

# Century Club News

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

ISSUE 29 / JANUARY 2025

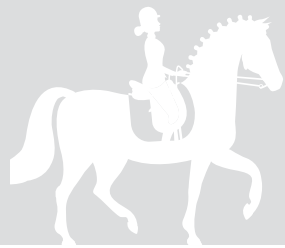


*Three-Time Century Club Horse, Applebee, with Carleen McCormack*



# Congratulations to the 2024 Century Club Teams!

*A few fun facts from the year...*



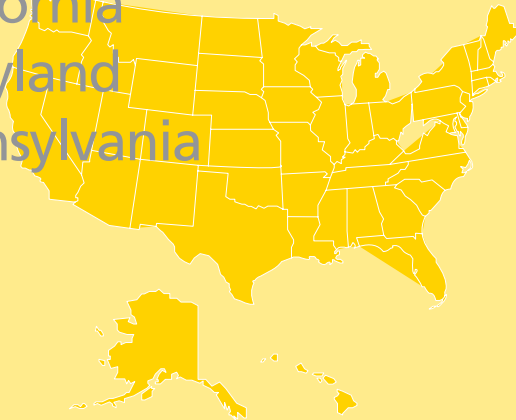
Number of Teams:

**133**

A new record!

States with the Most Rides:

California  
Maryland  
Pennsylvania



Oldest Rider:

**90** years

Cauleen Glass (WA)

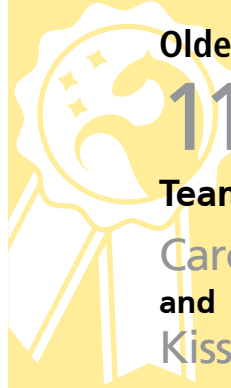
**Team #814**

Oldest Horse:

**36** years

Lady Fiona of the Fields (NY)

**Team #768**



Oldest Combination:

**112** years

**Team #728 from New Jersey**

Carol Jones (78)

and

Kissmit (34)

Most Popular Test:

Introductory

Highest Level Test:

Grand Prix

Number of Western

Dressage Tests: **9**



*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 1996-2024 can be found at [www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org) > Grants and Programs > The Century Club or by scanning this QR code:*





# Honoring the Century Club Horses

In the world of dressage, the partnerships between a horse and rider are beautiful. Few achievements celebrate this bond more than The Dressage Foundation’s Century Club, which honors horse-and-rider pairs whose combined age totals 100 years or more.

Why are Century Club horses so special? These amazing animals love their riders...and the extra attention that joining the Century Club brings them! Whether a Century Club member rides their longtime “heart” horse, a lesson horse, or a borrowed horse, the Century Club horses trot down the centerline with ears perked, ready for another adventure in the show ring.

Some of our Century Club horses have carried several riders into the Century Club, like Applebee, better known as Jamie, on the front cover. Jamie has completed three Century Club rides, including one with his longtime owner, Janet Mitchell.

Each Century Club ride is a celebration and reminds us that age does not have to be a barrier to pursuing goals in dressage. These horses inspire us all, proving that with great care and training, they can continue to perform and bring joy well into their golden years.



Sara Weiss and Jenny Johnson

Since its founding in 1996, the Century Club has welcomed nearly 1,000 teams into its ranks, recognizing the beauty of experience and the partnership between horse and rider. These partnerships embody the heart of dressage—harmony, patience, and a love for the journey.

*Jenny Johnson*      *Sara Weiss*

Jenny Johnson  
*Executive Director*

Sara Weiss  
*Director of Grants and Programs*

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## Team #724: Linda Brandt and Dobi

From: Plymouth, Michigan | Ages: 71.5 & 28.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



Dobi is the first and only horse I've ever owned. I quickly fell in love with him! I began riding at age 59.5, riding hunter/jumper and dressage. Years ago, I moved to Willow Tree Stables in Romulus, Michigan, and that is my riding home. I love taking dressage lessons with Amanda Agemak and riding in schooling shows. As a child, I loved horses and trail riding at various places, but I never imagined that I'd be a disciplined rider and be in shows. I have combined that with the joy of riding Dobi in a very large open field, which has been a dream come true for my 10-year-old self. I feel like Anne of Green Gables!

Having these new goals in my later adult life adds to my motivation to work hard to stay in shape mentally and physically. I also cannot say enough about the camaraderie with people at "the barn," as I affectionately call Willow Tree. The friendships and the love of horses will last a lifetime.

Two years ago, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's and Dobi with Cushing's. Both, ironically, relate to a problem with dopamine! We motivate and inspire each other and keep each other healthy through the exercise of mind and body. Riding a horse requires both. It is like working out physically and solving a mental problem simultaneously.

The Century Club ride was a celebration of healthy aging! How many events in life celebrate age? What a joy!

## Team #725: Betsey MacDonald and Reno

From: Clayville, Rhode Island | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



My 27-year-old Morgan Horse, JCPLionheart (Reno), affectionately nicknamed Mr. Bean, is full of personality. He loves to open his door and free my other two horses, though they can only get to the paddock! He even picks up items I drop, like a hat, and can identify specific objects when asked. While he always makes me laugh now, he wasn't always so easy.

Reno came to me at four and was my most challenging horse. He pushed me to learn more through horsemanship clinics and dressage. Without these, we might not have made it 24 years together, but now we have an incredible bond.

Horses have always been my life, and they're lifelong partners for me. I not only ride but paint them too, so understanding their behavior and anatomy is essential. Dressage, with its focus on relaxation and submission, was perfect for us as we built our partnership. We've done everything from hunter paces to trail riding, showing, and our favorite—versatility challenges. Reno excelled at these, thanks in part to his dressage training, which helped us trust each other.

One of my goals has been joining the Century Club, and I'm thrilled Reno and I rode a judged dressage test together. I'm grateful to my husband, Al, for his support, my friend Karen Grande, her trainer Doris Carlson, and The Dressage Foundation for this wonderful opportunity to continue training with my funny and versatile Mr. Bean.

## Team #726: Ann Romney and Donatello

Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Prix St. Georges

By Sue Weakley, with permission to use from “The Chronicle of the Horse”

The Dressage Foundation’s Century Club welcomed new members as Ann Romney and Donatello went down centerline in a Prix St. Georges freestyle to music chosen just for the occasion.

From Billie Eilish proclaiming “I’m a bad guy—duh!” to Jack Johnson singing, “We’re always better when we’re together,” to X Ambassadors’ “Two kids you and me; living like we’re renegades,” the lyrics spoke to Romney, and Donatello seemed to glow, too.

Romney, who turns 75 in April, and Donatello, her 25-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Del Piero—Armada), who last competed together at the Grand Prix level in 2020, made history as the first to complete their “initiation” ride in the International Arena at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival show grounds in Wellington, Florida. The pair were supported by a cadre of family, including husband U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney (Utah), friends, admirers, spectators and well-wishers.

“It was so thrilling,” Romney said. “He (Donatello) felt like he was 5 years old.” Donatello, whom she’s owned since he was 9, proved he still has the goods as he revved up when it was time for tempi changes in the freestyle. “I couldn’t bring him back enough to get them, but that’s OK,” she said with a laugh. “You know, that’s how he was when I showed him. He was very fresh, very forward, very hot.”



## Team #727: Linda Williams and Willamina

From: Ashby, Massachusetts | Ages: 78 & 23 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I’ve loved horses for as long as I can remember. As a child, I read horse books and doodled them constantly. In high school, I free-leased a pony and participated in 4-H shows, though my attempt to train a young filly was less successful. After that, life took over—college, marriage, and family—and my horse dreams were put on hold.

Fast forward 48 years: retired from teaching, I thought I’d spend my time golfing and weaving. But when my granddaughter took riding lessons, I realized it wasn’t too late for me either! I started lessons at Ashby Stock Farm, then continued learning under Rebecca Eccard, who trains Friesians. With her guidance, I bought my first horse, a Morgan mare named Ruby. We showed together for a time until she retired from riding.

After searching, I found Willamina, a retired Hanoverian eventer who has been my patient teacher. Together, we’ve been learning dressage and are now working on advancing through test levels—back at the same farm where my riding journey began.





## Team #728: Carole Jones and Kissmit

From: Lebanon, New Jersey | Ages: 78 & 34 | Combined Age: 112 | Test: Introductory Level Test C



I've always loved horses, but my riding journey began when I saw an ad for a night school class offering ten lessons at Seaton Hackney Stables. I thought I'd be

able to ride and maybe even get a horse after that. Forty years later, I'm still taking lessons—though without a horse of my own—but I've had the privilege of riding many talented school horses, each teaching me valuable lessons about riding and life.

Currently, I ride with Emily Foreman and have had the pleasure of riding Kissmit, a horse owned by Lauren Chumley. Kissmit is 34, and together we believe age is just a number. She remains competitive in the dressage arena, and we recently won three blue ribbons at the Alexandria Equestrian Association Dressage Show.

When I can no longer ride, I plan to devote more time to equine massage, giving back to the horses who have given me so much. Horses have filled my life with joy and introduced me to an amazing community of people I never would have met otherwise. Being inducted into the Century Club was the greatest honor, and it reminds me that it's never too late to follow your dreams.

## Team #729: Robert Sullivan and A Pretty Penny

From: Rochester, New York | Ages: 75 & 27 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



I'm not a ribbon chaser, but this is my first real ribbon. I started with horses 30 years ago when my daughter wanted to ride. For the first 15 years, I clapped, smiled, and wrote checks. Then I began riding her old lesson horse, Jimmy, who may have wanted to

retire because I ended up on the ground a lot!

After my daughter went to college, I took on her horse, Caliente. I quickly learned that she didn't like cows—or bikes. To ride her safely, I needed to become a better rider, which led me to dressage. I started dressage lessons with Young Flag, but my first schooling show was terrifying. I completed my first test, and the judge kindly noted my geometry was bad. I wasn't after ribbons—I just wanted to trail ride, but dressage helped.

Next, I rode Barroom Brawler, an off-the-track Thoroughbred, and we shared a few good years. We planned our Century Club ride in 2022, but Brawler's age caught up with him.

After two bouts of cancer and hearing loss from my time in the Army, I finally completed my Century Club ride on Penny, a horse I didn't like years ago but grew to love at 27. Thanks to Sandy Hider for reintroducing me to Penny, Anne Gohlke for letting me borrow her, and Cobblestone Equestrian for hosting. Special thanks to all the horses, friends, trainers, and family who've supported me along the way.



## Team #730: Christine Cashel and Buena Vista

*From: Stillwater, Oklahoma | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Intermediate I*

Riding the Century Club ride was the most fun I've ever had, and it meant more to me than I expected.

Like many, I've always loved horses. I began riding at 12, owned a hunter in high school, and rode daily. But when it was time for college, I had to sell him. After a 35-year career in teaching and higher education, I returned to riding, eventually retiring early to become a working student. I learned so much and enjoyed every moment.

In my first year, I bought a horse who introduced me to dressage, and we showed at Training and First Levels. Another kind horse helped me earn my USDF bronze medal and took me through Fourth Level. Later, I bought an older horse and completed my silver medal on him.

On a trip to help my trainer find a horse, I found my heart horse, Buena Vista. We've been together for eight years, competing at Prix St. Georges and Intermediate I, though he couldn't quite do all of Grand Prix. My trainer generously gave me one of her horses, and I finished my gold medal two years ago.

However, nothing compares to the Century Club ride. The support from fellow riders and spectators was incredible. Thank you to The Dressage Foundation for growing this program and making this special ride possible. It was thrilling!



## Team #731: Carleen McCornack and Applebee

*From: Eugene, Oregon | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

I've loved horses for as long as I can remember and have always had them in my life in one way or another. From Shetland and Welsh ponies as a child to a retired off-the-track Thoroughbred in my 20s, I've had the privilege of riding many wonderful horses over the years.

In 2019, I found myself at a crossroads. After riding at a hunter/jumper barn for seven years, I lost two beloved school horses and started considering a switch to dressage. Without a horse of my own, I sought regular lessons with a dressage instructor—and that's when I met trainer Sarah J. Lorenz and Applebee (Jamie). Thanks to the generosity of Jamie's owner, Janet Mitchell, I was able to lease Jamie, a wonderful retired eventer, for lessons.

Jamie and I connected quickly, and as an older gentleman, he was patient and steady with me. As I approached retirement age, I wondered if we might one day join the Century Club together. Would we still be riding when Jamie turned 30 and I reached 70?

In July 2022, we moved to Silver Tail Farm, where trainer Emily Park guided us toward our Century Club ride, which we completed on March 23, 2024.

Special thanks go to Jamie. We made it to 30 and 70, and every ride feels like a Century ride now. Here's to many more years of riding and keeping this horse-crazy girl's dreams alive!





## Team #732: Emily Osborne and Rosie

From: Wellford, South Carolina | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Rosie and I have been together for over 18 years. I was looking for another 16.2-hand Thoroughbred gelding to replace my retiring hunt horse. Instead, I ended up with a 14.3-hand chestnut mare. After retiring from the hunt field, Rosie and I made trail riding a full-time job.

Deciding we needed more adventure, we took up Working Equitation and enjoyed the different challenges. Joining the Century Club was a “Bucket List” goal, and we achieved that in March 2024. Rosie is also a Certified Therapy horse and working with children with different abilities is very rewarding. It continues to amaze me how patient she is with the children and is never flustered by some of their outbursts.

We hope to continue with low-level Working Equitation, trail riding, and therapy work for many more years!

## Team #733: Jean Stuart and Majestic Color

From: Huntsville, Alabama | Ages: 72 & 29 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1



My infatuation with horses started early, when one of my imaginary friends was a horse. After high school I took English and jumping lessons, then I joined the Air Force and was stationed in England. I was able to take riding and driving lessons with world-renowned Four-in-Hand driver, John Parker, and even rode to the

hounds with the Easton Harriers Hunt.

After a couple of other stations, I was back in England. I was living very close to a small stable that trained eventers and was blessed to take lessons on their horses. I also married the love of my life, Joe.

Our next assignment was to Langley AFB, where I went from active duty to Air Force Reserve and started college. The college had a riding program, which I tried for one semester. Hunter equation and jumping were not my cup of tea.

Joe’s next assignment was to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, which was the start of a 20-year hiatus from horses for me. In 2008, I found Steel Prize Stables and dressage trainer Judith Fiorentino.

Majestic Color (MJ) has a bit of a story. After moving out of California and back, he was rescued in 2003. He had been stalled for so long that he couldn’t even canter. Lynn Meyers continued MJ’s rescue, then her granddaughter took lessons on MJ with trainer Kelly Arnold. It is thanks to Kelly and Lynn that I have achieved this milestone in my riding.



## Team #734: Cathy Barnes and Fairhope Pearl

*From: Brooksville, Florida | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1*

When I first saw her 25 years ago, I fell in love. I named her Pearl after her father, Mountain Pearl. Since then, we have both been through many adventures and injuries. Pearl has earned two USDF bronze medals and has shown up to Prix St. Georges.

This year we reached 100 years together, so I decided after six years to get back in the saddle. We conditioned with the help of a good friend and trainer. My Century Club ride was at First Level with a good score. We really had a great time!



## Team #735: Richard Freeman and Virtuoso

*From: New Orleans, Louisiana | Ages: 86 & 22 | Combined Age: 108 | Test: First Level Test 1*

My first experiences as a young man with horses were all negative, so I did not pursue riding. When I was 50 years old, I reconnected with horses, and the trainers I worked with were dressage riders. To rid myself of fear lingering from the early experiences, I purchased a safe horse, and I began to feel more competent in the saddle.

I started breeding Danish Warmblood mares and crossed them with Arabian stallions. One client, Sue Bender, became excited about this and is keeping the idea alive. In the breeding area, I received excellent guidance from Leif Sorensen in Denmark and from Danish Warmblood judges.

I was also becoming a more accomplished rider. Worth mentioning is Grenadier, my second mount as a Century Club member. I also rode his dam Gunella and his sire Rambo. With help from people who trusted the quality of Oak Hill Ranch horses, several awards were earned to place the Oak Hill breeding program among the top in the country for five years running.

My riding developed to the Prix St. Georges level, and in 2009 I showed the stallion, Rambo, at that level.

For this Century Club ride, completed just before my 86th birthday, I rode Virtu. This ride was my retirement ride, and I hung up my spurs. However, my journey of horsemanship and knowledge will not end here, and I am continuing my path watching Oak Hill bred horses showcase talent and trainability in the art of dressage.



Photo credit: Marie Cobb



## Team #736: Alice Sarno and TNT M&M PATRON

From: Phoenix, Arizona | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I started riding at the age of nine and never stopped. Growing up, my family raised Appaloosas in Las Vegas. I showed our Appaloosa stallion in English and Western disciplines. Since I wasn't allowed to show a stallion in junior classes, I competed in all the open classes. We formed a great team, winning numerous ribbons and trophies. This success led to opportunities to train horses for our clients, give riding lessons, and build my own business.

In the 1960s, I was introduced to three-day eventing and never looked back, eventually competing up to the Advanced Level. Now, I find great enjoyment in riding dressage and being a role model for those who think they are too old to get out there and RIDE!

At 17, I managed my first horse show for the Las Vegas Appaloosa Club, and I enjoyed it so much that I've continued organizing shows ever since. I am now in my 30th year as the organizer for the Coconino Horse Trials in Flagstaff. From 2016 to 2022, I served on the USEA Board of Governors. I teach at the fabulous Carefree Farms in Phoenix with three wonderful school horses. I love working with riders of all ages and their horses.

One of my very special school horses is Patron, a Morgan who has been with me for many years. Patron turned 26 on the day I rode him in my Century Club ride.

## Team #737: Alice Leeds and Nout

From: Abingdon, Maryland | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



I do not come from a "horsey" family, but my obsession with horses began early, sparked by books like *Black Beauty* and *The Black Stallion*. My dream was always to have a magnificent black horse.

After returning to Maryland in 2005, I found Olney Farm and began riding lessons. I eventually co-owned a Saddlebred cross gelding and a Saddlebred mare, but by 2021, both had passed. Life without a horse wasn't for me, so my friend and instructor, Mary Pat Meagher, and I began searching for a new partner.

We found Nout von Ster, a majestic black Friesian gelding. He hadn't been worked in a while, but he had more "whoa" than "go" and was bomb-proof—both necessities for me. Nout quickly became my horse of a lifetime, elegant and willing, with a bit of mischief. He follows me around like a "puppy dog," and our bond is something special.

In 2024, I decided to ride in the Century Club. Despite my nerves and allergies, I trusted Nout completely during our ride at Olney Farm in March. The judge even commented on the harmony between us.

Nout truly is the black horse I dreamed of as a child, but more importantly, he's my perfect partner. I'm grateful to Mary Pat, Shannon, Adrianna, and TDF for making this experience possible.

## Team #738: Lesley Cens-McDowell and Only at Macy's

From: West Chester, Pennsylvania | Ages: 78 & 24 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Training Level Test 3

I half-lease Only at Macy's, "Macy" for short, a beautiful chestnut 2000 Paint/Quarter Horse with a blonde mane and tail and the softest eyes. She has been my teacher since I started riding at age 72.

When Macy was younger, she showed through Second Level with a younger rider, Melanie Delduco, her owner and my instructor. Macy was the reserve champion at the Col. Bengt Ljungquist Memorial Championships with a musical freestyle. She attended many youth festivals. Macy is a gentle soul. Stubborn, but a love and a favorite at the barn.

Macy and I have competed up to Training Level 2 and 3, winning Training Level Champion and high points at numerous shows. In 2025, I would like to move up to First Level.

My athletic background before riding was competing in triathlons between 1985-2012. At the World Championship Ironman in Hawaii, I competed 17 times with 11 first-place age group wins and competed in many other distance races in Europe. My triathlon highlight was being inducted into the USA Triathlon Hall of Fame.

I want to thank Anecia and Melanie Delduco and the wonderful people I ride with at Second Nature Farm for making the sport of dressage a fantastic experience.



## Team #739: Susanne Miller and Aragon

From: Reading, Pennsylvania | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

I have loved horses since I was a child, and in my teens, my parents also became horse lovers and surprised me with riding lessons. I eventually showed Tennessee Walking Horses, American Saddlebreds, and Quarter Horses. Over the years, a dash of eventing, hunters, and dressage kept me too busy to practice my other hobbies which are golf and boating. My husband keeps hoping the golf interest will return, but that's a slim to no chance.

In my quest for a dressage stable, I discovered Second Nature Farm located near Oxford, Pennsylvania, and owned by Anecia Delduco. My first lesson was October 13, 2020, and one of my mounts was Aragon, an amazing 17-hand Percheron cross.

Aragon is a special horse with a long resume that includes helping his owner earn her bronze medal and as a mount for countless Pony Clubbers earning their ratings. Lunging was his specialty. Many thanks to Second Nature Farm for their wonderful riding program and also for introducing me to Aragon. Aragon and I competed in many events and most recently completed



our Century Club-Blue Ribbon ride on April 19th, 2024.

I would like to thank Anecia and her team of professionals for all their help, encouragement, and cheers.



## Team #740: Nancy Kline and Macadamian Mist

From: Lancaster, Pennsylvania | Ages: 75 & 26 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: First Level Test 3



I found Mac, a Friesian-Morgan on Dreamhorse.com. In August 2006, I traveled from Vermont to Pennsylvania in 100-degree heat to try him. His kind eye, calm demeanor, and that his training had been in dressage convinced me he would be a good

horse. My long-time trainer, Susan Armstrong, liked his sale video and encouraged me to buy him “before someone else did.”

My “dream horse” and I had a setback at our first dressage show. After a long winter, Mac was so excited by the green grass that he took off, galloping and bucking until I came off and he could cross to greener

pastures. I was devastated, sure that I had to sell him. However, Susan believed in him and calmed me down.

We did our showing and wonderful trail rides in Vermont, competing successfully and achieving a USDF bronze medal. We then moved to Pennsylvania and continued training under Claudia Patrick and Alex Porter. Alex had flowers, champagne, and special t-shirts for our ride. It was a memorable day for our last dressage test.

However, we are not retired. Dressage keeps Mac and me fit and happy. He has been what I hoped he would be when I met him in 2006. Healthy, well-mannered, friendly, calm, and capable of good work if ridden correctly. I am so grateful to have such a wonderful horse. I enjoy every day with him and hope for many more.

## Team #741: Susan Hunter and Brownwood Peas and Carrots

From: St. Simons Island, Georgia | Ages: 77 & 28 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: WDAA Basic Level Test 3



Until two years ago, I hadn’t ridden in over 30 years. As a child, I took lessons at a hunt seat barn, and I rode in college. After graduation I bought a horse, which I competed in combined training.

Then came several horseless, career-focused years in Atlanta. I got back in the saddle when a friend

asked me to care for her horse, which also provided an opportunity to teach my enthusiastic husband to ride. We later bought a small farm for our own horses. When our daughter, who still rides and competes, graduated from college, we sold the farm and returned to urban life. Thirty years later, a few trot steps on a friend’s unicorn show hunter reignited my dormant passion. My sister-in-law introduced me to Wendy Jeffries at Shady Oaks Farm, where I rode Ms. Awesome Rodder (“Ginger”). Unfortunately, Ginger developed Cushing’s disease shortly before our planned Century ride. My grandniece offered me her Dartmoor pony, Brownwood Peas and Carrots (“Peasy”), who was 28 years old. After only four rides together, Peasy and I completed our Century Club ride.

I’m grateful to Wendy Jeffries and to my family for their unwavering support of my rekindled passion and the pursuit of a dream. After 30 years away, my husband says I have been “walking happy” since I started to ride again.



## Team #742: Col. Michael Cathey and True North

From: Staunton, Virginia | Ages: 79 & 21 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

Michael Ray Cathey was born and raised in Texas. If asked, he'd say he was raised on football, horses, and the King James Bible. He loved his horse. He and his friends would ride, swim, and camp out with their horses. If you couldn't find him, he'd be lying on his horse's back reading a book. He played football and graduated from Garland High School, then left Texas for Annapolis to attend the United States Naval Academy. He left the Academy for Quantico for the United States Marine Corps, then left Quantico for Vietnam. He spent 24 years in the Marine Corps. His next memories were those in the sky flying A-6s.

Michael and his wife Patricia are enjoying retirement. He's the proud father of Chip and Miles and grandfather of five wonderful grandchildren. He loves playing bridge, golf, and getting back into riding horses. He left Western riding and tried English. His latest adventures include polo lessons and dressage.

True North is a 21-year-old Westphalian gelding also known as "Ru." Ru had a successful career in the hunter/jumper world as a youngster and in the most recent years has trained up to Fourth Level dressage. His previous owner, Denise Lennon, earned her USDF bronze medal with Ru. He now resides in Virginia, competes in dressage, and gives pony rides to young riders.



## Team #743: Carol Hannaford and My Tyme

From: Aiken, South Carolina | Ages: 73 & 29 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Training Level Test 1

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to partner once more with My Tyme and in a Century Club ride to boot! The Century Club ride was the furthest thought I ever had. My Tyme and I came together when he was three in Ste. Adèle, Québec. He had just arrived from Germany shortly before and was learning the ropes. Although very green, he suited me well and the partnership began.

Many people, too many to be named, were instrumental in his training. Fortunately, My Tyme was kind, generous, and patient as we worked our way through the various levels. My Tyme opened many doors for me and perhaps the most important was the opportunity to board with Aileen Daly in Aiken, South Carolina. Riding with her in the Hitchcock Woods cemented my love for Aiken.

As snowbirds, we traveled back to Canada every six months, returning to Aiken each winter. Through Aileen, I met Darren Taplin, who encouraged me to attempt to show Intermediate 2, my dream. It was so much fun. My worsening back problems finally caused



me to stop riding My Tyme, and he found his new and forever home in Windsor with Amy Blunt.

A huge thank you to Amy and her village for making this ride happen. From riding backyard horses at the age of 10 to completing a Century Club ride on the horse of a lifetime. This journey has been a privilege.

## Team #744: Judy McConnell and Wren

From: Aiken, South Carolina | Ages: 82 & 19 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



My riding career began as a child with weekend lessons and riding double on my friend's pony. It wasn't until my father remarried and introduced us to horses on my stepmother's farm in North Carolina that my passion reignited. In 1986, my husband and I bought a small farm in Ohio with access to miles of trails, leading us to join the Chagrin Valley Trails and Riding Club. In 1991, we became members of the Chagrin Valley Hunt, marking the start of our foxhunting days.

By 2000, I became a Master of the Chagrin Valley Hunt, managing landowners, hounds, and hunt horses. In 2004, I joined the Board of the Masters of Foxhounds, representing 10 hunts in Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Hunting with my husband, friends, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter has been a treasured experience.

In 2013, we moved to Aiken, South Carolina, to escape harsh winters, joining the Whiskey Road Foxhounds. After riding a young horse for 10 years, I borrowed Wren, a Thoroughbred with perfect manners, to enjoy safer foxhunting in my senior years.

As this past season ended, a neighbor and I, both 82, decided to attempt Century Club rides. With the help of a great trainer, we learned the simplest dressage test. Despite our horses being unfamiliar with ring riding, we succeeded thanks to our wonderful horses, trainer, and the support of friends and family.

## Team #745: Judith Thompson and Elphin

From: Aiken, South Carolina | Ages: 82 & 20 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



Somewhere around the age of seven or eight I realized I had been born with the mysterious affliction of being a horse crazy female. This has been with me most of my life. It began with a small pony who was often difficult to catch. The college years were bereft of horses then came marriage, children, and a career. Then in 1970, we moved to a farm in Vermont, and it was again possible to have horses in my life.

There were a few different horses and horse activities until 2007 when I purchased a purebred Connemara gelding from Quebec. Elphin Skylark was destined to be the replacement sire for Elphin Connemara, but he grew too tall—well above 14.2 hands—so they sold him. He was an untrained three-year-old when he came to Vermont.

Over the next several years, I realized what a gem he was; he was handsome and agreeable to almost anything you asked of him. We took him camping in Arcadia National Park in Maine. We competed in hunter paces, competitive trail riding, and endurance rides. He was always willing to do whatever you asked of him. He is often the horse to lead others past the scary stuff.

Now at 20 he is still going strong as the perfect mount for the older rider. When I mount him, the aches and pains vanish, and I feel 10 feet tall. I dedicate this ride to honor him.

## Team #746: Ellen Kelly and Skip to My Lou

From: Baltimore, Maryland | Ages: 73 & 34 | Combined Age: 107 | Test: USEA Starter Test

My love of horses began while accompanying my father to the Thoroughbred racing tracks in Maryland. He was the Racing Editor of the Washington Star and wrote weekly columns and handicapped races. In 5th grade, I started taking riding lessons at school from a trainer who transported horses to my school.

In my 20s, I rode at various barns on school horses but usually became frustrated because I could only afford weekly lessons. When my daughter turned six, her birthday wish was to ride horses, and our mom and daughter horse adventure began. We met a wonderful trainer, bought a horse, and joined Pony Club. I started competing at hunter shows and then began eventing. I served as DC for two Pony Clubs, taught some beginner lessons, and worked for many weeks at Pony Camp.

I took breaks from riding but missed it too much to stay away. I found Windswept Stables and have been there for 12 years. That is where I met Skip to My Lou. Lou is my role model, putting me through my paces and giving me confidence. At 34, Lou approaches every day with joy. She still carries riders around with a spring in her step and a swish of her tail.

Lou and I practiced regularly in preparation for our ride and on the day of our performance, Lou was a rock star. She knew we were doing something special together. It was an honor to have Lou as my partner.



## Team #747: Elizabeth Kelley and Sammy Equus

From: Reno, Nevada | Ages: 82 & 21 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Training Level Test 2

I grew up in New York City and was obsessed with horses. I tried to convince my parents that a pony would fit in the elevator of our building. When I got older, I took riding lessons at Claremont Riding Academy. I rode in a tiny indoor ring with six support columns in the center of the ring. The horse's stalls were upstairs and downstairs—talented horses to navigate to their stalls. When I learned to trot and canter, I rode in Central Park.

College, work, marriage, and children interrupted my riding until I was 56. By then, I had moved to Southern California where I discovered eventing and foxhunting with the Temecula Valley Hounds. I've been hunting since then, many years in California and now in Nevada with the Sierra Nevada Hounds.

My wonderful horse, Sammy, was an eventer on the Mexican National Team, after which he evented with a lovely young rider. Now he takes care of me in the hunt field. He's also teaching me some of his fancy dressage moves.



I have much to be grateful for starting with my tolerant and supportive parents, my coaches who taught me the correct principles of riding and horse management, and my hunting friends.

I hope a Century Club ride will be the goal of many older riders. Keep on riding all and Tally Ho!

## Team #748: Alice Morse and Bright Cloud

From: Chester Springs, Pennsylvania | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 2



Both my parents rode, and I was put on a horse before I could walk. I was given my first horse in college and gravitated to eventing. When one of my horses, an off-the-track-Thoroughbred, decided eventing was not his thing, I took him to Prix St. Georges as a dressage horse.

My current three are “National Dressage Pony Cup” small horses, but they are not old enough for me to qualify for a Century Club ride, so Fiona Gowers gave me the ride on her Nokota, Bright Cloud. Cloud was incorrectly loaded onto a van in North Dakota and ended up living a good life in Pennsylvania.

## Team #749: Barbara Mandich and Kelly

From: Lincoln University, Pennsylvania | Ages: 66 & 34 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



As a teenager, my riding experience was limited to local hacking with camp horses we overwintered. My dad’s only advice was, “DON’T PUT YOUR FOOT IN THE STIRRUP SO FAR.” My favorite horse was a strawberry roan named Honey, who I often rode

bareback and alone.

Thirty years later, my daughter started taking lessons, and I decided to join in. She found Little Miss Kelly, a 14-hand Arabian cross mare, and said, “This would be a good horse for you, Mom.” That started our journey together. My daughter pushed me to ride more and faster, saying, “All you have to do is stay on, Mom.” We entered paper chases, with her on a 17-hand Thoroughbred and me on Kelly, who kept up with the big guy, showing her competitive spirit.

We entered a few schooling shows, earning a reserve champion ribbon once, but mostly hacked out at Fair Hill. Kelly, always competitive, seemed to prefer being in the lead.

For the past four years, Kelly has enjoyed life in the pasture, pushing my Standardbred around and going on occasional hacks. Our Century Club ride was a joy—Kelly loved the extra attention as we performed our test to “Midnight on the Water,” my favorite waltz. Now, Kelly moves on to retirement and light duty as a lead-line pony.



## Team #750: Nikki Soich and Strauss

From: Morro Bay, California | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I achieved my Century Club ride on my horse, Strauss, who is now 25 years old. I have owned Strauss since he was six years old. I bought him for myself but quickly discovered that he was tremendously talented. My trainer at the time, Cyndi Jackson, took him to Grand Prix. Later, Charlotte Bredahl trained and competed with him.

Strauss has introduced me to too many wonderful dressage experiences to name. In 1999, he was the #1 Dutch Warmblood foal. In 2010, He was #4 in Dutch Warmblood Intermediate 1. In 2011, he was third in the Dutch Warmblood Grand Prix and #8 FEI Horse of the Year. Probably the best memory I have is flying Strauss to Gladstone for the Festival of the Horse. Strauss and I thank all his friends and trainers for the exciting life we have had together.

Strauss eventually convinced me that he was done with showing. He had retired for five years before the show. After all this time, I tacked him up and he was sound and ready to go. Maybe too ready to go! My thanks to all our supporters at the show and the wonderful California Central Coast dressage community. Strauss is back to being retired and I am currently working with my Grand Prix horse, Nimbus. Here's to dressage at any age!



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

## Team #751: Kenneth Meisler and Skip

From: New York, New York | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 2

I did not ride until I was 45, when my daughters, who were taking lessons, dared me to join. My daughters stopped after the summer, but I continued riding every weekend with instructor Roberta Jackson, focusing on dressage, jumping, and driving.

In 2001, I bought Skip (MacHenry Davinci), a two-year-old Morgan. We began our journey with driving and later riding. Despite his 15.2 hand frame, Skip comfortably carried my 190 pounds. Over the years, I slowly improved, though it took me a decade to feel comfortable with the sitting trot and another five years for shoulder-in. We participated in various activities, especially dressage and driving.

At age six, Skip had an accident that required his right eye to be removed. Despite this, he adapted well and remained calm. At 20, he faced several health issues, including a tendon tear, Cushing's disease, insulin resistance, and laminitis. He fully recovered and has been injury-free for over two years.

I eagerly anticipated our Century Club ride. Although we're both aging, our rides remain enjoyable and fulfilling. My daughters' children are now starting to ride, and I hope they'll soon experience Skip. I look forward to showing again in the fall and have added riding a dressage schoolmaster and attending the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 to my bucket list. My 23-year partnership with Skip is still going strong.





## Team #752: Rusty Cook and RA Justa Blayze

From: Albuquerque, New Mexico | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: First Level Test 1



Photo credit: Lauren Aston Photography

Rusty has had a lifelong passion for horses. Her journey began in grade school with mechanical horses and local pony rides, evolving into renting horses for hour-long rides. Despite her deep love for horses, Rusty's family, living in a residential area, couldn't provide her with one of her own.

During college, Rusty gained more hands-on experience with horses by working at a Girl Scout camp and a local riding stable, where she prepared horses and ensured their safety on trails. After college, marriage, and moving

to a property with a small barn, she finally realized her dream of owning a horse. She bought a nine-month-old filly, which, with the help of a friend and Arabian horse breeder, became the foundation of her successful breeding program.

Over the decades, Rusty has bred, ridden, and shown purebred and half-Arabians, while also taking lessons in Western, English, and eventually dressage. Her training with Mariah Wilson and coaches Antonya, Johanna, and Jo allowed her to ride and show various horses.

Rusty formed a special bond with RA Justa Blayze, a 24-year-old Arabian gelding primarily used for walk/trot lessons. She recognized Blayze as an ideal partner for the Century Club ride. Despite both being new to First Level, they continue to practice advanced movements together and may show again in the future. Rusty and Blayze's shared journey remains a cherished part of her life.

## Team #753: Debra Tomajko and StoryTime

From: Branch Burg, New Jersey | Ages: 71 & 30 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Third Level Test 1



I started riding in college at a dairy farm/riding school in New Jersey. I cleaned stalls in exchange for lessons. My first horse, Alexa, was off the track and difficult, but she taught me to ride. I started as a hunter/jumper rider, but the late Hector Carmona inspired me to become a dressage rider.

I had always dreamed of riding the FEI levels, and so as a senior citizen, I borrowed from my retirement and bought StoryTime, aka Page.

Page gave meaning to the phrase "a woman with an attitude," and I absolutely love it. She may have lots of spice, but she has the biggest heart. She took me from First Level to FEI. We were the American Warmblood and ESDCTA Champions at Third and Fourth Level. We earned our USDF bronze medal and were one score short of the silver medal when COVID arrived.

When Page turned 25, the countdown to the Century Club ride started. As a nurse, my co-workers would ask if I was planning to retire. I laughed and said, "I can't retire. I must keep Page in the lifestyle she has grown accustomed to living." She gets massages, acupuncture, and supplements galore.

It was exciting to do the Century Club ride, but it was also a bittersweet day as it would be the last time I would take my partner and best friend of 18 years down centerline. Page has now earned a royal retirement.

## Team #754: Kathy Maylin and Beau

*From: Sebastopol, California | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2*

Together for nearly 20 years, my Morgan/Holsteiner cross gelding, Charbonneau (better known as Beau!), and I reached a milestone this year by qualifying for the Century Club ride. On a beautiful day in May 2024, we celebrated the special occasion surrounded by friends and family.

At 29, Beau remains my active partner on trails, beach rides, and dressage lessons. Much of our journey, however, was dedicated to training for and competing in three-day eventing up to the Preliminary level. Quite a feat for a pair of true amateurs! We retired from competition when Beau was 18, but we continued schooling dressage and stadium jumping for years afterward, as he made it abundantly clear that he was not ready to hang up his sport horse title.

Although Beau started his career as a dressage prospect, an astute trainer quickly recognized his passion for jumping—galloping over a cross-country course was even better. Throughout our years of eventing, Beau never took a false step or refused a jump. With his ears always pricked forward, he eagerly devoured every course, always ready for more.

Preparing for and completing the Century Club ride was a true delight and a deeply meaningful testament to our ongoing partnership. My sincere thanks to TDF, the California Dressage Society Marin Chapter, and Cynthia Hall at Woodbridge Farm for creating such a wonderful experience.



## Team #755: Lynda Cooper and Nashua

*From: East Otto, New York | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

I developed a passion for horses early on, cutting out magazine pictures and devouring every horse book I could find. At 14, my dream took a turn when my neighbor's horse, Chico, caused chaos in his suburban yard. I helped with the situation and bought Chico two years later. Over the next 24 years, we enjoyed countless adventures together until his passing at age 28.

Riding has been more than an obsession; it was my salvation, especially during my recovery from a lumbar spinal fusion in 1995.

I bought Nashua, a Dutch Warmblood with an impressive record, in 2009. With Diane Creech's training, we became the 2010 Ontario Advanced Amateur Champion and the 2014 Advanced Amateur Reserve Champion, earning our Equestrian Canada gold medal in 2014.

I was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2018 and spent much of the year undergoing treatment. I couldn't visit Nash, but my husband helped me see him occasionally. Nash survived surgery and a severe impaction, proving his resilience.

As I faced additional challenges, including vision problems, Nashua became my "seeing-eye horse," helping me navigate with patience. Our rides bring me joy and relief from pain.

Thanks to Ferdi and Greta Haupt of Bennville Equine and TDF for supporting aging equestrians. Nashua joyfully participated in the Century Club ride, and the experience was a profound celebration of our journey together.





## Team #756: Donna Gasen and Sadie

From: Liberty, Missouri | Ages: 79 & 21 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Sadie and I started our journey in 2006 when she was just three years old. I bought her after seeing an online video showcasing her conformation and walk, then traveled from cold Missouri to hot Texas to pick her up. With no winter coat, we wrapped her in blankets to keep her warm.

I enlisted my friend, Kim Ranallo, to start her training. Kim did a great job, and after a few months, I began riding Sadie and decided to

pursue dressage. However, Sadie proved to be flighty and unpredictable. So I hired dressage trainer, Heidi Williams, to work with her.

Despite Sadie's high-strung nature, she performed well at her first dressage show. At her second show, she bolted during her Training Level test. Heidi regained control by riding in a 20-meter circle repeatedly, and the judge humorously commented on Sadie going "round and round."

I took over riding Sadie and learned to manage her bolting by anticipating her cues. We competed at Training Level and some First Level, which matched my skill level. By then, at age 70, dealing with serious injuries (not from her) and some fear, we persevered and grew old together. We stopped showing after she earned her Legion of Honor.

Now, Sadie stands patiently as I use a stool to mount and dismount. We enjoy leisurely rides around the property and time in the indoor arena. Despite our health issues, as long as we can both breathe, we will remain together. I love her so.

## Team #757: Ann Lippy and Out of the Question

From: Phoenix, Maryland | Ages: 79 & 22 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1



*"Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."* —Robert Browning

I was almost 30 when I began to ride, but as a child, I always yearned for my horse. When I finally purchased my first horse, 'Kismet,' we also acquired a small Shetland pony, 'Sonny,' for my daughters, ages six and two. We all rode Western, and over the years, most of my large family—brothers, sisters, Mom, and Dad—joined in. We enjoyed many hours together, riding trails, and eventually, some of my siblings began to explore different disciplines, including fox hunting and eventing.

Life took a different road for me, and 30 more years had passed before I re-entered the horse world. I bought a young Quarter Horse, and finally, at 68, began my partnership with 'Quest,' who was 11.

We completed our Century Club ride at Training Level Test 1, and although neither of us was perfect, we were happy to accomplish a goal that began as a mere thought, but quickly became a dream and eventually a reality!

We are now considering a Pas de Deux with my daughter, Pam. She has been my support system throughout my senior riding years, and she has a choreographed musical waiting to be ridden.

Wish me luck, and as Robert Browning also said...

*"Then we began to ride. My soul  
Smooth'd itself out, a long-cramp'd scroll  
Freshening and fluttering in the wind."*

## Team #758: Dianne Tashner and Rebel

From: Chesapeake, Virginia | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 4

I was born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia. As a young child, I was horse-crazy and read all the Walter Farley books I could find. When I became a teenager, I participated in a few hunter/jumper lessons. However, decades passed without any further horseback rides until I happened upon a fantastic, young, green Crabbet Arabian.

I was in my mid-40s when he became mine. When I had to retire him in his 28th year, a wonderful friend and riding instructor, Barbara Felton, introduced me to a spotted saddle horse she thought I would like. I fell in love with Rebel! Since he was gaited, I had to learn, at the age of 66, how to transition from a walk/trot to a gaited horse. I have been “gliding” ever since!

One day, during a lesson with our riding instructor, she asked, “Would you be interested in a new phase of Western dressage just opening up in our area for gaited horses?”

I replied, “It would be interesting.” So, my horse and I started from ground zero. Neither Rebel nor I had any prior experience with dressage, and I was new to the different gaits of my racking horse. What an incredible journey it has been and continues to be! I have met so many exceptional people along the way.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Barbara and to all those who have made this tremendous opportunity possible.



## Team #759: Susan Unger and Whiskey’s Seven Up

From: Enumclaw, Washington | Ages: 68 & 32 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I caught the riding bug at age nine and spent a lifetime riding many different breeds and temperaments. My dream of owning a farm came true when I relocated from the East Coast to the West Coast.

In 2002, I rescued a sad little Appaloosa-Quarter Horse with bright, shiny eyes. We were both ill at the time, but we healed each other. Whiskey’s Seven Up is a special lady who has enriched the lives of young and old alike. A healer, a teacher, and a spirited soul, she is incredibly smart and opinionated. She even memorized her dressage tests—and during our Century Club ride, she insisted on cantering at “C” during a walk-trot test, firmly reminding me that she has her own ideas.

Our journey together has been filled with adventure. We placed in the Top 10 at the First Level Pacific Northwest Championships in 2007. Our escapades have included eventing, trail riding, Western dressage, cow sorting, and archery. She can read my mind, and we are truly kindred spirits.

What a joy it was to have family, friends, and coaches gather at our farm to celebrate our Century ride. Whiskey rose to the occasion and delivered the highest score of her career. It was an emotional moment, and tears were shed. After the ride, the children gathered around, and Whiskey, ever the generous soul, gave them her winning ribbons and golden horseshoes.

Thank you to The Dressage Foundation and to the little mare who could—and still can.





## Team #760: Jill Mante and Electric Slide

From: Warwick, New York | Ages: 76 & 26 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



I first learned about the Century Club from a Platinum Performance catalog, realizing Gus, my Morgan horse, and I could achieve this milestone once he turned 25. We celebrated his 25th birthday on April 25, 2021, but the next day he colicked and died, ending my riding dreams.

Years later, I was determined to fulfill my dream. A recommendation led me to Electric Slide

(Ella), a 26-year-old Arabian mare. Ella was mostly retired and ridden by small children. After meeting with the farm owner and trainer, I was invited to start training for a schooling show.

Initially, I struggled with strength and stamina. A tee shirt with the slogan, “When life gets bumpy, start posting,” kept me motivated. Progress was slow. However, support from my new barn family at Level Up Equestrian uplifted me. Everyone made me feel like my journey was the season’s highlight.

As show season approached, I gathered my riding attire, and a friend sent me a stock tie and pin with the charm, “She believed she could, and she did.” I shared my quest with everyone, both horse enthusiasts and those unfamiliar with equestrian sports. I put Gus’ reins on Ella’s bridle to keep his spirit with me.

On the day of my ride, I achieved my Century Club goal with the highest score I’d ever received and my first blue ribbon. The celebration with friends and family made the day unforgettable. I am grateful to everyone who supported me, indebted to Gus and Ella, and thankful to TDF for the opportunity.

## Team #761: Marla Stoner and Fox View Limerick

From: Damascus, Maryland | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



Years ago, I began to dream of the Century Club ride and counted down the years until we would be eligible. The time finally arrived, and my partner for this milestone was my beloved Connemara Pony/Thoroughbred mare, Fox View Limerick, who has been with me since she was two. Limerick has helped me achieve many goals, and the Century Club ride was the final one I aimed to reach with her.

From the age of three, I asked for a horse. My parents provided riding lessons, but it wasn’t until I was an adult that I got my first horse. My second horse had soundness issues from a track injury. After losing her, I searched for a horse within my budget who could help me achieve my goals. I found Limerick, who had a fantastic temperament and good movement.

Limerick and I competed through Fourth Level and even schooled Prix St. Georges. She helped me earn USDF bronze medals and All-Breed Awards and served as a demo horse at local symposiums. In recent years, her capabilities have diminished, leading to a semi-retirement where we enjoy leisurely rides.

The week before our Century Club ride didn’t go as planned. A back flare-up kept me from riding much, and rainy weather made the footing challenging on show day. Despite these obstacles, Limerick performed admirably, and I’m grateful for the support from friends and the chance to achieve this goal with my long-term partner.

## Team #762: Janis Foley and Lehstrata

*From: Beavercreek, Ohio | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1*

In 2002, I lost my horse to colic and founder. Out of the blue, my former trainer, whom I hadn't heard from in three years, called to ask if I knew anyone looking to buy a horse. The horse she mentioned was green broke and had been backed. Her sire was Lehnsritter, Lilo Fore's foundation stud. Her dam was a retired Thoroughbred steeplechaser.

The offer was for me to try the horse for two months, with the understanding that if it didn't work out, the owner would come and get her. At the time, I was 54 and had no experience handling green broke horses. "What was I thinking?"

Fortunately, my trainer had been a working student of Michael Poulin. She helped guide me through the early days of naughtiness. I bought the horse at the end of those two months but didn't ride her for another seven.

When I purchased Lehstrata, I knew she would most likely be my last horse. My goal was for us to ride off together into our mutual old age. With the Century Club ride complete, our journey continues.

She has PPID but is not metabolic. She's still sound, has never been injected, but is on Equioxx. We shall continue our journey, staying as healthy and fit as we can. We truly are partners.



## Team #763: Nardine Bellew and Epona Mystique

*From: Dedham, Massachusetts | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B*

As a young child, I was "horse-crazy." My entire existence was dreaming about the day I could have access to a horse. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be until I got into my 50s.

I graduated high school in 1970, married in 1975, and quickly had two children within 10 months of each other. My world was raising my two kids and working to support them after my divorce. My dream of horses was shoved into the bowels of my mind until one random day I happened upon a horse show on the side of the road at Rozena's Field in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. I saw a pickup truck bearing the logo of Dorbill Stables on its side. That was in 2008—I was 56 years old!

It was intimidating to start riding at age 56 and learn balance by being on a lunge line for the next few months but it was a dream come true—MY dream come true. I continued weekly lessons and announced to my trainer, Patty, that I wanted to purchase my own horse, so we went horse shopping. We had tried a half dozen horses when we came upon Epona Mystique who I fell in love with immediately. It was love at first sight ten years ago. It has been a magical journey ever since.





## Team #764: Montie Eagle and Marshall

From: Carlisle, Pennsylvania | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 2



Because opportunities were limited in New York City where she grew up, Montie constantly read books about horses and was enthralled whenever she could get near a real horse. Riding lessons were treasured occasions.

Montie was fortunate to have excellent riding teachers throughout her life and worked hard to learn. She studied classical dressage since 1984, working with Pat Smeltzer and Pat's mentor, Karl Mikolka.

She also learned groundwork and the use of the round pen from a horseman who had studied John Lyons' techniques. In 2006 she audited a Western dressage clinic given by Jack Brainard and was greatly surprised to find out this trainer of reining horse champions cued his horses from their footfalls, just as Karl had taught her.

Montie said, "Working with the best of both classical dressage and Western riding made me want to seek out the underlying principles of all the valid lines of thought I had experienced in decades of learning. What were the ideas and truths all these great horsemen trained by and taught?"

With limited finances throughout her life, she bought the horses she could and trained what she had. Her current dressage horse was a former track outrider's horse.

Montie is the author of *The Rose in Prime* and the soon-to-be-published *Riding Anyone? The Starter Rider's Handbook of Horsemanship*, and has been a guest clinician at the Horse World Expo several times since 2005.

## Team #765: Carol Schmickrath and Titleist

From: Georgetown, Texas | Ages: 78 & 24 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Grand Prix



It was a joy to ride a Grand Prix Century Club ride on Titleist to the music of the Starlight Symphony of Wimberly at Suzanne Warmack's Bel Canto Farms in Wimberly, Texas. An enthusiastic crowd sat under tents and along the ring, clapping with the music in the hot Texas sun.

The story of Titleist is one of "Pay it Forward," and is the essence of dressage. We had a Dutch Warmblood stallion, Wiebe, who our friend Anne Reese bred to her Thoroughbred mare, producing a lovely grey mare. When Anne retired, I suggested she give the mare to Cean Embrey. Cean bred that mare to Idocus, and Titleist arrived. The mare refused to lay down to give birth, so Titleist was delivered into Cean's arms. The bond was solid.

Cean was training with me with a very spicy Thoroughbred gelding, Hotshot, which she trained to the FEI levels. She was well prepared for the talented and cooperative Titleist. Together, we trained Titleist up the levels to receive her USDF gold medal. When he was ready for retirement from the show ring, he came to live with me as a schoolmaster to train other riders.

I want to dedicate my Grand Prix Century Club ride to all the instructors who patiently coached me over the years. Only through consistent, patient, and dedicated training can anyone develop the special relationship that it takes to make a happy horse. Many thanks to Cean for sharing this wonderful horse with me.



## Team #766: Jean Pongratz and Atlantico

From: Hanover, Massachusetts | Ages: 81 & 19 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2

My love for horses began at age 10 when my family moved to Massachusetts. Surrounded by fields, woods, trails, and horses, I begged my mother for riding lessons. Once she took me riding, I was hooked. Despite hoping for a horse under the Christmas tree, I had to make do with occasional riding opportunities.

After high school, a generous lady gifted me a small Arabian mare. Suddenly, I was riding through the Blue Hills instead of hiking. Later, I met and married a former Hungarian Freedom Fighter who promised me a Lipizzaner, inspired by the Spanish Riding School's visit to Boston.

We moved to Maryland, where I enjoyed riding across rolling hills, jumping banks, ditches, and fences. After five years and five children, we returned to Massachusetts, where I built a house and barn filled with various livestock, including two young half-Lipizzaner colts. My daughter and I rode these horses for nearly 30 years, enjoying horse shows, trail rides, and

beach gallops. Their passing at age 29 left a void I feared would never be filled.

After a three-year search, my trainer found an Andalusian horse for lease. After my first ride, I was smitten and thrilled when the owner offered him to me.

This marked the start of my journey with Atlantico, my partner for the past 12 years.

Special thanks to my supportive kids, especially my daughter Tina, who has coached me at numerous shows. As I walk Atlantico to his paddock, I tell him he's my Mr. Wonderful.



## Team #767: Joy Cooke and Wesmor Beaudacious

From: Bolton, Massachusetts | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

I was "horse crazy" as a child but didn't start riding until my 20s. My husband and I lived on Cape Cod, where a neighbor had horses. One day she offered me a ride on her Quarter Horse, John. Starting then, I frequently rode John, enjoying long trail rides. Eventually I bought a five-year-old Appaloosa and took some lessons, including an introduction to dressage.

Life got complicated. We had a child, my horse was sold, and we moved to central Massachusetts. After a few years, horses found me again. With friends, I enjoyed more trail rides on another Appaloosa, who was blind in one eye but a steady companion.

One friend, Claudia Lauze, was a trainer, and I began taking lessons with her. I realized how much I had yet to learn. As work and family life became demanding, I stopped riding again. By my early 60s, I assumed I was done with horses until I was offered Wesmor Beaudacious (aka Allie), a 12-year-old Morgan mare.

I took Allie on the condition she would live with Claudia, knowing I wasn't equipped to train her alone. Allie was a challenge, often resistant to training. At a clinic, the trainer humorously noted Allie had "started kindergarten and gotten her AARP card at the same time." With Claudia's guidance and our shared adventures, Allie and I grew into a solid team.

Completing the Century Club ride reminded me that sustained effort can transcend age, especially with a great trainer and a wonderful horse like Allie.





## Team #768: Carolyn Senft and Lady Fiona of the Fields

From: Syracuse, New York | Ages: 67 & 36 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Training Level Test 1



How did I transition from early exposure to horses to where I am today? Growing up in Queens, New York City, I was enchanted by horses from the moment I was first placed on a pony at age three or four. Unfortunately, my mother wasn't keen on continuing these rides, and the barn where I rode was soon shut down due to highway expansion. My horse interest continued through reading and watching horse-related media.

Fast forward a decade, I attended Cornell University, where physical education credits were offered for horseback riding. This opportunity reignited my passion. Later, while studying in Delft, The Netherlands, I seized the chance to go on trail rides near a lake.

Decades later, my passion for horses resurfaced when I discovered Sunshine Horses, a rescue organization north of Syracuse, New York. Volunteering there for the past four years has allowed me to connect deeply with horses, especially one I've grown particularly fond of. My journey continued when my friend Alyson introduced me to Diane Brandow and Spruce Valley Stables. I've been taking lessons there for almost three years, riding Fiona, a remarkable 36-year-old horse. Building a bond with Fiona, both in and out of the saddle, has been a true blessing.

I'm grateful to Alyson for leading me to Spruce Valley Stables and to Diane for introducing me to Fiona. My time with Fiona clears my mind and enriches my life.

## Team #769: Christine Mudge and Selene

From: Mill Valley, California | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



For over 25 years, I've been a partner with my Morgan mare, Indiana Dar La Vuelta. Because there was a full moon when I first met her, I call her Selene, after the lunar goddess of the Greeks. She was bred by Joan Zeleny and trained by my good friend, the late Gwen Stockebrand. We now work with Elena Bass.

It has been a challenging quarter century for my mare, who has had more than her share of medical problems, including a surgical clip of her right hind anular ligament, colic surgery, pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction, metabolic disease, and a severe episode of laminitis.

With the help of my farrier RT Goodrich, and equine veterinarians Dr. Robert Steere and Dr. Jim Myers, Selene made a full recovery. Aside from such wonderful professional help, I suspect, it was due to my Morgan mare's heart of gold and unflinching work ethic.

I began to ride when I was 40 years old. I first read about the Century Club in the California Dressage Society newsletter and it became a goal for both of us. At the Sue Curry Memorial Dressage Show, it came true. Before Selene's laminitis, we were starting to ride Third Level, but I opted to ride a Training Level test for the Century Club.

The experience was exhilarating, and I thank my friends and family for making it even more special. Selene and I hope to ride a Third Level test later this year. Many thanks to TDF for their support and encouragement.

Photo credit: Kelly Kenneally Photography

## Team #770: Louise Gaeke and Merlot

From: Soquel, California | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100

I chose to do this Century ride to honor my horse, Merlot. We have been through a lot together over the years and by leaning on each other, we have made it through. He seemed to be very pleased to be awarded the lovely ribbon, and as is his way, he really loved all the attention. I am very grateful to our coach Joan Williams for helping us make this happen!



## Team #771: Barbara Jean Conner and Docs Almost Blue

From: Lusby, Maryland | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1

I can't remember a time when I didn't want a horse. My mother said I asked for one every year from the age of two, but we couldn't afford one. My husband, Lonnie, suggested I take riding lessons at the Vogt Riding Academy, riding Lipizzaners.

We moved back to Maryland and bought my first of three horses when I was 40 years old. I loved showing dressage, trail riding, and I also trained and showed other people's horses. When I lost my second horse, Flash, I thought I'd get a nice, quiet Quarter Horse. Ha! Smokey (Docs Almost Blue) is a gorgeous blue roan Quarter Horse gelding that I've had for 15 years, and he is the hardest horse I've ever ridden. He was trained to be a barrel racer in Texas. He's not a fan of dressage shows, and he even jumped out of the show arena three years ago.

Becoming a member of the Century Club was my last horse-related goal. When I reached 80 in April and Smokey was 20 in May, I rode a First Level test at the Potomac Valley Dressage Association's 60th anniversary summer show in June. It was 99 degrees outside. I'd



Photo credit: Tara Jelenic Photography

already had two major heat-related strokes, but thanks to the help from my barn friends, we did it. And he didn't jump out of the arena again.



## Team #772: Barbara Schulz and Logan's Run

From: Sisters, Oregon | Ages: 82 & 18 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Fourth Level Test 1



Barbara and her Morisien horse, Logan's Run, have been a competing pair for 10 years, earning their USDF bronze medal in two registered shows.

Barb was a horse statue collector as a child and progressed to the real thing at age 34. She has been a horse owner for the past 50 years, starting with a three-year-old grade mare and moving to a five-year-old Appaloosa/Thoroughbred. She began competing in three-day eventing and participated in Pre-Training, Training, and Preliminary levels in the Seattle, Washington, area.

Upon moving to Sisters, Oregon, Barb found Logan, an eight-year-old Morisien, and knew she had to have him. She began to learn real dressage with Logan, a cross between a Friesian stallion and a Morgan dam. Together, they moved up through the levels while training with Natalie Perry. They now compete at Fourth Level and train some Prix St. Georges moves.

Logan never runs out of energy. He is a willing partner and loves work. He is known at the barn as a "heart horse" because he loves his owner and always meets her at the gate. For others, he likes to play by trotting circles when they try to change rugs as the weather changes. He is just having fun.

Barb is having a hard time believing that she is 82, as she rides and trains six days per week regularly unless stopped by too much smoke in the air from wildfires.

## Team #773: Bob Cuevas and Hannah

From: Bend, Oregon | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Freestyle



As a kid, I wanted to be either a pilot or a cowboy. I became a pilot and retired after 50 years of flying. The cowboy dream came about sporadically.

I have ridden and owned horses with Mary (Team #696) over the past 54 years, not as a cowboy though, but in hunt seat, jumping, fox hunting, and trail riding. I do wear cowboy boots while trail riding in a dressage saddle.

It was our friends where we board who suggested I do a Century Club ride. I decided it would be fun to do a freestyle as these friends suggested some songs they thought would fit my ride. With some help, I brushed up on dressage arena riding and dressage test requirements. It was not only my first dressage test but also my first freestyle. We did a First Level Freestyle, cantering to "Bad to the Bone," trotting to "Wild Thing," and walking to a Kenny and the Jets song. We received a respectable score.

Hannah, our Norwegian Fjord, did her best. This was her third Century Club ride in three years. She continues to be our companion horse, trail horse, and "anyone can ride her" horse. Who knows, maybe there will be more Century Club rides!

Thank you to Alliance Equestrian Center and Central Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Dressage Society for hosting the League show and two Century Club rides. Thank you to TDF for supporting and giving this opportunity to the young-at-heart riding population.

Photo credit: Kylene Camille Photography



## Team #774: Delores Parker and Gen's Gray Delight

From: Farmington, Minnesota | Ages: 81 & 21 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 2

My Century Club ride is to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the passing of my husband, Irv Parker, who was named the Pioneer Horseman of the Year by the Minnesota Horse Council. We were married for 52 years and were lifetime trail partners. We loved to ride trails, and have ridden in most Western states, some Southern states, and Canada. The stirrups on my saddle were Irv's. I feel a memory of him still riding with me.

We enjoyed camping, horse showing, raising our kids around horses, attending saddle club meetings, leading 4-H horse programs, and spending time with family and friends. Some of our fondest memories were around the campfire after a good day of riding. I want to acknowledge the help of my family and friends. After Irv passed away, I had to learn new skills, such as driving a truck and a large horse trailer.

My current horse, Gray, is a 21-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse. I have owned him for the past five years and he is a great trail partner. I have had horses for over 50 years, and showed my first horse, Gypsy, when I was 15 years old. Most of our horses have been Quarter Horses. A few of the family favorites were Sonny, Lass, Kitty, Smoke, and Jag.

The Century Club ride was an honor. Even after my years of riding, I enjoy learning new things and preparing for this ride. I want to thank Kathy Mueller and the Equitation Station for making this dream come true.



## Team #775: Florence Bittner and Rhoyal Reggie

From: Saint Paul, Minnesota | Ages: 86 & 23 | Combined Age: 109 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I started my riding adventure when I was 50 years old. I was so lucky to ride at Equitation Station with Kathy Mueller who is an incredible teacher and great friend. Riding became a passion, and the barn was a place of love, laughter, and lessons.

I have owned beautiful horses – Nikki, Rhoyal Rhode, and Gwennie, who have taught me so much. This Century Club ride celebrates my journey of owning, loving, and riding horses, as well as my love and appreciation of the community at Equitation Station.

For this Century Club ride, I rode Rhoyal Reggie who was bred and trained at this barn. He is a great 23-year-old horse, and I am very lucky to be able to ride and take lessons with him.





## Team #776: Fleta Sokal and Feliz

From: Forest Hill, Maryland | Ages: 69 & 31 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



Feliz and I have been together for 21 years. Before that, she was my daughter's event horse. We have had a rocky road as she was "too much" horse for me for a long time. This included a buck in a canter transition that landed me in the hospital with six fractured ribs. She was a Ferrari when I needed a family sedan. Feliz is very particular about how she wants to be ridden and will let you know if you are not riding correctly. Over the years, we have grown together, me improving my riding and she became more tolerant. I trust her to take care of me now.

When I heard about the Century Club ride, I decided if she and I were still here, we would do it. For four years, I thought I would just do a walk-trot test, but this year I decided to challenge myself with a walk-trot-canter, Training Level Test 1.

I am so blessed to have had many excellent instructors to help me with this goal, my horsemanship, and my riding. I was also supported by many friends and riders. I am forever grateful for them and the opportunity to do this special ride. The Maryland Dressage Association could not have been nicer.

It is a never-ending journey, and I hope we have many more years together. Feliz does not seem to be slowing down at all. I hope I can do another Century Club ride in four years with my other horse, Journey.

## Team #777: Sherrie Ridenour and Z

From: Dublin, Ohio | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



Being a veterinarian has always brought me joy, helping patients and pursuing my dreams. When my small animal hospital grew, I fulfilled my lifelong dream at 48 years old of owning a horse, Antarez, or "Z," a seven-year-old Hanoverian gelding.

Despite no formal training before owning Z, I quickly fell in love with dressage and dedicated myself to

learning, with the help of many patient trainers.

My veterinary background connected me with Ohio State University Equine Veterinarians, who provided essential care for Z, including treatments for a torn suspensory, allergies, and other conditions. Despite inevitable challenges like osteoarthritis, relaxing rides on our farm have kept us both active and content.

Celebrating our age with the Century Club ride seemed a fitting tribute to the bond and journey we've shared. I hope to raise awareness of The Dressage Foundation's mission to support riders, trainers, and judges, as well as local dressage organizations that contribute to the community.

Even after retiring from competition, I continue to ride Z several times a week, he has all day turnout, and we both benefit from continuing dressage training. My journey with Z, supported by dedicated organizations, trainers, and judges, has enriched my life immeasurably. I'm grateful to TDF for recognizing the dedication to maintaining the health and joy of older dressage horses.

## Team #778: Peggy Dinwiddie and Wolfgang

From: Haslet, Texas | Ages: 80 & 21 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

Peggy and “Wolfie” started their partnership four years ago, when Peggy’s daughter, USDF Certified Trainer, Mary Mahler, saw him pop up in a sale ad. Mary had worked with Wolfie (a Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred) several years prior and thought he might be a good fit for her school program in his semi-retirement. Upon telling Peggy about Wolfie, Peggy asked, “Would he be a good horse for me?” Although quite surprised at her interest in acquiring her first horse at age 76, Mary put the wheels in motion to acquire Wolfie.

Peggy first started riding in pursuit of her horseback riding badge as a Girl Scout. She rode whenever the opportunities arose in her childhood and a college program. She introduced Mary to horses (also as a Girl Scout) and got back into riding lessons in the 1980s. Other than some occasional lessons here and there, Peggy hadn’t ridden consistently until acquiring Wolfie.

“They really are the perfect team,” says Mary. “He makes her work a bit to put everything together, but he is so kind and takes pride in taking care of his doting rider.” Peggy and Wolfie performed Introductory Level Test B for their Century Club ride and are looking forward to conquering other tests in future rides.



## Team #779: Gretchen Stearns and Johnny

From: Claverack, New York | Ages: 79 & 22 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Third Level Test 3

When I was five years old, I rode a horse for the first time. I was in heaven. By age 12, I had competed as a Pony Club “B” rider, show jumped, and fox hunted on borrowed horses. Then I was given a big Thoroughbred timber racer with whom I did two summers in Vermont at a camp and three-day events. (Denny Emerson was a fellow camper. Such a nice guy.)

I left horses behind when I went to college, then medical school, training, teaching, practicing, and having my children. When my daughter turned five, she wanted to ride, so I was drawn back. Within five years, we had three horses in our front yard pastures, and I couldn’t believe I had ever given it up!

As the field of medicine became a job instead of a profession, I decided to retire early. I eventually gave up jumping and have done dressage for the last 20 years or so. The best drug for the heart, mind, and soul!

I earned my USDF bronze medal and then stopped showing. I have had many horses who have been great teachers, and I have been lucky to have many good coaches, but Emily Wyman at Apple Hill Dressage is



the best: patient, demanding but encouraging. Once again, I was blessed with a borrowed horse, owned by Giulia Cohen, with whom to do my Century Club ride!

I am so grateful to have lived this long and still be able to ride several days a week.



## Team #780: Maryann Maggiacomo and Hemingway 5

From: Ocala, Florida | Ages: 75 & 29 | Combined Age: 104 | Test: Training Level Test 1



As a horse-crazy kid growing up in Mountainside, New Jersey, I faithfully watched all horse-related shows like *My Friend Flicka*, *Fury*, *Roy Rogers*, etc. I read all the Walter Farley, Marguerite Henry, and Anna Sewell books.

Finally, I was seven and could begin taking lessons at the county-run Watchung Stables in Summit. Until graduating high school, it was my home away from home. As a typical “barn rat,” I did chores to get free rides and rode and showed instructors’ and others’ horses in pleasure, equitation, and hunter classes.

College, marriage, work, and family consumed my life until I was 42. I decided I was finally able to get back into riding. Again, I began taking riding lessons, and at age 52, I bought Hemingway 5, aka Bud, in 2002. We began our eventing career and competed in Beginner Novice through Training Level along the East Coast under the tutelage of my trainer, Lynn Coates-Holmes. Bud and I spent part of the winter first in Aiken, South Carolina, and for the past ten years in Ocala, Florida.

We also competed in local jumper shows, rode on beaches, and began fox hunting. I was awarded my colors from the Tanhealth Hunt.

It was now time for another “bucket list” item to be achieved – to become a member of the Century Club. I was fortunate to find my horse of a lifetime. Hopefully, Bud and I will have more years together.

## Team #781: Elizabeth Syverson and Sierra’s Magic Touch

From: Topeka, Kansas | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 3



There are many “positives” to TDF’s Century Club. Magic and I are honored to be members. It’s that energizing feeling of something special for you and your horse to look forward to completing. Fortunately, we had the schooling show at Topeka Round Up Club (our home club). Great weather, wonderful friends, many memories of lessons, and the wonderful horses that have shared the journey.

My wonderful partner is Sierra’s Magic Touch, a half-Arabian I have owned for 14 years. She carries the blood of \*Witez II, \*El Paso, and \*Morafic. This kind and willing mare is everything and then some regarding the positive attributes of the Arabian horse.

Last fall Magic had a difficult time with laminitis and Cushing’s disease. With the care of our veterinarian and the skill of our farrier, Magic was sound after six months of recuperation.

Preparing for this special event has been energizing for both of us! It truly “takes a village” to reach this goal. Our ride was held at Topeka Round Up Club’s Dressage Schooling Show. We did WDAA Intro Test 3 and earned one of our best scores ever.

A wonderful part of this day was receiving the ribbon from my friend, Joanna Stamm. Our friendship of 40-plus years and shared interest in dressage are incredible.

Thank you to TDF for this program that salutes perseverance and promotes the relationship of horse and rider on the never-ending journey of learning. It was a very special day for Magic and me.





## Team #782: Sara Egan and Charlie

From: Prior Lake, Minnesota | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

My journey with Charlie has spanned many chapters, each marked by significant changes and challenges.

Chapter one begins in Ramona, California, where I first met Charlie. Though originally bred for Western disciplines, he showed promise in dressage. At four years old, buying Charlie was one of the best decisions I ever made.

We shared numerous adventures, from competing in dressage events to trail riding in the Cuyamaca mountains. However, in 2007, our lives were disrupted by the Witch Creek fire, which destroyed our ranch and led to one of the largest horse evacuations in San Diego County history. We decided not to rebuild and moved to a lake home in northern Minnesota.

Chapter two saw Charlie adjusting to life in Minnesota. Despite initial difficulties with the cold weather, he eventually adapted. We enjoyed new friendships, trail rides, and schooling shows until he fractured his right coffin bone during a lesson. He

recovered and returned to light riding, only to later injure his left hind tendon. With time and care, he healed again.

Chapter three began in 2018 when we moved to Prior Lake, Minnesota. Charlie found his forever home at Maple Leaf Equestrian. Despite all he's been through, Charlie has never given up. I'm thrilled to ride him for our Century Club ride, a dream come true.

For chapter four, Charlie might even star as George Washington's horse, Nelson, in an upcoming 2025 film. But for now, he enjoys lazy days in the pasture with friends.



## Team #783: Connie Dabney and Libby

From: Wyoming, Michigan | Ages: 77.5 & 22.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

In 2014, I had just recuperated from my second back surgery, so I needed an exceptionally safe horse, and a friend suggested we check out this little palomino mare up north. We visited Libby on July 4th, and as we saddled her, firecrackers could be heard going off nearby. This sweet mare with a background in trail riding was unfazed, and she calmly took me around the property, offering a comfortable walk and an energetic trot. Her canter was quite horrible. Even so, I was not concerned; I appreciated her willing demeanor and rational mindset. I wasn't sure if I'd ever again enter a show ring, so we brought Libby home and commenced with lessons in the arena.

Libby will express her opinion with long groans and repetitive snorts. It was clear she felt all the circles, repeating centerlines and halts were a huge waste of time. Despite this, her work ethic is excellent. She loved the attention and treats and showed dedication to learning more about this detailed job.

In our local dressage club, the All Dressage Association, we managed to win at Intro Level. A year or two later, we placed at Training Level. First Level has been more difficult as our canter still needs improvement. Presently, I am at a performance barn with Kristen Chasnis. Maybe Libby and I will eventually discover the secret to accomplishing a rhythmic, well-balanced canter. If not, our journey together has been fun, and every ride is blessed.





## Team #784: MaryAnna Ralph and SF Tantalize Me

From: Cochranville, Pennsylvania | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test C



I've been planning for this ride for a few years. I have had SF Tantalize Me (Liza) since she was around four years old. When she was young, she was a challenge, but over the years we have built a partnership, and I think she actually enjoys our rides.

I have been riding since I was a child and have owned horses all my adult life. I used to fox hunt, I've done competitive trail riding, and have taken a few Equitours. In the 1960s, I did a little eventing. Now I ride for pleasure, mostly dressage, and just have fun hanging out with Liza.

## Team #785: Katie Avison and Boomerang

From: Portland, Oregon | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



Boomerang (Boo) is a Dutch Warmblood purchased by Katie in 2001. Boo has resided at Kevin Freeman's barn in Portland, Oregon, since. One morning, as a three-year-old, she showed her potential skill as a jumper, jumping out over a four-and-a-half-foot paddock fence. Katie and Boo then travelled up and down the West Coast competing in jumper classes under the careful eye of Olympian Kevin Freeman. An untimely injury to Boo's pelvis curtailed her

jumping career. The pair began competing in local dressage schooling shows and trail riding.

In 2016, Boo suddenly developed facial paralysis, which through the quick actions of the local vets and Oregon State University, were able to correct the problem by removing the ceratohyoid bone. Unfortunately, the right eye sustained severe corneal abrasion and infection resulting in the removal of the right eye. A bitless bridle was used to avoid pressure in her mouth, and she was quite happy with the new tack.

Katie is married and she and her husband have one daughter. She started riding after finishing medical school and retired from a busy internal medicine practice in 2021 after 44 years. She has competed in eventing, hunter/jumpers, and dressage, and recently added polo lessons to her bucket list.

Katie had two previous horses, both geldings, and found training a mare a bit harder. "You ask politely, you don't tell her what to do," soon became her motto. The two look forward to their strolls through the neighborhood, bareback and bitless.

## Team #786: Susan de Jong and Tristan

From: Santa Fe, New Mexico | Ages: 82 & 18 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A

Kristi Wysocki, a highly accomplished dressage judge and trainer, started giving clinics at the Equestrian Center where I ride and train with Nicole Salwender. The first lesson was fun, and at its conclusion, Kristi and Nicole informed me that Tristan and I met the age requirement for the Century Club.

When Kristi returned to the Equestrian Center several months later, I again signed up for a lesson. Nicole suggested I wear a nice outfit, and when I arrived at the barn for my lesson, I saw that Tristan looked very nice. Jose Vargas, the Equestrian Center Director, made sure Tristan had been fully groomed. Yes, it made sense that we both looked nice for Kristi's clinic.

I was enjoying Kristi's coaching and halfway through the lesson I thought, "Gee, I still have another 20 minutes left." The lesson resumed, and Kristi gave instructions that sounded sort of like a test. Kristi said, "Halt," which I did, and then said, "Salute," which I did.

Two minutes later I was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and a photographer was taking pictures. Kristi announced that I had just completed a Century Club test with my wonderful Tristan! I was flabbergasted and broke into laughter. Then there was a fabulous celebration – a gold tiara, congratulatory banners, a gorgeous ribbon and plaque, snacks for Tristan, and kind congratulations from wonderful, supportive barn friends and staff. I couldn't stop smiling and laughing for the rest of the day! Yes, there are thrills after 80!



## Team #787: Connie Meredith and Negro Veneziano

From: Bandera, Texas | Ages: 79 & 21 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Third Level Test 1

My German Riding Pony, Negro Veneziano, and I rode Third Level Test 1 at the Cactus Classic Dressage show in Dripping Springs, Texas, on August 3rd to join the Century Club. I started dressage in 2012 after many years of endurance riding. Of all the various disciplines I have participated in, dressage has proven to be the most difficult (harder than even a 100-mile endurance ride) and yet so incredibly rewarding.

I trained with Eva Oldenbroek of Oldenbroek-Tabor Sporthorses (now located in Ocala, Florida) until January 2022 when I brought my horse home to relax and enjoy trail riding. The Century Club ride has always been a hoped-for goal since hearing about it when first started in dressage. Eva and her daughter Anya completely surprised me by flying from Florida to Texas and showing up for this show.

I also want to thank all my friends and family for coming to this show to support me. Thank you, Ashley Shaw (Gallop Springs Ranch), for giving me lessons for the six weeks prior to the show as there were many "cobwebs" that needed to be brushed off. Thank you



Photo credit: S.M.B. Photography

to The Dressage Foundation's Century Club for this honor!



## Team #788: Dawn White and Dutch Uncle

From: Wentzville, Missouri | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



I started riding at age 50 on my daughter's ex-jumper after we purchased Dutch Uncle. I later purchased a 17-hand Thoroughbred, but we never got to show. We had a terrible accident where I broke my pelvis in two places. After months in a wheelchair and rehab, I recovered.

Fear of riding was rampant, but I missed the joy and

feeling. My daughter convinced me to try Dutch as he was "Mr. Steady Eddie." I began lessons with Brianna Zwilling and slowly started building confidence. I started showing again, and after a few years, realized lateral work was getting harder for him and it was probably best to retire him healthy.

Dutch began living the life, all the pasture and "ladies" he could flirt with as he never realized he was a gelding. He also enjoyed the occasional pleasure rides.

When I realized I was 70 and he was 30 and still looking good, I got the idea, could we do a Century Club ride? Was he still fit enough after years of retirement? Although he wasn't as fit as he used to be in his younger days, he was a trooper.

I owe Dutch a lot. He was the spark that got me riding again. His personality has never wavered, which drew us to him so many years ago. After this ride, he will retire again with an occasional ride, but he has earned his place in the pasture.

## Team #789: Diane Moon and Vanity

From: Blaine, Washington | Ages: 80 & 23 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Training Level Test 1



When Diane Moon began riding horses at age 50, she knew she was unlike a lot of her peers who had begun riding at much younger ages. What she lacked in youthful Pony Club experiences on horseback, she made up for with her strong desire to stay physically fit.

Together with her horse Chimo, she competed successfully in show jumping for 13 years until she

retired from the sport due to age-related issues. Being "horseless" did not deter Diane, who then decided to learn dressage on leased horses and lesson mounts. Her husband David supported this choice because it seemed safer than jumping!

Diane has studied dressage with excellent instructors internationally: Monique Frazer in British Columbia and Dawn Morgan of Valley View Farm in Washington. Now, at age 80, her most recent accomplishment on horseback was realized during a United States Dressage Federation-recognized horse show at Whidbey Equestrian Center in Coupeville, Washington.

Diane rode Vanity Fair, a Hanoverian cross mare owned by Deborah Cole. It was a special milestone for both horse and rider as they went down centerline to complete a Century Club ride. Diane and Vanity Fair enjoyed a very respectable score from the judges of 69.423%. In a beautiful presentation, Diane was awarded an engraved vase and flowers from her coach and teammates, and the highly coveted Century Club ribbon.



## Team #790: Pat Lamont and Merit

From: Oak Harbor, Washington | Ages: 74 & 27 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 2

I was born in August of 1949 in Maryland, and I started riding at age eight. At age 12, I started taking Pony Club lessons. I started competing in Competitive Trail Riding in 1977 and was the Washington State Champion in 1980! In 1981, I started three-day eventing and continued until 1990 through the Preliminary Level. After that, I started riding dressage up to Prix St. Georges. I was a member of USDF, USEF, Whidbey Dressage Society, and Equestrian's Institute. I also earned my USDF bronze medal, and before the Century Club, my last competition was in 2016 riding Prix St. Georges on Utopia.

Merit is a 27-year-old Norwegian Fjord who was purchased five years ago. Previously, he was a three-day event horse and competed through Training Level. Now he is primarily a trail horse.

A huge thank you goes out to my instructors, four of whom were there for my Century Club ride: Nancy Benton, Debbie DeWitt, Lisa Boyer, and Lisa Weis.



Thank you to Whidbey Equestrian Center and TDF for making this possible. I would also like to thank my support crew, Renee Cash Chong for being my groom, and many friends. We enjoyed cake at the concession stand to celebrate!

## Team #791: Susan Marcovitz and Chesapeake Bay

From: Lake Worth, Florida | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A

My mare Chessie and I both have June birthdays. This year, we turned 100. "Chessie," the barn name for Chesapeake Bay, AKA Chatta Blue Streak, is a pocket-sized solid Paint mare.

We have competed in shows in the Wellington, Florida, area at Training and First Level. She was always a reliable partner who loved having an audience. We have also had many trail rides together.

When I broke my hip 10 years ago, Chessie was my therapist. She literally carried me through my recovery.

At the ages of 26 and 74 respectively, we continue to celebrate our life together. Chessie, thanks for the last 16 years.





## Team #792: Lin Aanonsen and Loegan

From: Saint Paul, Minnesota | Ages: 68 & 34 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Loegan is a miracle horse!

He is 34 and still has big, beautiful gaits, and a heart that has healed many and brought joy to many more. Loegan came into my life in 2005 as the dream horse of my partner, Jan Serie. A mere year and a half later, Jan was diagnosed with late-stage cancer and died in 2008. During that time, she rode Loegan as much as possible after surgery and throughout her chemo treatments. She was transformed when she got on him and I know that the hardest “goodbye” for her was to Loegan.

I inherited Loegan and wanted to take care of him. Little did I know that he would be the one taking care of me, helping me through terrible grief and loss. I never aspired to ride and even feared it, but Kathy Mueller, my friend and teacher, encouraged me to ride. She kept repeating, “If you want to get on Loegan, we will find a way to make it happen.”

Within a couple of months, I learned to ride this magnificent horse. I cannot convey the depth of healing and joy that his presence has brought me. He paved the path for new love and family and is a constant reminder that from great sorrow and loss, there can grow great joy and abundance.

I am so deeply grateful and indebted to Kathy for her friendship, guidance, instruction, and the amazing family of riders and horses that she has nurtured at Equitation Station.

## Team #795: Susan Klonowski and WSG Martinique

From: Wylie, Texas | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Sue Klonowski’s lifelong passion for horses spans the racetracks of Florida to saddle seat barns in Texas, but her heart belongs to the American Morgan Horse. Alongside her husband, Steve, Sue has owned and shown several Morgans over the decades. In 2024, she achieved a rare milestone: completing the Century Club ride at the Dallas Dressage Club Horse Show in Greenville, Texas.

Sue’s partnership with WSG Martinique (“Marty”) began in 2002 when she was encouraged to take him in after his owner’s terminal illness. Their bond grew strong, and Marty’s career flourished. In 2006, with Sue recovering from a car accident, Marty won the Classic Pleasure Championship at the Morgan Grand Nationals with trainer GiGi Norris. Sue returned to the saddle in 2007, and their successes continued, peaking in 2014 with wins at the Wheat State Horse Show and the prestigious USEF Regional Horse of the Year title.

After a ligament injury sidelined Marty, Sue shifted their focus to dressage, working with coach Kim Thornton to build strength and mechanics. The new discipline revitalized both horse and rider, keeping them active well into their golden years.

Sue, Steve, and Marty remain dedicated to learning and growth, attending horsemanship clinics, and cherishing the support of their community. Their inspiring journey is a testament to resilience, partnership, and the enduring love of horses.

## Team #793: Sharon Curran and Universal Patchwork

From: Bethlehem, Connecticut  
Ages: 79 & 22  
Combined Age: 101  
Test: Introductory Level Test B

## Team #794: Sharon Curran and R Frodo

From: Bethlehem, Connecticut  
Ages: 79 & 21  
Combined Age: 100  
Introductory Level Test C

This year I completed three Century Club rides. I've now done a total of 10 rides since my first one in 2013 on my off-the-track Thoroughbred, Slick. Two of this year's rides were done using my own horses and one was borrowed from a friend.

I've opted to do virtual showing for my latest rides. It's easier on the older horses not having to trailer and the cost is more economical.

Ride #793 was Universal Patch, a Morgan gelding that is a super school horse used in my lesson program. Ride #794 was R Frodo, a Warmblood gelding that I trained and showed through Third Level and received my USDF bronze medal. See Team #813 to learn about the other horse I rode this year.

Next year I hope to complete two additional rides which would make a dozen rides in a dozen years! I'm not planning on hanging up my tack after that, but I think 2025 might be a wrap for Century Club rides. I'm running out of wall space for the beautiful plaques from The Dressage Foundation!





## Team #796: Susan Danly and Grayson

From: Gorham, Maine | Ages: 75.5 & 24.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



Grayson, a 24-year-old Thoroughbred/Shire cross, and I have been together for fourteen years, first as a lease from Vienna Farm and then as horse and owner.

We have shown mostly at Training Level throughout this time but got our highest score at our recent Century Club ride.

Tanya Rennie has been our trainer from the beginning, and I credit her for making such a good match. While “Mr. G” is certainly not an upper-level horse, he has given me everything that I have ever wanted in an equine buddy—a trustworthy companion and a good teacher.

## Team #797: Judy Yaegle and Draft On Tap

From: Warren, Pennsylvania | Ages: 80 & 24 | Combined Age: 104 | Test: Training Level Test 1



I am part of three generations of horse people. My father started a small boarding stable, mostly to help pay for our own horse habit. As time went on, I expanded the business and added training. When my nieces became involved in Pony Club, I was introduced

to eventing. My sister, nieces, several friends, and I all got the eventing “bug.”

In the 1980s I began competing in eventing and dressage. In 2010, Draft On Tap, a 17-hand Clydesdale/Thoroughbred cross, and I became a team. We take dressage and jumping lessons, with the goal of always being the best we can be. Draft On Tap has an amazing work ethic, and he is so willing and honest. The learning and fun in this sport never stops.

Preparing for our Century Club ride was exciting, and I thank my dressage instructor, Dorothy Hokanson, for her help. It was a great day with my family there to cheer me on. I feel that the preparation made Draft On Tap and me a better team. Our Century Club ride was at Erie Hunt and Saddle Club in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, on August 16, 2024.

Adding to my enthusiasm about the Century Club, I once had the great experience of riding in a clinic with Max Gahwyler, who suggested the idea of the Century Club to TDF in 1996.



## Team #798: Linda Gill Taylor and Tango

*From: Fairway, Kansas | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Second Level Test 1*

Tango and I began our partnership in 2014. A Dutch Warmblood, a grandson of Jazz, he was already an experienced dressage horse of FEI quality whose life circumstances had short-circuited his upward progress. We bonded from the beginning and showed together actively for six years running, achieving our USDF bronze medal.

We always planned to do our Century Club ride in 2024, and he performed the Second Level Test 1 with energy and joy on August 3, 2024. Tango was affectionate, generous, and regal. His gorgeous gaits and gleaming white coat always drew admiring comments at shows. Sadly, he passed away December 4, 2024, from complications following sinus surgery. He is missed by many and was dearly loved by me.



Photo credit: Bethany P

## Team #799: Melon Purcell and Lightning

*From: Homer, Alaska | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1*

I spent my teens learning how to ride in an arena in upstate New York. I was never taught much about horse care or dressage. When I got my first horse, I rode outside the confines of an arena, and we explored the woods and fields. I kept him in a cow pasture and the local feed store taught me about dewormers.

It wasn't until I moved to Alaska years later that I was introduced to proper horse care through the local Pony Club. Many of the youth members took great pleasure in teaching me horse management! I was also introduced to dressage and learned to love working in an arena again. Through frequent input from visiting instructors and friends, I continue to grow as a rider and trainer and hope to continue to learn all the days of my life.

However, the real celebration of this ride goes to my horse, Lightning. He is a cute, hardy, 14.3-hand Morgan cross, born and bred in Homer, Alaska. At age 29, he is still a regular Pony Club mount. He and his Pony Club rider competed in their first dressage show in 2024, winning three first place ribbons in the Intro tests.



Last fall he successfully completed a D3 Hunter Seat Certification in the pouring rain with standing water in the arena. He gives his all to the youth who ride him, and it has been my privilege to have owned and cared for him. Together we made a great 100-year-old team!



## Team #800: Linda Denniston and Zafra

From: Rocky Ridge, Maryland | Ages: 82 & 21 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Linda Denniston, a resident of Rocky Ridge, Maryland, is a former art teacher with a love for horses and an avid interest in dressage. She was the owner and operator of Cedar Rowe Lusitanos, which produced quality Lusitano horses bred here in the United States.

Linda's Lusitano stallions, Jalifa and Tónico Do Top, were both trained and shown as upper-level dressage horses and had very successful careers. Linda sponsored their journeys, choosing Felicitas von Neumann-Cosel to have the privilege of training them through the levels. Linda spent many years at First Choice Farm watching Felicitas develop her horses, and she truly enjoyed every part of the journey.

Linda always enjoyed watching her horses compete and train, but it had been a dream of hers for some time to become a member of the Century Club. She was fortunate enough to find a sweet and willing partner in her horse, Zafra. Zafra is a 21-year-old Lusitano mare who was in North Carolina when Linda found her. Zafra was originally imported from Brazil. She was a broodmare for many years before the owners decided to help her find a second career. Linda knew that she was the horse she needed to complete her goal. Since purchasing Zafra, Linda has worked hard for the past six years to form a true partnership.

## Team #801: Joanna Stamm and Avenger

From: Topeka, Kansas | Ages: 83 & 25 | Combined Age: 108 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



My horse, Avenger (Vengie) is a Dutch Warmblood sired by Avenir. I purchased Avenger when he was 11 in 2010.

In March 2024, just prior to plans for our dressage show, Vengie developed a lymphoma wrapped around his colon which required surgical removal at the Kansas State University Veterinary Hospital. Following the surgery, Vengie had one month of stall rest, one month of small turnout, and one month in the pen with his soulmate and our other horse, Poco. Vengie has been back at work (dressage lessons) since June with a reduced schedule.

Vengie has an unusual personality. We have nicknamed him "Houdini" because of his uncanny ability to open his stall door, no matter how secure it is, and run free on the grounds of the Topeka Round-Up Club, which is his home. At Kansas State University, he unlocked the door to his stall and greeted his new four-legged friends in the neighboring stalls until he was discovered.

Given Vengie's surgery, my initial plan was to ride Poco in the dressage show. However, the show was moved to a later date which allowed me to show Vengie in walk/trot classes. What joy to ride my beloved steed. We have not shown Vengie a lot, so this was a meaningful challenge and a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Century Club.



## Team #802: Linda Stanfel and Amberlee

*From: Cameron Park, California | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 2*

Some people are just born to ride. My passion/addiction started at age five. In 1996, a fiery red-headed Thoroughbred filly was born on our small farm in Cameron Park, California. She was a handful from day one and certainly not my first choice.

For decades my career demanded extensive business travel so Amberlee spent years in professional training, with me riding when I could. She was a difficult bully who threatened to rear and thus evicted from many barns. I vigorously tried to re-home her with no luck. Many factors delayed our collaboration, but we did not give up. Amber led me to dressage where she was most comfortable with the training methods.

Ten years ago, we moved to Starr Vaughn Equestrian where Michelle Vaughn was determined to help us become a successful team. Through the patient and perseverant training, coaching, and encouragement from both Michelle and Genay, we were able to complete our Century Club ride on August 24th (one day after my 73rd birthday) at Starr Vaughn RAAC 2024 with the legendary Hilda Gurney as our judge.

We successfully completed our test with family, friends, and many spectators cheering us on. I am so very grateful for all those that supported Amber and me on this journey, but mostly for the unwavering encouragement from my husband Paul Stanfel. My goal is to be riding at age 95! To all who supported us on this journey, especially my husband Paul, my deepest gratitude.



## Team #803: Millie McCoy and Xon

*From: Wellington, Florida | Ages: 83 & 22 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: Introductory Level Test A*

My journey to the Century Club began five years ago when my beloved stallion, Rio, was 22 and I was 78. In Wellington, Florida, we were practicing our test when his canter unbalanced me and I came off, injured. I slowly realized I was unable to ever ride the canter safely. I gave up on the Century Club ride.

Three years ago, I was taking Rio out to ride the trails at my upstate New York farm. He stopped at the trail entrance, turned his head around and “said,” I can no longer do this. With tears in my eyes, I took him back to the barn and retired him.

After COVID, Xon reentered my horse life. Xon is a 22-year-old Lusitano who I owned and then sold when his talent was beyond my abilities. Being gray, Xon did poorly in the Florida heat and came back to me two years ago. We have been happily riding the trails together at my farm.

But the Century Club ride goal was still alive. So in September, an unfit show rider and an unfit horse gave it our best and made it through the test with the support of Xon’s former owner, Carol Epstein.





## Team #804: Sue Moran and Rosie

From: Clay, New York | Ages: 76 & 30 | Combined Age: 106 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



After teaching 7th grade math for 34 years, I retired. It was time to have new adventures and try new things.

I'd always been fascinated with horses and riding but afraid to try it. I set up a lesson, but spent it outside the barn, afraid of getting too close to the horse! After several more lessons, I managed to get on the horse and walk around a bit. My instructor stopped giving lessons, so I searched for another barn and instructor.

Six years ago, I found the perfect instructor and situation—Laura Rocha at Baker School of Riding in Phoenix, New York. It's been a slow road, but I now love it and feel confident on the horse.

My first potential Century Club horse, Quincy, passed away so I started riding Rosie. She is a sweetheart, and we've bonded. She's very patient with me and has helped me progress.

My instructor mentioned The Dressage Foundation and its Century Club. It was way beyond my dreams, but with a very patient instructor and a great horse, I was able to do it! Support from fellow riders and non-riding friends alike made this event great fun and a proud moment for me.

## Team #805: Janis Worrall and Bailey

From: Newberg, Oregon | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 2



I was born a horse lover into a family that had no animals at all. When I was four years old, my parents took me to the rodeo, and I wanted to leave the rodeo with a horse.

I bought my first horse as a high school graduation present. She was a four-year-old green mare bred to an Arabian. My dream of owning and riding horses began.

My riding was self-taught until I was able to take a class in English riding at the University of Oregon. After that, I learned through clinics and lessons.

In 1999, I purchased a five-year-old Arabian mare, Sunhi Mizchip. As a member of the Chehalem Mountain Chapter of the Oregon Dressage Society, I continued to attend clinics and take occasional lessons. I showed Mizchip at Intro and Training Levels until she showed signs of dropped pasterns.

In 2008, I purchased Bailey from a rescue organization. He was said to be an eight-year-old Morgan/Quarter Horse cross with some dressage training. Bailey and I struggled to connect until I began working with Francy Haupt who worked with both of us. I am so thankful for Francy, and I would not be here today without her help.

Bailey and I showed at ODS League shows until COVID, including one year at First Level.

We enjoyed camping and trail riding also. I have truly enjoyed my 59-year journey with my horses.

## Team #806: Mary Ellen Mulligan and Tequila Viola

From: Trumansburg, New York | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 2

My passion for horses began well over 70 years ago on a small farm in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. At 18 I was introduced to Morgan horses. In 58 years of training, owning, and breeding them, I've found their versatility amazing.

I was introduced to dressage in 1969 while attending Porlock Vale Horsemaster's School in Somerset, England. It fit perfectly with the versatile Morgans. Whether park, pleasure, hunter, jumper, Western, reining, or driving, a balanced beginning was, and is, always important.

Tequila Viola, the horse I rode for the Century Club, is owned by Gale Wolfe, my dressage coach. Tequila is a Dutch Warmblood imported from the Netherlands. She and Gale competed at the FEI level. Tequila is 24 years old and still has the "moves!" I have only ridden her a few times but have learned so much from her. Tequila and Gale are a fantastic teaching team.

As a side note...I was thrilled that the judge for this ride was Scott Peterson. Both Scott and Gale were members of the Twin Tier Pony Club when I was one of



the instructors.

I want to thank The Dressage Foundation for giving me this opportunity. My plan is to do it again with my young Morgan when I am 84!

## Team #807: Janet Roser and Sheza Cutter

From: Davis, California | Ages: 78 & 23 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1

Janet F. Roser, MS, PhD, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and started riding when she was nine years old. Her riding career included being a head riding instructor at a summer camp in New Hampshire for several years and getting a horsemanship certificate at a riding school in England. Dr. Roser graduated with a BS from the University of Vermont and a MS and PhD from the University of California, Davis.

In 1986, Dr. Roser became an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at UC Davis where she taught the equine science courses. She retired in 2015 and started a company, Fertilplus Partners, LLC. The company is currently developing a product that enhances fertility in mares.

During her time at the University, she taught two University Extension Courses: Tracking Wild Mustangs and Horsemanship in the Wilderness with the Rock Creek Pack Station out of Bishop, California. While a professor at UC Davis, Dr. Roser started a yearly foal auction at the Animal Science Horse Barn. The foal auction sold yearlings that were bred by student interns. In 2001, Dr. Roser's horse, UCD Sheza Cutter, was born at the barn. Dr. Roser bought Sheza at the 2002 foal auction, trained her as a two-year-old, and started riding her Western as a three-year-old. After many years of trail riding, Dr. Roser started training Sheza as a Western dressage horse. She became a member of the Century Club in 2024. Hallelujah!!!





## Team #808: Becky Hibbert and Dally

From: Davis, California | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Dally and I have been together for 26 years. It seems like just yesterday that I was coerced into buying this little, adorable, buckskin yearling filly. The inspiration to buy Dally came from teenagers who boarded at the same barn I did. They assured me that if I bought her, they would help me care for her. Luckily, they helped me! Teckla did a yearlong project for FFA with Dally and soon after, young Mira started riding her. I would have to describe Dally's early training as enthusiastically forward, joyous, and loving. After very happy years, the teenagers were off to college.

I found it difficult to ride Dally consistently because of work demands, but I took time to walk her almost every day. Then, after working 42 years in the lumber business, I retired!

I moved Dally to Holly Fox Farms, where we began taking regular lessons. Allegra helped me carefully put a fresh start on Dally and we were pleasantly surprised how happy she was to be getting out and about.

Our Century Club ride was a wonderful event and celebration. I am grateful for all the caring support I received. I could never have done it without all the encouragement and help. Thank you to all the people who recognize how extra special and fun it is to continue riding as an older senior rider.

## Team #809: Laurie Sigfridson and Shine

From: Brooklyn, Connecticut | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 3



I have been fortunate to be a professional in the dressage world for over 50 years. I consider it an honor to be doing something I love. I started by acquiring my Instructors Certification at Huntlea Horse Center in Lynnville, Tennessee. I ran Heartwood Farm in Ashaway, Rhode Island, for many years as head trainer and instructor.

I then built my own farm, Greystone Farm, in North Stonington, Connecticut, where I ran a very successful training and teaching facility for approximately 20 years. I now run Lollipop Farm with my dear husband here in Brooklyn (the quiet corner of Connecticut).

I have studied extensively with Louise Nathhorst (member of the Swedish Olympic team), Eric Horgan, Kathy Connelly, Pam Goodrich, Eva Rainsborough, Niall Quirk, and Bill Warren. I hold clinics starring Miguel Anacoreta as I am competing at Grand Prix with my Andalusian gelding, Capitan C.

Shine, who I competed on for my Century Club ride, is my favorite horse! I watched his birth and as they always say not to, touched him before his mother did. He and I bonded, and I won state and national awards on him in every level up through Prix St. Georges, then he blew out his suspensory. I retired him for a while but watching him trot out to the field one day I thought he looked sound! He has been back in work as a schoolmaster ever since. My life is a joy, and my horses are a blessing.

## Team #810: Linda Roache and RU Sure

From: Andover, Connecticut | Ages: 75 & 25 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1

As far back as I can remember, I was drawn to horses. Finally at age 12 my parents started to let me take riding lessons. Riding stopped with college, then came almost a 30-year break, family, and work, but an old dream remained: to pony trek across Ireland. So, at 50 years old I started riding again.

First lessons, then buying my own horse and discovering dressage. I was hooked. I decided I wanted to train my own horse, so I bought a gangly four-year-old Connemara gelding, Paradox Pippin, and we became a team over 10 years, slowly working up the dressage levels until I was only one score short of my USDF bronze medal. Then he became seriously ill and could no longer be ridden.

A generous friend, Val Hodder, offered to share her horse, RR Moondog, and that year, at age 70, I finally earned the final score and received my bronze medal.

Just recently, Donna Dunbar, another old friend, offered a show where the Century Club could be completed. Val encouraged me to go for it, but once again, I needed a horse. My current mare was only 20.

Learning of my situation, Jennifer Jo Cross offered to loan me her lovely horse, RU Sure. Both ladies helped to coach me on how to ride him. As a Third Level dressage horse, his unflappable personality made him the perfect mount for my Century Club ride.



## Team #811: Donna Dunbar and Enchanted Paladin

From: Mansfield Center, Connecticut | Ages: 74.5 & 25.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Freestyle

We went to Kentucky to watch Rolex. You wouldn't go to Fort Knox without a money bag. Would you go to Kentucky without your riding duds? Of course not. Besides, I was looking.

He was three years old; steel gray and I thought he was beautiful (looking back at pictures, I question my sanity). He wasn't beautiful, at least not then. The universe was laughing. My trainer, not so much. It became clear to both of us that he was exactly what I was looking for.

We evented through Novice Level, competed in dressage into Fourth Level, and were two scores away from qualifying for our USDF silver medal. However, there's the universe again. We had gone far enough, it said. We had a list of accomplishments. It was time to retire.

In addition to our bronze medal, we earned: 2007 All-Breed Musical Freestyle First Level Reserve Champion, 2008 All-Breed Musical Freestyle Second Level Champion, 2009 All-Breed Musical Freestyle Second Level Reserve Champion, Rider Performance Award at First and Second Levels, and Master's Challenge Award at Training, First, Third, and Fourth Levels.

I read a book: *Magic Kingdom for Sale*. The story follows a wealthy attorney that bought a magic kingdom. The conditions of the sale mandated that he rule as its king. Not being kingly, he kept getting into trouble and was always rescued by a gray ghost horse: The Paladin. When I registered Pal, I needed a name that started with an "E." And so, he is my Enchanted Paladin.



Photo credit: Steven Scanlon  
Photography and Design



## Team #812: Thomas Crossen and CA Garimond+/-

From: Coventry, Connecticut | Ages: 72 & 29 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Thomas is the recipient of the USDF bronze medal and the USDF Master's Challenge Award in three different levels. He has ridden or shown in-hand fifteen different horses in 174 classes at open and breed-specific shows.

Additional accomplishments with the Arabian Horse Association in Amateur Achievement Awards include Handler of Honor Champion, Rider of Honor Champion, Rider of Excellence Champion, Horseman of Merit Champion, and Horseman of Supreme Merit Champion. These awards were attained in dressage, sport horse in-hand, under saddle, and Western pleasure.

At the 2017 Arabian/HA/AA Sport Horse Nationals, Thomas earned Champion Top 10 in dressage Third and Fourth Levels-ATR. His horse, Khoncise +, was trained by Thomas himself in dressage, sport horse in-hand, and under saddle.

CA Garimond+/- is a handsome, athletic, purebred Arabian with a solid work ethic. He has competed successfully in sport horse under saddle and dressage to Second Level at AHA-Class A, Regional, and East Coast Championship shows. He also competed at an open show in Third Level dressage scoring a respectable 60%. CA Garimond+/- has earned the distinction of attaining the Legion of Supreme Honor with the Arabian Horse Association.

## Team #813: Sharon Curran and Charisma

From: Bethlehem, Connecticut | Ages: 79 & 30 | Combined Age: 109 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



This year I completed three Century Club rides. I've now done a total of ten rides since my first one in 2013 on my off-the-track Thoroughbred, Slick. Two of this year's rides were done using my own horses and one was borrowed from a friend.

Ride #813 was with Charisma, a Connemara mare who is a treasured school horse. She is owned by a friend who generously loaned her to me so I could complete my 10th Century Club ride. See Teams #793 and #794 to learn about the other horses I rode this year.

Next year I hope to complete two additional rides which would make a dozen rides in a dozen years! I'm not planning on hanging up my tack after that, but I think 2025 might be a wrap for Century Club rides. I'm running out of wall space for the beautiful plaques from The Dressage Foundation!



## Team #814: Cauleen Glass and Sweety Newland

From: Carnation, Washington | Ages: 90 & 15 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

Although I began riding on the trail at five, rode in an arena with large groups at 11, and spent three summers at a horse ranch in Montana in my teens, my formal training did not begin until I moved to Hawaii in my early 30s. There was strong interest and expertise in dressage in Hawaii, including FEI levels, and I also became heavily involved with Pony Club.

We were fortunate to attract famous trainers from around the world because they all wanted to come to Hawaii to teach, so we had excellent instruction at least four to six times a year. I also became a dressage and eventing judge and Technical Delegate and took my British Horse Society exams in England.

After 18 years, I moved to San Diego and served as deputy director for the 1984 Olympic Three-Day event. I continued my interest in dressage, helped along the way by several very talented and patient horses as well as dedicated trainers.

I now live east of Seattle and ride five mornings a week, working on my position and the horse's engagement with invaluable help from a group of people at my barn. Without them, I simply couldn't continue to ride.



## Team #815: Barbara Prograss and Savannah

From: Fruita, Colorado | Ages: 75 & 30 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: First Level Test 1

Barbara is celebrating 50 years of horses. She started out at a jumper barn with her small children growing up playing in the haystacks while she rode. After moving to a farm in Utah, she and her two girls embarked on a life with Wasatch Pony Club and Eventing. The Prograss girls traveled the West following horse trials and Pony Club rallies.

A few years into this rewarding life, Barbara joined the Utah Horse Council, where she noticed an unbalanced representation of Western 4-H interests. She, along with two others, started the Utah Horse Expo which added a distinctive English twist to the horse community experience. For 11 years, Barbara oversaw all things horse-related at the annual Expo, which included keeping the arena filled with horses, the lecture tent full, and barn activities.

Barbara maintained all this while working as a science teacher specializing in physics, astronomy, and physical sciences.

Barbara had the privilege of becoming the guardian of the remarkable horse, Savannah. Betsy Small adopted



Savannah 25 years ago and turned her into the most loving, safe, and generous horse anyone could hope to ride. With careful attention to her health, this gorgeous Clydesdale cross is still an active 30-year-old partner who has restored Barbara's confidence and joy in riding. Every person who spends time with Savannah falls in love with her.



## Team #816: Bill Wilson & Ferris

From: Chichester, New Hampshire | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I was born in Maryland and graduated from Washington College playing varsity tennis, soccer, and baseball. After college I joined the Air Force, qualifying for fighters and flying tankers for SAC. After the Vietnam War, I returned to law school and practiced commercial and finance law in the energy sector.

I grew up with horses but only learned to ride after I met my wife Stella, a rider from childhood. I have been blessed with three wonderful horses, all partners for life. Fox hunting led me to eventing, which my wife and I enjoyed for several decades. My Century ride partner, a Holsteiner named Ferris (aka Fortitude) was my last eventing partner. He has a jumper's heart and scope and is smart as a whip with an impish but sweet personality. Through all our competitions, he never refused a jump or pulled a rail.

Ferris developed head-shaking syndrome around age 13, which ended our competition years. Currently, we continue to improve our jumping and are working on Third Level dressage movements.

My wife discovered the Century Club program and encouraged me to do it as a tribute to my long-time equine partner and friend. He truly is my horse of a lifetime. We had not ridden a dressage test in 10 years, and I was suffering from severe sciatica. Still, we managed a respectable test, and both enjoyed the experience.

I thank The Dressage Foundation for this opportunity to honor my equine partner.

## Team #817: Patricia Fici and Parette

From: Duncan, South Carolina | Ages: 77 & 27 | Combined Age: 104 | Test: Training Level Test 3



Parette and I have enjoyed a 19-year relationship during which she helped me learn the basics of dressage.

While those years were fraught with long periods of rehabilitation from multiple tendon injuries, a broken bone, and a diagnosis in her teens of PPID, Parette offered me the opportunity to obtain my USDF silver medal and finally, the Century Club ride. She has earned a well-deserved rest.

## Team #818: Donna Bains and Angel

From: Middleborough, Massachusetts | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

My parents said that even as a baby, I got so excited when I saw one, and “horse” was my first word. I returned to riding in 1999 after my father passed away. He was my hero, and I felt a great loss. I decided it was time for me to do something that would make me happy. My husband supported this even though he is not a horse person.

Luckily, I found dressage trainer Erika Schembari, who encouraged me and encouraged her students to pursue this discipline.

After a fall and broken hip from a big Thoroughbred, I decided to stick to ponies. I showed a hunter pony in flat classes and dressage until he had to retire. I convinced my husband it was time for me to own my horse. I wanted a German Riding Pony because I could have a Warmblood in a pony package. Erika found me Midnight Sonata, aka Angel. We have been a pair since 2006. Angel is her name in every way. She is unflappable and has been perfect for me.

After Erika moved, Angel and I moved to Dorbill Stables, where Patricia Cullen and Anne Mederios have been great coaches. At Dorbill, I’m riding with many women my age, as well as young women. Everyone supports each other and their riding goals. I encourage everyone that it is never too late, and riding will make you new friends and make your life more rewarding.



## Team #819: Dorothy Minter and Pedro

From: Yardley, Pennsylvania | Ages: 81 & 27 | Combined Age: 108 | Test: Training Level Test 3

I grew up in Miami and loved horses. When I was 13, my dad bought me a three-year-old horse named Sinbad. I showed him Western pleasure, English pleasure, working and handy horse hunter, and jumpers. In 1960, I went to Florida State University, got married, and had four children before moving to Pennsylvania.

The move ignited my desire to find a horse and start riding again. One of my horses was Gonzales, who was long-listed for the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Jessica Ranshousen in dressage. Many years and horses later, I needed a young horse to bring along. A friend went horse shopping in Europe and brought back a video of a wonderful young horse named Pedro. She said he was sensible with three nice gaits, so I took a chance and bought him. However, despite my belief that young horses would not have lameness issues, he did. It was a shame because he loved doing dressage and was very fancy. Various treatments helped him stay sound at lower levels.

Pedro is a lovely horse, and I feel privileged to have been able to ride a horse of his caliber and temperament. Everybody loves him. My vet, Dr. Greg Staller, helps me keep him sound. I can’t do the harder upper-level movements with him, but even so, Pedro is a fabulous horse to ride. He was very excited about our Century Club ride and was perfect as always, earning a score of 74%.





## Team #820: Ruth McCormick and Feine Dame

From: Pompton Plains, New Jersey | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1



After riding sporadically as a child, I started riding at age 40 after a friend asked me, “What have you done for yourself lately?” I immediately knew the answer. That week I signed up for a lesson at a local barn and bought paddock boots and a helmet.

My husband of 16 years, Mack, had no idea I was obsessed with horses. Shortly after that first ride, there were two lessons a week and then three. I bought my first horse five years later! It was wonderful to make riding friends and de-stress from my career in human resources in New York City.

Now retired, I ride several days a week. My 27-year-old mare Joy (Feine Dame) has been my partner for 16 years and for the Century Club ride. We have shown at Third Level, but I no longer ask her for lateral work or changes, although she will offer them. I also have an upper-level gelding.

Now married 50 years, Mack continues to encourage my riding and understands the joy (no pun intended) that it brings me! Thank you to TDF for its support of the Century Club program, a great reason to celebrate continuing to ride!

## Team #821: Barbara Edwards and Elegido

From: Traverse City, Michigan | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



For my 50th birthday, I finally realized my dream of having my own horse and began learning dressage with my first schoolmaster, Daniel Webster. Riding and equine friendship became a wonderful lifestyle and a way for me to de-stress from my work as a psychologist.

Elegido, a PRE Horse, and I met each other fifteen years ago. I did not have access to consistent training until this past year and had never ridden a full dressage test or entered a show. When my friend told me about the Century Club, it became a great goal and a way to honor the journey of our equine partnership. Elegido is my heart horse, a kind, willing, sensitive, intelligent gentleman with the forward energy of a race car. At our ages of 27 and 73, it is my hope that we will have a Century Club ride “plus” next year as well.

Thank you to The Dressage Foundation for this wonderful opportunity!

## Team #822: Peter Rothschild and Enigma

From: Olympia, Washington | Ages: 76 & 25 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Freestyle

Seventy years ago, at the tender age of six, I started riding Champ around the family farm. Thirty-eight years later, on Molly, I entered my first dressage show and rode my first tests. Fourteen years later, Enigma, a Hanoverian/Arab cross became “my horse.”

Over the last 18 years, “The Ig and I” have shown throughout USDF Region 6, starting, of course, at Intro and then slowly, VERY slowly, working our way up the levels earning our USDF bronze and silver medals and bronze Freestyle Bar.

We were both fortunate that, over those 18 years, we had the good fortune to connect with wonderful trainers who worked on both Ig and me. Even though we were not “made” for dressage, we got as far as we did because of those trainers who never gave up on us. It is also a huge credit to my late wife who was the one who brought me kicking and screaming from “real riding” (i.e. Western) to dressage.

It’s been a wonderful 70 years of being around horses (with a 20-year time out for college, marriage, kids, work). The Ig has been a special partner who has saved me in many ways. Now that we are “A Century,” it couldn’t have been better.

A huge thank you to The Dressage Foundation for this program, Kari McClain for teaching us and setting up the ride, Mike Osinski for judging, and my wife Louise for her support.



## Team #823: Jeanne Barnes and Pride

From: Silver Spring, Maryland | Ages: 79 & 24 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

I took my first riding lesson when I was 43 and haven’t stopped riding since. Pride came into my life in 2009 as a free lease. After four years, his owner decided to sell him, and I was happy to purchase him. We have continued to work together to improve our partnership.

On September 21, 2024, Encore Stables in Fulton, Maryland, sponsored a “Proud to Be a Chicken” dressage schooling show. My daughter made our costumes, and Pride was fine with being a chicken!





## Team #824: Margaret Holmquest and Mojito

From: Pinehurst, North Carolina | Ages: 81.5 & 18.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



Never in my imagination would I have thought I'd be writing about a second Century Club dressage ride! Two years ago, my wonderful instructor, Samantha Southard, suggested this as a goal as I began to ride again after almost 20 years. Her horse, Buttercup, and I did a walk-only test which inspired me so much that I decided I wanted a horse of my own.

Soon afterward, my daughter, Jen, found a great Quarter Horse named Mojito. He and I began working toward another dressage test, this time a walk/trot. Two years down the road, we did it! How wonderful to have Jen, Sam, and my dear barn family cheering me on.

Thank you so much for these opportunities. You have been a great inspiration to those of us who have a lot of "experience" to continue to find joy in riding.

## Team #825: Brian Combs and Bear

From: Vaughn, Washington | Ages: 73 & 27 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 1



Bear has been part of our family for 19 years. He is a Shire/Thoroughbred cross that looks like a big pony. He is an easy horse to ride which has been nice as we have gotten older. Trained in more of the French tradition,

he is light in the hand and generally responsive if not super energetic. He has always been cooperative and even his spooks are nothing to worry about.

Originally, we competed in eventing. He enjoyed stadium jumping if the jumps were not too flashy, but he didn't care much about cross country. He loved the water, and he would rather have stayed to play a bit. Our real focus was dressage, and we rode tests up through Second Level.

I rode for the first time when I was about five and loved it, but horses were too expensive for my family. Later I took lessons before going into the Army. It was another 15 years before I started riding again. When we had children, we started them on an old mare. They were very active in Pony Club, and both are still involved in some teaching, coaching, and certifications.

The Century Club ride was in the back of my mind for some time but one or the other of us was unsound over the past four years. This year we were both sound at the same time, so we had to do it. It was a blast.

## Team #826: Robert Piro and Duffy

From: *Boxford, Massachusetts* | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: *Training Level Test 2*

I grew up on Long Island, New York, and spent most of my adult life around Boston. I started riding when I was 43. My wife, Mary, had returned to a childhood passion for riding and my two daughters had joined her. I would come home from work and they would be at the barn, so I would never see them. In self-defense, I joined them, and that led to us building our first farm in Massachusetts. We had that farm for 14 years before moving Pirouette Farm to Vermont.

I started eventing a couple of years later. I met Waterview (Duffy) on a horse-shopping trip to Ireland. He was 12 and I was 60 at the time. Duffy is a 16.3-hand Irish Sport Horse. He had been ridden by Oliver Townend and had even completed an Advanced horse trial in England.

Duffy colicked six months after I got him and had surgery, so I lost a year bringing him back. After that, we had a great partnership and went on to complete 36 sanctioned events over seven years. After that Duffy became “the Professor” and taught low-level eventing



Photo credit: Creek Dreams Photography

and dressage to aspiring riders. He is a wonderful horse, always quite sane, and very smart. I have been privileged to partner with him.

I would like to thank TDF for this wonderful program as well as my groom extraordinaire, Mary, and my trainer for many years, Jane Hamlin.

## Team #827: Jean Walker and Caspers Jetalito

From: *Iowa City, Iowa* | Ages: 80.5 & 19.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: *Training Level Test 3*

I started riding in Ireland when I was 12, on a pony that my neighbor gave to me. We had great fun riding around the neighborhood and on the main road from Dublin, in Pony Club, and fox hunting.

A 50-year gap where life (and emigrating to the U.S.) got in the way of my horse passion. A trip back to Ireland at age 67 re-ignited that passion when I visited a schoolmate who had become a large animal vet and whose husband was Master of Hounds.

I acquired my best buddy, Caspers Jetalito (aka Murphy), when he was seven. He was at an eventing barn and I said, “I’m not doing anything that requires my medical information on my arm,” but the local vet said, “Jean, grow some girl balls.” I took this as a challenge, and we did our first event when I was 70. Afterward, I took the vet to my car to show him two pink tennis balls, and said, “There!”

Murphy has been such a wonderful teacher and companion. Jumping has been our passion—particularly on cross-country. However, an injury ended our jumping days, so we have been concentrating on dressage. We were fortunate to be able to do our Century Club ride, as only five months before, he sustained a horrendous injury where a piece of wood fencing shattered his skull and penetrated five inches into his head and his neck, miraculously both avoiding all major structures. He is a very special horse.





## Team #828: Sally Nunneley and Sandy

From: Lexington, Virginia | Ages: 83 & 20 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: First Level Test 3



Once upon a time, a charming Haflinger pony came to our barn for sale. He was bred and trained by the Amish in Ohio and had been used for combined driving in Virginia over the past several years. His owner was dissatisfied because the pony was unwilling to “go fast” on cross-country. My trainer, Gammon Cross, thought I should try him, and he was soon mine. I named him Gingerman for competition, but his barn name remained Sandy, and everyone fell in love with him.

Converting a driving horse to riding took a while. Without blinkers, he tended to shy at anything coming at him from the side. We had to teach him to listen to seat and leg aids, to move laterally on request, and how to jump. But he turned into a wonderful eventing pony, and with Gammon’s daughter aboard, completed the American Eventing Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park. As we aged together over the ensuing years, we eventually retired from competition.

I joined the Century Club in 2020 on a wonderful, borrowed pony while Sandy and I were too young to qualify as a team, but now our ages have added to 103. I am proud that we could do First Level Test 3 together while new friends from my retirement community (Kendal at Lexington) cheered us on.

## Team #829: Lizabeth Joens and Jesse

From: Prior Lake, Minnesota | Ages: 72 & 29 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



My love for horses began when I was a young girl in Minnesota. At 16, I got my first job and saved to buy my first horse. It took a while to pay off the \$250 price tag and I couldn’t afford a saddle, so I rode bareback for a year. Over the years I’ve enjoyed many different disciplines, from Western pleasure to dressage.

Now, I spend most of the year in Florida, where I volunteer at various three-day eventing and driving events in the Ocala area. During the summer I return to Minnesota and spend time with my two daughters, family, and friends. I also volunteer a few days a week at a nearby therapeutic riding stable. Most weekends you’ll find me trail riding with my daughters, Monica and Michelle, and their good friend Kelly.

Michelle has been incredibly generous in letting me ride her Quarter Horse mare, Jesse, who is now 29 years old. Michelle has owned Jesse since she was a yearling, and I feel honored to ride and pamper her just a bit. Jesse and I took some lessons this summer to prepare for our Century Club ride as it has been years since I last competed. We completed our ride on September 10th at Cross Creek Stables in Cologne, Minnesota. I was thrilled to have the support of my daughters and a large group from the stable including another Century Club rider. It was a lovely, memorable ride.



## Team #830: Robert Clements and Moon Striker

*From: Flint Hill, Virginia | Ages: 89 & 20 | Combined Age: 109 | Test: Third Level Freestyle*

Homestead Farm in Catlett, Virginia, was the show venue on September 15, 2024, when Bob Clements and his 20-year-old Hanoverian gelding, Moon Striker, rode a Third Level Musical Freestyle for their membership into the Century Club. On that day, Bob was 89 years old, and their combined age was 109! Fourteen days later, on September 29, Bob rode the same musical freestyle at his 90th birthday celebration and their combined age was 110 years old!

Bob is not new to the Century Club, having first attained membership in 2013 as Team #147 riding his Hanoverian mare, Golden Rosebud.

Bob began riding when he was 55 years old. He was a practicing dentist for 37 years. After retirement, he became a licensed veterinary technician in 1998 and holds a current license.



## Team #831: Selma Powers and Leos Magic Pine

*From: Brunswick, Maine | Ages: 79 & 22 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 1*

I started riding at age 34 when my son got a horse. I was a second grade teacher for 31 years, which was perfect for balancing my time with horseback riding.

In 2015, I completed my first Century Club ride on Hungarian Jane when I was 69 and she was 31. I was fortunate to ride her for 26 years; she lived to be 33.

My next horse, Effie, was diagnosed with kissing spine, so I stopped riding her. She now enjoys her days as a companion horse to Leo on my farm. I considered quitting riding when Effie was deemed unsafe to ride, but my friends encouraged me to get another horse. At age 76, after living with Parkinson's for six years, I bought Leo.

In my first two years with Leo, I showed him at Introductory Level because I struggled with getting his right lead canter. Last year we earned the championship ribbon at Introductory Level from both the Central Maine Dressage Club and the Maine Dressage Society. This year, our scores at Training Level haven't been as high, but he has performed well at the shows.

I would like to thank Carol Poulin-Taylor, with whom I've taken lessons since 2008, and my friend, Robin



Miller, for all the help and encouragement she has given me.

I showed Leo at the Central Maine Dressage Association's Kur for a Cure Schooling Show at Esprit Equestrian Center, with Wadean Cadwick as the judge.



## Team #832: Lisa Goretta and Indy

From: Chagrin Falls, Ohio | Ages: 70 & 31 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



On a beautiful day, a group of friends gathered to watch Indy, my Swedish Warmblood dressage partner of 26 years, and I perform our Century Club test. The journey to that centerline was not the one that I had thought about as we both advanced in age toward that magic number. I had frankly abandoned the plan.

At age 28, Indy suffered a serious stifle injury. He recovered enough for light work. At 29, his cataracts took a sudden turn for the worse. In 2022, Indy and his turnout buddy were moved to “BridgeHaven,” an equine retirement facility. Their routine changed to long pasture turnouts, a very big adjustment for my show horse.

In July 2024, just days before I was to leave to Steward at the Olympic Games, I got a phone call that Indy had contracted cellulitis in an upper foreleg. After my return from Paris, I spoke with Indy’s vet about starting some light lunging. She wisely suggested that knowing Indy, even at his age, under saddle work would be the safer option. (Indy always had a somewhat unpredictable “joy of life” streak that kept things interesting!)

After a couple of weeks, with Betsy Juliano’s encouragement, we decided to dust off the Century Club ride plan. USDF Region 2 Director and USEF S judge Debby Savage kindly accepted our invitation to judge our ride.

A perfect Ohio fall weather day, made even more so by one last centerline, a square halt, and the final salute.

## Team #833: Roberta Byington and Butch

From: Malden, Massachusetts | Ages: 74 & 26 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test A



Butch is a 26-year-old Tennessee Walking horse who retired in 2020 after 17 years with the Hampton Mounted Police. I was the lucky one to adopt him.

Butch and I did our Century Club ride at my barn in Dover, New Hampshire. When I tell you I was stressed, it does not clearly describe how I was feeling that day.

If it were not for my barn family, that day would not have happened.

Two years ago, my barn hosted a Century Club ride, and I knew this was something I wanted to do. However, during the past two years, I was distracted by new physical issues, which interrupted my training. I was lucky to be at a barn with people like Kat, Jess, Kim, and Stephanie who helped me during that time.

When I was able to ride again, I had only three weeks before the big day. We worked hard, and things seemed to be coming along! However, the day before the ride, my ride was a disaster. Butch was fine, I was way off. Oh dear, tomorrow is the day!

The day of the ride, all the excitement and activity in the barn was all for me and Butch. I got dressed, walked down to the outdoor ring, and got on Butch. The bell rang and we were off! You could hear a pin drop! And we did it! Thank you Butch, Jess, Kat, Kim, Stephanie, and all who attended!

I was overwhelmed with joy and pride! My goal was achieved!

## Team #834: Lynn Freeman and Harley

From: Meriden, New Hampshire | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Prix St. Georges

My family were sailors, not leaving any time for my childhood dreams of horseback riding. Like many girls, I made believe with broomstick rides and dreamt of riding, but you had to pedal the horses to make them go!

In my late 20s, while in graduate school, I found a riding program. The rest is history: 50 years of horses! I was fortunate to latch on to horsey friends who let me tag along, and to be coached and encouraged by many wonderful instructors.

Over the years, I was lucky enough to have the horses and instruction to take me safely eventing to the Intermediate Level, before a radical swap to foxhunting. My husband and I fox hunted for 15 years, primarily in Virginia, with several trips to Ireland (for some crazy rides!). But I missed the training, and dressage drew me away from hunting.

My passion for riding has not diminished over the decades. I currently ride three to four horses a day, and I love taking lessons and going to clinics.

I've had some amazing horses over the years but am particularly attached to Harley. I wanted to do something special with him, a Prix St. Georges Century Club ride. So, in a borrowed shadbelly, I rode down the centerline for the first time in 20 years, to do my first (and probably only) FEI test. It was a deeply emotional experience, the childhood fantasy of an adult amateur come true.



Photo credit: Creek Dreams Photography

## Team #835: Melissa Creswick and Buena Vista

From: Clovis, California | Ages: 78 & 27 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: Third Level Test 3

I have had many wonderful experiences with horses and students. My love of teaching has guided my career. Success has come from being the owner/trainer of a riding stable for 25 years. I earned my USDF bronze, silver, and gold medals on horses I have trained.

Becoming a USEF 'S' dressage judge and a 'R' Western dressage judge has kept me busy. I am proud to have served as the vice president of the United States Dressage Federation, president of the California Dressage Society, and Chairman of our local chapter. One accomplishment seemed out of reach—I wanted to ride for the Century Club. My horse is not old enough and I felt as though I might not make it.

The answer came when I was coaching a student at a show in Oklahoma and ran into a rider whom I had taught in clinics. She was willing to provide a horse to qualify me for the Century Club, and I was scheduled to judge at her facility. I rode Buena Vista, a 27-year-old horse, and was judged by the owner of the facility. Our ages totaled 105 and we made it around successfully. Bucket List activity—check!



My professional life and service to dressage came full circle by having a student serve me to support one of my dreams. With friends and other riders around, I had a great time! I thank TDF for the wonderful opportunity to support and acknowledge senior riders and senior horses!



## Team #836: Nancy Litsch and JC's Keely of Texel

From: Duncan, Oklahoma | Ages: 80.5 & 19.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Third Level Freestyle



What a joy! A second Century Club ride!

Ten years ago—a younger rider and an older horse. Ten years later—an older rider and a younger horse. The sense of accomplishment is still there. While not quite as crisp as we once were, the joy of riding is ever-present.

It was a privilege and honor to have my friend, Melissa Creswick, judge our ride at Robin Hessel's Valley View Farm in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Equally significant is the support of The Dressage Foundation for recognizing older equestrians. TDF not only supports senior riders, but also awards grants to adult amateurs, junior/young riders, show officials, and breeders.

Thank you to The Dressage Foundation. You make dreams come true for us "mature" athletes and our equine partners. We appreciate you!

## Team #837: Cecelia Kress and Rocko

From: Abingdon, Maryland | Ages: 68 & 34 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Rocko and I started working together in mid-2016 as part of my recovery from a knee reconstruction surgery. Our first outing was to the Maryland State Fair to participate in a competition sponsored by Horses Healing Military Members Showcase. We earned our first rosettes including Champion.

We went on to achieve Reserve Champion at the Therapeutic Riding Division at the Devon Horse Show. This Century Club ride was our last show together.

Now I am content to hack out and spend time teaching new young riders not just balanced seat, but to have fun being with a partner who can help them with life lessons of patience, responsibility, leadership, and so much more. Yes, I am a Para rider who is a 100% disabled Air Force veteran.

Photo credit: Freedom Hill Therapeutic Riding

## Team #838: Georgia Kelton and South Star Sebastian

*From: Reno, Texas | Ages: 76 & 29 | Combined Age: 105 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 1*

South Star Sebastian (aka Seb) and I started our journey together in 2004, with Virginia Norris of Norris Training Center. We've competed in numerous open shows with the Morgan Horse Club of Texas and even won some World Championships and Reserve World Championships in trail (English and Western), ranch, and dressage (classical and Western), as well as a Top 10 placing in hunter pleasure at the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show. I owe everything I know to Virginia and Seb, and I am thankful to have such a wonderful horse to continue learning with.



## Team #839: Henry Watson and Smooth Bullett

*From: Punta Gorda, Florida | Ages: 82 & 20 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: WDAA Level 2 Test 4*

I have always been intrigued and impressed by horses but could never have one of my own. Occasionally throughout my life, I would go horseback riding on rented horses. In 2005, at the age of 63 and six years after retiring, I was in a position where I could have "live at home" horses. After shopping around, I bought an 11-month-old Pinto colt and a 13-year-old "broke" black mare (yeah right, worse than buying a used car!).

I named the Pinto "Smooth Bullett." His sire was Smooth Fella. Bullett quickly became my companion, and I learned how smart horses really are. Being a TV student of Clinton Anderson, I learned how to teach horses. As I tell people, Bullett is not broke, he is domesticated. Through the years we have shown versatility shows, obstacle challenges, and competitive trail horse events.

In 2014, I was introduced to Western dressage and have been showing it ever since. This year Bullett turned 20 and I turned 82. On March 15, 2024, Bullett underwent major intestinal surgery to remove five lipoma tumors, one was strangling his small intestines. He was at the Palm Beach Equine Clinic in Wellington, Florida, for 12 days. I have been slowly rehabbing him since I brought him home. Now he is all healed up and he is ready to show. I am looking forward to many more shows in the future.





## Team #840: Laura Mollrich and Pabatsa

From: Laguna Beach, California | Ages: 72.5 & 27.5 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Photo credit: Terri Miller

At the age of eight, I came home with my first horse when my father and his buddy were driving up bids at a rodeo auction. As a teenager, I competed in both saddle seat and Western pleasure. One afternoon after leaving the stable, I was struck head-on by a drunk driver in a pickup and nearly lost my life. The accident put my competitive riding career on hold, but not my love of horses.

In my 30s, I was diagnosed with RA, Systemic Lupus, and Systemic Sclerosis Scleroderma and went through chemotherapy. Epilepsy was the result that left me housebound and horseless for several years.

Then I found my dream dressage horse, Pabatsa, an eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood. Pabatsa has been Reserve Champion and Sweepstakes Champion at Del Mar National and has won San Juan Capistrano Chapter-CDS championships at First, Second, and Third Levels.

My health challenges continued, including two riding accident hip replacements and the ravages of Systemic Sclerosis. In my late 60s, I decided to show again. I found Ciave (aka Bernice) and began competing as an FEI Para Equestrian. Together we have received many awards.

Today, I am the oldest competing Para Equestrian in the U.S. I owe this to the hard work of my dedicated trainer Erin O'Steen, Stone Creek Dressage, my long-time friend Jan Curtis, my supportive husband Stu, and my many friends in the Para community who share and understand the challenges I face every day.

## Team #841: Theresa Tavenner and Abalon BWS

From: Pickford, Michigan | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 2



I've been a horse lover all my life, although I didn't have a horse of my own until I was about 30 years old. I always lived well out of town and until moving to Michigan in 1996, I never had the opportunity to do anything besides trail riding.

I have always been fascinated by dressage and wanted to learn as I felt then (and still do) that good basic horsemanship is key to any discipline.

When I met Suzanne Morisse, I began taking lessons from her, and we've had a productive relationship for over 10 years. My mare has become a pasture pet since developing navicular, so I've been riding Haflingers for the last several years.



## Team #842: Lesley Porten and Greenway's Erin Donaghdee

From: Roswell, Georgia | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test C

My riding journey started when I was in my 40s. I never rode as a child or was drawn to horses until my husband convinced me to go on a trail ride on the island of Maui. I was placed on a horse named Killer and wasn't sure if I was more afraid of my horse or the cows roaming around the mountain. But that ride changed everything, and I was hooked.

In 2004, I found my soul pony, Greenway's Erin Donaghdee or Mr. D as he is fondly called, and we have been together over 20 years. It hasn't always been an easy road, but we worked through the hard times and have become a team. D has taught me not only how to ride, but patience, how to enjoy nature, and how to live in the present. We still do our dressage lessons but also love trail rides or just walking around the pastures.

Being a Connemara pony, D loves doing different things and we have even started doing some caveletti work, which he really enjoys. I am so grateful we can still continue to enjoy each other. I always tell him I won't say how old you are (28) as long as you don't tell me how old I am (72). I love this guy with all my heart!



## Team #843: Myra Miller and Reo

From: Cold Spring, Kentucky | Ages: 82 & 21 | Combined Age: 103 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 2

My life with horses began 72 years ago when, as a 10-year-old lonely child, I discovered a riding stable near my home in Reno, Nevada. I immediately fell in love with these fine animals, and thus began my equine journey.

My first horse was a little sorrel Mustang mare that taught me all the things you should not do with horses. I rode that little horse in the Sierra Nevada mountains, rodeos, parades, and drill teams. There have been many horses in my life since that time, and somehow through multiple moves, marriage, children, career, and life in general, the horses have always been a constant.

I purchased my Paint gelding, Cats Don't Dance, better known as Reo, about 10 years ago with the thought that Western dressage might be something I'd like to do. We never got around to the project as I simply enjoyed pleasure riding and caring for both him and my aging Appy.

When the old horse passed, I decided to actually try dressage before my body said it was done. Discovering the Century Club gave me a goal and the incentive to complete the project and finish the ride. Reo will be happy to retire, and I will be happy to end my riding years on this very positive note.



## Team #844: Cheryl Swing and Mariner

From: Upper Marlboro, Maryland | Ages: 70 & 30 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Third Level Test 1



Photo credit: Tara Jelenic

As Mariner (Fair Play x Flaxen Forli) approached 30 and I approached 70, I started looking forward to our Century Club ride which we were able to complete by riding Third Level Test 1 at the PVDA Fall Show on November 10, 2024.

Mariner is a Dutch Warmblood gelding that I bred, started, trained, and competed to Prix St. Georges. He has helped complete three USDF bronze medals, taught several riders how to ride the half pass and flying changes, and has become a priceless schoolmaster: still teaching riders about half pass and flying changes. He enjoys trail rides, and a few years ago, placed third in a hunter pace paired with his brother Rafael (Juventus x Flaxen Forli). In September 2024, Mariner carried my cousin Brittanie down the aisle on our farm for her wedding, then posed for pictures with the guests.

Mariner is the much loved “boss horse” on our farm.

## Team #845: Kathy Shultz and Ray

From: Bar Harbor, Maine | Ages: 77 & 23 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: First Level Test 1



I have been riding for nearly 70 years and foxhunted as a teenager. I bought Ray 13 years ago to compete in eventing. When we retired from eventing, we focused on dressage and trail riding.

I live in Bar Harbor, Maine, home of Acadia National Park which has an extensive network of carriage roads. I can keep Ray at my house from May through December. In the winter months, he stays at a facility with an indoor arena so I can ride during the winter months.

Ray has been the horse of a lifetime for me, and I am so fortunate he still enjoys being ridden.



## Team #846: PJ Rismon and Belleza

From: Kalispell, Montana | Ages: 80 & 20 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

As a native Montanan, horses came into my life early on. My first rides were on "Star," my rancher aunt's half-draft mare. That mare was a doll and would let me stand on her bareback while she grazed!

I could finally afford riding lessons at age 29 and have been taking lessons and showing ever since.

Belleza (BZ) was my Century Club ride partner. She is a gorgeous 16.2-hand chestnut Azteca mare, whom I love dearly! I bought her 15 years ago when she was five, and it was love at first ride. She is talented, kind, patient, willing, and a bit spicy. She loves to learn and wants to do things correctly. If I am unclear in asking for something, she is annoyed! She is the most complicated horse I've worked with, and the one I've learned the most from.

I've been blessed with tons of help from Linda Snyder, my awesome trainer/coach. She has shown Beezy at times when I was not able to, and they are fabulous together!

I have been planning to ride the Century Club ride for years. A serious respiratory illness limited my rides the month before my big day. I chose an easy test, hoping I could handle that level of exertion. I could! All the work and worry were so worth it! I feel very fortunate to still be riding my big girl at our age!



## Team #847: Roberta Haskin and Ellie

From: Barre, Vermont | Ages: 71 & 29 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: WDAA Introductory Level Test 1

I always loved horses and as a young teen had lessons at a local stable. Due to where we lived and finances, having a horse as a kid wasn't an option. As I got older, school, college, marriage, and work took over and I would occasionally ride a friend's horse or ride while on vacation.

When I turned 58, I decided if I was going to get back into it, it was now or never. I started lessons at a local barn, bought my first horse, a Morgan mare, at age 60. A few years later, I purchased Ellie (Understate L'egance), a registered 21-year-old Paint. I did some shows with the Morgan, and sadly she passed at age 17 in 2022.

Ellie was my trail horse and retirement project. Putter around the arena and easy rides on the road! I also made many new horse friends, from teens to adults, and they encouraged me to keep riding. It's rewarding to come full circle, and have horses be part of my later life. Though I didn't score well on the test, I am proud that I got in the saddle, showed up and did it at age 71 and Ellie at 29! Thank you for recognizing seniors!





## Team #848: Maureen Nelson and Hi Yaller Cinnabun

From: Tecumseh, Michigan | Ages: 70 & 32 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



I started riding at the age of 60. I competed in the Morgan Horse Circuit and won a World Championship in Western Dressage Introductory Level Amateur in 2021. Currently, I compete in classic dressage Training Level amateur.

Hi Yaller Cinnabun, "Cinnie," was born the same year as my daughter Danielle, in 1992. Cinnie is a very versatile Quarter Horse and has been shown in 4-H, Western pleasure, hunt seat, and gymkhana. She was also a great lesson and camp horse. Cinnie, at the age of 32, is retired and enjoying her pasture. At the age of 70, I enjoyed having the opportunity to ride Cinnie for our Century Club ride together.

## Team #849: Susan Kimmel and Asaph

From: Davidsonville, Maryland | Ages: 71 & 30 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: First Level Test 1



Photo credit: Tara Jelenic

Ever since I can remember, horses have been a love and passion of mine. Although I never owned a horse until I was an adult, I always managed to find barns to frequent and horses to ride.

Little did I know when I met Asaph that this lively, opinionated four-year-old gelding (whose nickname was the Energizer Bunny!), that I was looking at a life companion and my best teacher! I bought him a few weeks after his fifth birthday. He's now 30 years old and just like the Energizer Bunny...he's still going!

## Team #850: Pamela Stenmark and Dettanader+/-

From: Vail, Colorado | Ages: 77 & 24 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: WDAA Level 1 Test 1

Growing up with a non-horse family in Colorado, I loved the idea of riding and got a very green-broke mare when I was 21. Our training consisted of me reading horse training books at night and trying things out the next day. I was lucky that my mare was patient and honest!

After years of trail riding in the mountains, doing things I didn't know enough not to do, I lost my trail horse. I then purchased Carbon Kopy+, and first stepped into the show arena at the age of 40. He retired to become the most wonderful mountain trail horse while I continued to ride and show.

That brought us to Dettanader +/-, another pure-bred Arabian. Now, at nearly 25 years, Dettanader has done everything we have asked, starting with Arabian hunter pleasure and sport horse under saddle. We've played at classical dressage and most recently landed with Western dressage and Arabian sport horse under saddle, where we have enjoyed ample success. Most recently we participated in a virtual show and hope to do more in the future.

Our trainer, Ann Judge, is doing her best to keep us in shape and going forward! Our friends at the barn bring laughter and joy to our days!



## Team #851: Juergen Slupek and Shez My Destiny

From: Cincinnati, Ohio | Ages: 76 & 24 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

In 1998, the year I turned 50, my wife and I started taking riding lessons. First at the Winton Woods Riding Center, which is a part of the Hamilton County Park system. Then later at Old Stone Riding Center in Millville, Ohio.

Over the years I rode dressage, some low-level jumping, and Western dressage. Plus, medieval equestrian games. Destiny was my wife's horse. She is a registered Paint, trained in Western, but also ridden English.

I did this ride in honor of my late wife.





## Team #852: Liza Sibley and Utah Beach

From: Portland, Oregon | Ages: 72 & 28 | Combined Age: 100 | Test: Training Level Test 3



I have been riding horses for as long as I can remember. I was lucky to grow up in Pony Club and received my “A” rating. I hunted throughout high school and attended Skidmore College when the American Dressage Institute was there, although I was riding hunt seat. I went on to serve as District Commissioner, Regional Supervisor, and National Examiner for Pony Club.

Over the years, I have had many amazing coaches and wonderful horses. My aunt Jane got me my first pony, Two Bits (after riding her bareback through a flock of geese and determining she was safe). I am embarrassed to admit that I did not know who Bertalan de Nemethy was when I attended clinics he offered for Pony Club in the 60s. I was honored to have ridden and organized clinics with Charles de Kunffy for many years. I’ve been blessed to ride with other notable eventing clinicians while training with Marilyn Groene in the 1990s and early 2000s.

I met my Century Club ride partner, Utah Beach, in 2002 at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds Racetrack. He raced until he was six, then changed careers from racehorse to dressage horse/eventer/trail horse/fox hunter. For Thoroughbred breeding fans, he is tail-male to Man o’ War, which is cool.

Utah and I enjoy the trails and look forward to another year hill topping with Woodbrook Hunt Club and entering a few more dressage shows, clinics, and hunter paces.

## Team #853: Willa Rose and Sabrina

From: Oasis, Idaho | Ages: 72 & 29 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Working Equitation Introductory Test



My Grammie introduced me to my first horse at three. I chuckle because I don’t remember Trilby, but I’ve seen our pictures. My favorite shows had horses in them and, as a kid, I pretended to be a cantering horse. A few times I was allowed to ride friends’ horses, but did not own one until I was 23. Since then I’ve owned and ridden a number of horses in a handful of sports.

A favorite mare is Mira Alleged, aka Sabrina, a dark brown Thoroughbred. Sabrina came to me in 2008, and it took nearly a year to find her sweet spots. I could only whisper to her with light aids. She became my riding horse from a string of lesson horses in my therapeutic riding program. Sabrina is spicy. This was a perfect personality to train her for mounted military games. She loved these games, and her mare-ish nature was imposing on our competitors. Therefore, I named her Sabrina War Horse of the Black.

Sabrina and I successfully jumped alongside my youth jumping team. We also focused on Working Equitation (WE). In WE, the dressage phase adds to the collective score. My WE clinician encouraged me for the Century Club ride. Why not dressage? We started our WE training at Level 3 in 2022.

It was a windy day in Idaho, and I was afraid to warm up too much. We completed the ride, got cheers from our friends, and accomplished a pretty good score for such an older, spicy girl.

## Team #854: Carol Di Maggio and Meika

From: Walnut Creek, California | Ages: 78 & 24 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B

Many years ago, when a neighbor who was an “S” dressage judge was going to do her Century Club ride, I hadn’t been aware of the existence of this program. I certainly never dreamed of the day when I might be doing the same.

I consider myself a breeder that rides, not a rider that breeds. I was thrilled to have a safe, sane, and well-trained horse that would be my partner. My half Arabian/Warmblood 2000 mare Meika++ is by my purebred Arabian stallion Taez+// who was trained to Grand Prix by Chelsey Sibley.

Meika++ has an extensive show record in-hand, under saddle, and over fences; I have a very short one in the show ring. This was only my second judged dressage test although I’ve had many dressage lessons over the years and have been a member of USDF for almost 30 years.

I thoroughly enjoyed training for my ride and would like to continue training for a rated show. Thank you, California Dressage Society – East Bay Chapter for sponsoring my ride, and The Dressage Foundation for sponsoring this award.



## Team #855: Sally Truss and Khalage

From: Camden, South Carolina | Ages: 74 & 27 | Combined Age: 101 | Test: Training Level Test 2

I raised, broke, and trained my first pony, Dusky (who was bought with the proceeds of orphan pigs I fed and sold). In rural Nebraska I rode him daily to the local two room school. Later, after moving to Texas, my home-grown pony took me to the show ring as a hunter and speedy jumper. When age permitted, influenced by Walt Disney and “The Horsemasters,” I attended riding school in England.

I returned to Dallas/Fort Worth in 1969 to start my lesson and boarding business, which thrived into the 1980s. A later stint in Western Canada afforded me the opportunity to compete successfully on my horses at Spruce Meadows, a great experience. I moved to South Carolina in 1986 and campaigned my homegrown and rescue horses from Florida to New York.

I actively fox hunt both sidesaddle and astride, enjoy the challenge of pounding a polo ball around the pasture, and constantly work on finding what the various horses excel at. This appears to be my destiny. As I say, “I will never be good enough to quit.”

The Arabian gelding I rode for my Century Club ride came to me old, unhappy, and resistant. He blossomed into a joyful character, who has more than rewarded me for the slow time spent changing his outlook on life and people.

Never “write off” the old horses and old riders—there is a wealth of joy and talent in the “unlikely and the unwanted.”





## Team #856: Carol Goldring and Weekend Affair

From: Annapolis, Maryland | Ages: 76 & 26 | Combined Age: 102 | Test: Introductory Level Test B



Completing my Century Club ride was a joyous celebration of my life in the horse world! I loved horses as a kid but didn't start riding until my young daughter

decided riding was all she wanted to do! We learned together and competed in the hunter rings for many years. We always shared a horse for our riding until she found a horse just for me. My wonderful old horse Whiskey and I are now both retired hunters. He was quite successful in his jumping career but agrees with me that dressage is a fun, new challenge and is quite willing.

Aged horses, like people, often need special care and I have the best possible support team at our farm who makes sure that Whiskey receives all the love and attention that he deserves! Foremost in this group and deserving of my greatest appreciation, thanks, and love go to my daughter Beth, for managing Whiskey's health and enabling my riding through the years with her love, knowledge, support, and good humor!

What great fun to do a Century Club ride and reach another goal. We'll see what's next!!

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