

Foxtrotting News

March/April 2011

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BSFTA 7th Annual Award Banquet Honors Hall of Fame Inductees

Thirty five BSFTA members and their guests attended the seventh annual celebration dinner on January 15 at the Missoula Country Club. This year the dinner was arranged to recognize 2010 officers and directors and the members who held other positions of responsibility in 2010.

The BSFTA Hall of Fame Inductees are:



Jerry and Lida Robinson of Challis, Idaho. Pete and Penny Peterson first became acquainted with Jerry and Lida in 1986, when we moved out to our present place 1.5 miles outside of Sheridan. Jerry and Lida were our neighbors just across the fence. We had to build a fence to separate our two bunches of horses. Jerry was at the time strictly a Q Horse person. He used his horses in the mountains. Jerry was the underground mine Superintendent for the major Talc mine south of Alder. Lida was also just starting as the Administrative Assistant of the Ruby Valley Conservation District. Between building a fence, horse and hunting tales swapping we become fast friends and still are today.

In 1989 we were going to make a ride with the Montana Centennial Wagon Train from the Ruby River to Virginia City. Jerry and his oldest son were in need of a horse, for some reason or another. So I provided a big Fox Trotter gelding, that we owned at that time, and was conditioning for the Big Horn sale in Powell, Wyo. This one day ride was the start of our conversion of Jerry and his two sons to Fox Trotter horses. Jerry and Lida accompanied Penny and I to the 1990 Big

Horn Show and Sale. At the sale Jerry purchased his first Fox Trotter gelding, a 3 or 4 year, which they still own.

1994 - Penny and I foaled a blue roan horse colt, we named Montana's Midnight Trekker "P". Trekker was sired by Doc Graham, stallion Lazy Pine Major Blue Whiz and his dam was our mare Pride of Dallas J. He was a fifth generation registered blue papered horse colt. Jerry wanted to purchase Trekker and stand him as a stallion. So we sold half interest in Trekker to Jerry and Lida when he was a yearling in 1995. Trekker stood as a stallion at Jerry's place in Challis until 1999 and sired several foals mainly in Idaho and one from one of our mares. Jerry and Lida, their two sons and Jerry's brother Doug Robinson of Whitebird, ID were acquiring more Fox Trotting horses every year.



Jerry and Lida called their Fox Trotter horse program the Lazy J Foxtrotters and with our partnership on Trekker we titled it the High Country Fox Trotters and we both had ads in the MFTHBA Journal, Big Horn Basin and Big Sky Newsletters promoting our horses.

Jerry showed Trekker in the 2 year old model class in 1996 at the Big Sky Show in Hamilton. Trekker won his class and then in the Junior Model Stake Class, Trekker was judged the Junior horse Model Grand Champion. Jerry showed Trekker again in 1997 as a 3 year old and again was judged the Junior Horse Model Grand Champion. Jerry also

(Continued on page 2)

From the President

Looking Foward

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those out going BOD and Officers and welcome in the new. Fortunately for all of us in the Association these out going members continue to step into roles that will benefit us all.

I can think of no better way to look forward then to look back at years gone by. If we look at the past we can better define what we did right and more importantly what we have done wrong.

Last year's survey indicated that our member's interests were Trail, then Clinics, and Showing. I think as we go forward into 2011 you will see that we are trying to fill those needs, and much more. Hopefully there will be a ride, a clinic, or some function

that is offered that you will be able to participate in. If there is a clinic in your area, a ride that you are passionate about, or whatever, share it with us, and by doing so you will be helping these Chairs complete their goals. Each of these Chairs has been asked to create a budget to fund their committee needs, and also a method to provide funds for these budgets.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to promote an idea that was presented at our last meeting. Many of the projects that will be offered need funding prior to collecting entry fees, sponsorships, etc. It is felt that with all the expenses involved in operating this Association we need to increase the amount of funds (bank account) available for these projects. Lauren Johansson has with others

come up with an idea for an auction on our Web site. The idea is to auction donated items from members, and merchants to hopefully improve our availability of funds. We should see everything from horse tack candle light dinners. Please help with donations or purchases to the extent you can.

Randy Olson
President
Big Sky FTA

7th Annual Banquet cont.

(Continued from page 1)

showed Trekker I believe 2 years at the Big Horn Show in Powell. I do not remember his placement at Powell, but he was placed either 1st or 2nd each year. I was going to show Trekker as a 3 year old at Hamilton in the 3 year performance class, but couldn't for I was already entered with another one of our horses.

In 1995 Jerry took Trekker to a Fox Trotter show in Chubback, ID and before he could show Trekker he got picked to judge this non approved show. I wound up showing Trekker in a performance class, and if I remember correctly won 1st place. Jerry showed Trekker at another show in Idaho, but I do not remember where and the results

Jerry's showing career was at Fox Trotter approved shows in Big Horn Basin in Powell and Big Sky in Hamilton. Jerry also showed Trekker's dam Dallas in a preferred gait class at the Big Horn show in 1995. Dallas won the class, but the judge didn't know what he was judging, which is total different story.

1996 saw Lida showing one of their Fox Trotting mares in a model class in the Big Sky show and placed the mare 3rd. Lida's main showing career was one of support and helping Jerry and Penny getting horses ready for showing. But really Lida's main accomplishment at the

shows, was being the Den Mother to many youth exhibitors. At the shows, before and after the show, you would find the youth exhibitors with their friends visiting and around Lida.

Jerry was also a major organizer in hosting the first three years of the Big Sky Fall Gather Trail Rides. Jerry was the long ride Trail Boss of the 1999, 2001 and 2002 rides. The reason that no ride was held in 2000 was due to extreme fire weather. Being that he was the trail boss meant he had to haul his horse from Challis to the Madison in Montana, for they had moved back to Challis by then and Jerry had retired from his profession of mining.

1998 Jerry and Lida met Penny and I at Ava and attended the last 4 days of the National Celebration and Show. Saturday afternoon of the show, Duane Scott got a hold of me and asked if I would present an hour program on mountain horsemanship and packing that afternoon at the Versatility arena. I said yes and immediately got Jerry to help me. We gathered up ropes, any type of cloth available for a manta, and a bale of hay for showing how to manta a pack with our sling ropes on riding saddles. Jerry did the demonstration on how to sling a riding saddle and then we loaded and slung a bale of hay. We had approximately 20 people in the audience

and the program became 2 hours of demonstrations and answering questions. Boy it was hot for us two old mountains boys.

Jerry was on the Big Sky Board of Directors as a Director at Large in 1999. Both Jerry and Lida were members of the MFTHBA and Big Sky for several years. The reason they have dropped their membership and become inactive is, for the past 7 or 8 years, they have spent the summers in Alaska helping friends with their fishing lodge.

Jerry and his brother Doug in 2005 made a horseback wilderness trip of 10 or 12 days from the Challis area to Doug's home at Whitebird, ID. This trip through the Salmon river "River of No Return" and Gospel Hump Wildernesses was done on Fox Trotting horses. Doug video taped the trip, which is available to anyone that wishes to view the trip.

They played real helping hands in the early years of the Big Sky Association. They became strong supporters and promoters of Fox Trotting horses. Jerry is no dude for he is real mountain horseman and wilderness traveler.

Lida has always been supportive of the Youth Exhibitors and is always willing to lend a hand where it was needed.

Penny & Neil "Pete" Peterson

Tell Us About your Accomplishments

The MFTHBA promotions committee is committed to spreading the word about the accomplishments of the Missouri Fox Trotter in different venues. The committee is set up to share this information through nationally and, when appropriate, internationally distributed press releases, through our breaking news email alert system, social networking and articles in our MFTHBA news email and *The Journal*. **However, we often do not hear about these accomplishments until well after they have been achieved or in many cases not at all. We hear rumors of the success our breed is having in**

roping, team penning, mounted shooting, ACTHA events, competitive trail riding, endurance riding, jumping, and many other events. We want to promote all aspects of the Missouri Fox Trotter!

The Promotions Committee encourages all Fox Trotter owners, whether they are MFTHBA members or not, to share their horse's accomplishments in these all breed competitions or any story they feel would be of interest.

To better facilitate the committee receiving this information,

a new email address has been established. Story ideas should be sent to

newsletter@mftgba.com.



Up-Coming Events

BSFTA Meeting: April 30th in Missoula location to be announced

Utah Stallion Review: March 19, 2011

All Breeds Clinic/ Schooling Show:
May 14, 2011 at Sapphire Event Center, Corvallis, MT. Contact: Debby Cress at 531 3522

BSFTA Meeting: June 11, 2011 at Jerry Christison home, Helena MT

BSFTA Show— July 8-10, 2011
At Sapphire Event Center, Corvallis, MT

For info call Jerry Christison 406-227-5400 email: lazyJC@mt.net

BSFTA Meeting: October 1, 2011 place and time to be announced

BSFTA January Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the January 15, 2011 At Missoula Country Club, Missoula, MT

Call to Order: President Randy Olson called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm. Officers and board members attending the meeting were: President Randy Olson, Vice President, Bobbi Dyrud, Secretary Annette Padgett, Treasurer Gale Mowry, Central Director Jerry Christison, Western Director Kristina Tracer. Others attending the meeting were: Rick Padgett, Bill Free, Harriet Free, Cathy Olson, Mark Goss, Donna Goss, Diane Shriner, Jerry Shriner, Thea Gervais, Matt Gervais, Lauren Johansson, CJ Johansson, Catherine Hanson, Gary Hanson, Pete Peterson, Penny Peterson, Jerry Robinson, Lida Robinson, Bob Womack, and Karen Philips. Twenty six were in attendance.

Randy asked for Mark Goss and Cathy Olson to please count the votes.

Minutes: Randy asked Annette to read the meeting minutes. Jerry Christison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes sent out by email. Jerry Shriner seconded the motion. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Gale Mowry gave the treasurer's report

BSFTA started 2010
\$5,833.49

Since then: \$5,833.49

Total income \$15,034.10

Total Expense \$15,434.58

Year End Profit/Loss \$-420.48

Balance as of December 31, 2010
\$5,413.01

Total 2011 Income \$475

Total 2011 Expense \$51.38

Balance as of January 14, 2011
\$5,836.63

Correspondence: Annette read correspondence from members Kent and Charlene Krone. Also, an e-mail was received from Dolly Watkins telling us that her husband Ray passed away on October 26, 2010. Pete Peterson read an email from Judy Matfield telling us that she now resides in Arizona.

Discussion as the votes were being counted is as follows:

Randy told us about what he's been doing with Timber in the Extreme Cowboy Challenge. He recommended if any of us have a chance to do this that it would be good for us and our horses. Utah is thinking about doing one in conjunction with their show in July.

Randy would like to see more trail rides this year. Having one doesn't mean that everyone in the club would show up. But if we can get people in different areas to schedule one and put it on the calendar then people can make plans to attend. Randy would like to see them promoted more. In last year's survey the number one thing people wanted to have were trail rides in one form or another. It's really about all of us getting together and enjoying our horses and each other.

Karen asked what's going on with Jack Womack. Bob said that Jack will be going into the service next week. Also, he said that Chad Miller is in the Army Reserves with the Chemical Warfare Department and he and his family are planning to move back to Montana to live.

Annette has offered to take on the responsibility of youth director as well as some other responsibilities. She will be organizing the banquet along with coming up with people to recognize at the awards banquet. She will also be doing the newsletter.

Bobbi Dyrud will be stepping down as Vice-President, but will be helping Annette with looking at potential people for the Hall of Fame award. Randy stated that we needed a committee to research the people that are suggested by members. This committee will do the research and present their finding to the board. Then if the board feels these people meet the criteria the board will then vote.

Randy thanked all outgoing and incoming officers and directors for their service.

Randy likes to communicate through e-mail. It is a better use of his time then calling everyone. Please hit REPLY TO ALL when we respond back to him. This way everyone stays in the loop.

Bobbi Dyrud said that we really owe Randy a debt of gratitude for being President for another year.

Election Results:

President: Randy Olson

Vice President: Jerry Christison

Secretary: Donna Goss

Treasurer: Gale Mowry

Central Director: Gail Hanson

Western Director: Annette Padgett

Eastern Director: Diane Shriner

Directors at Large: Karen Philips

Bob Womack

By Law changes have passed.

Committee Reports:

Clinics: No report

Sponsorships: Karen said that Dave Peterson won't send us a bill for the Show CD. She talked to Dave and he will send us the CD. Randy said that he will try to get Dave to be our show photographer for our July show.

Trail Ride: Mark was recognized and thanked for all of his work as trail ride chairman. He will step down from this position. He would like to go into promoting the Fox Trotter and the BSFTA. This goes hand in hand with him working on the National Promotion Committee.

Mark said that initially the trail program was well received. He had 15 people that signed up, but only had 5 hard core people that did show up. He tried to get people to step up to host trail rides and have them scheduled by April. This did not happen. Also, maybe this next year if we could have some overnights. Also, maybe have a trail ride clinic. This suggestion will be given to Thea.

Mark wants people that have successes with their Fox Trotters to let him know. National has a lot more interest in promoting this. Send Mark an e-mail along with description of what you did. Send pictures if you have them.

Old Business: Budget: Gail will chair getting the budget together. She asked that everyone that chairs a committee to come up with a budget. If you need help, please call her.

Audit: Has not been done. Will do ASAP in January 2011.

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Meet the Committees

News Letter Editor:

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Promotion Chair:

Mark Goss

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Clinic Chair:

Thea Gervais

Sponsor Chair:

Karen Philips

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Website:

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Awards/Banquet:

Annette Padgett

Youth:

Annette Padgett

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Show Chair:

Jerry Christison

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Budget Chair:

Gale Mowry

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Meet the Committees

I would like to introduce to the committee chairs with a summary of the functions of each. Please say thanks to these dedicated individuals with your help and support.

News letter Editor: Annette Padgett- It is the hope of this newsletter to continue in the tradition to provide informative articles to our members. Regular contributions from our members and Committee chairs are greatly encouraged.

Trail: Diane Shriner- To tailor and coordinate a schedule of trail events to meet the needs of our members. (See Diane's article in this newsletter)

Promotion: Mark Goss- Promotion of our breed on a National and local level with emphasis on the latter.

Clinics: Thea Gervais- As with Trail, Thea will be coordinating clinics that meet the needs of our members. This could be anywhere from showing to trail to gait and from big too small. Ideas?

Sponsorships: Karen Philips- Karen has compiled a SUPER sponsorship program over the years and would welcome everyone to join in gathering new sponsors.

Website: Lauren Johansson- Lauren has developed a tremendous website for us, <http://bigskyfta.org>, and currently is setting up for an auction to run during the Month of April. (See article in this newsletter) Stay up on all the latest BSFTA news.

Awards/Banquet: Annette Padgett- This will involve criteria and tracking of those deserving of awards or recognition at the yearend Banquet as well as the Banquet facilities and menu.

Hall of Fame: Bobbi Dyrud- It was learned this past year that much research of the nominations is needed in order to determine those that qualify to be inducted into the HOF. This committee will research and present qualified candidates to the board for voting.

Youth: Annette Padgett – Youth are the future of this Association so this committee will promote youth activities.

Show: Jerry Christison- This Chair will coordinate all aspects of our Annual show as well as enforce all rules and actions during the show.

Budget: Gale Mowry- This chair will coordinate budgets for all activities as well as assist in creating those budgets.

As you can see many of these committees overlap authority and it is the hope of this association that we can work together to the betterment of the Association. If you are Passionate about anything here, please call and volunteer to be a part of that committee.

Thanks

Randy Olson

President BSFTA

BSFTA Minutes cont.

(Continued from page 4)

Show: No one has come forward to chair the show. Randy will help that person. A lot of things have already been done. The board will continue to do things till someone steps up.

Dwayne Scott will be our judge. He has performance and versatility backgrounds. We will pay him \$200 per day. He told us he will drive, therefore we need to come up with a plan to compensate him for this. Show dates are July 7th, 8th and 9th. Lauren Johansson will be show secretary with Karen Phillips helping her along with Cathy Olson. Leslie Womack will announce again. Tony Dees will be our gate man and Donna Goss will be ring steward. Annette Padgett will do the show program.

Jerry Christison suddenly announced that he will be show chair. Everyone thanked him.

Bob Womack negotiated a better deal with Sapphire. The cost will be reduced to \$500 per day. The stalls will be \$25 per day with a 3 day commitment and will cost \$65 with no charge if you stay over Saturday nightly. Nobody can bring their own shavings. First bag is free and then it is \$8.00 per bag. Since they clean the stalls after we leave and don't charge us for this they get paid by people buying Sapphire's shavings.

New Business:

Lauren Johansson is proposing doing an online auction as a fundraiser. This will be done from our website. It will run for a month with a list of items for sale. We do not collect the items. The companies or people that give auction items will be given free advertising for 1 year. The auction was set for May.

Randy wants to hear from members if we will support this fundraiser. He would like it to go forward. Please let him know one way the other how we feel.

Lauren presented the idea of having a

general brochure for Annette, Karen and Lauren to use when they approach people for this fundraiser and for sponsorships. This will be a full color double sided glossy brochure. The cost would be \$300 for 500 brochures. Lauren would also like a letterhead printed. She does not have a price on the letterhead. Randy asked her to put together a proposal for cost of the brochure and letterhead.

Gayle mentioned that \$500 was a lot to spend since we only take \$1400 per year in membership dues. Randy said that Gayle had suggested in previous meeting to do a fundraiser.

Randy said this fundraiser has great potential to become a major fundraiser. This does not replace sponsorship.

Bill Free mentioned that the National Trail Ride should also pay for itself like the show does. The deficiency was \$268 for this NTR.

The brochure will be used for more than 1 year. So the cost will be spread out over a 2 to 3 year period (or more). Hopefully our fundraiser will bring in the cost of the brochures and then some.

Jerry made a motion to spend \$400 for the cost of the brochure and letterhead. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The club thanked Lauren for all of her work.

Show details will be discussed in our April meeting. We will have a meeting in June at Jerry Christison and we will coordinate with the Utah show as we set a date for this. The last meeting will be in September and Randy will set time and let us know.

The next meeting was set for April 23rd in Missoula at 11:00 AM.

Before we adjourn Randy talked about

the Circuit. Colorado wants to come into our circuit. It would affect UT and MT. UT had a meeting and opposed it because the same date was set for both shows.

Randy stated that MT, UT and WY have been wanting to bring unity to all 3 clubs. Therefore we need to be a circuit with each other.

Cathy Olson will continue to liaison with UT and WY and will keep tabs on what is happening.

Randy will tell CO that our club opposes them coming into our circuit.

Cathy Olson mentioned all the changes with our National Board. President Jim Mann has resigned, Clyde Connelly, vice president is now president. Robin Gabel after being voted in as our regional rep. has resigned. Dennis Bromley was running against her and was appointed as our regional rep. in December. Then in December Dennis was appointed as Vice President. Now we need a regional rep. Craig Danzey has put his name in for our regional rep. Randy will send a letter of support.

Jerry made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Bill Free.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna M. Goss
BSFTA Secretary

BSFTA PROMOTIONAL COMMITTEE

BSFTA members, Randy (the all wise, omnipotent, benevolent President) has formed a promotional committee this year and asked me to chair. I am real interested in getting some members involved in our promotional efforts. If this is something you would like to do please call, or email me. There will only as much work as you can stand.

The promotional committee is tasked with raising the awareness of both our organization and the Missouri Fox Trotter in our affiliate area. To do that I plan on BSFTA participating in any horse related expos or events we can do with minimum cost. We will also send out news

releases to media about our member's and their horse's accomplishments in all areas of horse activities. We will also submit articles to regional and local media about the MFT and the benefits of owning one. We will encourage the same media to attend and report on our show and trail rides.

If you are aware of any member who has been involved in any activity with their MFT, regardless of what venue, please notify me. If you have done something with your horse that you are proud of, please let me know. This could be any awards you may have earned in any type horse discipline or event. I am really interested in how we are using our

horse outside the BSFTA.

I must warn you though that this is not going to be a ranch or farm advertising forum. We will report in a manner that relays accomplishments and will not remark on that person's horse sales, stallions, etc unless that is the story. For example, I will send out notices that Randy's stallion won something, but will not mention that he is available for stud.

Mark Goss – Chairman

Mrg1947m@netscape.net 406-360-6355

Gentle Horsemanship

1st in a series

By: Mark Goss

We have all seen horses and riders who seem to just flow together, like they are dancing. No excess movement, just two beings in tune with each other. And most of us want to be that team. Well, we can all get there. It just takes time, patience, knowledge, and desire. It is a journey that may take a lifetime, but it is well worth the effort and the relationship you achieve with your horse from the very beginning is something you can't have with anyone or any other animal. Here are some things to think about when starting on the gentle horsemanship journey.

Your horse has no ego. Therefore, he is not trying to hurt you, fool you or cause you embarrassment. He does not know what these things are. If your horse bites, kicks, or knocks you out of the way, he is acting out of fear and it is your fault, not his.

There are two things that are most important to remember when dealing with your horse.

First, the horse has no watch or concept of time; he lives in and for the moment. So, your time constraints are no concern of his.

Secondly, and perhaps the most important overall concept to consider is that, "The horse remembers what happened before what happened happened". Think about that for a while because this is the

foundation of good horsemanship.

Ray Hunt had a saying that is at the core of gentle horsemanship – "Make the right thing easy and the wrong thing difficult. Making the wrong thing difficult does not mean making it impossible or punishing the wrong thing, it means that the wrong thing is uncomfortable.

You should strive to use the lightest, quietest hands possible. Your hands should be on the reins in a manner that your hands can never be behind your saddle horn.

When asking your horse to do something he is unfamiliar with, use the least amount of pressure possible and reward the slightest try.

The goal should be control of the feet. Control of the feet comes through the mind, not the mouth.

To go slow is to go fast. This is a hard concept to absorb. Since the horse has no watch and no concept of time he may take his time to get something done. So, you should ask and set him up for success and wait for the try.

The horse has three means of expression. The mouth, ears, and tail show us how he is thinking. If we watch those three areas we can quickly find out where the horse is in his mind.

The horse is always right. You have an opinion and he has the facts. The horse knows what he can and can't do in any situation, those are his facts. You

think you know what he can do, so that is your opinion.

When you ask for something, you must only use what pressure is necessary, but you must use the necessary pressure. Here is where progressive pressure works best. By increasing the pressure in stages you will feel the change and be able to stop the pressure right where it got the change, not increase the pressure past the change.

The horse will mirror your moods, how is that working for you?

Give your horse a chance to fail, it is how they learn. The horse will always fail before he succeeds. Don't punish the failure; reward the try and the success.

You cannot pet your horse too much. Horses like to groom on each other and you petting and stroking him mimics that action to him. Don't pat or slap his neck, but stroke his mane, neck, and all over his body.

The horse is a horse, you are not. He is not allowed to treat you like a horse. He has to stay out of your space until you ask him in, you are allowed in his space at any time without his permission. He can not apply any part of his body to any part of your body, ever. You, however, can touch any part of his body any time you wish without his permission. These are but a few of the tenants of gentle horsemanship. We will talk about these and others in depth in future articles.

Trail Rider of the Year

Wow! What a surprise it was to discover all those fun rides last summer were more than just stimulating outings, and that I am actually the recipient of this great and memorable prize. I am truly delighted.

I feel especially fortunate for all my riding adventures in 2010, as the summer of 2009 was devastating for me. After shattering my ankle that spring, I was prohibited from riding that entire summer. So, when I initially heard about the new Trail Rider Program headed by Mark Goss, I immediately liked the idea. I was anxious for a full summer of riding, and the program gave me something different to look forward to achieving. It not only proved to be an added challenge for riders, but was an

encouragement for keeping our horses in splendid condition.

I had such fun logging my rides and seeing my progress and the accomplishments I made by summer's end. I was actually stunned to see how many hours I had spent in the saddle, revealing where my priorities lay. My rides entailed quiet personal rides to group outings and campouts.

2010 proved to be a great summer of riding for me. I'm now looking forward to seeing what's new on the trails this summer – from viewing Montana's spectacular scenery to its incredible wildlife.

As the winner of this award, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to participate and can now add this special

memory to my love of riding and horses. I hope you, too, enjoy the upcoming adventures ahead in 2011 and hope to see you on the trail this summer!



Big Sky Fund Raising Auction

Looking for ways to raise money for the club's activities, it has been decided to try an online auction using the club's website. This auction won't be real time, as eBay is, but bids will be accepted via email. Items to be auctioned off can be almost anything. Clear your tack room of excess things cluttering up your home. Donate a service to be auctioned off. Go to a local business and look for donated items there.

One thing this venue will offer to any business that donates; is advertising and a link back to their web site, or contact information. So if we do ask for something from businesses, we have something to offer in return. The auction will not be limited, either by donors, or bidders, just to Big Sky members. We hope to make this a yearly event, and go beyond just club members.

There will be a master listing of items to be auctioned, that page is:

<http://bigskyfta.org/auction.html>

But from this page, there will be a separate page for each item. On the item page, a detailed description of the item or service will be explained, along with pictures. The parameters of how the item is to be delivered will be here. Also, this is the page where we can provide information about the donor, and how to contact them. Donors will be able to provide artwork for their business on this page, and as mentioned, a web link and/or contact information.

We plan to run the auction for 30 days, currently the plan is for the month of May. The length of time is to offer good advertising for our business donations, and generate some interest.

In order for this auction to really work, we

hope that every member either donates, or finds a donation (or both). There is a donation form on the website, available from the auction page. There is also a cover letter describing the auction that can be used to solicit donations. You can download these from our web site, or contact Lauren@frogweb.net (406.821.4647) and have these mailed to you.

When the auction is underway, the email to place a bid will be auction@bigskyfta.org – and this email will be monitored by at least 3 club members. Bids will be updated daily. The Auction will run from April 1 through April 30, 2011.

"Chissam, The Real Novice Grand Champion"

By: Lori Connor

When I was 12 years old, my father retired and we moved from Southern California back to his childhood home in Montana. Upon opening a new bank account in Hamilton, my mother entered a drawing to win a free horse. My lucky fate was that her name was drawn, and I was given the little Appaloosa P.O.A. yearling she won. We named him "Wampum", because he looked like an Indian pony and he came from the bank. Of course he needed a friend, and that's how it started that I got to grow up with horses.

I trained and rode my little buddy Wampum for years without knowing anything. My father, who had ridden as a child, had 2 lifelong women friends, 40 and 50 years my senior, who were fine and savvy riders and trainers of Tennessee Walkers. They both took me on like I was their daughter and we rode everywhere together. This is how I discovered the gaited horse, and I bought "Magic" from one of them when I was 13 for \$300, the fortune I had saved over several years from doing yard-work. He was a purebred, pure white Tennessee Walker perfectly trained guardian for me. I always rode bareback in tennis shoes, and I never saw the inside of an arena or ever had a formal lesson. Horses meant the world to me for many years, but life has a way of dragging us in different directions to learn other things, so I ended up spending many years without them.

I met Annette Padgett in 2008 at Dr. Sherrick's office when she began caring for my 90-year-old father's toenails. We instantly became close friends and after several visits, we discovered that we only lived 3 miles apart and that we shared an interest in horses. After about a year of quarterly visits, Annette

confessed that she had too many horses and asked me if I'd like to ride with her. I came right over.

I rode Annette's horse "Snow" at first, and I liked her, but I had a special feeling for her other horse "Chissam" who resembled in looks and temperament, my old horse Magic. The first time Annette let me ride him, our bond was set. Chissam was 10 years old in 2009, and I turned 50. Annette bought him as a baby and did all of his training by herself. Chissam grew up to be a very thoughtful, gentle and reliable horse, even though he didn't get ridden very much. He's just that kind of horse. Chissam was the perfect gentleman to reintroduce me to riding, and Annette was a dear and generous friend.

Because Chissam is Annette's husband Rick's horse, and Rick doesn't ride, Chissam's experience on the trail and in the arena didn't match his age. I feel he and I mirror each other in this way. We both have very good instincts, yet we both lack some basic technical knowledge in regards to riding. Chissam and I really learned a lot together when Annette would take us to Ty Heth's classes at Mark and Donna Goss's arena. Ty knows horses just about better than anyone I've ever met, and Chissam and I both responded with enthusiasm to his instruction.

During high water in the spring of Chissam's 11th year, 2010, I got to witness Ty Heth work his horse-magic on Chissam when he came out to Larry Creek to lovingly and patiently convince Chissam that water wouldn't kill him. That was a turning point for Chissam, as his great fear of water kept him from going on almost any trail ride before then. In the maybe 6 trail rides we got to have together that summer, we waded through deep rushing creeks without hesitation and gained a lot of confidence in each

other.

About that time Annette started to get really excited about the Foxtrotter Show and there was no question in her mind that Chissam and I were going to ride in it. I had never attended a horse show of any kind in my life. I was still having trouble adjusting to riding in a saddle and trying to remember all the things Ty was teaching me. But Annette was focused on preparing me, so she invited me to Susan Nebeker's informative workshop about the rules and structure of the Foxtrotter Show at the Natural Horse arena in Florence. Chissam and I bumbled through that day together, and although I absorbed all I could, the only thing Chissam cared about was that his buddy Susie was in heat, and she on the other side of the



arena with a bunch of strange horses. After that, the next thing I knew, Annette was sewing me a fitted flashy silver and blue jacket to wear in the show.

In June, about one month before the Foxtrotter Show, we decided we'd better start practicing for specific events together. Annette planned to ride Susie in a number of events, and I was going to ride Chissam in whatever we thought we could handle. One sunny day I went to Annette's house and we set up a run with

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Novice Winner Cont.

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markers to replicate the Showmanship event. That was fun, but we were both pretty clumsy at it, especially jogging alongside Chissam and Susie. I don't think Annette jogs with her horses very often because of her hips, so the horses thought we were nuts, but they tolerated us. After we tired of that, I wanted to get on Chissam bareback because I never had. Annette said no one had ever been on him bareback before. I was certain he wouldn't mind, but Annette held his halter anyway. I jumped up onto his back off of a shaky bucket in the field and laid over his back on my belly. I was too far forward, but didn't care, and just petted and talked to him. He seemed mildly amused as I assumed he would. Then I slid off and as I came down with momentum, (because Chissam is a tall horse), my floating ribs caught on his tall withers. The ribs just bent out, or ripped, or broke, I don't know which. Well, that was the end of my practicing for the Foxtrotter Show, and the end of riding for a while. I spent the next month barely able to breathe or turn over in bed.

Annette got a big disappointment just days before the Foxtrotter Show when after we had enrolled for a bunch of events, her horse Susie became lame. Bill Free noticed her in a practice, and although Susie didn't even limp, Annette couldn't take a chance on hurting her. So we cancelled all of Susie's events and decided that we'd share Chissam, and do a lot of quick switcheroos with saddles between events. We planned things carefully so Annette and I could both participate but Chissam would not get worn out.

I think the next time I got on Chissam was at the Foxtrotter Show. My ribs had healed enough so that I wasn't grimacing all the time. Chissam was bathed with purple shampoo and gleaming, no, more like blinding white, and I wore the snazzy jacket Annette had made me. I told Annette, "Chissam and I don't know what

we're doing, but we sure look great!" Annette got all decked out in different costumes for every event she was in. She brought her RV supplied with cool water, snacks, and lots of flashy costumes she'd made for us to wear or to sell. The RV was a welcomed escape from the 90+ July heat. But Chissam couldn't escape the heat, and my only concern was for his comfort. Neither Chissam nor I had any idea what to expect at the Foxtrotter Show, so Annette patiently instructed us every step of the way.

Once the Foxtrotter Show started, things started happening fast. My memory of it is kind of a blur, switching saddles, changing costumes, and looking frantically over a pattern minutes before we were supposed to ride it. I was constantly giving Chissam drinks out of the little plastic water bottles Annette provided for us, and he appreciatively slurped them right down. Annette and I laughed for 3 days straight and had so much fun together, and I truly enjoyed nurturing some new and some old relationships with friends I saw at the show. I took over a hundred photos and enjoyed admiring a lot of beautiful horses.

I feel that for me and for Chissam, finding ourselves in the Foxtrotter Show was a lot like putting us on a different planet and asking us to speak a language we'd only just heard of. I certainly did the best in each event that I could, but it was Chissam who deserves all the credit. He faithfully performed for Annette and for me in every event. He tolerated a new environment with a herd of nervous unfamiliar horses, he walked calmly up to the first mailbox he'd ever seen, and he performed every gait and task he was asked to do with willing devotion to the best of his ability. Like I said before, that's just the kind of horse he is.

I won several blue ribbons for Novice events for which I was the only entry. I was proud to receive these awards,

and also recognized the irony. I don't have a competitive cell in my body, so it was with great humility that I accepted the purple ribbon for the Foxtrotter Novice Grand Champion of 2010. I wished that somehow Chissam could understand how he alone had earned that title, or that he might care about such an honor. But when we all left the show and trailered Chissam back home to Annette's house, all he cared about was my gentle stroke on his head, a good role in the grass to give his gleaming white hair a coating of good cool mud, to be in his pasture again with his little herd of mares, and to be eating some tender green grass.

Horses understand how simple pleasures and accomplishments mean the most, and they care about what is really important to all of us: relationships and comfort.



I wonder, if our horses could design the Foxtrotter Show in 2011, what would that look like?

From The Trail Head

As most of you know our BSFTA survey showed that trail riding was near the top of the list of activities that folks enjoyed with their horses and one they wanted the association to promote. Mark Goss did a great job of starting the trail program in 2010 and organized and led most of the rides. I have agreed to be the Trail Chair this year but due to distance and time will need to make a few changes.

I would like to see more of our trail rides be ones where we would come to the trailhead on Fri eve. or Sat morning and have the option of staying over Sat. night to allow more riding opportunity. I envision lunches on the trail and potluck suppers and campfires whenever possible to allow us to get to know each other better. I would also ask members to be "Trail Bosses," leading a ride they would enjoy sharing with others or ex-

ploring together. I know from experience this can be a fairly simple undertaking and hopefully would be a ride you and a spouse, partner or friend would take even if no one else came-though I am sure others would both help and join in with enthusiasm.

I will be asking you to let me know if you might consider leading a ride and, if you are hesitant, will help you understand how easy it can be. I'll also ask if any of you have a stove, coffee pot, tarp or portable table that you might bring or loan for a ride. To start things off, my husband Jerry and I will lead a ride at the old Remount Station just out of Perma, Montana the end of April, Jerry's health permitting. More on that soon. In setting that up I will let you know what we are doing and how as well as the other factors; weather, terrain, water crossing or not, features of interest, how to obtain a reservation per-

mit. etc. A checklist might facilitate this for future trail rides. Hopefully it will encourage others to say "I can do that!" I would love your input or comments on any of this. Now I am off to the muddy pens to think of spring and comb out the winter tangles. Diane Shriner shriner.diane@gmail.com (208) 667-2949

Campfire Cooking



Paul & Lori's Favorite Frittata

Saute an sliced onion (and garlic if you like) in a little butter in a large cast iron skillet, add a pinch of sugar and caramelize, 20 minutes, add a little water as needed. Add bacon, sausage, ham, whatever.

Add leftover veggies to skillet. If you use fresh veggies, saute them until most of the liquid is cooked out of them.

Mix in about 1 cup leftover rice, or leftover baked potato sliced, or torn up pieces of corn tortilla.

Now you can mix up all this stuff right in the skillet and smooth the surface, but don't press it flat. We want to leave the mixture porous.

Next comes cheese: We love Feta or Goat Cheese, a nice layer over the top, or whatever cheese you like best. Curry powder is a nice alternative!

In a mixing bowl, whip up a dozen eggs with salt & pepper, maybe some herbs if you like, and pour it over mixture right in the skillet. You'll see it penetrate through the other ingredients right to the bottom.

For a final touch, we love to add cherry tomatoes in designs on top, and a sprinkling of Feta Cheese. The last step is to sprinkle the top with Sesame Seeds, white, black or both, because they are so good toasted with cheese. Last, sprinkle a little Paprika or Dill Weed on the top for color and flavor.

Put your whole skillet full of goodies in the preheated oven, 350 Degrees, for about 30 minutes. It's done when the center rises and when you can wiggle the pan and there is no movement. It will smell really good and be slightly browned.

Just slice it up like a pie and serve! Goes good with anything: Toast and jam, fruit, pancakes, whatever.

Bon Appetite!

Bob's Smothered Broccoli

2 pkg. (10oz) frozen chopped broccoli or 1½ c. fresh broccoli chopped

1 16 oz. container small curd cottage cheese

8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese

1/4 # butter in small pieces

5 T flour

Pepper to taste

Topping 3 slices bread cut or torn in small pieces

1/4 # butter melted

Paprika

Recipes for the Dutch or Regular Oven

BSFTA Youth Program

I am so excited to be the Youth Director for this year. I am looking for any youth that would like to join.

The first order I am asking from our youth is to have a logo design contest for our club. So please send your design.

You do not need to own a fox-trotter to join.

So come and have some fun!

Attention: I just received the program books from Ava please let me know if you would like to join and I will send you one!!!

Youths you are the One!

Please email me or call me

Annette Padgett

padgettboys4@msn.com
406-777-0577



A Very Sweet Poem

*One PAYDAY, Mr. GOODBAR
went to pick up*

*Mrs. BUTTERFINGER and took
her up the ROCKY ROAD and
down through the MILKY-
WAY. All the way to SUGAR
DADDY's shack, that's where
they all three began to SNICKER.*

*Then along came the THREE
MUSKATERS, knocked on the
door and Mrs. BUTTERFINGER
sat up and said " Oh no thanks I
had GOOD N' PLENTY,
BABYRUTH is on it's way." But !
I'll met you on FIFTH
AVEANEU and we'll have some
RED HOTS*

CLINIC CHAIR

I'm working on several clinics and possibly clinic series' with Cathy McConnell and Suzanne Nebeker; from safety on the trail, safe trail horse, horsemanship, showing and gait. If you have any requests on clinic subjects and clinicians, now is the time to make them heard.

Thea Gervais

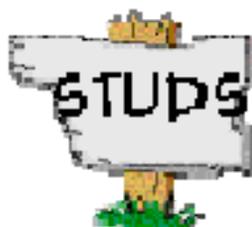
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<p>One Of A Kind Black #91-38291 End of The Trail Foxtrotter Ranch Patricia Smith 541-798-5522 Kalmath Falls, OR 97603 Web:http://etranch.net etranch@centurytel.net</p>	<p>Cloud's Jubalation Amber Champagne Mountain Gait Horses Rod & Kristi Thompson 3474 E 200 N Rigby, ID 83442 208-754-4493 modit@srv.net mountain-gaihorses.com</p>	<p>CR Rocky's Golden Devil Palomino CR Foxtrotters Randy & Cathy Olson 111 N 4100 E Rigby, ID 83442 208-745-7631 colson10@msn.com CRFoxtrotters.com</p>	<p>CR Shadow of a Storm Buckskin CR Foxtrotters Randy & Cathy Olson 111 N 4100 E Rigby, ID 83442 208-745-7631 colson10@msn.com CRFoxtrotters.com</p>
<p>Dynamite R Double Creek Foxtrotters Eldo Heinle 3090 South Alaska Rd Bozeman, MT 59718 406-388-4206 Cell 406-600-0002 Dbblfoxtrotter@earthlink.net</p>	<p>GR Patriot's Climax Black Thea Gervais 3162 Mittower Rd Victor, MT 59875 406-642-6546 mtgervais@hotmail.com GervaisFoxtrotters.com</p>	<p>Cloud's Real McCoy Grey Double Luck Ranch Cliff & Laura Brown Beautiful, Stylish and still going strong. Don't miss your chance for a McCoy Baby. 360-435-1760 Lucky2ranch@aol.com</p>	<p>Honkie Tonk Black Aajker Creek Farm W. Toney Bishop Jr. Ellen J Bishop 3100 Branding Iron Road Bozeman, MT 59715 406-223-9477 bishopapp@earthlink.net</p>
<p>Maple Hills Velvet's Cream Froghorn Ranch CJ & Lauren Johansson PO Box 1572 Malt, MT 59515 406-654-3334 froghorn@froghorn.com Froghorn.com</p>	<p>Mr. Lexus Black Tobiano Double Creek Foxtrotters Eldo Heinle 3090 South Alaska Rd Bozeman, MT 59718 406-388-4206 Cell 406-600-0002 dbblfoxtrotter@earthlink.net</p>		



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Classifieds

The newsletter is published 6 times a year. This publication is mailed out at the beginning of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Members can advertise in the classified section for free and owners of stallions may have a listing at no cost. Classified ads will appear in only one issue unless instructed to run it again. Submission of material for the newsletter must be received prior to the 15th of the issue month.

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www.gervaisfoxtrotters.com

or call anytime. 406-642-6546 cell 406-544-1838 Thanks, Matt and Thea Gervais

Please email me with your

Classified ads

padgettboys4@msn.com



Big Sky Foxtrotter Assn

5150 Hill Drive
Florence MT, 59833

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Fax: 406-542-4706
Email: padgettboys4@msn.com



Foxtrotting News

Information

I'm looking for any good stories, recipes or pictures to put in the newsletter. Also, any youth in our club with great stories or pictures. Please e-mail me, thanks.

padgettboys4@msn.com

Take care and Happy Trails!

Annette, Editor

