

Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township

August 2009



Special Edition: Me and My Horse

Newsletter Committee:

Sue Koval (Chair)

Rosemary Hodgson

Barbara Evenson and Big Red

I adopted Big Red in November 2008 from the Standardbred Retirement Foundation. He is the second Standardbred I have adopted and he is a 16.2 H, chestnut gelding, 17 years young.

He was previously used for combined training by his former owner in the Williamsburg, VA area so he does it all--dressage (WOW what a wonderful extended trot he has), jumping (4'--can you believe it--I don't jump 4'), loves water (goes in like a champ) and has other wonderful gaits.

He does have a tendency to get very excited around a lot of other horses, but in time I think we can work this out.

He did fairly well on his first pace except for being a little too fidgety. Once his gear goes on, he's all business.

We are developing a good rapport and whenever I drive my truck onto the farm he watches me intently until I come out and greet him. What a sweetie. He's very gentle and kind.

We will work through any of our issues I'm sure -- most are very minor.

Give him an apple and he'll follow you anywhere.

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Barbara and Big Red at the Standardbred Pleasure Trail Pace.



Carol S. and Sage

Sage - Osage Poco Tivio - a registered Sorrel Tobiano Paint, was born May 16th, 1997 on a reining stock farm. I have had Sage since he was 3. I was always partial to Paints, so when I saw Sage, it was love at first sight. He was green and I was even greener, so it has been a very exciting and informative experience. I thought all a horse has to do is walk, trot, canter and hopefully stop, but little did I know they can do a lot of "other things" as well. He was great at dodging, spinning, bucking and spooking, sometimes all at the same time. Very talented indeed, but I did see a 30% chance of potential good behavior. Slowly that good behavior increased to what it is today, nearly 95%. I learned so much from my horse and I would not change it one bit--well maybe a few spills. Having a horse that pulled every trick possible taught me a great deal of things that I would never have

learned on a "push-button" horse. He has given me a great sense of accomplishment and success. Although the road has been rocky (literally fallen on a few), I learned to be patient, positive, consistent and to have determination; all of which has influenced me in every way in my life.

To put it all in a nutshell, there was a time when I had to put a chain on my horse's nose just to lead him out to an arena and then "attempt" to ride him because he would spook at every leaf falling. Today, I am able to ride him in parades with balloons, strollers, kids running up to him and motorcycles speeding by. If someone told me 7 years ago I would be able to march in a parade with Sage, do team penning, gymkhana, trail paces or even ride on a windy day, I would have never believed it. Deciding to purchase my horse Sage was one of the best decisions of my

life; I have absolutely no regrets.

In addition, I have to conclude that I have met some good, honest people, because of my horse experience, who were very different from my PTA and business associates back in the day.

Carol and her Tobiano Paint, Sage.



Stephanie Anderson and Buddy

My favorite photo says it all--Can you feel the love?

There is not much to say except that Buddy has been my outlet in life and that passion has helped me through some difficult times. There is also a poem that I shared with the group years ago and would like to share again for the new members.



Stephanie and her Quarter Horse Buddy.

Balance

When your day seems out of balance-
And so many things go wrong.
When people fight around you
And the day drags on so long.

When parents act like children
In-laws make you think "Divorce."
Go out into your pasture...
Wrap your arms around your horse.

His gentle breath enfolds you,
And he watches with those eyes.
He may not have a PhD
But he is oh so wise!

His head rests on your shoulder
You embrace him oh so tight.
He puts your world in balance.
And makes it seem all right.

Your tears they soon stop flowing.
The tension is now eased.
The garbage has been lifted
And you are quiet and at peace.

So when you need the balance.
From circumstances in your day
The best therapy that you can seek-
Is out there chomping hay!

Kate Fling and Leo

This is my horse, Dude Leo San, a full bred American Quarter Horse. I call him "Puppy" when he's being a good boy and I have several other (unmentionable) names for him when he's not. He's 15 years old and 16.2 hands tall. I purchased him in 2005 after leasing him for about one year, after he bucked me off and broke my ribs, after he reared and broke my thumb, and after I fell in love with him! We've come a long way. He still bucks now and again, but I can ride it out now. He's stopped rearing; it takes too much effort. He's no longer afraid of puddles. And I love him even more now than I did then. We've done many clinics and hunter paces; we've chased cows, played games, done tons of trail rides and, currently, we're studying dressage.

We love the Assunpink the best; what's not to love?!



Kate and her Quarter Horse Leo.

Nancy Ionato and Buckshot

I started riding around the age of ten. I took lessons and was very enthusiastic about it. Sometime during my teens, my interest slacked off and I didn't start riding again until I was in my late 30's. In the early 1990's, I moved to Monmouth county from the city and decided to take riding lessons again. After trying out a few different places, I settled at a barn in Englishtown. It was here that I fell in love with a little buckskin that the owners had purchased at an auction. He came up on a stock trailer with a bunch of other horses from somewhere around the Mexican border.

I enjoy trail riding most of all, but I have discovered that Buckshot has wonderful "cow -sense" and I enjoy team penning with him. He has taught me a great deal about patience and tolerance. He is my refuge from the sometimes crazy life I lead as I try to balance my job, commuting, a family, aging parents and my own hectic schedule.

For the story of Betty Bailey and her Paint Cowboy, see our October 2008 HAMT newsletter.

I leased him for over one year and wanted very badly to buy him but he was not for sale at the time. They were using him as a lesson horse and in their summer camps. Eventually, he was put up for sale and I purchased him in 1997. We've been together ever since. Although I'm not sure how old he is, I think that 20-24 would be a good guess.



Nancy and her horse Buckshot.

Blanco Clan - 2 Legged AND 4 Legged!

We the "Blanco clan" horses wanted to share our experiences with you. Our two-legged family consists of Manny (big man and President of HAMT), Lea (Mom), Monica (the Basketball Player) and Samantha (the Eventer). We were pretty well settled into our lifestyle at La Tierra de Blanco in Millstone Township, until this past winter. The Blanco family takes us all over - from New Jersey to South Carolina and in between like Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, etc. One week we may be fox hunting, the next, team penning or riding on the trails. Some of us even did drill team and parades. We are very versatile and are used to the challenge.

Manny and Zeus (big white horse age 11) were the team. Zeus was in charge of the barn and he was the boss man's horse. Lea and Ian (large B/W paint) had been together for 3 years. Ian, who somehow grew to be 17.2 hands at 5 years old, was a pesky youngster but he slowly realized that one must respect the elders--"Hard to raise teenagers these days." Chance (a Chestnut with "1" blaze) came to the barn early in 2008 and he and Samantha became eventing partners. Boy, he loved to rub it in to the other horses that he was the seasoned traveler, receiving massages and overall pampering. We call him "The Divo" since he thinks his manure doesn't stink. Rolex (the grey and newest to the group) said he was just glad to be Monica's pleasure horse.

Our lives turned upside down in February 2009. Here is that story.....

In February 2009, Chance announced that Eventing was no longer for him and he told Samantha that she had to find a new partner. He didn't give her much notice either..so Samantha started asking around the barn to see who wanted to help her out. Rolex said "no way" to Samantha; he wasn't doing

that crazy stuff. He would rather find a new home anyway since Monica was busy with school, sports and a boyfriend. That left Zeus and/or Ian to step up to the plate and Zeus got there first. He offered to be Sam's Event horse. It was a no brainer for him, "Hmmm carry the big guy around and get ridden once a week or carry the slim Samantha around and get pampered, fussed over, etc on a regular basis." It was a sacrifice but he was willing to make it.

Well, when opportunity knocks, you should take advantage of it and that is what Excalibur (formerly known as Ian) did. He trotted up to Manny and offered himself as the new big man's horse (he was the biggest in the barn anyway). The big man promised adventure and a new image with a new name thus Excalibur was born.

Somehow at the end of this power play, Lea found herself alone with a saddle but no horse. Lucky for her that Killian heard the call from South Jersey and galloped up to join the Blanco clan. He was quickly accepted into the fold and is now an active member of the group.



Manny and Lea with their "old" horses, Zeus and Ian.

Sam with Chance, her "old" horse, and Monica with Rolex.



Samantha competing with her "new" horse Zeus.



Lea and her "new" horse, Killian.



Manny and his "new" horse - Excalibur (formerly Ian!)



Caryn Ogrodnik and Skip and Gina

I have loved horses since I could remember. I started taking lessons at Royal Farms in Old Bridge when I was ten and rode until I graduated high school. Then I only rode on occasion until I bought my first horse Skip--17 years later (and a husband and 4 kids later).

Skip was 9 when I bought him. He is a 16 H, 16-year-old Quarter Horse gelding who has been a terrific first horse. He will do most anything you ask of him and is a safe and "take care of you kind" of horse. I can rely on him at anytime and he can be ridden on the trails, in the ring, and for the last two years in the Millstone Memorial Day parade.

A year after Skip joined our family, my husband and I were celebrating our 10th Anniversary and he bought me a pretty expensive diamond necklace. I wasn't thrilled so he asked me what I really wanted and soon after Gina, the Friesian yearling arrived. She was much prettier than the necklace. Now, Gina is almost 7 years old and stands 16.2 H and has been nothing but a pleasure to watch grow up and work with from the start. She is like a puppy, loves attention, is calm, and sensible. She is not "marish" and is a joy to ride.

I feel very lucky to have found two great equine friends and I plan on having them stay with me until the end of our days.



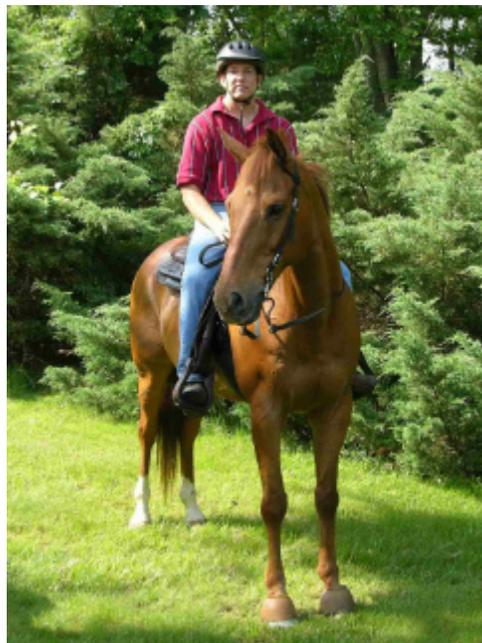
Karyn with her Friesian mare Gina and her Quarter Horse gelding, Skip.

Traci Teller and Cowboy



Traci and her Quarter Horse Cowboy.

Ron Harning and Robbie



Ron and Robbie. Robbie is a 25 year old Thoroughbred, never raced but trained for polo.

Stan Strzelecki and Rivendell Horse Farm

How did I get interested in horses? It goes back to that fateful day I asked my 10-year-old daughter if she would like to get involved in a sport. She told me that she would think about it. A week later she said that she would. Great, so I thought, which sport? Softball, basketball? "No, horseback riding," she said. "Oh, damn!" I said to myself. But, I started this, so I would see it through; little did I know. My daughter started her riding lessons. By the time she graduated from high school she had been riding for 8 years. Her interest was so strong that she went to college and majored in Equine business and management.

But, I still had no interest in horses. I would go visit my daughter in college from time to time and watch her ride during collegiate competitions.

Still I had no interest. When my daughter graduated from college and came home she went out into the real world to find a job, I noticed a pattern. She worked at various horse farms as a riding instructor, trainer, horse salesperson, but she did not make much money nor did she get any benefits. I knew that in order for my daughter to make any kind of money she needed to work for herself.

So, we embarked on the crazy idea of selling my mortgage-free house and buying a horse farm. Ergo, my "instant" interest in horses! It's been about 5 years now since we started the horse farm, and it has been a daily education. Even though I don't ride much I'm interacting with horses every day. It is a lot of hard work but it has been rewarding. We still don't make much money but someday we'll figure it out!!



Stan on Pippin.

Bev Torok and Prince

Prince is a 14-year-old Palomino Quarter Horse. I have had him for 8 years and we love to trail ride and we also participate in drill team. I always had a love for horses but was unable to act on that until I became an adult. After trail riding with my friend in the mountains of Georgia, I came back jazzed and decided to take lessons. That led to buying my first horse, a mare named Belle, and then buying bigger property to have her in my backyard. She ended up throwing me and a broken leg and 3 broken ribs later I gave her to a friend as a companion horse.

At my first HAMT meeting, I met some people who told me about Dunne Street Farm in Upper Freehold. I contacted Eleanor Dunne, and Prince (who she called Beau Beau) became mine. He was quiet

and steady, just what I needed at that time.

My life has changed since I first got Prince and he has been my steady steed every step of the way. I can't imagine him not being in the pasture, whinnying as I come home from work and standing so strong, always my faithful supporter.



Bev and her Quarter Horse Prince.

Rosemary Hodgson and Mariah

My 15 H Morgan mare, Mariah, is 10 years old. We have been a team for 2 years.

How did Mariah and I end up together? I had been taking lessons for a few months and all I could think of was riding more! I tried leasing a good horse for a beginner at another barn which had an indoor arena so over that winter I tried to ride a lot... and that was great. It was a new experience but I wanted more.. I realized I wanted a horse I could call my own and ride whenever my schedule allowed it. My trainer saw the gleam in my eye and started to search for the types of horses she knew would be well suited for a beginner like me. I loved all the pictures and write ups that she sent!

But when I saw Mariah that was it! With the help of my trainer I asked lots and lots of questions and then when we were pretty sure she was a match my trainer rode her to make sure she could be comfortable and patient with a beginner on.. She

bounced on the saddle (lol) she swung her feet around :) and Mariah handled it wonderfully... She still does. :)

I enjoyed riding her in the arena at the first barn I boarded her. It was so much fun doing figure eights and weaving in and out of cones. I was riding as often as I could.. so often my family was having to eat dinner at nearly 9 pm that whole first summer waiting for me to come home from riding! lol I now have also had wonderful opportunities to enjoy trail riding ..cantering up hills, jumping over logs, and running across fields... I loved it and I know Mariah loved it, too.

I am an outdoor person/animal lover at heart.. and being with Mariah and riding her has given me many opportunities to remember how amazing it feels to be given a chance to be one with nature..to feel the wonder when one can be in sync with their horse.



Rosemary and her Morgan mare, Mariah.

Sue Koval and Checkers

I've always loved horses, even though as a kid I didn't get many opportunities to ride. As an adult I got to fulfill my desire to ride horses, through trail rides, lessons, a horse pack trip in the Canadian Rockies, and cattle drives – twice in Colorado, once in Montana!

I've belonged to HAMT since the fall of 2004. Although I didn't have my own horse, I'd ridden Kim Mooney's black Percheron mare, Joygantic, in three Memorial Day parades. But on November 16, 2007, I became a first time horse owner when I purchased Checkers from fellow HAMT member Stephanie Anderson, and it has been a dream come true! Steph was the special angel who brought Checkers and I together and for that I am very grateful! Checkers is a red dun Quarter Horse, he's about 14 years old.

I have had so much fun with Checkers! We have done so many things together. Trail riding, beach riding, gymkhana, Memorial Day parades, JOUSTING!, drill team, giving rides to friends and family, performing as the Headless Horseman for Freehold's Spooktacular, riding around the farm ... I even love just standing with him and watching him graze! We get along great and he's done all the crazy stuff I've asked him to do.

I've ridden many different horses through the years, and so it's very different for me to get to know one horse really well and be with him consistently. Checkers is not only my first horse, but my special friend and partner.



Sue and her Quarter Horse Checkers.

Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township

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P.O. Box 453
Clarksburg, NJ 08510

Mission Statement

The Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township is a non-profit organization whose general purpose is to promote the preservation, use and maintenance of a network of trails within Millstone Township, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, for equestrian and pedestrian use by the general public, while maintaining a rural feel of the community and the creation of a horse friendly environment and promoting equine recreational activities.

2009 Officers:

President: Manny Blanco
Vice President: Bev Torok
Secretary: Ron Harning
Treasurer: Kim Mooney
Public Relations : Betty Bailey

Executive Committee:

Manny Blanco, Lea Blanco, Betty Bailey,
Bob Bailey, Mark Blackwell, Ron Harning,
Sue Koval, Kim Mooney, Bev Torok

Meetings and Membership

Our monthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month (excluding July) at 7PM at the Millstone Township Community Center, Millstone Township, NJ. The meetings are open to all members and keep members updated on all HAMA activities. All horse lovers are welcome. Owning a horse and living in Millstone Township are NOT prerequisites for membership.



Future Newsletters

We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this newsletter and also your thoughts on what you would like to see included in future newsletters!

Email:

shkoval@optonline.net

with your thoughts and suggestions!
(And of course your submissions!)

Barbara Cammeyer and Mr. Darcy



Barbara Cammeyer's horse, Mr. Darcy, a 9 yr old Appendix Quarter Horse foxhunter.

