



Lake Washington Saddler

April /May 2017

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Nature's Diary

Well, it's official! We have just experienced the wettest winter in recorded local history; 122 years! It's seemed like we haven't had two consecutive sunny days since before Christmas! Here's to more sun from here on out!

The rainy, unsettled spring weather brought me one of my scariest rides just a few weeks ago. I went out under sunny skies, minutes later I was under a fierce lightning storm very close over the treetops, with intense hail, to boot!



I kept telling myself that the lightening wouldn't strike me because of the much taller trees. But, it could have hit a tree near me, which could have caused the tree to explode. I researched this a bit, and found that the reason this happens is that because a bolt of lightning is actually hotter than the surface of the sun. When a bolt strikes a tree it super-heats the sap throughout the tree and water in the sap turns to steam. This happens in a split second, steam erupts and it can literally blow the bark off the tree and have it explode. Not what you want to hear when riding alone in the woods!

Show season is officially starting!

Hunter/Jumper News

Next show: **June 3 – 4**

Info at: <http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/hunterjumper.html>

Dressage News

First schooling show **June 11**

Information and registration at: <http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/dressage.html>

Trail News

Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt a great success!!

Last April 15th we held our first ever scavenger hunt. This was the brainchild of Jennifer Duncan, and she put a lot of heart and soul into the event. It turned out to have good weather, great attendance, good prizes and even good sandwiches. There were 35 riders, many of them trailering in from as far away as Bellingham, Olympia, Roy, etc. A great time was had by all! Many thanks, Jennifer. And thank you to our generous sponsors; Gift Horse, Olson's, Lynda Cushman and many others!

Oh, and if you find a small, bright blue bunny, tucked into some little hidey hole out on the trails, it's the only item that we weren't able to find at clean up time. Keep a sharp eye out!



Horses and Hops!

Our next trail event will be in July, with the Horses and Hops prize ride on Saturday July 8th, and the Sue Shecket Memorial Trail Challenge on that Sunday July 9th

LOG YOUR TRAIL HOURS!

Also, if you are a regular trail rider, don't forget to log your hours in the trail rider competition

Full information is at: <http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/trail-riding-events.html>

Entry Fee Scholarship Winners!

Earlier this year the club offered several show entry fee scholarships. Applicants had to have demonstrated good sportsmanship, get a trainer's recommendation, and submit an essay on what good horsemanship means to them. The winners receive free entry fee to a LWSC show. The essays and recommendations we received were meaningful, heartfelt and demonstrated all the qualities we were looking for. Thank you to all those who entered for sharing your love of horses with us, we truly enjoyed your submittal and were genuinely moved. The 5 winners are ...

Lucinda Wing and Scarlett

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to apply for this scholarship. Scarlett and I are so excited to use it, and try new classes!"



Natalie Barlow and Texas

Hannah Leib and Cash





Audrey Newbrey and Flint

and **Kaitlyn Twentey** (photo unavailable)

Meet the Board!

I mean, the Lake Washington Saddle Club board of directors. That is, the group of 13 hardy souls who meet monthly to develop and manage our club in its' day to day functions, and more importantly, to chart its future. Some board members have been working on the board for many years. Others, just joined within the last few months. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce each member of the board. Since we are 13 members, let's do a few each issue, ok?

Let's start with one of our newest board members:

Corrie Scalisi (Membership Chair)

I'm from Watsonville, CA. I'm 34. I was fortunate to go to a junior high that had an equestrian program and I learned to ride there during my normal school day. I rode English because I wanted to jump, but the school occasionally brought cows in and we all would switch to Western riding for a week. We were supposed to switch horses weekly but I would try to erase the whiteboard with the horse assignments so that I could keep riding my favorite horse, Juliette. I took many years off from riding but came back to it as an adult when my husband and I decided that it would be fun to take lessons together.

My current horse is **Charlie**. He and I like riding the trails in the Bridle Trails Park, both in a group and on our own.

I joined LWSC last year when I started riding in the park. I joined the board this past month and I'll be handling technical



issues like making sure our membership signup flow works. I'm also looking forward to volunteering at the events.

By hosting events and providing educational opportunities I think that LWSC can ensure that Bridle Trails will continue to be a unique and amazing asset for our community.

Next up, longtime board and club member:

Indra Krastins (Board Secretary, and Dressage Show Secretary)



I was raised in Wayzata, Minnesota. I've lived Shoreline since 1985. Age: 63, Fell in love with horses when my dad used to take me to a park where one could be led around on a grumpy pony for a few cents on a small circular track. I got my first horse in high school. "Iago" and I just returned to the Bridle trails area after being gone for a few years. I have been the club secretary since???? (So long I can't remember) and on the board since ????? I will be the show secretary for the Dressage schooling shows beginning this show season.

We'll have more members on the next issue! If you see these folks on the trail, please tell them 'Hi!' and introduce yourself if you haven't met yet. –

Board Retreat

The LWSC Board held a Board Retreat March 31-April 2 at the Willow Pond Lodge and Lakehouse on Whidbey Island. The objective of the retreat was to discuss what it means for LWSC to become a 501c3 (vs. a 501c7). We discussed the opportunities for raising funds for key projects such as new footing for the main arena, Acheson property, etc. We emphasized our commitment to providing equestrian educational opportunities such as our schooling shows and clinics. We discussed how we want to retain and reinforce the social aspects of LWSC. We agreed that we did not want to focus solely on fund raising but instead maintain a healthy balance of Club activities using our non-profit status to raise funds for specific projects that will



Some Board members, not all pictured.

enhance and engage the equestrian community. We discussed ideas for engaging our membership, fundraising and possible improvement projects.

The retreat provided an opportunity to get to know our newest Board members and connect as a team. The LWSC Board only meets once a month with a packed agenda and a brisk focus on the business at hand (at least as brisk as possible).



Willow Pond Lodge and Lake House

Outside of that monthly meeting, each Board member provides independent support to specific Club activities. That does not leave much time for the Board to have in-depth discussion or connect as a team. The retreat provided that opportunity.

The facility at Willow Pond was perfect for our purposes. Everyone brought food for a potluck dinner on Friday night and we went out for a fantastic dinner on Saturday night at the Greenback Grill. We left the retreat energized and excited for the future.

The entire Board would like to sincerely thank Chris Kagen (Suzanne's hubby) for facilitating the sessions and helping to plan the retreat.



Passages

Dave (The Horse Who Chose Me.)

By Mary Decher

On March 9th of this year, Mary found her beloved Morgan gelding, "Dave", dead in his stall with no obvious reason. It is believed to have been an aneurism.

It took 2+ years for me to find Dave (Dragonsmead Battle Hymn) after my beloved Tigger was badly kicked and had to be put down. I made my friends crazy by sending them photos of horses I'd tried... and tried ... and tried... for years, which it was! They were good sports but one finally said, "Stop already! Just show me the horse you get when you get it!"

So, I'd gone back to Massachusetts to judge a dog show where my Morgan horse friend, Nancy Caisse, came to watch. She came with a mission; to show me a horse that a friend of hers wanted to find a forever home for. We drove up to New Hampshire to their farm that afternoon; got out of the car and were greeted by the breeders and walked toward the barn where Dave was in a cross tie. The barn doors were open and he caught my eye as we climbed the hill and I caught his eye. He never stopped looking at me as I entered the barn and gave him a pat. It was love at first sight! I found out that you can be "chosen by a horse" (There is a nice book by that title)! I



rode him that day and the next day I drove him making tight turns between the snow banks along their driveway! It was April! He was obedient and listened to me. The next day I flew back home and the vet check was done. He cleared and it was history! He was mine! When he got here I had him gelded as he was one of about a dozen stallions. The owners had been breeding him for 3 years and they were ready for him to have a retirement in a forever home. Well, it was forever, but much too short!

Dave was 11 when I got him and had been trained by the Amish, who used him as a breeding stallion before he was bought by the people I bought him from. I learned something interesting about Amish farmers. If they bought or bred a stud that was dangerous in any way, they'd geld him rather than have him pass on a bad attitude. They figured that horses had to be good with standing and waiting at church, being fed by their children and taking them to school. They wanted their studs to be able to "make" good horses rather than perpetuate bad attitudes, no matter how pretty they were. Dave was bred by one of these farmers with high standards and was every bit as they hoped he be! I can vouch for that!



He was always a gentleman whether in the barn, on trails with or without other horses, he stood at the horse trailer without pawing and once I left a saddle (by accident) where he could reach it and he never touched it! He took care of me in every way, way beyond my imagination could ever have dreamed of! While I can never replace him, I AM looking for a new Morgan horse partner. Hope it doesn't take 2 years!

Roy

By Vicki Lowe



Roy was 34 last March 11. He was a Morgan and was born at Crown Morgans (Nancy Eidam) in Umatilla, Oregon, as "Crown Royalton." I started riding him as a student of Nichole Walters in 2003. I bought him shortly thereafter. Trained in dressage, he had a varied career as a stud horse, showing, as a school horse, and for the last 14 years of his life, a fabulous trail horse. He became sick with complications from colic and died about 36 hours later, on April 20. Folks who knew him over the years remarked on his friendly, yet sometimes feisty disposition. He was a tough guy; I rode him regularly up to three days before he got sick. He was absolutely adorable and I will never forget him!



Rosie

by Jennifer Duncan

There are horses that many of us get to know because we see them riding the trails of the Park year after year. Rosie, a darling white/grey Arabian mare was one of those horses. I always admired her, she was beautiful, and you just knew that she was a special horse. I am sad to report that Rosie passed away last month at the age of 30. She was owned and loved for 26 years by Laura Karakash and her mother Vera. Rosie lived in Bridleview at the home of Lyle Matznick. I would often see Lyle riding her in the Park or see her out with Laura. At one of the early Foundation Party In The Park events, Rosie carried WA State Parks Director, Rex Derr in the Prize Ride. Rex had a wonderful time, due in large part to Rosie, who took great care of him. I will miss seeing her out on the trails and we send our heartfelt condolences to her humans, Laura and Vera Karakash and Lyle Matznick.



The picture to the left is Rosie with Rex Derr, WA State Parks Director. I heard that this picture was on the desk in his office until he retired. Rosie was a great ambassador for the Park that day.

Nature Walk

The Bridle Trails Park Foundation will hold a naturalist guided Nature Walk, **Saturday, June 17th**.

Full information:

http://www.bridletrails.org/news_events/attend_an_event.html/event/2017/06/17/forest-nature-walk-in-bridle-trails-state-park/155257

Party in the Park!

Don't forget that about the Bridle Trail Park Foundation's Annual Party in the Park. LWSC sponsors the entertainment which this year will include a performance by the Seattle Knights (think jousting!) The event is planned for **Saturday, June 24th**. They really need volunteers, so please consider helping, it is a lot of fun. Full info:

http://www.bridletrails.org/news_events/party-in-the-park-2017-event-details.html