



# Lake Washington Saddler

January 2022

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## Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to a great season of horse shows and events. Get these dates on your calendar and [Renew Your Membership Today!](#)

### Lake Washington Saddle Club 2022 Show Dates

English/Western Schooling Shows	April 23 July 23	This show series provides flat classes for both English and Western disciplines. Great way to start showing for the first time.
Hunter/Jumper Schooling Shows	May 7-8 June 4-5 August 20-21 September 24-25	This show series provides a low stress environment at a great price. Saturday (Jumpers) and Sunday (Hunters) with stabling available for the entire weekend.
Dressage Schooling Shows	May 14 June 19 July 30 August 27	Relaxed schooling shows, judged by top-level local certified dressage judges. All test levels are welcome in any USEF/USDF approved dressage test including Eventing, Musical Freestyle, Gaited, Para-Equestrian and Western Dressage.
Academy Hunter/Jumper Schooling Shows	May 15 July 31 August 28	Our Academy Hunter/Jumper Series is provided for those who are just starting out or just happier at the lower heights. Get experience in the Bridle Trails main arena with smaller, more inviting jumps.
Prize Rides	May 29 July 17	Great way to explore Bridle Trails State Park by following a marked trail route. Raffle for great prizes after the ride. July ride also offers wine tasting after the ride.
Hunter Jumper Clinic	April 29 – May 1	Clinician is Noel Clarke, Noel is an advanced 3 day eventer and show jumper. This clinic will explore relaxation, suppleness, a deeper understanding of aids, and impulsion.

Liberty Clinic July 9

This clinic will be held at the Acheson property with clinician Juliette Cimetiere. Juliette works with horses and owners using gentle ways to connect with their horses on the ground and in the saddle

Horsemanship Clinic Sept. 1-3

This clinic with Julie Carpenter will work on communication between horse and rider. More softness, improving the clarity in how we ask the horse, really getting your horse to be with you, are all worked on.

For more information about all these shows and events, visit the Shows/Events section of the Lake Washington Saddle Club website:

<https://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/shows--events.html>

## Alice Prince – A Lifetime Member of LWSC

Alice Prince, a 44-year resident of the Bridle Trails area, passed away quietly on December 23, 2021. Over those years she helped to shape and preserve the very character of the Bridle Trails neighborhood and the preservation of Bridle Trails State Park.

Born in 1942 in Cedar Rapids Iowa, she developed a love of horses at a very early age and on Christmas day, at the age of 6, her parents surprised her with a young mare she named Sugar. That was the beginning of a lifelong love of horses.

Over the past 44 years, Alice always had a horse in her pasture, and she would develop her riding skills in Western, English, and Dressage – even learning to drive horse-pulled carts. She loved all animals and had several golden retrievers, but her first love was horses – the last, Poco, became the love of her life. After Poco died, even when she was stricken with cancer and the partial loss of her sight, she kept looking for ways to ride. Just last summer she joined Little Bit Therapeutic Riding to enjoy the feel of a horse beneath her again. Her family is asking that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Little Bits in her name.



*Alice riding her Arab gelding Poco*

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Alice was a passionate woman who would always speak up if she felt something was wrong. In 2001, Washington State Parks were being “defunded” and drew up a list of 10 State Parks to be closed. Bridle Trails State Park was at the top of the list. Alice immediately saw this as a threat to the entire horse community and to the very character of our neighborhood. Through her efforts, and with the help of others, she pushed for a solution to keep Bridle Trails State Park open. She was the driving force behind the formation of the Bridle Trails Park Foundation. Led by Alice and her husband Don, BTPF negotiated a 40-year agreement with the State Parks Commission to keep the park open and in the state system as long as the BTP Foundation would pay 50% of the annual operating expenses. The Foundation has become a resounding success and Bridle Trails State Park is thriving.



*Alice and Don at BTPF Party In The Park*

As a lifelong member of the Lake Washington Saddle Club, she did it all – competing in shows, working at shows, Board member, secretary for many years, Saddler editor for even longer than that. More recently she worked with the Club to establish a LWSC annual award, named after her, to recognize and honor anyone who has worked to preserve, protect, and enhance Bridle Trails State Park.

Her passion for horses even led her to have language added to the Kirkland zoning code to protect the few remaining horse keeping properties surrounding the park from being overrun with new development. Horses can still be kept on many of the properties even as the push for higher density moves forward.

So, as you enjoy Bridle Trails State Park, remember it was largely due to the long, hard work of many, often led by Alice. She will be missed.



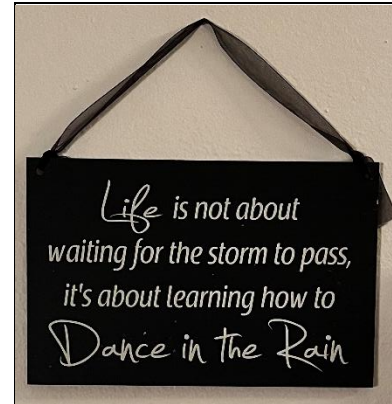
*Alice riding with Ranger Mary Welborn*

## Annual Meeting and Year End Awards Celebration

Our celebration November 6<sup>th</sup> at the picnic grounds at Bridle Trails was brief but fun. The rain held off during the event, the free lunch was great and it was wonderful to celebrate a year of terrific shows and events.

LWSC President, Jennifer Duncan provided the following Annual Report:

I have this small sign in my house it reads **“Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning how to Dance in The Rain”**. I think that sums up nicely what we did this year.



I think this year we have a new appreciation for Lake Washington Saddle Club and our community. I think our enjoyment of Club activities was heightened and had new meaning. After the isolation, to ride again with friends, to compete and learn, to gather with other people that share our love of horses was valued so much more. I think that made this year special.

For members who live or board horses near enough to ride routinely in the park, I know that our appreciation for the park and trails was really brought home. The Park was such a sanctuary for many of us during the worst of Covid and our love and dedication to it is stronger than ever.

Lake Washington Saddle Club continues to thrive. We are financially sound despite a year without shows in 2020. This year we held 30 days of events and shows over the riding season including hunter, jumper, dressage, obstacle, prize rides and clinics.

We also worked with BT Park Ranger to assess the footing and as a result spent \$2,000 to make improvements.

The powerline arena needed some work so State Parks sent over brush cutting equipment and cleared out behind the powerline arena. We formed a work party that spent over 30 hours clearing vines and weeds from the edges of the arena. Many thanks to Suzanne Kagen for organizing that effort.

We continued in both 2020 and 2021 to donate to WA State Parks to help fund a year-round senior park aide for Bridle Trails.



## LWSC Change in Leadership

By Jennifer Duncan

Early in 2021 I let the Board know that I would be stepping down as President at the end of 2021. All organizations need to evolve and one of the ways that happens is with new leadership. I have had the privilege of serving as President for 11 years. It has been a job that I have loved and felt honored to hold. I did not grow up with horses in my life, although I was always horse crazy. Consequently, being part of an equestrian community is a dream come true for me. It has been a true honor to serve as President of this wonderful Club.

I am proud of the accomplishments we have made, together we expanded the types of events and activities, purchased barns and mats, successfully transitioned to a 501c3 and ensured that our support to the Park was robust and meaningful. We successfully analyzed and documented our goals, created a real, honest to goodness budget and became a bit more fiscally organized. We weathered the challenge of Covid and managed to successfully rebound from a year without shows. I am proud of all that we accomplished; I know there are many more accomplishments ahead.

I will continue to participate as a Board member, help with the English/Western shows and put on the Prize Rides. I love this organization and will continue to help it thrive.

I am happy to announce that Kate Sharkey was voted in as LWSC President beginning January 1, 2022. Kate has been on the Board for over six years and is the Hunter/Jumper Show Manager. Kate has done a fabulous job with the Hunter/Jumper shows, creating a show team and set of shows that are fun and extremely popular. Her energy and ideas will provide terrific leadership moving forward.

Affectionately,

Jennifer Duncan

## 2021 Annual Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals who were nominated by LWSC members and selected by the Board to receive a LWSC Annual Award for 2021:

Service Award	Beth Novak
Father of the Year	Bryan Wygal
Mother of the Year	Crystal Ryan
Senior Sportsmanship	Laura Cole
Junior Sportsmanship	Riley Eaton
Trainer of the Year	Sarah Olmsted
Horse of the Year	Ever So Clever owned by Candice and Kim Barber
Alice Prince Friend of Bridle Trails Award	Candice Boyd
Purple Horse Awards	Aubrey Adler



<p><i>We are thankful that all these purple horse recipients have recovered and are doing well.</i></p> <p><b><i>Thank goodness for helmets!</i></b></p>	<p>Candice Boyd Rosie Carey Georgia Daly Julie Harcus Indra Krastins Beth Novak Rosie Peterson</p>
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## **Nomination and Election of Board of Trustees**

The following individuals were nominated and elected to the LWSC Board of Trustees at the annual meeting November 6th. The length of term for these candidates is two years, 2022 & 2023.

- Marybeth Davis
- Jodi Gearon
- Indra Krastins
- Maggie Phillips
- Kate Sharkey
- Amy Supple

At the December LWSC Board Meeting, the Board appointed the following members to serve the remainder of the terms for two Board members who could no longer serve. The term for these two appointees will end at the end of 2022.

- Diana Laforanara
- Kim Frederick

Consequently, the Board of LWSC is fully staffed. The service of all Board members is sincerely appreciated. LWSC Board members work diligently to ensure that the Club is well managed and supportive of Bridle Trails State Park. LWSC Board members include:

- Marybeth Davis
- Jennifer Duncan
- Robin Foster
- Kim Frederick
- Jodi Gearon
- Karen Hall
- Suzanne Hitz
- Indra Krastins
- Diana Laforanara
- Beth Novak
- Maggie Phillips
- Kate Sharkey
- Amy Supple

**After many years as a valued Board member, Karen Perry decided to leave the Board.**

**We sincerely appreciate her many years of service.**

**Thank You Karen!**

**You will be missed.**



**Many Thanks to Aubrey and Alexandra Adler for managing the Dressage Shows in 2021.**

**You were both so terrific, we will miss you! Thank you for a job well done.**



**Help us welcome our new Dressage Show Manager, Kim Barber.**

**Kim was previously the manager of our Academy Hunter/Jumper Shows. Thank you Kim for taking on this new challenge.**



**Also we are pleased to announce that Board Member and LWSC Secretary, Jodi Gearon, has volunteered to manage the Academy Hunter/Jumper Shows in 2022. She is in the process of forming her show team, so if you can help out, please let us know.**

**Thank you Jodi!**

## **A Loving Tribute To A One In A Million Horse – Thorvald**

Thorvald left us in late 2021. He was over 30 years old. He was famous and much loved by Lake Washington Saddle Club member. He is gone but he will never leave our hearts.

### **From Liz Hambleton:**

What would our life have been like without Thorvald? Through him so many cherished moments and friendships were possible. When Jenny was born, I quit work at Evergreen Equestrian Center and I thought I would be out of horses. When Jenny was about 6 months old, Sue Melton called to see if I would teach her daughter Anne on her new horse Thorvald. Many of you can remember Jenny with Thorvy, but it was Sue and Anne Melton who took that leap of faith on a green, head strong Fjord with the most beautiful eyes. I am so thankful for that call for it brought me back into horses. So, with Jenny in the backpack “our” passion was fueled.

Anne had the task of convincing Thorvald of all the things he needed to know to take care of Jenny and countless other children. Anne was young but showed a great will even through breaking her arm and sometimes being frustrated with this wiggly, equally strong-willed horse. She should be proud of the bond that was created. His legacy lives on through all of us who had the privilege of knowing and loving Thorvald. Thanks to Thorvald, it’s a wonderful life.

Thank you so much for sharing this piece of his legacy in the Saddler, it means the world to me. The good and the bad, every moment with Thorvald was precious.



*Liz and Thorvald Riding Dressage*



### From Jenny Hambleton:

It is incredibly hard to sit down and write out a story that spanned my entire lifetime thus far, but I will try my best to add to the legacy that is Thorvald.

I started riding Thorvald when I was 4 years old. My mom would be cleaning the paddock at the Melton's where Thorvald and his buddy Tilly lived, and I would ride around her. No steering necessary because Thorvald knew the gig.

From the Melton's in Bridle Trails we took Thorvald to several other barns and we grew together. My mom tells me I cantered him for the first time in an indoor arena where she could hear his thundering of his hooves and could hear me giggling through the walls, she came around the corner to find us galloping around. When I was 7 we started in the 2 foot classes at the Lake Washington Saddle Club together and that is where this portrait was taken.



*Jenny Hambleton and Thorvald*

There wasn't anything that horse wouldn't do. Maybe not motorcycles or dump trucks though. While riding Thorvald in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade with the Saddle Club a motorcycle cop was revving his engine for the kids and Thorvald was losing his patience, Anne Melton walked right up to the cop and shook her finger in his face telling him off for us.

Anyone could ride him, sure he gave me a run for my money sometimes, but that was because we were friends and we could push each other, but if you just wanted to hop on you could. My dad even won the egg and spoon race on Thorvald. Every friend of mine from grade school to high school has been on that horse at some point. He got so many of my friends addicted to riding and they still ride because of him.

He gave those who needed it the confidence to ride again and he made me the rider and the person I am today. We had our struggles, we flipped over an oxer in the days before safety cups and both lost our confidence but there wasn't anything that would keep us down. The next year I am fairly sure I was high point champion on him. If I fell



*Kirkland 4th of July Parade*



*Thorvald and one of his many students*

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off of another horse, I would just hop on him again and instantly become confident again. He jumped up into his 30's and was always jumping a 10/10.

Thorvald was also happy to always put up with my shenanigans. He starred in a 1950's "Fjord" Thunderbird commercial for a school project and killed it. We hung an entire fake cardboard car body around him, and he still let me ride him around. He wore hats for pictures, he let us cut his mane to look like a dragon or the fjords from Frozen. He and I participated in a couple of costume contests which included puss n boots and donkey and a surfer and a surfboard. The surfer costume should have won to be honest because I stood on his back to ride for the contest which was honestly something you could only do with Thorvy.

As a kid you are told you should have heroes to look up to and that was always a hard question for me, but honestly, Thorvald was my hero. He breathed life into my passion for riding and gave me the strength to be myself and to be proud of myself and what I have accomplished. There are so many stories that I have of him, and I that will live with me forever. Thorvald is grazing in the greenest pastures imaginable, and I miss him more than words can describe, but with every person that I talk to that remembers him, I am filled with joy to know that his legacy is here to stay. I write this with tears in my eyes, but my heart is full, I love him, and I know that he loved me.



*Jenny and Thorvald doing their thing*

## From LWSC:

In his retirement, Thorvald went home to the Meltons and made yet another friend. Young Nicole Lambert spent the last few years of Thorvald's life riding him on the trails in the Park and doing liberty work with him. As with everything Thorvald put his mind to, he excelled at liberty work. Nicole and Thorvald entertained 100's of people at the Bridle Trails Park Foundation Party In The Park in 2016.

Everyone hopefully has a special horse in their life but there are a few horses who become a beloved legend. Thorvald was special to so many people and made a huge impact in the life of all those kids he taught to ride and show. He will continue to be one of the many legends of Lake Washington Saddle Club. He is loved and will be missed.



*Thorvald and Nicole Lambert performing at Party In The Park*

## Let's Be A Consistent Voice to Non-Equestrians

Reprinted Facebook post by Suzanne Kagen

We felt this was important enough to also put into the Saddler.

“Hey Equestrian friends: please do not give "permission" to runners to NOT stop or at least walk past your horse. I know your horse is used to runners, but not everyone's horse is, and it just confuses people. I had 2 runners in 2 days roll their eyes at me when I asked them to walk past my horse, not because he had an issue, but because That. Is. The. Rule., and then they remarked that I must not be a very good rider because other riders had told them it's okay to run past.

Likewise, a woman with an off-leash dog (admittedly well-behaved AT THAT MOMENT, but still...) told me that an equestrian friend told her it was okay for her dog to go in the park off-leash because he was "always" so well behaved.

I know people really dislike rules, but they're there for a reason. All you're doing by giving some people permission to break them is confusing the issue, and it might actually lead to them getting a ticket, or worse, causing an accident.”

## We Lost Another Wonderful Fjord This Winter...

What is it about Fjords? They are so special. We were sad to hear that Candice Boyd lost Hilda, her beloved Fjord mare this winter.

Hilda was a terrific ambassador for the Bridle Trails neighborhood and for horses in general. She took many a little girl for a wonderful ride, allowing them to dress her up and place a unicorn horn on her forehead.

If you needed a demonstration horse for girl scout events, a horse people could pet and any other occasion that required an equine ambassador, Hilda was the horse that came to mind.

Candice and Hilda had a wonderful partnership. They would ride the trails bareback, tour the neighborhood for all the Christmas parades and come to the Club's events. Candice always referred to Hilda as her “heart” horse. They had a very strong bond. Candice did all she could to keep Hilda going as she got older and even purchased her best friend Diablo to keep her company.

Candice, our hearts go out to you. She was a special girl.

