



Lake Washington Saddler

December 2018

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This will be my last Saddler, as your editor. It's been 3 years. Next year, one of our newest board members, Susan Hitz, will be taking over. I'm excited to see what she comes up with, and glad to hand over the reins to a fresh pen.

Before I talk about the Banquet, can I say real quick here, **RENEW your Membership!**

The next couple of issues will be repeatedly reminding you to do that, so let me get ahead of that with a quick plug . RENEW!!! Ok nuff said. You can renew at;

<https://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/membership.html>

The Awards Banquet, and Auction

We had another great party! We had over 165 attendees and by all accounts everyone had a good time. Many thanks to all those who provided auction items. We had a nice selection of items and bidding was frantic right down to wire. We are grateful for everyone's participation in the auction and for all the funds that are raised by the silent auction.

Many thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who put on the banquet this year. Here are some of the key players but there were many more who helped. Thank You!!

- Maggie Phillips - Banquet Team Coordinator and check out lead
- Linda Treece, Karen Hall, Caroline Callender, Candice Boyd, Jennifer Duncan, Amy Supple and Maggie Phillips –Auction Committee
- Kate Sharkey and Liz Hambleton –Hunter/Jumper Year End prizes, Annual Awards, Super Volunteers, event giveaways, trophy engraving, seating assignments and many other details that make this event so much fun.
- Stephanie Nicholson –Hotel arrangements, and table center pieces.
- Candice Boyd – Glassy Babies
- Suzanne Kagen – our EventBrite guru who set up and managed the invitation and reservation process.

- Karen Perry – Dessert Dash
- Heather Andreini and Indra Krastins – Dressage Year End awards and presentation
- Alice Prince – Creation of the purple horse award prizes.

Annual report

The President of LWSC presents an Annual Report at the Annual Meeting/Banquet each year. Here are some of the highlights.

- **501c3 Update** – This was our first year really operating as a 501c3. We are learning and evolving and are settling into the changes needed to be a 501c3. From an operations standpoint it takes more diligence, tracking and administration. More than that, it is a change in how we think about the organization, and has resulted in increasing the ways that we can give back. To that end, this year we provided the following support:
 - We are donating **\$10,000.00 to WA State Parks to help fund a year round senior park aide** for Bridle Trails. Bridle Trails Park Foundation and LWSC are funding 8 months of extended service.
 - We once again donated **\$3,000.00 as the Entertainment Sponsor for BTPF's Party in the Park.**
 - We continue to sponsor **classes at the Save A Forgotten Equine (SAFE) show.**
 - We **partnered with EI to host a benefit show for USDF Region 6 Youth Program** which raised over \$2,000 for that program.
 - We were a **sponsor of the Susie Hutchinson H/J Clinic.**
 - We were a **sponsor of the Intercollegiate Equestrian Association Show held at Bridle Trails.**
 - **Per our Friend's Agreement with State Parks, Bridle Trails Park rental fees for the show grounds and trail usage** are collected into a Park Account so that the funds are reserved solely for Park Department's use to maintain and improve Bridle Trails State Park. LWSC administers that account which garnered \$9,944 in 2018. Of that amount **\$7,350 consisted of the rental fees that LWSC paid for our events.** The park ranger spent \$2,700 of those funds to repair the arena sprinkler system, purchase a new stove for the cook shack and obtain repairs for the park's utility trailer.
 - We have also **committed to allocate 10% of our 2018 net income to the Arena Footing Fund** to ensure when it needs improvements, we can step up.
- **Hunter jumper shows** were a huge success, with a capacity crowd and a terrific set of shows this season. Kate Sharkey and the HJ Team have done a wonderful job. Next year will be Kate's last year as Show Manager and we are looking for someone who train with her next year and take on this critical role.

- **Dressage shows were** also a huge success with shows full to capacity and great judges. Heather and Indra have done a superb job running those shows.
- **Trail riding events** continue to gain in popularity. Equine & Vines is our most popular prize ride. We are retiring Horses & Hops since beer was not as popular as expected. We will replace it with Ponies & Pies.
- **The Trail Obstacle events** also continue to grow in popularity. **Robin Foster has done a wonderful job** and included a clinic the morning of the last event which was really popular. Those events now have a competitive class in honor of Sue Shecket which has been a great addition. Sue's family is interested in providing a trophy for this competition and a cash prize so we will likely have that next year.
- We held **three terrific clinics this year**, the **Sally Collins Clinic for hunter/jumpers**, and two Horsemanship Clinics with **Julie Carpenter**
- Our **LWSC Field Trips** this year were fantastic thanks to **Candice Boyd**. New this year was a weekend trip to **Flying Horseshoe Ranch** and a tour of **Seattle Mounted Police facility**. This is part of our goal to create more social and educational opportunities for our members. We also visited **Pegasus Farm**, and **Emerald Downs**, and **Save A Forgotten Equine (SAFE)**.
- New this year was our **English/Western Schooling Show** put on by **Robin Foster**, **Jennifer Duncan** and **Maggie Phillips**. We want to thank both our judge, **Sherie Boltman**, and gatekeeper, **Pam Watterson**, for their great advice, expertise and support. Many thanks also to **Hailee Lehtinen**, our volunteer Ringmaster. We plan to do it again next year but earlier in the season (May 11th).

The Future

- Currently, the **arena footing at Bridle Trails is great**. That it is no accident, we monitor the conditions every year and invest in refurbishing it periodically as needed. The arenas are, literally, the foundation of most of Club's activities and we need to keep it in good shape.
- There are **discussion between LWSC and State Parks about re-grading the parking lot**, creating some sort of parking space markings to improve everyday use and also improve the base of the barns by adding a more robust gravel foundation.
- Last year the demolition of the buildings at the Acheson property was completed. **WA State Parks included in their 10 year capital plan funding to create a covered arena at Acheson** that would replace the indoor arena that had to be demolished. This project is likely years off, but it has potential to be a small clinic venue and a resource for local ride-in equestrians.
- We **plan to continue to provide terrific shows, events and opportunities to learn**.
- And of course, **a high priority is to continue to support and help maintain Bridle Trails State Park**.

Fund Raising Results

The November banquet provided another goal-smashing fund raising evening, with proceeds of over \$13,000 from the silent auction and dessert dash. Our Raise the Paddle Arena Fund raiser for future show arena upgrades brought in \$5,800. Also, as a 501c3, so far in 2018 we have received \$ 2,459.66 in unsolicited cash donations and matching employer contributions. If your company has a gift matching or donation program that LWSC would now be eligible for, (for example, Google and T-Mobile both have programs for volunteer hours and donations), please consider including LWSC in your giving. We are so appreciative of everyone who donated items to the auction and gave generously to the Arena Fund.

Current Status of Arena Fund

2017 Balance	\$7,445.00
2018 Banquet Raise the Paddle	\$ 5,800.00
Estimated LWSC 2018 Income Contribution	<u>\$ 4,200.00</u>
Estimated 2018 Arena Fund Balance	\$21,845.00

Election of Board of Trustees

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Board of Trustees:

- Candice Boyd (re-elected)
- Caroline Callender (re-elected)
- Jennifer Duncan (re-elected)
- Caitlin Dwyer (NEW)
- Karen Hall (re-elected)
- Suzanne Hitz (NEW)
- Beth Novak (NEW)

We thank our Board retirees **Suzanne Kagen, Stephanie Nicholson and Robin Foster**, who were invaluable to the board these past years. Their dedication and hard work helped the club accomplish so much and made the Board of Trustees a well-run and fun group.

Lifetime Achievement Award



We awarded a Lifetime Achievement award to Suzanne Kagen whose service, dedication and leadership of LWSC has been a fundamental part of the Club's health and prosperity.

Suzanne joined LWSC in 1996 and served as President for 12 years and Vice President for 8 years. She navigated us through the construction of the new Judges stand and bleachers, ensuring that we didn't end up with asphalt ADA paths all over the place and helped the State to design a great facility.

When the Park was threatened with closure, she rallied the troops, was a founding member of Bridle Trails Park Foundation and in discussions with the press threatened to chain herself to the park gate, naked, if they ever tried to close the Park.

While Suzanne has retired from the Board of Trustees **she is still a very active member**. Her love of Bridle Trails, and State Parks in general, has evolved into an actual job with State Parks. Consequently, she had to resign from the Board this year due to the possible appearance of a conflict of interest. We want her to know how grateful we are for everything she has done, and will continue to do, for Lake Washington Saddle Club. In a small token of our appreciation, Suzanne was presented with an engraved horse statue and a gift certificate for an equine photo session with Myah Vasquez.

LWSC 2018 Annual Award Winners

- Service Award - Candice Boyd.
- Horse of the Year – Hilda, owned by Candice Boyd
- Mother of the Year – Jennifer Hallman
- Father of the Year – Derek Luhn
- Junior Sportsmanship – Audrey Newbrey
- Senior Sportsmanship – Brass Ring Farm volunteers: Sarah Olmsted, Marguerite Dillon, Jodi Gearon, Pamela Watterson
- Trail Time – Karen Hall

Congratulations to all the 2018 Hunter, Jumper and Dressage year-end show high-point prize! (Winners are too numerous to list here)

Passages

Earlier this month our club president had the heartbreaking duty all horse owners know may one day become the ultimate act of love; to put our suffering horse out of its misery. Jennifer's beloved bay quarter Horse, Cody, became very ill with colic and a strangulation of the small intestine. He could not be saved. He was one of a kind, and will be missed. Our hearts go out to you, Jen.



Jennifer provided the following farewell: Heartbreakingly, I lost my Cody boy last week. He was mine for over 10 years and would have been 24 next year. He gave me ten plus years of joy, fun, adventure, and a partnership that was so very special. As a horse crazy young girl who didn't get her horse until she was in her forties, I was always drawn to little bay horses. I admired Cody from afar when I would see him with his previous owner, Jill Austin. As luck would have it, I was able to care lease and then buy him. He proved to be everything I ever dreamed of having in a horse. He had energy, with such a sensible mind, he was confident, curious and bold. There was not a mean bone in his body and in the saddle, he listened, relied on my direction (even when he wasn't sure I had it right), and gave me 100%.

That partnership took us on many adventures, to ACTHA obstacle events, Ride To Rendezvous for 4 days in the hills of Winthrop, lots of local trail rides and we even walked through fire at a police horse style obstacle training event. As he grew older, he came down with the dental disease, EOTRH and lost all his front teeth. So the last few years he went down the trail with his tongue out which could be pretty goofy looking. As he slowed down, we did less strenuous rides but always with a level of energy and willingness that made every ride such fun.

We all know that special place our horses hold in our hearts and I am heartbroken to lose him. So my friends, go out to that barn and give your horse a hug. Groom every inch of him and be sure to scratch all those favorite spots, give him a treat and a kiss on the nose. Appreciate every day and every ride.

Jennifer Duncan

(PS: I would like to send a special Thank You to Dr. Eric Renner of Rainland Farm whose kindness, advice and compassion made a terrible morning more bearable and to my dear

friends Debbie Marrs and Megan Rasmussen who helped me get through it and cried right along with me. I love you guys.)

An ‘almost’ Passage, too This year’s winner of the Horse of the Year award, Candice Boyd’s Hilda, became very ill back in November. What started as break of the splint bone brought on severe lameness, then abscesses, and eventually a bone infection. This all entailed multiple hospitalizations, surgery, and weeks of 2 or 3 times daily soaking, cleaning, and then patient hand walking. Hilda is out of the woods, and recovering. The true miracle is that through it all, neither Hilda, nor her adoring owner, ever stopped being two of the nicest “people” you will ever meet! We look forward to seeing them both out on the trails soon!

And, on top of all that, Candice, while taking care of a VERY sick horse, was going through the very stressful home buying process. She and her family are now proud homeowners of a real Bridle Trails area horse property! Woo hoo, Candice!!! You did it.

Horseback Caroling!

As we’ve done for some years now, a bunch of LWSC riders, and others from Overlake Farms, gathered together their Christmas spirit, bells and red foo-foo, and decked out their horses. Then this group of some 10 riders rode through the Bridlewood, Silver Spurs and Bridleview neighborhoods, singing and waving! They also stopped for cocoa and to visit with adoring children at the local shopping center. A good time was had by all, and while there is always a potential for problems when you ride on streets and through crowded parking lots, every horse behaved like, well, . . .an angel!





Suzanne Kagen, one of the only persons with any singing talent, set the pitch and kept tempo.

2019 Event Calendar

Show dates have been set! Mark your calendars, we look forward to another great season:

- Hunter/Jumper Schooling Shows: May 4-5, June 1-2, August 17-18, September 21-22
- Dressage Schooling Shows: June 9, July 14, August 11, September 15
- English/Western Schooling Show: May 11
- Prize Rides: Ponies & Pies - June 15, Equine & Vines - August 24
- Trail Obstacle Challenges: June 16, August 25
- Hunter/Jumper Clinic – April 20-21
- Julie Carpenter Horsemanship Clinics – July 24-18 & September 5-8

That's a Wrap!

Well, another year is over. Another successful show season - Another season of trail rides in the park. - Another wonderful awards banquet. I know for me, it's been a very good year. I hope that you feel the same, and I hope that your engagement with the Lake Washington Saddle Club has brought you much satisfaction, many lasting friendships, and some new, and, well, a whole lot of good old fashioned fun! May next year be as good, or better!

Caroline Callender