in show jumping at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles with rider Conrad Homfeld. The beautiful 17-hand gray stallion gathered some air miles as they all traveled to Berlin and took first place in the FEI World Cup Finals in 1985. Again, flying over the pond in 1986 to Aachen, Germany, for the World Equestrian Games, Abdullah won the first-ever U.S. team gold and individual silver medals at the venue. Abdullah was honored in 2008 with induction into the U.S. Show Jumping Hall of Fame. He was also named as one of the top 50 horses of the 20th century by *The Chronicle of the Horse*.

Both Sue and her late husband Terry graduated from Cornell University with degrees in education. After purchasing Abdullah and realizing his jumping talent, their careers quickly changed course. With a leap of faith and a brand-new learning curve, they entered the world of show jumping. It became quite a storied career for both Sue and Terry.

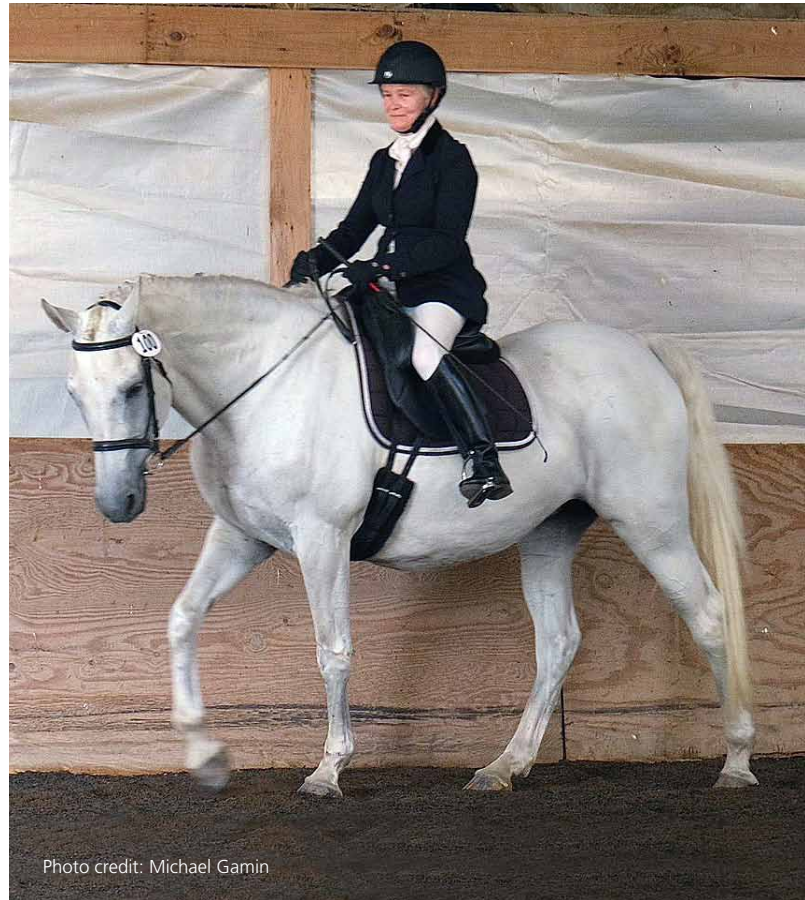


Photo credit: Michael Gamin

Sue Williams: 78 | Maire Lou: 25 | Combined: 103

Sue’s dressage and eventing career was put on hold while traveling internationally with Abdullah. After “Dooley” was retired, Sue divided her time between riding, training, and teaching. Sue trained an Abdullah offspring, a gorgeous stallion named Rutiger, to Fourth Level. She was awarded her USDF bronze medal with the stunning black stallion in 1994.

Today, Sue is owner and operator of Chestnut Ridge Equestrian Center in Gasport, New York, where she runs a boarding facility, a lesson program, and multiple shows.

Sue’s Century Club ride was a dream come true. It was a special time to reflect on the accomplishments of Sue, her late husband Terry, to whom she dedicated this ride, and the 17-hand beautiful gray stallion, Abdullah.

Sue and Maire Lou completed Training Level Test 2 on July 24, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #507:
**Sharon Curran
 and Bear**

Team #508:
**Sharon Curran
 and Noah**

Bethlehem, Connecticut

I was smitten the first time I sat on a pony at a very young age. Since then, horses have played a major role in my life. For the last 40-plus years, I've lived in a converted dairy barn that also is home to 10 horses, three cats, and two dogs. Additionally, there is an art studio and a small attached indoor arena. Very convenient during our cold New England winters and was especially useful when my two children were young.

I never planned to do multiple Century Club rides; it just sort of happened. In 2013, I rode my wonderful Thoroughbred, Slick, to become Team #156. When I bought Slick, he was an off-the-track three-year-old. He learned to do everything from fox hunting to dressage. I mourned his passing at the ripe old age of 36. Then four years later, two of my students' horses became of age to qualify me again for Century Club rides. I rode JJ, an American Show Horse, and Hammer, a Quarter Horse. JJ (Team #315) has since passed, but Hammer (Team #316) is still with us at age 36!

Now, another four years later, two more horses in the barn were old enough to make me eligible once again. Bear and Noah are both Warmbloods. Peter Rosow, my student and friend, did a Century Club ride in 2013 on a borrowed horse but passed away before he could do one on his own horse, Noah. After three



Sharon Curran: 76 | Bear: 26 | Combined: 102
 Sharon Curran: 76 | Noah: 26 | Combined: 102

years of retirement, Noah stepped up to the plate (or should I say centerline) to be a ride for me. Peter's presence was with us on our ride.

These two rides were quite different than our previous rides because they were virtual. With COVID still being an issue, I haven't wanted to travel to location shows yet. I'm very thankful there are some virtual shows where we can get a qualified judge's feedback on our riding and training progress.

My other virtual show activity this year was entering my 18-hand RFrodo in the Western Dressage Association of America International Championship show. We won a top 10, Level Four vest.

I'm very fortunate my passion has enabled me to have a career that is my livelihood. When I took my first job at a stable, the owner said, "Well, you won't make a lot of money, but you'll have a lot of fun." He was right! So let's keep kicking up the dust, seniors!

Sharon and Bear completed Introductory Level Test B on August 8, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Sharon and Noah completed Introductory Level Test A on August 8, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #509: Linda Tomlinson and Dewey

Raleigh, North Carolina

As a little girl growing up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., I was glued to my rocking horse. I named him “Trigger.” I collected every horse statue I could find and begged daily for riding lessons, but alas, we were a boating family, spending every weekend on the Chesapeake Bay. On my dad’s side, there was a dedicated long line of sea captains. Long story short, horses were not a natural fit for my family.

I went off to North Carolina State University where I met and married my husband, Travis, an avid sailor. Travis was impressed with my extensive boating knowledge. He thought he was getting a great deal! Little did he know the journey which lay ahead.

I never lost my love for horses. When our daughter, Alison, started riding at age seven, I had a perfect excuse to ride as well. We purchased and shared a horse for a while, but my love was dressage and her love was jumping. We had loads of fun together and groomed for each other at shows.

Eventually I bought a three-year-old Dutch Warmblood, Vegas. I had the opportunity to ride his mother “Idgie” and his sire “Freestyle.” Both were in training with Jim Koford. I had worked with Jim for years and trusted his judgment.

Vegas and I competed at Training and First Levels until he was injured in the pasture. He was out of commission for months on stall rest, and I was devastated.

Thankfully, a good friend, Mary, gave me the opportunity to ride her Prix St. Georges horse, Duelligan, “Dewey,” a 17-year-old Hanoverian/Thoroughbred. Mary eventually decided to sell Dewey, and at Jim’s insistence, I bought him.



Linda Tomlinson: 71 | Dewey: 29 | Combined: 100

Dewey is a patient teacher. The first time I showed him, I was recovering from a dislocated shoulder. Dewey took care of me, and we earned a 65% at Third Level. Over the years, Dewey and I have shown Third, Fourth, Prix St. Georges, and performed freestyles together.

I have been blessed to have Dewey as a friend and a teacher. He remains the barn favorite. We can put anyone on him, and Dewey carefully looks after them.

Thanks to Dewey, we have earned the Master’s Challenge Award for Third, Fourth, and FEI Levels. It is such a great honor to partner with Dewey to earn our membership into the Century Club.

Linda and Dewey completed Third Level Test 1 on July 31, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #510: Karen Fitt and Just Chance

Mundelein, Illinois

I had been looking forward to a Century Club ride in 2021, as that was when I turned 75 and my mare, Letka, would be 25. But then disaster struck. In late March, Letka sustained a severe tear of her superficial digital flexor tendon, and my hopes of doing a Century Club ride ended.

However, two months later, Sandi Spellman, a fellow boarder at Silverwood Farm, approached me and said she would be honored if I would use her 26-year-old horse, Just Chance, for my Century Club ride. I was overwhelmed by her generosity. As she said, “I know he’s not Letka, but at least he’s also a chestnut.”

Just Chance is a Thoroughbred gelding. His Jockey Club registration shows his name as “Sho Me Mo” by Southern Squire out of Regal Knockout. He raced for three years with 15 starts and three first-place finishes. Sandi met Just Chance when he was 18. His name had been changed to Second Chance and he was being used as a school horse for dressage. She bought him when he was 21 for \$50 and changed his name to Just Chance. He’s been moving up the levels in dressage ever since. He’s a very willing, trustworthy horse and tries very hard at whatever is asked of him.

I’ve always loved horses. I took riding lessons in grade school, joined a mounted Girl Scout drill team in junior high, and my grandfather bought me a three-year-old Saddlebred mare when I was in high school. The horse was sold when I went away to college, so no more riding until I was in my late 40s and started weekly lessons. I was fascinated by how beautiful dressage looked, and the close communication required between horse and rider. So I entered the dressage world by first share boarding, then co-owning a horse, and



Karen Fitt: 75 | Just Chance: 26 | Combined: 101

then finally buying Letka, a chestnut Hanoverian mare, when she was five years old.

Prior to my Century Club ride, I hadn’t ridden for four months because of Letka’s injury and, given Sandi’s competition schedule, I had only two weeks to prepare for my ride. One of the trainers at Silverwood, Sarah Veras, came to my rescue to help me adapt to a new horse in record time. I so appreciate her squeezing me into her busy schedule.

It was so gratifying to be able to compete the day of my Century Club ride. It will likely be my last dressage competition given my horse’s condition. But I will always be grateful for the kindness, support, and encouragement of the people at Silverwood Farm who made it all possible.

Karen and Just Chance completed Training Level Test 3 on August 1, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Team #511: Linda Lempe and Island Rumba

Homer, Alaska

My husband, Jim, our two gigantic Saint Bernards, and I moved to Homer, Alaska, after I retired from my school librarian position at Maricopa Unified School District in Arizona. We were pursuing dreams of freedom and tall, snow-capped mountains. Jim built our home on the bluff overlooking the town, and I learned to spin to avoid being buried alive in dog fur! My spinning led to other fiber art interests, and I joined a group called Fiber Friends that explored different areas of fiber arts. We had other interests as well, including refurbishing vintage cars and spending time in Whittier working for the Alaska Marine Highway.

One day a horse walked by our home, and I realized how much I missed having horses in my life. I loved horses as a child and am still crazy about them now. Therefore, I was delighted to find that Alaska had an active equestrian community that engages in all kinds of wonderful equine events such as rodeos, horse shows, clinics, trail riding expeditions, game days, overnight packing trips, and equine therapy organizations. Alaska is also home to branches of the United States Dressage Federation (Alaska Dressage Association) and the United States Pony Club.

I met Cass Crandall when she organized a Horsemaster program through Kachemak Pony Club (KPC), Homer's local USPC group. USPC Horsemasters allows us "oldsters" to participate in all the wonderful horsey activities USPC offers



Linda Lempe: 77 | Island Rumba: 23 | Combined: 100

that were once limited to "youngsters." Although I've ridden off and on throughout my life, I feel like I really did not learn how to ride until I joined the KPC Horsemasters group. The sport of dressage especially piqued my interest, and I now have a C1 Dressage Certificate. (Yippee!)

Island Rumba and I met at Cass's barn, and we began a long and wonderfully enjoyable partnership. At 23 years of age, Rumba is a very patient teacher, which is lucky as I am a slow learner! Rumba has been involved in KPC activities since he was five. In Cass's words, "Rumba is a saint who's been there and done that, although in his younger years he was known to give an occasional powerful buck and would sometimes pull a young unsuspecting rider over his head diving for grass." Through it all, Cass has been a good friend, mentor, and instructor. She has been very generous in sharing her horses.

Linda and Rumba completed Training Level Test 3 on August 15, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #512: Catherine Schneider and Northanger Abbey

Newton Centre, Massachusetts

Northanger Abbey (Nellie) is a Cleveland Bay/Thoroughbred cross. The Cleveland Bay is a rare breed, patronized by Queen Elizabeth II and most recently in articles about the late Prince Philip, who drove a team of Bays when he took up competitive driving. A barn manager once referred to Nellie as “the Dame Maggie Smith of the barn,” which we attribute to knowing that she has relatives in service to the Royal Family.

She and I have been a pair for 12 years, although we go back 20 years. Her owner, Jen Clapp, an amateur event rider, boarded her at a small barn where I was taking lessons after a 25-year hiatus from riding. As Nellie was finishing “maternity leave” in 2001, I offered to help ride her back into competition condition. We capped off that six-month effort by entering the elementary division of a local schooling event. A few years later, Jen was spending most of her time bringing along Nellie’s son and looking for someone to keep Nellie in shape. A mutual friend of ours whose own horse was on stall rest took her on and, when her own horse was back in work, asked me if I would like to take over. I had recently retired, so the match was made.

Our partnership has been guided by the principle that older horses, like people, need to keep moving to keep healthy. My first move was to put myself back in a lesson program so I could ride her correctly. Showing was an afterthought; our trainer kept suggesting shows though, so we found our way to a few shows. Nellie was such a pro that we rarely came home without a nice ribbon. Our big adventure came in 2015,



Catherine Schneider: 70 | Northanger Abbey: 30 | Combined: 100

when we spent two months in Aiken, South Carolina. The highlight was a chance to ride in the Hitchcock Woods Horse Show, where Nellie proved her versatility by winning ribbons in the Open Pleasure Division.

As it became clear that her jumping days were winding down, we limited Nellie’s outings to an occasional Pony Club rating, where she was considered the perfect horse for a young rider. Now that she is 30, our exercise routine consists of leisurely hacks. During the winters, though, we move to a facility with an indoor arena, so we have continued to “practice” dressage tests.

Our Century Club ride was a capstone. I suspect Nellie knew something was up when Jen braided her mane, and she came off the trailer like the veteran that she is. That day she was feeling good, and we finished second with a 69.37%. Old friends were there to cheer for her, and she happily accepted treats afterwards.

Catherine and Nellie completed Introductory Level Test A on August 15, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #513: Susan Reinecke and Piper's Spencer

Healdsburg, California

I have ridden off and on (pardon the pun) for most of my life. It all began when I was five years old, riding an old draft horse around a field while my grandfather and his farmer friend “old Jim” enjoyed their adult beverages. From there, I segued into pony rides, hunters, Western pleasure, trail, gymkhana, and at last, dressage!

When I met Lilo Fore at a clinic in Petaluma, California, it was a real eye-opener for me. I was intrigued, challenged, and hooked. An exciting teacher, Lilo makes one see and feel the possibilities and potential in even the most unlikely of horses (some of mine were in that category).

Many years passed. I continued to ride with Lilo as much as possible, with time out for children, health, and life in general. Life as we knew it was greatly disrupted by losing our entire farm and small boarding facility in the Kincaid fire of 2019. My husband and I reeled from that—at 78 we had lost our zest for surprises. However, with the help of many friends, we are slowly rebuilding our farm and our lives.

The fire was a major setback for my riding, but on my 80th birthday, friends began to urge me to do a Century Club ride. My first thought was, “No way! I haven’t ridden much in the last two years, have not shown in 10 years, and have NEVER shown on my current horse.” Registered as “Piper’s Spencer” but known as “Grande,” he is a large chestnut 22-year-old and is that ever-popular mix of Thoroughbred, Percheron, and Quarter Horse.

Grande is the quintessential “steady Freddie” that is perfect for someone who has lost a bit of the spring in their mental and physical elastic.



Photo credit: Leslie Anderson

Susan Reinecke: 80 | Piper's Spencer: 22 | Combined: 102

After much encouragement, I thought, “If not now, WHEN?” and entered. Friends rallied with funds, clothes, and mental support. Grande and I survived what I think was a conservative and, hopefully, respectable Third Level test and had a lovely day. I received my ribbons and award complete with a champagne gala hosted by Tracy Underwood. Grande received a huge volume of cookies.

Many thanks to The Dressage Foundation for the opportunity to “get back on the horse” and have a wonderful day.

My advice to other riders? If you want to do a Century club ride, plan ahead—it is not easy to find a 50-year-old horse!

Susan and Grande completed Third Level Test 1 on August 22, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #514: Jean Brinkman and Faithkeeper

Wellborn, Florida

I retired from showing in 2007, after having earned all my USDF medals on a variety of horses, including gold on Martini. I can't remember when I first heard about the Century Club, but I was intrigued and decided my Trakehner, Faithkeeper, and I would compete when old enough. I like goals and this seemed like a good one.

In 2020, Faith and I reached a combined age of 100 years; however, COVID was at its worst, and I didn't have much inclination to go to a show with masks and distancing! 2021 came and things started to look a bit better. But in June, Faithkeeper attempted to destroy her new pasture mate and chased her until we noticed the two sweat-laden mares and separated them. When both mares were cooled down, I discovered Faithkeeper was very lame in her left front. She has always been very sound, and after six weeks with no improvement or definable issues, I wondered if I would get my girl back. My farrier tried some special shoeing and amazingly, she was instantly sound.

I decided I better get that Century Club ride done and found that the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Ocala had a show at the end of August. I was fascinated with the facility and decided that was the show for us! The show offered air-conditioned rings, amazing stalls, and was very open, air-wise. Plus, my daughter, Erin, was also competing.

Faithkeeper is a daughter of Martini *Pg*E*, my heart horse, who helped me achieve all things



Jean Brinkman: 81 | Faithkeeper: 21 | Combined: 102

dressage and breeding! He passed in 2001, but in 1999, he bred Feodamee von Krotenbach by E. H. Hohenstein, producing Faithkeeper. She has been my mount since her early years except for a three-year break. Before I got my hip replaced, she was consistently going up the levels. She is such a fun mare, easy to sit, loves to work, is willing, and talented.

The Century Club test was fun and rewarding. There were a lot of people there to support and cheer! Faith handled the long break from the show ring well and was wonderful, brave, and kind! Roy, my husband, made the trip to watch our ride, making it even more special. In 2019, I found out that I had a half-brother, Art, who is 95 years old, as well as his daughters, my nieces. Art also came to watch so this was all so extra special for me. Erin presented flowers along with the ribbon and WEC did a blog! It was a fun experience and I really urge anyone of the right age to make this a goal.

Jean and Faithkeeper completed a Prix St. Georges test on August 27, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #515: Mary Goss and Elizabethan Lady

North Windham, Connecticut

Mary and Elizabethan Lady, aka “Ladybug,” joined forces eight years ago after a short search for a companion for Mary’s horse “Cajun” (Century Club Team #144). Macaroni, a Shetland Pony, left Cajun alone when Mac suffered from colic and passed at an old age. Lady was a gift from the Stearns Family and is the most versatile Haflinger ever.

Once Ladybug recovered from Lyme Disease, she became a steady, calm, and willing saddle horse. She will also happily drive, go on hunter paces, or go on a trail ride. Dressage isn’t easy for her at 13.1 hands and with the bulky conformation of a draft, but she has been high point winner in two dressage shows with scores in the 70s.

Pictured with Mary and Ladybug is Donna May Dunbar, who initiated the Randy May Memorial Dressage Show, which provides scholarships to juniors for a summer dressage camp experience and instruction with a horse. We supporters call ourselves Donna’s “Posse of Vintage Equestrians.” Also pictured is famed and adorable Judge Lou Denizard, who came from Florida to officiate the show this year.

Again, I want to thank The Dressage Foundation for its continuous support of dressage. I plan to continue riding at 80 and for many years to come.

Mary and Ladybug completed Introductory Level Test B on August 28, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Photo credit: Steven Scanlon

Mary Goss: 80 | Elizabethan Lady: 21 | Combined: 101

Team #516: Susan Kolstad and Meadow Bar Mosby

Florence, Kentucky

I have been a professional in the world of dressage since 1977. Over these 40 years, I have owned my own farms, managed several farms, trained several horses to Grand Prix, and coached students to many championships, medals, and Young Riders. I have dedicated my life to horses and the wonderful people who have owned them.

Over the course of my equestrian lifetime, I have explored many disciplines, including hunters, jumpers, eventing, endurance, driving, and Western. I found dressage to be my greatest inspiration, and now I am spending much of my time judging and teaching clinics. I have been very lucky to be able to do what I love and love what I do for a living.

During my formative years, Dr. Max Gahwyler was one of my greatest mentors. I met Dr. Max when I was living in Indiana and he came for a clinic. I discovered his great knowledge about the history of mankind and horses, and I spent much time with him studying the old masters and reading books about them. Dr. Max was one of my great teachers, and he inspired me in many ways. It is a great honor for me to know that he initiated the Century Club.

I am thrilled and honored to be able to do my Century Club ride on Meadow Bar Mosby, a 30-year-old Quarter Horse owned by my student of 18 years, Stacia Allen from Albany, Wisconsin. Stacia came to work with me when she was 18 years old and Mosby was 12. I helped her get Mosby to Second Level that summer, and we had a wonderful time. Since then, I have been doing clinics at Stacia's barn, Center Stage, in



Susan Kolstad: 71 | Meadow Bar Mosby: 30 | Combined: 101



Wisconsin. It has always been Stacia's dream for me to do my Century Club ride on Mosby, and we made it come true on August 31, 2021.

I think The Dressage Foundation is a wonderful organization designed solely to support the achievement of equestrians of all ages and levels to improve the sport of dressage. I am proud to participate and be honored as a Century Club rider. This is such a wonderful program, and I look forward to doing it again in a few years on a younger horse!

Susan and Mosby completed Training Level Test 1 on August 31, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #517: Judi Olmsted and Atticus

Stillwater, Minnesota

I have loved horses from a very early age. I can remember asking my parents for a pony every Christmas but knew it probably wasn't going to happen. I guess it never hurts to ask. Instead of waiting for it to happen, I started reading horse books and lived my dream vicariously. In my small town of Albany, Minnesota, we had a Bookmobile come to town every two weeks. Every time it came, I would check out two or three books such as *Black Beauty*, *Black Stallion*, and *My Friend Flicka*. I dreamed of having a horse for years, but it wouldn't happen for quite a while.

The years passed and I became a secondary English and Special Education teacher. I had to wait until my mid-30s to become a horse owner. After buying a horse that didn't work out for me, I was able to buy a big, beautiful chestnut two-year-old Quarter Horse named Cody. At first, he was a trail horse and then became an English riding horse. My daughter Jessie was able to move him to Victoria Station and she started riding dressage. That was my first introduction to this discipline. I have loved this sport from the beginning.

In 2010, St. George's Dressage Academy opened its doors and Jessie became the riding instructor and trainer. I wanted to become more dedicated to learning the principles of dressage and riding the movements correctly. I started taking lessons but unfortunately, at the age of 26, Cody was diagnosed with laminitis and died in 2012.

I was heartbroken and didn't ride much for a year. About a year later, another wonderful horse came into my life. Atticus had been a jumper in Florida, but those days were over for him. He stepped off the trailer and I instantly knew he was



Photo credit: Huppert Photography

Judi Olmsted: 76 | Atticus: 25 | Combined: 101

the horse for me. He is the sweetest horse, and we began a partnership that includes riding dressage and occasional trail rides in the summer. He is my second forever horse.

A while back, some of the boarders at St. George's Dressage Academy and Jessie encouraged me to do a Century Club ride. I will admit I was reluctant at first, but then I realized it would be a wonderful and challenging opportunity. I would like to thank Jessie and Lindsay Fuchs for their instruction, Deena Helminiak for all the time she put into making this ride a reality, and all my friends and family who came to watch the ride and cheer me on. I also want to thank those who planned the champagne and cake party—Atticus and I really appreciated it.

Judi and Atticus rode Training Level Test 3 on September 11, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #518: Linda Lester and Eeyore

Fort Walton Beach, Florida

You don't stop riding because you get old—you get old because you stop riding!

This is my second Century Club ride. My first was 10 years ago aboard a 34-year-old Arabian mare when I was 69. We were Team #86. I am so impressed by the growth of the Century Club in the past 10 years! Obviously, the Club is a hit with us older riders. For this ride, I was aboard my 22-year-old, 14-hand gelding, Eeyore.

Eeyore is a very special pony. He was rescued when he was four years old from a field somewhere in Alabama. He was totally neglected to the point where his baby halter grew into his face. He still has grooves on his nose and poll. The story goes that the owner owed the hay man some money, so he gelded the pony himself and gave him to the hay man. Well, the hay man didn't want him, so he brought him down to a barn in my area of northwest Florida that had a lot of kids and ponies. I had some friends boarding at that barn, and they said when he came off the trailer, he was the sorriest-looking thing. Skinny, worms, and infected from the surgery.

They were told he is a Connemara, although we have no papers. It took quite a while to nurse him back to health and to put basic training on him. Then kids rode him, but they didn't care for him because he didn't go where they wanted him to go. He then sat around for several years, doing nothing.

Eeyore was put up for sale just when I had to retire my chestnut Arabian mare. She was sweet and lovely, but a bit of a looney toon and I could never really relax on her. My friend called and told me to come to look at this pony. I rode him



Linda Lester: 79 | Eeyore: 22 | Combined: 101

once and bought him on the spot. He was so calm and undramatic. They had named him Little Bit, but I thought that was too plain a name for such a cute pony. My friends told me that he didn't come with a name so I could name him anything I wanted. When I got to know him more, the name Eeyore popped into my head. He is a perfect Eeyore. He doesn't buck, rear, bolt, or spook. It takes too much energy! He has such a laid-back "Oh my, if I have to" attitude. In addition to carting this old lady on quiet trail rides, Eeyore is teaching three young girls how to ride and show. One judge called him "an Intro Level Schoolmaster."

Eeyore and I plan to continue growing old together.

Linda and Eeyore completed Introductory Level Test B on September 11, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #519

Judy Hybels and Farbough

Gloucester, Massachusetts

My first Century Club ride, as Team #245, was five years ago on my old adult hunter and equitation horse, Davos. For several years, we did hunters in the summer up north, and dressage in Florida in the winter. Since Davos much preferred jumping to dressage, I realized I needed a more trained dressage horse to advance in the discipline.

I met Farbough several years before I bought him. Kati Dagge, the daughter of my barn owner Birgitt, found him in Germany in 2005 and brought him to their barn in Bonita Springs, Florida, as a six-year-old. They rode and trained him, and Kati rode him successfully to Third Level in Young Riders and Juniors. She now runs her own business, Dagge Dressage, on the East Coast in Southwest Ranches. Birgitt trains and competes her own horses. They sold Farbough to our friend Caryl Thompson, who had him for two years in Naples before I bought him in 2010 and brought him back to the Dagge barn.

Farbough took me from First to Fourth Level, in Florida winter shows: Fox Lea, White Fences, and Tampa with Birgitt and Kati. In the summer, we have ridden many times at Green Mountain Horse Association in Vermont, and New England Dressage Association Regionals in New York with my talented and patient trainer, Jennifer Mahoney-Goland. We continue our summer training with Jennifer at Samantha Williams' Labyrinth Farm in Ipswich, Massachusetts. In the winter, Farbough goes back to Caryl Thompson's Naples barn, playing with her horse Sam, and enjoying semi-retirement.



Judy Hybels: 78 | Farbough : 22 | Combined: 100

I also owe much to trainers Tori Polonitza and Adam Cropper in Florida. And finally, Marilyn Heath has been a wonderful trainer for many years in Florida. She has also judged our tests at both GMHA and NEDA Regionals. It's been a great ride for us, and I thank everyone in both of my equine villages, in Florida and Massachusetts, for their support and friendship all these years. On to the next challenge!

Farbough and I did our Century Club ride at Keith and Linda Angstadt's lovely Bradford Equestrian Center.

Judy and Farbough completed Third Level Test 1 on September 12, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #520: Sharon Kipping and Stirling

Woodford, Virginia

On September 12, 2021, at Rose Mount Farm in Spotsylvania, Virginia, I took my ride for the Century Club on a horse named Stirling. Stirling is a Connemara/Quarter Horse cross owned by a good friend, Barbara Ellis, of Caroline County, Virginia. The dressage show we rode in was held by the Fredericksburg Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association.

In the show we rode Training Level Test 2 and received a great score of 62.5%. It was the first time Stirling had entered the show ring in many years. Having such a great nature and being a well-trained horse, Stirling did exactly what I asked of him and gave a great performance. As he entered the arena, he held himself proud and moved out into a smooth, easy to ride trot.

I think this was one of the greatest experiences of my life. It was a privilege to ride Stirling and to join the increasing number of elderly riders and horses competing in The Dressage Foundation's program.

Sharon and Stirling completed Training Level Test 2 on September 12, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Sharon Kipping: 75 | Stirling: 26 | Combined: 101

Team #521: Teri Toelcke and Kokopelli

Morgan, Utah

I was, as most young girls, horse crazy. I remember playing horse with my friend and I was always a black stallion, most likely because I read all the *Black Stallion* books by Walter Farley. Funny, as an adult, I prefer grey horses.

As a teenager, I rode my friend's horse, a big black Morgan, and started showing him in English flat shows. I wanted my own horse, but we had no place to keep one, let alone a way to afford one.

I spent many years working at horse barns and trail riding outfits and looking for any other way I could get to ride. When I was 46, I met Sharon Rino, who raised Arabian horses, and she sold me my first two horses. One was my first grey horse, Hi Pazzazz.

I moved to Morgan, Utah, and became friends with a group of ladies who were dressage riders. I spent a summer as their groom and decided I would rather ride myself than clean up for them. So began my dressage career. I took lessons from a few different trainers, went to lots of clinics, and read books about dressage.

I had a variety of horses and enjoyed showing them. My one pony, Stormy Weather, and I made it to Second Level. I was hoping he would be my Century Club ride, but unfortunately he passed away from colic and went over the Rainbow Bridge. I put my dream into "maybe not," but kept it on my bucket list.



Teri Toelcke: 76 | Kokopelli: 26 | Combined: 102

So now my pony, Kokopelli, and I had the privilege of riding for the Century Club. He is a 26-year-old Gotland pony. He came into my life as a rescue pony and he and I have had many years of fun trail riding, eventing, and riding dressage.

My last trainer, Jen Pagano, taught me so much and I am forever grateful to her. I want to give a special thanks to Carla Parish for all her help in getting Kokopelli and myself ready for our special day.

We completed our ride at the Pumpkin Event in Ogden, Utah, had an amazing ride, and received a score of 69.7%.

Teri and Kokopelli completed Introductory Level Test B on September 11, 2021, to join the Century

Team #522: **Bruce MacDonald and Norman**

Bixby, Oklahoma

Norman was born in 1991 during the first Gulf War and was named after the commanding General, Norman Schwarzkopf. In 1998, we joined the Harvard Fox Hunt in Bixby, Oklahoma.

Unfortunately, Norman lived up to the General's nickname "Stormin Norman," and he was quite a handful for the first five years.

Finally, after many trials and tribulations, he settled down and became a great fox hunter and taught six other horses to hunt. Norman usually had a crowd behind him going through creeks, jumps, and other rough terrain. Norman became so easy to ride that one of the hunt members commented that a five-year-old could now ride him, and they have continued to hunt for 24 years.

Norman and I, with a combined age of 106, were excited to ride in our first dressage show to qualify for the Century Club. We had a great ride and scored a 71%. The judge even commented that she could not believe that Norman is 30.

Bruce and Norman completed Introductory Level Test A on October 16, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Bruce MacDonald: 76 | Norman: 30 | Combined: 106

Team #523: Marsha Icko and Hello Gorgeous

Versailles, Kentucky

What can I say about my heart horse for the last 24 years? He has a very big personality, is very balanced with great rhythmic gaits, has a beautiful jump, is extremely comfortable, and is a major gingersnap cookie monster. He is a kind, calm, willing partner. Hello Gorgeous (“Travis”) is a great trail horse (unless you want to cross water), but on occasion, he will still summon his inner Thoroughbred. We have been together through major injuries—colic for him and five joint replacements and spine fusions for me.

A few years after I got Travis, I watched a friend, Dennis Trettel, Team #13, ride for Century Club membership at a schooling show held at our barn. That was in 2001. I always thought if Travis and I could make it to 100, I would do a Century Club ride too. AND WE DID!!! We even won our class!

I rode saddle seat and Western up to the time I went to college. I didn’t start riding again until I was 40 years old, this time riding hunter/jumpers. Five lessons were all it took for me to buy my first Thoroughbred. I love them. They are smart, athletic, and quick learners. They are great for almost all disciplines. Travis was an exceptional show hunter who is now doing a great job as my trail horse (did I mention water?).



Marsha Icko: 76 | Hello Gorgeous: 27 | Combined: 103

The jumping style of the horse is important for success in the show ring, but good flatwork is a major component. Because of that basic flatwork, I was able to complete my Century Club ride without having formal dressage training. My focus now is just pleasure riding this wonderful horse, if we are both in good health. Since I retired, I have been successfully working as a portrait and equine artist.

Marsha and Travis completed Training Level Test 1 on September 25, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #524: Noel Aderer and Epic Finale

Marlborough, New Hampshire

The journey to our Century Club ride began in 1994 when Bo Peep was bred to Denny Emerson's Epic Win. In 1995, a colt named Epic Finale (aka "Beeper") was born.

Throughout our lives, Beeper and I were kept trained and fit under the coaching of Denny Emerson and Mary Howard. Beeper schooled many young students in basic dressage, trail riding, galloping, jumping, low level eventing, and good horse maintenance.

As time passed and no one was getting any younger, the thought somehow erupted that Beeper and I should be recognized for our combined 100 years of effort together. It took a village, who after a 10-year hiatus, made this six-minute effort come together and happen. Leading the parade was Lisa Cook, who did all the administrative work; Penny Lowman, who left no stone unturned in her effort to have me deliver a perfect test; and Michelle Gaffney, a CrossFit mobility coach.

Another significant player in the effort was Beeper's vet, who rarely saw him because he had never been sick, injured, or lame in his life. Unfortunately, as soon as the decision to "go" with the ride materialized, every transition to the trot brought on a spasm of coughing. He was having an allergic reaction to something. Maureen Sullivan DVM threw the book at him and got him down to one cough per day. When I mounted him for our Century Club ride, Beeper puffed up and said, "I got this Noel, you just hang on up there. I know exactly what we're doing." And he certainly did!

After the organizers came the cheerleaders and fixers: Jeanelle Boyer, Jeanelle's mother,



Noel Aderer: 77 | Epic Finale: 24 | Combined: 101

Loren Launen, Robin Burgess, Cynthia Hay, Bill Venne, and Beth and Warren Witherell. I also thank the tack department at The Cheshire Horse and Cindy Athans, who sent a Wintec Artise dressage saddle. It was fitted to Beeper and me, so all I had to do was sit in it and ride. May and Denny Emerson (pictured in the photo), began this episode and ended it by presenting me and Beeper with our Century Club ribbon.

Over the course of the month leading up to the ride, I went from, "How hard can this be? I rode Beeper's mother Fourth Level," to "I'm a rolling rust bucket," to "Thank goodness all these people are here to help me. I will be able to do this," to "It was really, really fun."

Noel and Beeper completed Training Level Test 2 on October 10, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #525: Laureen Alcock and Gryphon

Chester, New Jersey

I can still remember lying in bed at three or four years old imagining that I was sitting on a horse. We visited my aunt and uncle in upstate New York, and I was overjoyed to sit on “Grandad.” That was it for horses until college and the “Queens College Outdoor Club.” We riders carefully avoided Wednesday morning classes and rode every week in Forest Park. I will remember after college facing three choices: a round-the-world cruise as a tutor and crew on a private sailing yacht, taking a position showing Arabians and helping to tame Thoroughbred babies in Connecticut, or passing both of those offers up and marrying Tom, which I did. He appreciated that horses came with the bargain and has been the helpmate person without whom this day would not have happened. Behind him is the crew at Shadowfax, my daughter Kea, our trainer Rebecca Cowden, who brought my need for a horse for a 70-plus rider to her friend Lauren Chumley, and Lauren, who trusted Becky’s word that Gryphon and I might bond.

Lauren bought Gryphon in 2001 as her very first horse. She found him in the classifieds section and showed him through First Level. In her words, “We did a LOT of bolting... through fields, over hill and dale, through dressage arenas, and around the track at the farm.” Gryphon went to Ohio State with Lauren and her goal at that time was to event him. Unfortunately, it was strictly a dressage barn and Gryphon was afraid of EVERYTHING... her words again, but really, he still is!! Later in his career with Lauren’s clients, he did some foxhunting and hunter paces which he really enjoyed, and everybody loved him.



Photo credit: Henry Theuvenin

Laureen Alcock: 76 | Gryphon: 26 | Combined: 102

Some years ago, my daughter Kea called me about Suki, a rescue she was holding that she insisted I had to come get. He was the animal that introduced me to dressage. I was amazed, sold, and enthralled by the balance Suki illustrated. Dressage was the riding to do!

I had no idea when Gryphon came to our farm that he was famous. A car stopped and strangers jumped out saying, “That’s Gryphon!” As he began to open up and trust us, we could see why. Gryphon emotes and he is a pleasure to spend time with. I’ve never been judged in a dressage test; however, Gryphon knew what he was doing.

I couldn’t be richer in friends, family, and professionals who have supported me in this event and in my horse-involved life. It is an honor to be a part of an organization that supports the health and wellbeing of horses and riders and for whom retirement can still include all the good things that a close relationship with a horse engenders.

Laureen and Gryphon completed Training Level Test 2 on October 10, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #526: Brigid Ripley and Freedom's Spirit

Iron River, Wisconsin

I have been riding horses since I got my first pony at the age of five. When I had my own family (three daughters, one son) I continued the pursuit of riding, primarily for pleasure, and did my best to encourage a love of horses and riding in my children. They all continue to love horses, and two of them ride regularly...but this is not about them, so I'll move on.

In 1989, I adopted two yearling Mustang colts from the BLM Adopt-a-Horse program held at the St. Paul Civic Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Initially, I called the colts Chestnut Colt and Bay Colt. Bay Colt, through the process of swapping first letters and changing C to K became Kaybolt, and Chestnut Colt became Freedom's Spirit in honor of the Mustang spirit, simply called Spirit by family.

My second daughter rode and trained Spirit when he turned four, and he became the favorite and most reliable riding horse out of our herd (at that time) of 14 horses. His most frustrating issue was his unwillingness to be caught, and although he is not as fleet as he was back then, he can still be pretty adept at avoiding "capture."

I was not his primary rider, but through the years I have ridden him many miles—down the road, on the trails, and on horseback orienteering (HOB0) rides put on by a regional organization.



Brigid Ripley: 67 | Freedom's Spirit: 33 | Combined: 100

My children rode him in various classes at the county fair—a very small event, but one we all enjoyed.

Spirit has been mostly retired since the age of 28, but he acted like a real champ when I pulled him out of retirement and asked him to participate in my Century Club ride. He's been a wonderful member of my Equine Family!

Brigid and Spirit completed Introductory Level Test A on October 8, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #527: Robert Henselwood and Special Ed

Kemptville, Ontario, Canada

I began riding in Germany at the age of 12 and was given a solid base in dressage riding. My dressage career was short lived, and I went on to ride jumpers through my teens. However, dressage was always the foundation of everything I did and taught.

I have been a riding instructor for the past 50 years. My wife, Jill Henselwood, was my most successful student. Through her career she became the most successful female Grand Prix show jumping rider in Canadian history. She won the individual gold medal at the Pan American Games (the only woman to ever do that) and a team silver medal at the Hong Kong Olympics. (Also, the only woman in Canada to ever win an Olympic show jumping medal.)

Both incredible achievements were done on my Century Club partner, Special Ed.

Special Ed's original name was Ademus. He is a 1994 bay Oldenburg gelding by Argentinus out of a Grannus mare named Rappe. He was purchased at an auction in Germany by a lady in Texas who sent him to train with a good friend of mine, Suzanne Dutt-Roth, in Canada to become a dressage horse.

Ed is a very spooky horse and would not go down the centerline if it was rolled. Suzanne worked with him for a year before she came to me to see if he could jump. At first, he was ridiculously spooky about everything, and we just about gave up on him.

The lady in Texas was a big fan of Ed's and really wanted to see him develop. She never gave up on him. After two years of training, Ed started



Robert Henselwood: 73 | Special Ed: 27 | Combined: 100

to settle into his job and began to really enjoy it. Once the jumps got big enough, he learned to focus on his job and just got better and better.

The lady in Texas got pregnant and agreed that we could buy Ed if we were going to continue to develop him.

The rest is history. I told Ed at the Olympics, after he won the medal, that I would never sell him, and that I would look after him for the rest of his life. I thought it was fitting that since he and I both started our careers in dressage, that we finish it up in dressage as well.

Robert and Special Ed completed Training Level Test 1 on October 20, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #528: Laurel Gershwin DVM and Wintergreen Cameo

Davis, California

I first became acquainted with horses in the summer of 1955 when I was eight years old. My cousins were taking riding lessons in Carmel Valley, California, where my parents had just purchased a summer home. I took a Western riding lesson with them and thus began my lifelong love affair with horses. I began taking English riding lessons at a local stable in the fall when I returned to my home in Oakland. However, it was not until I was 12 that I finally got my own horse.

Lollipop was a 16-hand black grade Morgan mare, who was my soul mate. Together we went on all day bareback trail rides, competed in local horse shows, dabbled in some barrel racing, and participated in the Orinda 4-H Club. Lollipop accompanied me to Davis, California, when I attended college and veterinary school. Sadly, she died from colic during my freshman year of vet school.

Despite being a professor at the University of California and raising three children, I have continued riding throughout the years. In my early 50s I purchased a young Hanoverian gelding as my dressage partner. After only owning him for about three months during a rainy season with no place to lunge, he bucked me off and broke my back. This set my riding back as the doctor told me I could not get on a horse for a year. At the end of that year Cameo came into my life. I sold the Hanoverian and purchased Wintergreen Cameo from Ann Taylor, a Morgan breeder. Cameo was about six years old at that time and had been trained to First Level dressage by Susan Garmier. Cameo helped me to regain my confidence after the accident.



Laurel Gershwin DVM: 74 | Wintergreen Cameo : 26 | Combined: 100

Cameo and I have been together for about 20 years now. As my equine family grew, I moved Cameo to our little farm in Davis, where she lives with my five other horses and a pony. In her later years, Cameo has been ridden by two of my five granddaughters during their visits. About six years ago, Cameo was diagnosed with equine Cushing's disease and has been on medication since then. She had an episode of laminitis in the summer of 2020 and had some time off to recover.

We were fortunate to get judge Barbi Breen-Gurley (who is also a Century Club member) to be the judge for our ride. Surrounded by friends and family, Cameo rose to the occasion and we ended our Century Club ride with tumultuous applause!

Laurel and Cameo completed Training Level Test 3 on October 23, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #529: **Edith Finlayson and Lil Bit O Luck**

Oxford, Florida

Lucky was born at my place 18 years ago. His mother was the smallest horse I ever had so I called her Little Bit. When Lucky was born, I called him Lil Bit O Luck.

Lucky and I did our Century Club ride on Sunday, October 4th and it was fun. I rode Western Dressage Level 1 Test 4 and got a 70%, which gave us second place in a class of five. The ride was held at a STRIDE Schooling Show in Florida.

Lucky and I go trail riding and have done obstacles as well.

Edith and Lucky completed Western Dressage Level 1 Test 4 on October 24, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Edith Finlayson: 82 | Lil Bit O Luck: 18 | Combined: 100



Team #530: **Margaret Dean and Hotlittleinvestment**

Dalkeith, Ontario, Canada

Mister Mo, registered as Hotlittleinvestment, and I became partners in May 2010. He was 13 at the time and from a Quarter Horse breeding farm in Bristol, Quebec, Canada, where he was trained in Western pleasure. He even competed at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

I was from Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, where I had a Hackney/Thoroughbred cross that I would ride for miles as a youth, until the day I discovered boys. Then in 2001, at the age of 57, I rescued 'Emerson's Magic' from the sale barn and resumed my passion for riding. I am a ribbon hound and did the fair show circuit in Western, English, dressage, and even got into Xtreme Cowboy until the COVID shutdown.

I have been very lucky to have a supportive team over the years (my husband and friends) to help me as the effort of getting ready for the ride increases. There's nothing like hacking on a High Holiday, including your birthday, to make everything right in the kingdom. I will be looking for another Century Club ribbon on Miss Imperial Robin this coming summer.

Margaret and Mister Mo completed Training Level Test 2 on October 27, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Margaret Dean: 77 | Hotlittleinvestment: 24 | Combined: 101



Team #531: Deborah Galbraith and Jessetistic Glower

Iowa City, Iowa

Before moving to Kansas from New York when I was nine, our parents told us that even though we were moving “out West” there wouldn’t be any cowboys, Indians, or horses. They said all of that was just on TV.

But, lo and behold, we moved to a house across from a horse farm! A polo farm, in fact. So, from about 4th grade on, I was sneaking out my bedroom window to go over to the barn about 5:00 in the morning to “help” feed the horses. Then I’d sneak back into the house and get ready for school! I told my mom about this when I was in my 30s, and she was shocked!

What have horses given to me?

ADVENTURE! The owner of that polo farm gave me one of his Thoroughbred mares when I was 12. My horse, Helena K, was boarded at a place about three miles from my house. Again, sometimes at night, I would sneak out the window and walk all the way in the dark to the barn, saddle up Helena K and ride in the moonlight! I told my mom this at the same time as I told her about the other escapades.

When I was 50, I was living across from the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club in Gates Mills, Ohio. I was so envious of the riders all decked out with horses braided for the opening of the Hunt season, I started taking jumping lessons. A friend even let me borrow his horse for a few hunts.

To combine my love of horses with my love of travel, I went on several week-long horse treks. The first one was the Connemara Trail in Ireland. Then onto many other European destinations including France, Italy, Spain, and Scotland, as well as pack trips and trail rides in the U.S. and Canada. Riding in the Australian



Deborah Galbraith: 78 | Jessetistic Glower: 25 | Combined: 103

outback was another highlight. In Uruguay, South America, I rode with the gauchos.

I have been able to gallop on endless beaches, ride to hounds, ride through the rain forests, participate in cattle drives, and see special parts of the world not accessible except by foot or horseback. Always aboard the best, bravest, and coolest horses ever.

When I moved to Iowa I got my hunt horse, Heathcliff, and my off-the-track Thoroughbred horse, Jessetistic Glower. “Jesse” became my dressage horse. Both are my well-loved friends and I’m grateful for having them and all the wonderful horses and horse-people in my life!

Deborah and Jesse completed Training Level Test 1 on October 27, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #532: **Mary Ellen Gilbert and Dublins Riverdance**

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Animals have always been a part of my life, but that only consisted of the usual dogs and occasional house cat. Never in a million years did I think, at the age of 52, it would include owning, riding, and competing horses.

I jumped in 110% and bought a green horse that became my best friend, teacher, and partner. We started off in the Western world, and as much as I would've liked to have ridden this seat, Dublins Riverdance (aka "Chuck") had other ideas. That's when we changed things up, did a 180, and entered the world of dressage.

This complicated and beautiful discipline quickly became a passion and there was no looking back. Chuck excelled at this and rose to the challenge. Together, and with a lot of help, patience, wine, and carrots, we started our journey in the world of dressage. While there were hiccups and challenges with both rider and horse, somehow we made it through all these years and have cherished every one of them.

The pinnacle of my success and proudest moment was when we entered (and accomplished) our Century Club ride. Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way!

Mary Ellen and Chuck completed Introductory Level Test B on October 30, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Mary Ellen Gilbert: 82 | Dublins Riverdance: 23 | Combined: 105

Team #533: **Jim McNutt DVM and Monet**

Iowa City, Iowa

On October 27, 2021, on the grounds of Winds Reach Farm in Iowa City, Iowa, Jim McNutt DVM, rode Training Level Test 1 on Monet, a lovely 25-year-old chestnut American Warmblood mare. Monet is homebred, as well as her sire, grandam, and great-grandam. Jim can remember holding Monet as a newborn foal.

Jim has ridden all his life, largely self-taught. Riding relaxes him, but Jim does not amble. He likes to ride and drive his horses with a purpose, whether it's in the first flight of North Hills Hunt, working cows, or horse-drawn farm work.

Jim credits his partner Susan Brigham for polishing his test, and he has a new appreciation for his dressage riding clients after maneuvering numerous 20-meter circles. He blames Deb Galbraith and Kate Kostenbader for instigating "the whole thing."

Jim and Monet completed Training Level Test 1 on October 27, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Jim McNutt DVM: 76 | Monet: 25 | Combined: 101

Team #534: Joan Swiderski and Composer

Sebastian, Florida

A bit of a late bloomer, I didn't start riding seriously until after marrying and having three children. I acquired my first horse in my late 20s and immediately began a campaign to try every discipline available to English riders, settling on combined training. Dressage was my favorite part but flying over jumps cross-country had its allure, too.

I found my forever horse, Cassie, when she was four and I was 38. As we both aged, the jumping became less important. My middle child got the horse bug, so we shared my steed. Eventually, I made the decision to pursue my high school plan to become a mental health nurse while in my mid-40s. Of course, this put a big dent in the amount of time I had to ride, but my daughter Kari had the room to stable Cassie and the desire to work with her.

When she was 29, Cassie and I entered our last show. She passed away the following year.

Kari was very involved with Connecticut Dressage Association and Centerline Events by that time, and I was always the first on her list to volunteer as a scribe. I had the honor of scribing for Dr. Max Gahwyler and learned of his founding of the Century Club.

My husband and I retired to Florida in 2007 and my background in nursing, combined with my equine experience, led to involvement with Special Equestrians of the Treasure Coast in Vero Beach. I eventually became a Certified PATH instructor teaching special needs riders and schooling the organization's horses for the past 13 years.



Joan Swiderski: 74 | Composer: 26 | Combined: 100

Eight years ago, my daughter was given an 18-year-old Hanoverian named Composer. During every visit to our daughter's, she would school me on Composer, who is a Third Level competitor. This met my continuing education requirement for PATH and helped keep up my skills.

My Century Club ride resulted in the highest score of my life due to Composer's talent and my daughter's relentless schooling. I heard her inside my head directing me through the entire test. I must give a special shout-out to my husband. I couldn't have done this without his patience and support. As I write this, I'm still coming down from an adrenaline high. Many thanks to all who cheered me on and helped make this ride a reality.

Joan and Composer completed Training Level Test 1 on October 31, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #535: Neva Rae Powers and HA Bold Flyer

Lake Worth, Florida

Florida-bred Arabian gelding HA Bold Flyer had the distinction of carrying his second rider into the Century Club in 2021. His first rider, Mary Jane Scott, completed her ride in 2013 when she was 80 and Flyer was 20.

Flyer is now a grand gentleman at 28 1/2 years old. This purebred Arabian remarkably had no show experience until he was 20 years old. But in 2016, at age 23, Flyer achieved four top 10 placings at Youth Nationals. He also has regional championships in 2016 and 2018 and was the 2021 Region 12 Youth Arabian Working Hunter Cross Rails Champ. Flyer qualified for his Legion of Honor at the end of 2021. He is adored by riders at Casperey Stables in Loxahatchee, Florida, where he is a patient schoolmaster to young, and not so young, riders. Flyer has a great mind, is inquisitive, level-headed, and extraordinarily sound. He bounces off the trailer, ready to do his job with a professional and focused attitude. As Mary Jane says about Flyer, “I never met a horse who said, ‘What do you want me to do today?’ Flyer is one of a kind.”

Neva Rae comes to riding very late in life, as she didn’t start lessons until almost 68, but has found the ideal partner in Flyer.

“I trained for the stage since I was seven years old,” Neva Rae said. “There was no time for horses. I was studying the piano, flute, voice, dance, and acting all through my youth. You must have that kind of commitment to make it to Broadway, which I did. But after more than 50 years of working in a dark theatre, this new life suits me just fine. As a matter of fact, it has totally changed my life’s direction. In addition to my devotion to riding, I am certified by the



Neva Rae Powers: 71.5 | HA Bold Flyer: 28.5 | Combined: 100

PATH organization as an Equine Specialist for Mental Health and Learning and am completing my fieldwork for certification in the Masterson Method, an equine bodywork discipline. Horses have added more to my life than I ever could have imagined. I feel I am my purest self when riding.”

Neva Rae and Flyer compete regularly in dressage and hunters. “I get such a kick out of him on show days. He knows he has a job to do, and he is all business getting it done. After our rides, I always come through with his favorite treat, bananas. I am very grateful to the Orlando Arabian Horse Club and the Palm Beach County Mounted Posse for their support and organization of our Century Club ride. It was one of best days of my life.”

Neva Rae and Flyer completed Training Level Test 2 on October 23, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #536: Bruce MacDonald and Wolfie

Bixby, Oklahoma

After having Norman (partner for Team #522) for about five years, we went back and bought his younger brother, Wolfie. Wolfie was quite mild mannered compared to his older brother who was the “alpha” horse of the pack. They are both appendix registered Quarter Horses.

Wolfie had quite a lengthy hunter/jumper career before switching to fox hunting. When he was diagnosed with navicular problems, Wolfie retired for about 10 years. Finally, at the age of 23, he went back out to fox hunt once again and ride for a Century Club membership. He seems to be doing just fine.

Bruce and Wolfie completed Introductory Level Test A on October 16, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Photo credit: Joseph White

Bruce MacDonald: 76.5 | Wolfie: 23.5 | Combined: 100

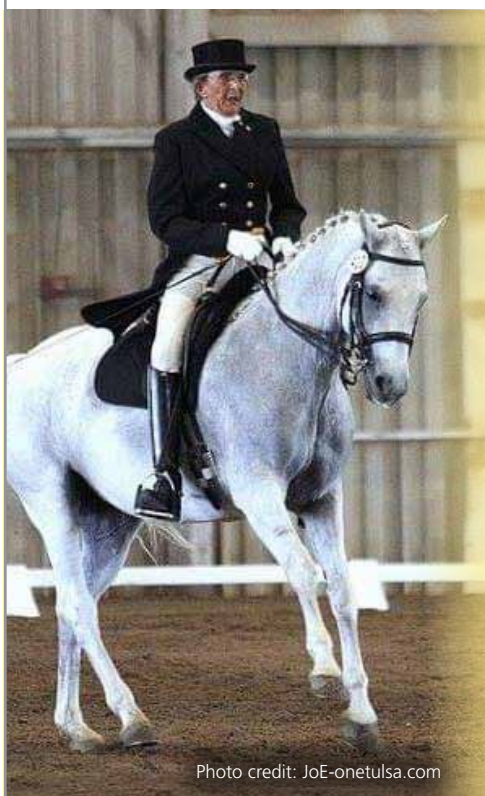


Photo credit: JoE-onetulsa.com

In Memory of Deryn Jane Stewart

by Shannon Hampton, Deryn's daughter

After achieving every goal she ever set, Deryn left just one goal incomplete — a Century Club ride. At age 77, with her 23-year-old horse Erin, Deryn had the Century Club ribbon in hand and the test date was set. Then a rare blood cancer brought everything to a halt. Deryn made her heavenly journey on May 2, 2021.

Deryn was instrumental in starting Oklahoma Dressage Society as a Charter Member. Her most prestigious award, the USDF gold medal, was won with Erin when Deryn was 73 years old.

Deryn's bond with horses ran deep, and she could train any horse to the fullest of their ability with kindness, gentle hands, dedication, and persistence.

My mother was able to ride during the last months of her life, which brought her great joy. Even though she did not get to officially do her Century Club ride, her goal really was completed.



Team #537: Joan Richardson and Berry

Centreville, Virginia

I was introduced to horses when I was seven years old, and my parents bought me and my twin sister a pony. Tony took advantage of our lack of experience and was known for dumping his rider in mud puddles. At the age of 11, my sister and I were taking lessons on a palomino Quarter Horse at a local lesson barn. We had been riding Powder Puff without realizing that she was ours until our birthday. She lived to be 35 years old and was the first horse my daughter, Kimberly Richardson Baiert, rode at the age of three.

After Powder Puff, horses were not part of my life because my husband was active-duty Marine Corps. At his last duty station at Quantico, Virginia, Kimberly started taking riding lessons, and I also resumed riding. Soon followed three family horses. My mount was Ginger, who was supposed to be temporary; however, I owned her for 25 years and she lived to be 38 1/2 years old. We had Mischief for 14-year-old Kimberly and Pepper for my 12-year-old son, Tom Van. We rode many long hours on the trails together.

In 1989, we moved the horses to Bull Run Stables in Centerville, Virginia. We were there only two or three months when we learned the farm was for sale, decided to buy it, and developed a boarding and lesson barn. Our clients were students who just wanted to learn basic horsemanship and have a relationship with a horse. The 20 plus horses we've provided for lessons over the years have been great partners. Many were senior horses, whose maturity and quieter nature contributed well to teaching the foundation of riding.



Joan Richardson: 78 | Berry: 28 | Combined: 106

For the past 30 years, I have taught horsemanship, but I never had time to leave the farm to compete. So, to ride for the Century Club has been my only competition. I have had Berry, an Arabian/Welsh gelding, for 10 years and had never ridden him until four months before we joined the Century Club. I have found Berry to be a great little mount.

My children have remained involved with horses and some of my grandchildren ride also. Kimberly and her daughter, Grace, have both earned their USDF bronze medals. My son and two of his daughters, Hayley and Sara, have continued their love of riding at Moss Creek Plantation Stables in Hilton Head, which he manages. We all have been blessed to have horses in our lives.

Joan and Berry completed Introductory Level Test A on September 30, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #538: Susan Becker and Alaric

Golden, Colorado

This is a celebration of Alaric (Agincourt/Felice), nicknamed Ricky, now 23 1/2 years young. He is enthusiastic, generous, mischievous, and affectionate. His personal charm is so magnetic that in just three years, this warm-hearted schoolmaster totally rules my heart. In 2017, Ricky was an FEI Prix St. Georges champion under Kyra Shine (Region 9), and then the opportunity arrived for me to purchase him from the Shine family in 2018. I remember thinking, being 73 at the time, “If not now, when?”

I last owned a horse 35 years ago and had only experienced dressage as part of my horse trial addiction, and so I surely needed to begin anew. Doing so from age 73 to 76 has been magical. Now, Ricky, along with the most talented, patient, and inspiring trainer, Dolly Hannon, have taken us to our Century Club ride.

Because Dolly already knew this horse intimately, having helped train him as a youngster, she already loved him and welcomed me as her student. In three years of study with Dolly, I have gone from “What’s a half halt?” to riding a Third Level test.

What I treasure above all are the daily hours I spend with Ricky. It is a privilege to care for him and love him every day. He has allowed me to become his person. Our intimacy grows as we groom and graze, take hand walks, share snacks and secrets, and trail ride around a nearby pond. These moments are as precious to me as when he



Susan Becker: 76 1/2 | Alaric: 23 1/2 | Combined: 100

teaches me the half pass. Every time he breathes on me, I give thanks to be exactly who I am and where I am, a senior in love with her horse. This is the freedom of aging.

Ricky is the grandson of Abdullah, one of the most successful horses the show jumping world has ever seen. In 2008, Abdullah was inducted into the United States Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

Thank you to The Dressage Foundation for encouraging senior horses and riders. I’m so very grateful to Dolly Hannon and my barn mates who encouraged and cheered me on to accomplish this Century Club ride.

Susan and Ricky completed Third Level Test 1 on November 28, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #539:

Carlita Mead and Adorada

Santa Paula, California

I was destined to share my life with horses.

My family immigrated from the Netherlands in 1952 so my dad could fulfill his childhood dream of being a cowboy and owning horses. I was raised in the country, occasionally hopping on my dad's horses but never learning to ride formally.

Fast forward to 1992, at the age of 46, and I was an empty nester looking for a new passion. It was my time to finally take those riding lessons. I started out in the hunter/jumper world with my first horse Jack, a wonderful and kind Morgan. After Jack was retired, I purchased my bold and beautiful Cleveland Bay, Chelsea. After a bad fall and fracturing my back, I started taking some dressage lessons from Jutta Heinsohn.

Chelsea was diagnosed with a subluxation of the coffin joint. I retired her after surgery and she came home to join the herd: Jack, my granddaughter's pony; Buttons, my young Irish Draught Sport Horse; Bradley, who was a gift from my forever friends Jutta Heinsohn and Laurie Monroe; and Adorada, my Andalusian 'princess,' gifted to me when she was four by my dear and forever friends, Jonathan and Riitta Saada.

I then enjoyed 10 amazing years of horseplay and caring for my horses at home.

Jack, Chelsea, and Buttons have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. I now board Bradley and Adorada near me under the wonderful care and guidance of Lynda Kovisto.



Photo credit: Laurie Monroe

Carlita Mead: 75 | Adorada: 25 | Combined: 100

When my friend Margaret (Peggy) Flippo did her Century Club ride on her horse, Honor, in 2016, I was inspired to do my own Century Club ride on Adorada.

I am commemorating my ride to my dear friend, Iggie Harrington, who passed away at 96 in 2018. May you and your beloved Champagne be enjoying your trail rides in heaven.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Lynda, Jutta, Riitta, and Jonathan. Without them this ride would not have happened.

I would like to also thank The Dressage Foundation and my friends Terry, Margaret, Laurie, and Kris who have supported, helped, and loved me through this special honor.

Carlita and Adorada completed Training Level Test 3 on December 5, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #540: Cherie Hibbs and Ricochet

Cedar Hill, Texas

For this story, I decided to try and describe the joy I felt when I discovered that the bond between a rider and horse is the most important part of riding dressage. Here is when and how that occurred:

On March 25, 2016, I did my first Century Club ride on my Quarter Horse, Par Bar Twist. Eleven days later, on April 5th, “Twister” was taken for surgery because of colic, where he died in recovery. On April 12th, my coach Laurie MacDonald took me to see a horse. She wanted me to just try to get used to riding a different horse. I had been riding Twister for 10 years in both Western and dressage. When I first saw Ricochet, my reaction was that, at 16 hands, she was too big *and* she was a mare. But I rode her and was comfortable with her, although I was not used to big movements that were very unlike my Quarter Horse.

On the way home, Laurie told me Ricochet was for sale and was a Fourth Level dressage horse and a schoolmaster, which was just what I wanted. I kept thinking about her and went back to ride her several times, each time feeling more like she was the right one for me. After the last ride, I told my husband I wanted her and he said, “That’s good because I just bought her for you.”

I decided that I would call her “Shea” and Stacey Carpenter and I brought her home to 4-C Stables. She was put into Twister’s old stall. The following week I had my first lesson on Shea with Laurie. With each lesson, I felt more confident in my ability to ride my big bay mare and came to trust that she would take care of me. In all the time I have owned her, I have been the only one to ride her, and we have become to trust each other completely.



Photo credit: Toni Lotz

Cherie Hibbs: 79 | Ricochet: 22 | Combined: 101

When COVID-19 hit, I found that I could do my Century Club ride at my home stable. Somehow 2020 passed and I began to think it would never happen, but with 2021 coming to an end I felt that it was time. On December 3rd, at 4-C Stables in Ovilla, Texas, I did my second Century Club ride.

A big thank you to Stacey Carpenter, Ryan Metcalf, and the 4-C crew for making the dressage arena perfectly prepared and doing all they did to make the day possible. Thank you to Laurie for not giving up on me and to Becky Brown for graciously agreeing to be my judge. Thanks also to Toni Lotz for the beautiful photographs and my husband Doug who bought Shea because he understood my passion for dressage. And lastly thank you, Shea, my big bay Hanoverian mare, for always taking such good care of me. I wouldn’t trade you for a million dollars.

Cherie and Shea completed Introductory Level Test B on December 3, 2021, to join the Century Club.

Team #541: Frances Reifler and Lavantus

Winston Salem, North Carolina

Frances Reifler and Lavantus, affectionately known as “Levi,” have shared a special bond for 15 years. Levi is a 27-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Lemon Park bred by Guenther Wieneke. Early in their partnership, Levi ushered Frances into the FEI arena. He has also helped several young professionals earn their USDF silver medals and has completed over 25 FEI tests after the age of 18, an amazing accomplishment. He has taught several riders what a proper flying change feels like and provided comfort to those who had lost their own mounts and needed a gentle soul to reaffirm their love of horses.

While Levi’s talent is amazing, his love for and gentle nature with children are what sets him apart. He stands patiently for hours while being groomed and walks at a snail’s pace for countless “pony” rides. As a fitting tribute, Levi is forever honored, as one of Frances’ grandchildren is affectionately named Levi.

Frances has a lifelong passion for horses and began riding as a young adult. She often tells a comical story about buying her first horse from an auction for \$250. When she told her husband, he jokingly suggested she return the horse. Over the years, she has enjoyed riding, competing, and exploring the trails.

As equestrians know, horses sadly sustain injuries and Levi is no exception. Frances has always acted in the best interest of the horse and has been actively involved in Levi’s numerous rehabilitations. Levi now enjoys semi-retirement and meanders around his pasture with his best bud, a 20-year-old miniature horse, Herbie.



Frances Reifler: 74 | Lavantus: 27 | Combined: 101

Frances has been, and continues to be, an influential member of the equestrian community. She has provided emotional and financial support to several young professionals, given sage advice, lent a shoulder to cry on, and is always willing to listen. She is the person who personally delivers meals with a smile and a story and calls regularly to check in.

Frances and Levi’s impact on the equestrian community in the Triad area was evident as nearly 60 people joined them for their Century Club ride. This included friends, family, children, riders, trainers, coaches, farriers, veterinarians, judges, grooms, and barn owners. After successfully completing her test, Frances graciously thanked Burton, her husband of 51 years, her family, and Levi’s team for their love and support in all her equestrian endeavors.

Frances and Levi completed Training Level Test 1 on December 19, 2021, to join the Century Club.



Thank you, *Century Club* Donors!

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



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