

COLLECTED NOTES



FEBRUARY 2018

FROM CDCTC'S PRESIDENT:

Of Tribes and Potlucks

In the 1980's, when I was in my mid-twenties, I boarded my appendix quarter horse Boo Radley at a small private stable in Boulder, Co. Though there was no indoor, we had a large outdoor ring, a cross-country course, and lots of nearby places to ride. On trips back to Boulder now, I am always amazed to see that the Foothills Mall fills the area where I used to be able to ride from our barn out near Arapahoe and 55th, over the hills, under the turnpike, all the way to Eldorado Springs.

I loved many things about that time in my life with my horse, but one thing I miss the most is something that seems in need of a revolutionary resurrection: a genuine intergenerational culture of friendships at the barn.

On any given ride (and we did lots of adventurous things every week) my riding companions would include Kim, a 16 year old girl who had inherited a beautiful hunter when her aunt (from, of all places, Binghamton) died; a nearing seventy year old woman named Ann from Texas who rode a quarter horse named Texas (what else?) who seemed in heart and girth as big as the state; Eleanor, a wonderful woman from Alabama who had a lanky mare who jumped anything and was afraid of nothing; Joan, the barn owner and her fearless grandchildren, mounted on a small herd of range ponies of questionable moral character. *(continued)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

Our next meeting will be held on February 10 at 12 pm in the Media Room, John T. Oxley Equestrian Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Afterwards, at 1 pm, we will have a braiding demonstration, with a free raffle for a braiding kit! The demonstration is free to members and \$5 for non-members. Please contact Jane Marie Law for more information, jml16@cornell.edu



One day we calculated from our youngest to our oldest, we had an age span of over 70 years. This was for several years my tribe.

What did we do? We trail rode. We jumped stuff. We practiced dressage tests. We draped our horses in bells and went out in snowstorms. We rode to Eldorado Springs to get ice cream, because we could. And back at the barn, we always had potlucks. Ann was the goddess of the crock-pot. (Rump roast smothered in barbeque sauce, simmered for six hours. OR Cream cheese smothered in salsa, simmered for three hours. Serve with chips.) Eleanor always had cocktails in an ice chest. Joan, a devout teetotaler, made cookies, and even then, I always brought something strange and Asian. Kim, who lived around the corner, would usually bring popsicles or ice cream.

At some point, Kim and I decided to start showing more seriously. She had inherited a trailer, but we had no truck. Ann had a truck and trailer, and Eleanor had a truck, too. These women made it their duty to see that we not only got to events, but that our tribe came along with lawn chairs and rent-a-moms and coolers of food. Even now, I can still hear Eleanor, with her heavy southern drawl, asking me “Where we goin’ next week?” And I recall with great fondness, after one of my first events, Ann telling me that someone in the warm-up area had admired my riding. I had needed to hear that. She knew I did.

We all had husbands or boyfriends or schoolmates, but we kept this circle as a sacred trust. We admired each other’s horses, celebrated each other’s successes, helped when storms came through and once, buried a pony together.

As a twenty something, I needed those grandchildren and Ann and Eleanor and Joan and Kim. I needed the generosity of those older women who honored me with their wise friendship, even though they were literally old enough to be my mother or grandmother. And I loved having someone who looked up to me, at a time when I felt kind of out on my own for the first time in my life and was sure I was the biggest idiot out there. I learned a valuable lesson then: friendships know no age boundaries, and we need to escape from our chronological cages to be full people.

When I left the country to do my fieldwork in 1987, I had to say goodbye to this group. I gave Boo Radley to a woman in California who gave him a good, long life. As a going away party, we took a long trail ride, had a great meal, shed a lot of tears, and made a lot of promises. For a gift, my friends made a panorama photo of all of them with their horses, one of them holding Boo with no rider, and under it wrote, “We will miss you.” What I would give to find that photo somewhere in my things, scattered across too many moves and veiled by the dust of so many years. I miss them, too.



<http://www.cayugadressage.org>

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MEMBER BIO: *SKY-ANNA NYE-SMITH*

Before I get into the long life of horses I will tell a little about myself outside of my equestrian life. I live in Spencer, NY with my husband of 4 years. We have a property with 40 acres and have 2 horses, 3 dogs, 2 cats, 4 turkeys and a duck. One of my little dogs, a Pomeranian mix named Lucy, rides and had her own mini horse, who unfortunately passed away unexpectedly last year. I work four jobs total. I am a hair stylist working at a salon once a month with the few clients I have left. I work at Bridges of Cornell Heights doing hair for the elderly every Thursday morning. Tuesday-Thursday I work as a vet assistant at Cayuga Pet Hospital and Mondays and Fridays I also work as a vet assistant for Early Winter Equine. I am also an online Vet tech Student! Outside of horses I also enjoy hiking, swimming, kayaking, wine tasting and attending local summer time concerts. I served on the board of a thoroughbred rescue for a little over 5 years where I had experience with many different types of thoroughbreds. I also gained experience with running a hunter show, requesting sponsorships, running a rescue and much more.



Born February 12, 1993 in a well populated town in Massachusetts, I was the typical little girl that told her father she wanted a Pony. My parents were teenagers when they had me and didn't have a lot of money but of course my dad promised some day he would get me one. He didn't know what he was getting into. When I was 6, I moved to NY to live with my dad and brother to live with my step mom. I grew up in Newfield and am the oldest of three sisters and have one brother. I have loved horses as far back as I can remember. When I was 9, I remember learning that my bus driver had horses. We were waiting for the kids to load the bus to go home at the end of the day when she came to the back and asked which one of the boys had farted because they smelt worse than her horses! From then on I was glued to her. My bus driver was Beth Bowen, the owner of Stoneybrook Farm in Newfield. I started out at a 6 week camp going to the barn two days a week, learning how to groom, clean stalls, feed, tack horses and finally ride. The first three weeks of the camp we learned the care portion. At the end of one of the care sessions she allowed us to have a small bareback pony ride on the horse we were learning to groom on. The small appendix, Cruiser, was the first horse I ever swung my leg over. Just walking down the barn aisle on him was enough to start my addiction! The following three weeks I learned the very basics of riding on a small white pony named Mr. Jenkins.

I have been hooked ever since! It didn't take me long to become a barn rat. I wanted to be there constantly, no matter what. I had started the little camp in the winter time, so I learned very quickly what it was like to have horses in Upstate NY during winter. I would help with barn chores on Saturday mornings. Feeding, breaking ice out of the buckets, throwing flakes of hay, filling the water buckets, I loved it all. Then my reward was to play around on the minis. My parents still didn't have a lot of money so paying for consistent lessons was impossible. I was offered to work off my lessons by doing barn chores.

Beth's daughter Chrissy quickly took me under her wing when it came to saddle time. She volunteered private lessons after her busy Saturday mornings. My long legs were too big for the ponies so for the most part I skipped past that stage. I took a couple lessons on Cruiser before I graduated to other horses. I took some lunge line lessons and some in the round pen. Chrissy used her own two horses, an appaloosa mare Christy a chestnut thoroughbred mare named Promise, to teach me how to post, my diagonals, eventually how to canter and jump. Promise started my deep love of chestnut thoroughbred mares.

For the next 7 years I rode many different types of horses. Since I was still working off lessons I rode whatever needed someone on its back or whoever needed miles over fences. I loved being able to

bring out the confidence in young horses. I may not have learned some basic dressage foundations to teach, but I was confident with staying on anything that was beneath me. I was taught to tackle any obstacle and not let the size of the jump scare me away. My instructors really brought out the students confidence and that I am forever grateful.

Soon after I started riding my dad built me a run in and surprised me with a 4 month old mustang filly who of course I named Spirit (the movie was big then!). Although Spirit was young, she was a great horse for me to love on. She was patient and very sweet but I couldn't ride her yet. It was suggested we get Spirit a companion, more than Fuzz the goat, so we got Penny, an older 19 year old chestnut OTTB who was a retired Cornell Polo Pony. I loved both of these horses. Penny didn't like many people, but she liked me.



When I was 16, I was forced to stop riding. I no longer had horses and I didn't feel like my life was complete. Finally, when I was 18 and living with my husband and his family, I searched for a barn I could start lessons at. I came across Settlement Stables in Spencer, who fit my lesson budget. I took my first lesson there October of 2011. After a couple times riding a big Quarter horse gelding, I was put on a small three year old chestnut filly, also named Penny, who had just retired from the track. Her JC name is Just Plan Partners; she only raced 5 times, never coming in anything better than last or second to last topping out at winning \$768. She was said to be super calm, but green, and very sweet. From my first time meeting this petite girl, I fell in love. She had opinions on what I asked, but eventually gave in. She wasn't very balanced and wanted to cut every corner, yet out of the many, many horses I have ridden, she was the most comfortable. Soon I began asking if I could ride her for my lesson, knowing I wouldn't be jumping quite yet but I loved the fact that she was young and I could teach her something. Soon enough, my itch to bring this girl to a small jump became a must. Starting with poles and working our way to cross rails and small gates or a hay bale, Penny soared over everything I put in front of her. She was a complete natural and I fell in love even more. On February 29, 2012 Penny was given to me for a penny.

I boarded Penny at Settlement Stables and continued her "training". Early in 2012 I was asked if I would join two other people to form a board for a rescue for Off track Thoroughbreds, to which I agreed. In October 2012 Second Chance Thoroughbreds, INC became a 501(c)3. I served as secretary and a trainer from 2012 until January 1st, 2018 when I resigned. During my time with Second Chance Thoroughbreds I rode a countless number of thoroughbreds of all types. I taught many to jump, eventually bringing them to their first show and a couple to hunter paces.

In October 2012, I also purchased a gelding off the track as a personal resale project- I still have him. Dylan was a little bit better of a racehorse. He actually made it to the winners circle once. I started him as a hunter and competed him in local shows during his first year of not being a racehorse. Less than a year from retiring from the track he won championships at local shows over fences and even carried me and my little dog through a parade. After his first year, as the rescue grew, he just sat. Dylan would come out for the occasional trail ride. Now we are working on strengthening his back and I hope to get on him in the spring or summer.

In March 2013, we purchased a house that bordered the Second Chance Thoroughbreds facility property, where I was able to move my horses. The 10 acre property only had two stalls connected to the back of the garage and two large pastures. This past summer we added a run in and closed on another 30

acres of woods that connects to our house.

In 2015 I was asked by another local barn if I would train a horse in preparation for the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover. The makeover is a training competition that gives you 10 months to retrain a horse from the track. The thoroughbred had to have raced or had a published workout in the past year or so. The competition is held at the Kentucky horse park in October. A horse was already picked out for the competition before they had asked me. This horse turned out to be not my "type", a gelding who was very slow and not a typical great work ethic that thoroughbreds have. I started him anyways and brought him to his first hunter show. Six months in they had another gelding who was long legged, more forward and naturally athletic. With only 4 months left to train for the competition I finished this gelding, Desert TNT, and entered in Show Hunters and Show Jumpers. When we got to Kentucky, Our hunter round was less than ideal with multiple refusals and tears as we left the ring. The owners showed their support despite me feeling like I let them down and by the next day I was back to feeling like we could take on anything. There were 43 horses in our jumper division. We placed 5th!



In the same year, 2015 I was asked to train one of the rescue horses, Scooter, for the equine come-back challenge. Another training competition, except this one was for a rescue horse with no prior training to do a freestyle in three months. Scooter was a pony sized thoroughbred with a pony attitude! Scooter and I preformed a freestyle at the Pennsylvania Farm and Show Complex. We did a routine under saddle and eventually went bareback where he let myself and my dog ride around the ring. We placed 6th out of 7.

I competed various horses over the years, doing The Makeover again in 2016 on a horse that belonged to the rescue. The horse I originally started for 2016 had a pasture accident and was unable to go. With two months left, I picked a small 15.2h gelding, named "You Got the Silver", with two missing ribs and a great story. I entered him in Competitive Trail and Hunters. Our hunter round was not perfect, but he tried his little heart out. In competitive trail he placed 17th out of over 50 and took on every single obstacle like a champ!

In 2017 I rehabbed a horse that was donated to the rescue with a suspensory injury. Our goal was training for the makeover. We had the support of his racing connections and rode for the man that had owned him at the track, who passed away shortly after donating him. He came back completely sound and was a blast to work with. With the wet weather we had last year and not able to get out on trail, I decided I would aim for Hunters and Dressage. I took a couple dressage lessons and decided to learn the test and wing it. I had never ridden a dressage test until last year and didn't know much about it. We ended up placing better in our dressage test than we did the hunter ring!

Over the years I have ridden horses for everyone else and my riding education has only been limited to just restarting thoroughbreds and teaching basics. For years I have wanted to get out of the hunter ring and train for eventing. After deciding to ride for myself, 2018 is my year to do so. I will take Penny, my little mare that I have had for almost 6 years and put her back into full work. I can now focus my riding time solely to her. Penny has turned out to be my once in a life time horse, the heart horse, who I would love to do something with. We don't have a ring but another neighbor has a flat field to ride in so it may be challenging, but we are determined. I am beyond happy to have found the group!

Cayuga Dressage and Combined Training, Inc.

Minutes – January 7, 2018

Present: Skye-Anna Nye-Smith, Shannon Ryan*, Karen Steffy, Kathy Thode, Carol Morris, Dinah Guarino, Jane Marie Law, Prin Furst, Jean Foley, Norman Johnson, Diane Miller, Evelyn Miller, Ginny Grove, Lauren Ostergren. * new members*

Program: Johanna Goehner led us through a Pilates session tailored for riders. We were given an introduction to muscle anatomy, especially the core muscles so important to riding. The exercises focused on body awareness, core strengthening, muscle lengthening, along with breathing. Members brought a delicious assortment of vegetarian dishes for lunch.

Business Meeting:

For the Good of the Order – Jane Marie: Club history demonstrates the value of the club over time. The club has brought the sport (art?) of dressage and eventing to the community, supported it over time and helped keep it alive. The club is a way to keep the sport viable and affordable with such benefits as USDF GMO memberships, shows and clinics, liability insurance and community.

At the USDF convention it was suggested that raffles help to keep interest in some of the drier aspects of business meetings. Jane Marie interspersed the meeting with multiple drawings for door prizes. Prizes were won by Prin Furst, Dinah Guarino, Shannon Ryan, Carol Morris, Kathy Thode, Shannon Ryan (again), Skye-Anna Nye-Smith and Lauren Ostergren

Evelyn Miller, a new Junior rider won a sportsmanship award - \$150 credit toward fees for club events, several horse books, club water bottle, earrings and a pair of schooling gloves.

Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2017. Karen Steffy moved for approval of the minutes. Kathy Thode seconded, with the suggestion that the minutes be read aloud at the meetings prior to approval. All approved

Treasurer's Report – none this month, but the club is in good financial shape.

Committee Reports

Recognized Show Committee – Show to be held in Elmira, June 9 & 10, 2018. Jane Marie will serve as manager, Janna Wagner is the secretary. There will be a separate meeting of the Dressage Show Committee. Judges will be Lisa Schmitt "S", Joan Bouhirst "S". the TD will be Camile Kopsik, A photographer has been hired. Vet will be Early Winter. JM has a contact for the show facility, booked the B&B for the judges and TD and has insurance. **Volunteers are still needed.** JM will fill the role of volunteer coordinator until she has a volunteer. The show will be named: CDCT Dressage in Wine Country I & II. It will be run as two separate shows to maximize the number of tests that will be able to be used for USDF and USEF awards. The shows will offer equitation classes, the "Queen" award for high point Trakehner mare, Jr. rider, OTTB awards were discussed but it is too late to enter the show in the TIP program for 2018.

Casual Show – August 12, 2018, and one-day clinic, August 11, 2018. Ellie Newton will manage the show. No judge has been engaged, yet. JM will put them up at her B&B. There was discussion about potential judges. A member vote was taken. JM moved that we have a different judge. Vote: 3 in favor, 3 opposed, JM broke the tie in favor of having a different judge. However last year's judge, who gave a very well received clinic, will be invited to give a clinic, either in conjunction with the show or at another time. The club will have a formal vote about clinic and judge.

(continued)

Education Committee has organized some upcoming events.

February 10, 2018 - Braiding Clinic at Cornell's Oxley Equestrian Center. Free for club members, \$5 for non-members. Cornell will supply the horses. Braiding clinic at 1pm. A business meeting will be held at 12 noon in the meeting room at Oxley.

March 24, 2018 – Working Equitation Clinic at Connie O'Hearn's Farm in Scipio, Cayuga County. There are slots available for 6 rider/horse combinations. The clinic will be divided into two groups. Trailering in only, no stabling available. Clinician is Suzanne Marshall. Auditing is free for club members.

There was discussion of re-instituting a Fall Camp. Will discuss further next month.

Eventing Committee will be setting the dates of two eventing cross country schoolings/clinics. We have two likely locations: Carriage House Farm in Trumansburg and Heavenbound Farm Rome, PA. Dates will be planned around the popular horse trials in the area to provide warm ups.

USDF Convention report was given by Dinah Guarino and is included in this newsletter.

Newsletter/Publicity Committee – It was generally agreed that the newsletter is awesome. Much appreciation for the job that Karen Steffy has done. Karen is asking for more member biographies. Please send her text and photos and she will format it for the newsletter. Send Karen info on other clinics for inclusion in the newsletter and website. JM and Kathy Heffernon are the administrators for the FaceBook page. They approve of postings prior to being made public. A few postings that were off topic were not approved, but most are. The new website is finished, but not yet up and running, Karen will look into it.

Membership Committee – Lauren Ostergren reported that she is learning the ropes. We were reminded that membership forms need to be signed. Lauren reminded all that having the membership forms and checks before December 1 makes her life simpler with respect to USDF reporting. She will be looking into online submissions. The membership is reminded that as a member of CDCT, they are automatically members of USDF and entitled to certain benefits.

Kathy Thode moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lauren Ostergren seconded the motion.

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CALENDAR

CDCT Shows and Events

- February 10 Monthly meeting, 12 pm, Media Room, John T. Oxley Equestrian Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. jml16@cornell.edu
- February 10 Braiding demonstration, with a free raffle for a braiding kit! 1 pm, John T. Oxley Equestrian Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
jml16@cornell.edu
- June 9 & 10 CDCT Recognized Shows, Chemung County Fairgrounds, Horseheads, NY
jml16@cornell.edu
- August 11- 12 CDCT Schooling Show and Clinic, John T. Oxley Equestrian Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, jml16@cornell.edu
-

Other Area Shows and Events

- February 17 Developing Your Eye: Straightness and Collection; a seminar with FEI Dressage Trainer and FEI International Judge, Carel Eijkenaar. www.voltrafarm.com
- March 10 Developing Your Eye: Perfecting Performance; a seminar with FEI Dressage Trainer and FEI International Judge, Carel Eijkenaar. www.voltrafarm.com
- April 23—27 Clinic with Arthur Kottas Heldenberg, <http://www.waltzinghorsesdressage.com/>
- August 5 Tanglewood Dressage Schooling Show, <http://www.cnydcta.org/calendar.html>
- September 25 - 30 Dressage at Devon, <https://www.dressageatdevon.org/>

Additional Local Dressage and Combined Training Groups

[Central NY Dressage and CT Association](#)
[Endless Mountains Dressage and Combined Training Club](#)
[Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club](#)
[Western New York Dressage Association](#)

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CLASSIFIEDS

For sale:

17" Albion SL Ultima extra wide dressage saddle. It fits both my wide (said with love) QH mare and her Trak cross son to whom she passed her size along to. Super comfy and balanced. Beautiful condition with stirrups and girth. Will send more pictures if desired and willing to loan out for a test run.

Asking a firm \$1,200.

Mary Beth Adams
bhorse@mac.com
315-515-9556



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At Springfield Farm, we cherish a horse's individuality and appreciate his history. Each is cared for and loved as one of our own. Springfield Farm is a sixty-five acre farm located in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region of New York and just minutes from downtown Ithaca and Cornell University's Large Animal Hospital. Our care is based on the premise that each animal deserves the best quality of life, including one-on-one attention and focus on individual dietary, physical and emotional needs. Springfield Farm horses enjoy the maximum turnout that weather allows and individual stalls for those days that aren't so nice.

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For sale:

Charles Owen helmet: Style JR8, Size 7, gently used. \$75.

Field boots: Ariat, black, regular height, woman's, medium calf, used. 45\$.

Thermal half-chaps, Ariat, black, size, medium, used, \$5.

Two pair brown half-chaps, Ariat, size small, used, free.

Britches, woman's pair, tan, Devan Aire, size 32H, free.

Britches, woman's pair, dark gray, Goode Rider, size 32, free.

Dressage saddle pad, Dover, 25" long, 46" wide, unused, \$10.

Zippered padded tack bag, 18" tall, 26" long, 26" wide, \$15.

Contact Ed Machak at emachak@stny.rr.com



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Business phone (area code first): _____

Fax (area code first): _____ E-mail: _____

Is there information above that you do not want published in our yearly membership list, which is distributed to members?
If so, please specify: _____

Birth date: _____

Are you an instructor or trainer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Dues renew each Nov. 1 to ensure you will receive newsletters and be included in the Annual Membership Roster.

Membership benefits: Dues cover your USDF group membership, newsletters, and discounts at club-sponsored events, except as limited by USDF and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).

Enclosed is my payment for:

- ☐ Individual Membership (\$35)
- ☐ Family Membership (\$45)
- ☐ Junior Membership (\$25)

Activities sponsored by CDCT include a variety of shows, mounted and unmounted clinics, films, speakers, and social events. These are produced by volunteer work from our members. Please indicate below the ways in which you could contribute to the success of YOUR club:

- ☐ Dressage Shows: Planning, paperwork, grounds preparation, help on show day, etc.
- ☐ Western Dressage
- ☐ Combined Training
- ☐ Education/Clinic Committee
- ☐ Awards
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Other: _____

Please make checks payable to CDCT, Inc.

Please mail application and dues to:

CDCT, Inc.

c/o Lauren Ostergren

205 Warren Pl.

Ithaca, NY 14850

607-227-4535

lauren.ostergren@gmail.com



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CDCT MEMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY USDF GROUP MEMBERS.

WHO TO CONTACT:

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Vice-President:	Norm Johnson, njohnson@ithaca.edu
Past President:	Andrea Chamberlain, 6acham479@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Ginny Grove, vs24@cornell.edu
Recording Secretary:	Jean Foley, jpfoley34@gmail.com
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Committees:

Education:

Jane-Marie Law
Connie O'Hearn
Carol Morris
Prin Furst

Awards:

Jane-Marie Law
Kathy Thode

Casual Show:

Ginny Grove
Bettina Wagner
Dinah Guarino
Ellie Newton
Jane Marie Law

Recognized Show:

Dinah Guarino
Connie O'Hearn
Kathy Thode
Bettina Wagner
Jana Wagner
Jane Marie Law

Combined Training:

Ginny Grove
Anna Detar
Nicki Lund
Jean Foley
Lauren Osetergren
Bettina Wagner

Publicity:

Carol Morris
Karen Steffy

Please send any additions for the newsletter to
Karen Steffy, wonderpony92@gmail.com, by the first of each month. Thanks!

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