

# Morgan Single-Footing Horse Association



Monument Valley Utah Annual Meeting 2011



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Advisor Helga Loncosky



Advisor Angie Nadon



Advisor Letha Simmons

# Club Scrapbook

Using guidelines for club scrapbooks suggested by AMHA we have a good start on our own Club scrapbook.

Pouring back through Club Newsletters, emails from Members, photographs sent in, phone calls and conversations recalled, we were reminded of just how busy the club and it's membership are with their gaited and regular Morgans.

Several members are involved on a local level with their saddle clubs, and of course it is known that those members are "the Morgan people". Through this association on a local level, many people have been introduced to the Morgan Horse, and the MSFHA has helped by sponsoring a few classes at local fun shows. A few members went competed at a national level all gaited breed show, and Class a Morgan shows, to which MSFHA sponsored and was well represented. People were once again exposed and introduced to Morgan horses and gaited Morgans.

As a club, MSFHA has advertised in several national equine magazines including the popular "Trail Rider", and the only gaited horse magazine in circulation at this time, "The Sound Advocate". A National Radio Interview was quite popular as well.

Several club members were involved in documenting, distributing and adopting the Morgan horses known as the Iowa 41. The outreach for these horses from the Morgan community was something to behold. Several of our members are very active with the rescue organization Forever Morgans as well.

MSFHA joined the Rainbow Morgan Horse Association and the March calendar will picture a rare gray gaited Morgan.

Our Social Networking media has done much to acquaint the general public with the Morgan horse. No measure can be taken of the exposure of how our club and members reach out to horse owners and admirers on a daily basis. Members of MSFHA are current and long time list owners for several Yahoo Groups which hold a powerful marketing tool at their fingertips.

Members made an effort to get out to expos. MSFHA provided brochures for distribution, both for AMHA and for our own National Service Organization. Sponsorships in the form of brochures and entry fees were utilized by a handful of members.

Our website and newsletters seem to be the steam that drives the engine for the organization, the passion for the gaited Morgan, and the Morgan Horse in General. Our frequent e-newsletters and sharing of the weekly and Monthly AMHA News keeps members connected and in the know.

Of course with our membership spread out the way it is, it is hard to draw large numbers for club activities, but it is amazing at the effort that is being made. So many of the MSFHA membership are avid trail riders and are out there every weekend hitting the trails and exposing the general horse ownership population to the outstanding virtues of our Morgans. There is not enough space in this book to make note of all the riding being done. 2011 was of course our annual meeting in Monument Valley. There were 15 Club members present. 9 Gaited Morgans were there, but with the Sierra Morgans and Arizona Morgans there was a total of 15 Morgan horses. That 5 day long ride exposed about 30 non-Morgan people to life with Morgans, and a very good impression was made. Based on the comments and questions of the other riders, I'd bet money on Morgan sales being made in the future from this trip, and the fine showing we made of it

It's great to have compiled this information as it lays out an overall view of what areas we need to build upon to help our club become more connected to our membership and our American Morgan Horse Association who supports our Passion for our Morgans. We hope to continue to add to our scrapbook if anyone has things to add. Eventually I hope to go backwards and add older items to our scrapbook. It will be an ongoing project.





## Chapter 2

### Morgan and Non-Morgan Activities



Balloon Bash



MSFHA Club Members Janet and Stan Hunter from Cobden Illinois and their local saddle Club Fun Shows  
These are some photos from our Union County Fun Show, Anna, IL. My husband & I set up the sound system, etc. for the show; organize the show & volunteers; print flyers; solicit sponsors & judges. We hold these twice a year weather permitting. It is a "fun" show - no points are awarded. It is just a lot of fun and contest experience for children and adults. We have 16 classes from "Stick Pony" to "Barrels".

Stan & I have been involved with these shows since 1999. Janet serves the MSFHA as our Secretary/Treas



## Chapter 2

### Morgan and Non-Morgan Activities

MSFHA Club Members join up with members of the Arizona Morgan Horse Club in October for the Hell-dorado celebration at Tombstone. New Year's Day Letha and I rode three different places in three days. Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> we rode in Rio Verde from Anne's place near Scottsdale; Saturday we rode with friends in the foothills of the Superstition Mountains in Apache Junction area; and on New Year's Day we rode the Maricopa Trail in Desert Hills near Phoenix with a group mostly from the AzMHA and had a huge barbeque afterwards in junction with an AzMHA board meeting. Dan & Letha Simmons, Anne Biggs



## Chapter 2

MSFHA became members in the FOSH organization, Friends of Sound Horses. We supported FOSH numerous times in 2011 in the form of advertising in their all breed Nation-wide gaited horse magazine, submitting articles for their Gaited Horse magazine "The Sound Advocate" and the National Championship Gaited Horse show by sponsoring classes. FOSH is a non-profit organization which supports the efforts being made to stop soring. Soring has been federally illegal since the Horse Protection Act (HPA) was first passed in 1970. More information is available on the USDA website, which is the agency tasked with enforcing this Act. Soring is a process of intentionally causing pain to a horse's front legs and hoofs to enhance a gaited horse's gait for the show ring. Soring is illegal and inhumane.



### MORGAN SINGLE-FOOTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

*National Service Organization of the American Morgan Horse Association*

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**SILVERSHOE MORGANS** Utah  
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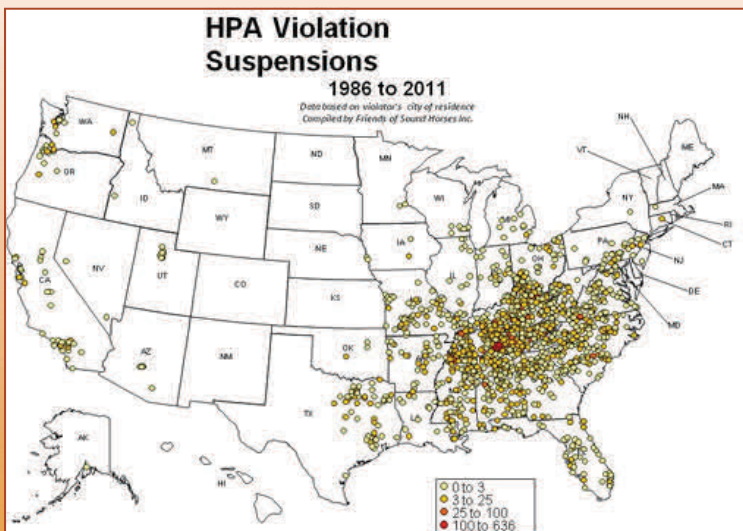
**THOMAS MORGANS** Utah  
Ken Thomas  
klthomas@altazip.com  
435-896-6824  
www.thomasmorgans.com

For a complete membership list and Gaited Morgan Videos see our website

**WWW.GAITEDMORGANS.ORG**

Advertisement in The Sound Advocate

Horse Protection Act Violations (tickets written)



Chemical soring shown in the photo below is just one way to sore a horse to make him animate his front end action unnaturally. Pressure shoeing, quacking, heavy weights, nails and golfballs in packages under the frog are others. Thermal imaging at show inspections is advancing the ability to police this cruel practice.

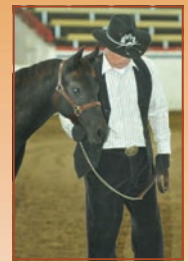


## Chapter 2

### Morgan and Non-Morgan Activities



Youth Pleasure Katie Burns on Missouri Silver Lynne



Missouri Coal Train and Jim



Missouri Silver Lynne Trail Vali Suddarth

MSFHA members and Gaited Morgan owners along with 3 gaited Morgans competed in the North American Gaited Horse Championship. Rhonda Pruett competed in hand in the Open Gaited Breed Model Class with her 2 year old Gaited Morgan filly. Rhonda qualified and placed 5th in her class against 2 other Gaited Morgans, exhibited by Jim Suddarth and Vali Suddarth. The Morgans made a good showing at this event and although none of us were experienced showmen, we placed ok. Best of all, we showed the Morgan Horse to the Gaited Horse world and the 3 Morgans there were hands down, the best looking horses of all. MSFHA and Missouri Morgans both sponsored numerous classes for this 3 day event.



OGB Ranch Horse Terri Tarvid on Lynne



Missouri MOJO Emily OGB Halter owned and exhibited by owner Rhonda Pruitt





**GO GAITED WITH MORGANS**



**MORGAN  
SINGLE-FOOTING HORSE  
ASSOCIATION**

*National Service Organization for the  
American Morgan Horse Association*

**BEACON MORGANS** Pennsylvania  
phone  
[www.beaconmorgans.com](http://www.beaconmorgans.com)

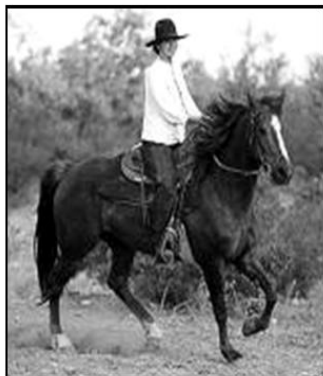
**DIAMOND H MORGANS** Washington  
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**HUNTER HILL MORGANS** Illinois  
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[www.thomasmorgans.com](http://www.thomasmorgans.com)



**WWW.GAITEDMORGANS.ORG**

American Morgan Horse Association

**The Iowa 41 Morgan Horse Rescue**

In March of 2011 there were Morgan horses in dire need in Northern Iowa. 2 MSFHA members made the trip right away to catalogue the horses that were there and aid the rescue group in the process of placing them. All of the 41 have found new homes and rehabilitation is still in process. The horses were in poor shape and many were untouchable. AMHA has kindly reduced rates for registering some of these animals. 3 Members, Suddarths, Simmons, and Fisher of MSFHA committed to and adopted 4 of these horses, two of which were in foal. It was a great outpouring of caring from the entire Morgan World. There is a facebook page.

**Omars Wendy 29 then**



**Omars Wendy 30 now**



**MaryMels Lil Sister**



**MSFHA joins the Rainbow Club . A Gaited Morgan won a spot on the Rainbow Morgan Horse Association calendar for March**





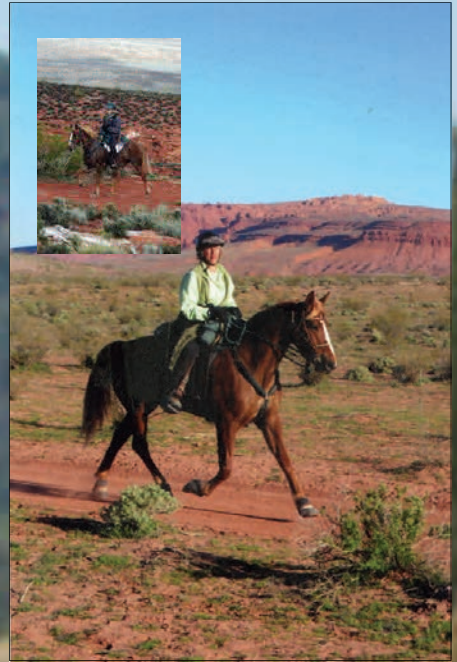
## Chapter 2

### Morgan and Non-Morgan Activities

#### MSFHA Club Member Alice Rossington

As my body was too old for posting for any distance gaited horses were my first pick and I had a friend who rode endurance rides. What a way to see the country. The first two years I rode a Peruvian Paso and soon learned their tendons were not strong enough to maintain the distance of 50 miles up and down mountains. Certainly are a wonderful ride in comfort however. My research brought me to the Gaited Morgan as a strong, steady, and comfortable long distance horse. Sky Sadie & I have been riding & working together for four years now and have covered over 750 recorded American Endurance Riding Conference miles viewing the beautiful western USA in areas that I would otherwise never been able to see or enjoy. This past year I have had a marvelous experience preparing/training Sky Sadie's filly, Sky Light, to begin the endurance trail and am looking forward to taking them out in the coming year.

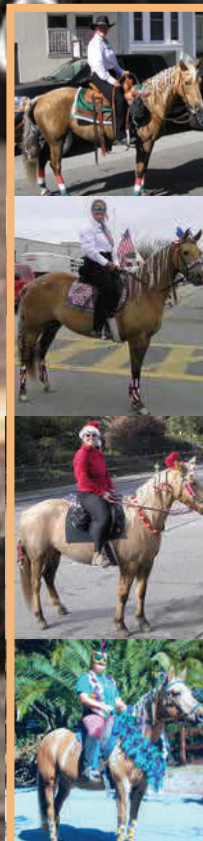
#### Endurance Riding among all Breeds



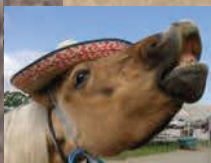
**MSFHA sponsored Noel Powers and Minerals Flaxen Athena are very active in many different kinds of events. Trail Riding, eventing, Endurance, Parades, shows and more!**



June 5 SFP - CDS Dressage Show  
WEBB RANCH SHOW



Endurance Race at Mariposa



Columbus Day, Fourth of July, St Patricks Parades and Christmas caroling



# Chapter 2

## Morgan and Non-Morgan Activities



Arizona Morgan Horse Association  
January 2011 Newsletter

MSFHA Advisors Letha Simmons and Anne Biggs have served the Arizona Morgan horse club in the capacity of officers and board members for the last several years. Letha is the current President of Arizona Morgan Horse Association Anne has been President and is on the board

### Social Media

MSFHA members Moderate numerous social media sites promoting all Morgans

Gaited Morgan group moderators  
Martha Cather, Carol Morgan

Grey Morgan group moderator Helga  
Loncosky

Gaited Horses For Sale group moderator  
Vali Suddarth



Locations on these social networks are in a variety of states and maintained by several MSFHA members to share and promote news about gaited Morgans. They are connected to many AMHA members and non-Morgan people.

Sabine Dickel, Florida, riding Bucksnofts Sweet Violet (GAYA) on the beach, Christmas parade, driving, and working with noted gaited horse clinician Liz Graves.





## Chapter 2

# RIDING THE DIRTY DEVIL

Utah MSFHA Members ride all Gaited Morgans rough territory

Open Invitation MSFHA Club Ride

### Youth Riders

*Tyler, McKenzie and Megan*



### *My Girls McKenzie and Megan*



*Ken Thomas*



**Open Invitation club ride at the Flying R Ranch Camp Willow Springs MO October 2011**



### **BUFFALO ROUNDUP ANTELOPE ISLAND SALT LAKE CITY UT**

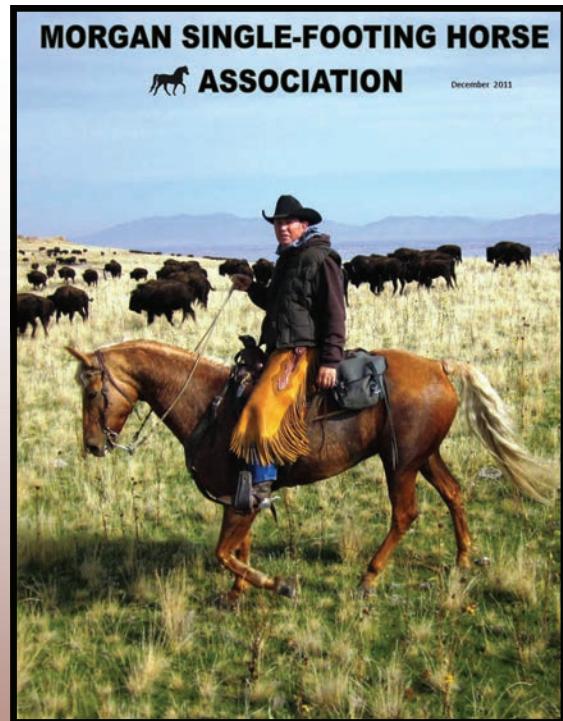
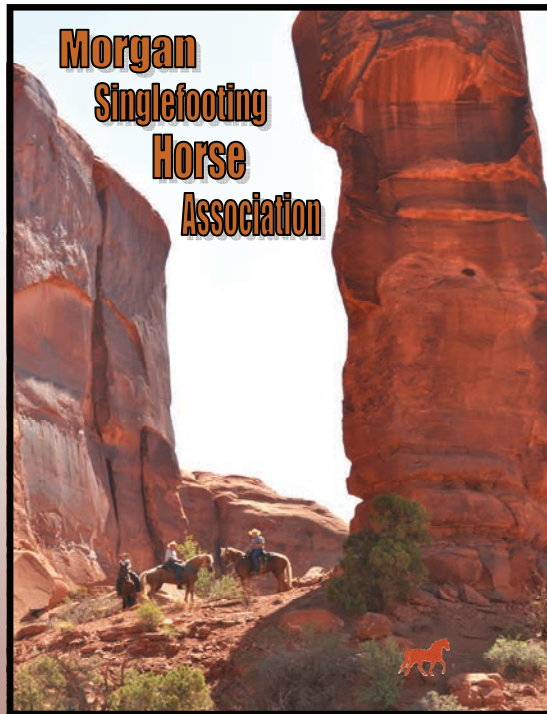
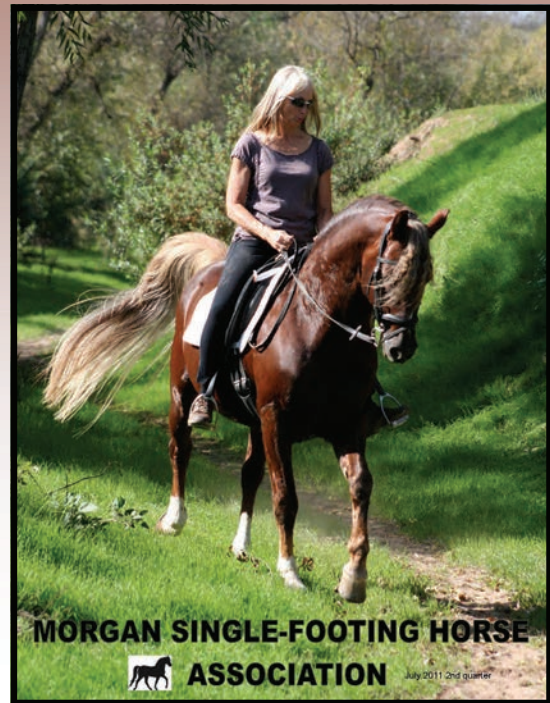
The 25th Annual Bison Roundup, Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29, 2011. MSFHA Vice-President Brent Skidmore and other Volunteer wranglers saddled-up and moved the park's herd of 600 free-roaming bison from the southern tip of the Island to the bison corrals on the northern end of the island. Brent makes this an annual event. If you happen to be in the area, the best viewing opportunities are from the East Shore Road. Brent Skidmore and others from the American Fork worked the herd and moved them across the island to a holding facility with the park department as the Wildlife Biologists and Park Managers work to keep the herd healthy and in check. Rumor has it there was a helmet cam involved and plenty of exciting video. Stay tuned for new photos and story.



# Chapter 3

## Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

2011 Colorful Printed Quarterly Newsletters average 32 pages



AMHA weekly updates and AMHA Monthly Club News are promptly posted on our website and sent out in E-Newsletters to 180 people who have signed up for our e-newsletter via our website.



## Chapter 3

The Morgan Single-Footing Horse Association produces a color brochure with updates each year. These brochures are sometimes printed by the administration and mailed to members who participate in local equine activities and wish to share information on Morgans and gaited Morgans. Members may also find the Color Tri-Fold MSFHA Brochure on the MSFHA website at [www.gaitedmorgans.org](http://www.gaitedmorgans.org) where they can download for free themselves. The MSFHA offers a REBATE on the cost of printing to the membership. We also periodically print the brochure in the MSFHA Newsletter for access by those who are not on the internet.

### Trade Show



Attach msfha brochure

Lebanon Missouri Womens Expo provided the opportunity to promote the Morgan horse along with promoting their local Saddle Club. MSFHA members Jim and Vali Suddarth handed out brochures and 47 copies of Morgan Horse Magazines at this day long event last November. They also distributed about 20 of the Morgan Single-Footing Horse Association Newsletters. The booth consisted of numerous quality photos of both trotting and gaited Morgans, and a slideshow of Morgan horses running on a screen. People LOVE Morgans!

## Idaho Horse Expo

MSFHA provide brochures to FOSH Member Nya Bates of Bares Training Stables who distributed them on our behalf at the Idaho Horse Expo.

# Chapter 3

## Breed Promotion and Civic Activities



Indoor Show at McNails Arena rainout date Halter Class



CCSC Trail Ride just one of many



Fund Raiser wagon rides and pony rides at the local Orscheln Farm and Home



Lead Line



Camden County Saddle Club Christmas Party

Jim Suddarth was asked by the Board to serve as President of the 55 year old Camden County Saddle Club . The Goal: reconstructing the new arena. The club had lost it's lease on the arena, and been without one for 5 years. Through membership drives, fund raisers, sponsorships, and a rodeo the new arena is complete after 2 years of dedicated work. It sits on a beautiful piece of leased ground and is a 250 x 150 arena complete with lights and chutes, cook shack, announcers stand with sound system. Bleachers seating 500 were purchased with the Rodeo fundraiser. A website was developed for the club by Vali Suddarth. The saddle club is active with the Dogwood Parade in Camdenton MO, a coggins clinic each spring, the Lake Ozark Christmas Parade, 6 Fun shows per year, and various clinics, events and Trail Rides.



## Chapter 3

### AWARDED MISSOURIS 2011 New RODEO OF THE

PHOTO OF PLAQUE

This was a highly successful 2 day rodeo with 1000 ticket sales each night. We had Banners up for Missouri Morgans and since we were the promoters, a free spot for the MSFHA banner. Approximately 7 AMHA and 20 MSFHA brochures were handed out at the counter at the cook shack. The Rodeo of the Year was presented to Jim and Vali Suddarth at the MRCA finals at the Missouri State Fair in August.



*Lake of the Ozarks*  
MISSOURI RODEO COWBOY ASSOCIATION  
**RODEO**

Sponsored in Part by  
MSFHA and  
Missouri Morgans

FEATURING  
BRENDA LIBBY  
"JERRH RODEO"

FREE  
FIREWORKS  
DISPLAY  
SUNDAY  
FOR 2 NIGHT  
TICKET HOLDERS

**4TH**  
**OF JULY WEEKEND**  
FRIDAY 7:00PM SATURDAY  
**JULY 1ST JULY 2ND**

ADULTS \$10 / AGES 6-12 \$6.00  
AGES 5 AND UNDER FREE / PARKING \$5.00  
FOR MORE INFO GO TO: [WWW.CAMDENCOUNTYSADDLECLUB.COM](http://WWW.CAMDENCOUNTYSADDLECLUB.COM)

**RODEO LOCATION: CAMPING PARADISE**  
630 CAMPING PARADISE, ROACH, MO 65787  
WEST HWY 54 (6 MILES WEST OF CAMDENTON) TO "J" ROAD (1/2 MILE OFF 54)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
**CAMDEN COUNTY SADDLE CLUB**

## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities



#### Pretty but Tough

Written by Laura L. Valenti, OFN Contributor

Jim and Vali Suddarth of rural Camden County, breeders of gaited Morgan horses, are an extraordinary couple in many ways. Both are self-proclaimed ‘horse nuts’ which they admit is a good thing as a married couple. “We know others where only the man or woman is horse crazy and that makes it hard on the couple as one is often riding and the other is waiting around, trying to understand this strange attraction.” Anyone who has ever known someone afflicted with this particularly delightful compulsion understands.

“Gaited Morgan horses are a rare breed, as are the people who breed them,” Jim explained recently while seated in his spacious living room, decorated with Western and horse memorabilia that reflects the couple’s passion for horses in a myriad of ways. Located just outside the tiny town of Montreal, Mo., their Missouri Morgans keep the two of them busy promoting their horses and their unique, comfortable gait.

“Lots of trail riders are getting older and they enjoy the gaited horse now more than ever,” Vali picked up the narrative. “There are several families of Morgans within the Morgan registry, like Lippits, Lamberts and Brunk, but gaited Morgans can come from any of the Morgan families, if they’re not line bred.”

“The gait we talk about, the way the horse moves is anything between a trot and a pace,” Jim stated. “What we’re looking for is a four-beat gait. That narrows it down to a smooth ride for the trail rider. As we’ve gotten older, our bones started saying something needed to change. Gaited horses allow baby boomers to remain in the saddle all day on a trail ride, enjoying the outdoors and that’s important. The market for gaited horses is very good right now.

“Probably less than 1 percent of Morgans are gaited,” Jim, a retired Camdenton Farm Bureau insurance agent, continued, “and we’re one of the few breeders of gaited Morgans in the world. We pasture raise all our horses and sell to trail riders all over the country from our website. People can come and stay with us and ride for a couple of days, to really see and experience what we’re talking about with these horses.



## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

“We have 35 gaited Morgans here on 80 acres, with five to eight babies a year, eight gaited

geldings under saddle for sale along with yearlings and weanlings, three stallions and a dozen

mares. We’ve had Morgans for 30 years and we’ve been breeding for gait for eight years now.

We also have gaited buckskin Morgans and a couple of gray gaited Morgans, which are very

rare. We have the only gray breeding stallion gaited Morgan in the world right now.”



Vali added, “Morgans are known as the pretty horse as well as the tough horse. They’re known and have been known ever since Justin Morgan began the breed in the late 1700s, for their all around versatility from eventing and dressage to hauling, endurance, running and of course, today, trail riding.”

In addition to horses, Vali owns Masters Touch Landscape and is the manager of Pirates Cove, a miniature golf operation, both in Osage Beach. Jim is president of the Morgan Single Footing Horse Association (MSFHA), the national organization for Morgan horse owners and Vali is the editor of the group’s 40 page quarterly newsletter. “Single footing is the name generally given to gaited horses west of the Mississippi River,” Vali added, “and gaited is the name used in the east. Our association started in the west and so the name.”

Vali is also a member of the Independent Judging Association (IJA) which means she can work as a judge for all horse shows but she specializes in gaited horses. “There are 15 gaited breeds in our judging manual.”

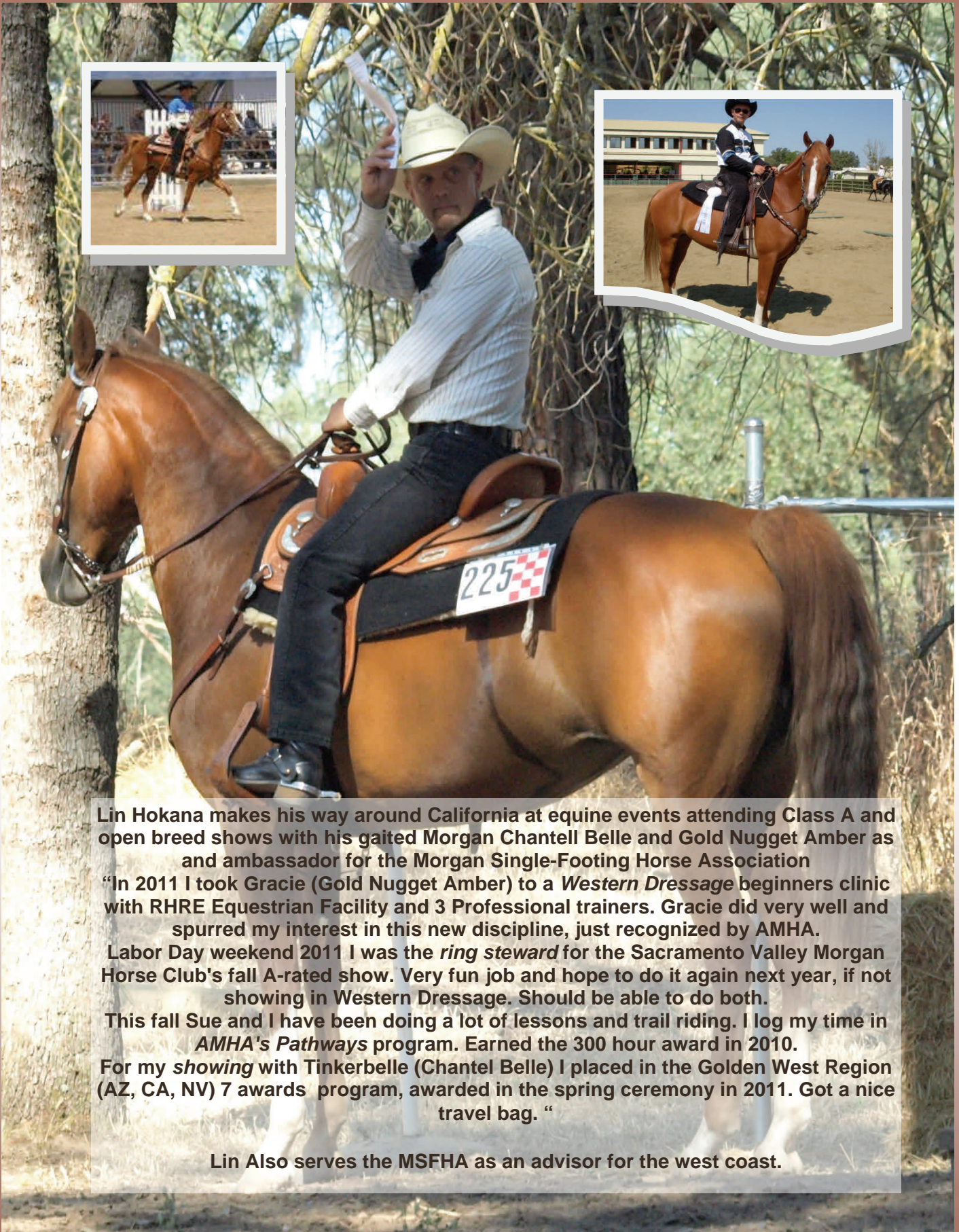
Jim and Vali have five grown children, two in the Camden County area, two in Kansas City and one in Oklahoma City. “We have one daughter who is somewhat involved with horses,” Vali concluded, “but none of them have the same passion for it as we do. We seem to travel a lot with different things with the horses. We don’t show a great deal but we trail ride a lot, like out in Monument Valley in Utah on the Arizona state line earlier this fall, on the Navajo Reservation. We were there as a part of the MSFHA national meeting and it was just beautiful there. We literally have lots of adventures with these horses.”





## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities



Lin Hokana makes his way around California at equine events attending Class A and open breed shows with his gaited Morgan Chantell Belle and Gold Nugget Amber as and ambassador for the Morgan Single-Footing Horse Association

“In 2011 I took Gracie (Gold Nugget Amber) to a *Western Dressage* beginners clinic with RHRE Equestrian Facility and 3 Professional trainers. Gracie did very well and spurred my interest in this new discipline, just recognized by AMHA.

Labor Day weekend 2011 I was the *ring steward* for the Sacramento Valley Morgan Horse Club's fall A-rated show. Very fun job and hope to do it again next year, if not showing in Western Dressage. Should be able to do both.

This fall Sue and I have been doing a lot of lessons and trail riding. I log my time in *AMHA's Pathways* program. Earned the 300 hour award in 2010.

For my *showing* with Tinkerbelle (Chantel Belle) I placed in the Golden West Region (AZ, CA, NV) 7 awards program, awarded in the spring ceremony in 2011. Got a nice travel bag. “

Lin Also serves the MSFHA as an advisor for the west coast.



## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

**FARMFEST FALL** EVERY OCTOBER SPRINGFIELD MO with **Ozarks Morgan Horse Club** MSFHA Volunteers man booth at Farm Fest in Springfield Missouri. There were no Morgans on exhibit for 2011 but 2 gaited, 1 black stallion and a foal were exhibited in 2010 by MSFHA members.



# AND

### HORSE FEST WITH OZARKS MORGAN HORSE CLUB



Attach brochure

### HORSE FEST WITH OZARKS MORGAN HORSE CLUB

March Springfield MO

MSFHA Members volunteered to man the booth at the Ozark Morgan Horse Club Exhibit at the Horse Fest held each March in Springfield Missouri. Attendance to this event is estimated at over 40,000. MSFHA members were busy promoting the Morgan Horse with supplied literature from AMHA as well as the directory for the local Ozark Morgan Horse club. MSFHA brochures were handed out as well along with a selection of the MSFHA newsletters. Generous numbers of back issues of The Morgan Horse Magazine were shared with the public.



## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

#### MORGANS DO IT ALL AND HERE'S PROOF Noel Powers

This is a wonderfully encouraging story on really using gaited Morgans, 1st published in the magazine *Simply Morgans*. Thanks Noel for sharing this story with your gaited Morgan Fan Club.



**Minerals Flaxen Athena** Twilights Golden Dream X Paraders Misty Morn  
1997 palomino mare

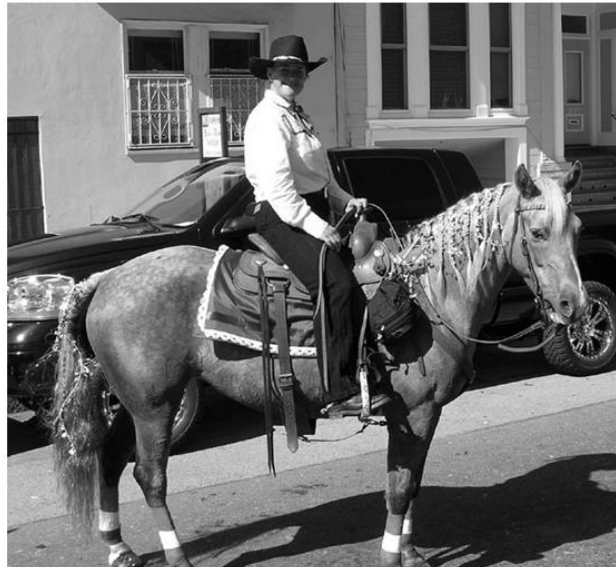
It all began with a kick. Here is the story of my transition into the world of Morgans, and more specifically, the ownership of a gaited Morgan (they do exist!). It all started about three years ago when I found out the Anglo-Arab foal I had raised from birth had a huge bone spur in her stifle joint that meant she had to be retired. I was devastated by this news and was lost as to what I would do next. My friend Karla who had trailered me to the vet clinic graciously offered to let me lease her Morgans while I decided what to do with my horse life.

Morgans?!? I had no idea what to expect, her Morgans were the complete opposite of the Thoroughbred ex-racehorses I had ridden and owned over most of my 25+ year riding career. But, I immediately took her up on her offer because it gave the freedom to ride without the commitments of owning one, especially since I had not decided what discipline(s) I was going to pursue next which would greatly influence what breed I would buy next (as well as "letting go" of the horse I had raised from birth). Right about the same time I started leasing with Karla, she decided to add a colorful Morgan to her herd. After searching for a few months, she found and bought a sooty palomino Morgan mare named Mineral's Flaxen Athena (a ½ Funquest, ½ Government-Lippitt bred mare). And, as an added bonus, it turned out that the mare also gaited!

*Hi Everyone,*

*Well, we did it, our very first huge parade!! We went to San Francisco this last weekend, and my little princess Athena went into her first big scale parade for Columbus Day!! She did much better than I expected, actually, she was really quite good, didn't misbehave at all. What a good girl I have! Here is a picture of us "dressed" up for the parade. =)*

*Thanks!  
Noel Powers*





## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

#### MORGANS DO IT ALL AND HERE'S PROOF Noel Powers

For the first few months of my lease I switched back and forth between two of Karla's Morgans. But, tragedy struck when Karla and her husband were out on a ride with Athena she executed one of her lightning fast turns onto a side trail, slipped on the gravel surface, and pinned the husband's foot underneath her as she fell. It broke his foot in two places, and suspended his endurance racing career for the summer.

So, I became Athena's primary rider, and what a first year we had together!! I was immersed in two totally new "worlds" that summer, that of Morgans (knew nothing about them) and endurance racing. And boy, were Morgans a lot different than anything I had ever expected.

Karla's primary discipline was endurance racing, so that summer since her husband was "out of commission", I was able to go to several endurance races with her. In my first three limited distance endurance races, I quickly learned that not only was I "time-retarded" but "navigation-retarded". In those races, I managed not only to finish over-time in first race, I got lost on my second two races. In my second race at Mariposa, CA (near Yosemite) I learned my first "lesson" about Morgans, they are very brave!!



Noel and Athena geared up for competing in endurance

During the race, I ended up taking a wrong turn and rode up the ridge (instead of down). At the top, we came across the largest back-hoe I have ever seen, who was clear-cutting breaks in the forest to help prevent the spread of forest fires. This thing had a saw blade that was about two times higher than Athena! Can you believe that she nonchalantly rode right up next to the thing (I was

hoping the driver could tell me where I was), while it was cutting down trees, and she didn't even blink an eyelash? I was stunned!! And as for the whole "time thing" I didn't clue in to the fact that when they give you a set period in which to complete an endurance race, that it included the rest stops and vet checks. Duh!! So, I came across the finish line on my first race, thinking I had a half hour to spare. Ah, NO! I managed to finish 15 minutes over-time (whoops!!). So, it wasn't the most spectacular first season, but in subsequent seasons we have done quite well.

I was also incredibly fortunate that when I started riding Athena (and didn't know anything about gaited horses), Karla recommended I contact a trainer she had seen at her old ranch, who had experience with multiple disciplines and gaited horses. We met, and "clicked" well, and spent the next year trying to do something that most gaited horse owners consider "sacrilegious". I wanted Athena to trot and gait on command (most gaited horse owners don't like their horses to trot!). I had also approached my trainer with a completely "hare-brained" idea; let's make Athena a "gaited sport Morgan"!! I was interested in several different riding disciplines (much to my trainer's chagrin), and figured, heck, if we can teach her to trot, she can do anything!!



All dressed up in their prize winning costume for 4th of July parade

## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

#### MORGANS DO IT ALL AND HERE'S PROOF Noel Powers



*Hi Everyone! I took Blondie to her 2nd dressage schooling show on Sunday, and we had the opportunity to "dress up" in costume. She was a devil, and I was an angel (picture attached). We did the Introductory Test 2 and Training Level Test 1 (in costume no less!!). We scored 64% on Test 2 and 67% on Training Test 1. I was a bit disappointed in the scores but only makes me want to work harder to get better ones!! (Blondie was being a bit of a brat yesterday)*

*Actually, it was really funny when I was getting her ready, I stupidly left her halter off (after putting the full body sleazy on) and put wings on the back of her saddle. Well, once she realized they were there, she went AWOL, and jumped out from near the trailer, and started galloping out across the field that we were parked in (with me trying to jog after her in dress boots, wasn't going very fast!!). Luckily for me, she stopped, and I took the wings off, then put her halter on, and tried the wings again. Then, she was spooked, but settled down and eventually ignored them, LOL!! Whew, close call!!*

*Noel Powers*

During this training process, I learned my second "Morgan lesson"; when training a Morgan you cannot "tell" them what to do, you can only "ask" them to do things. And boy, did I do a lot of asking, and asking, and asking again for her to do things that first year, especially, if she decided it wasn't something she currently \*wanted\* to do! But, I also quickly learned two more "lessons" about Morgans; they have the most incredible work ethic I have ever encountered in any horse breed and they are also one of the most fiercely intelligent breeds I have ever encountered. I have found that Athena learns new concepts incredibly fast, and is sort of like a lightening fast supercomputer, which operates at much faster brain cycles than her poor rider. She often anticipates what \*she\* thinks I want during training sessions and often executes her version of things. So it was an interesting process training us to work as a team, because we're both very impatient beings, and are both Type-A personalities! It has been interesting owning a horse that has "all sorts of opinions and ideas" about how \*she\* thinks things should be done (LOL!!).

*Hi Everyone!*

*Thought I'd pass along another photo for fun. This is Blondie and I at a western/english schooling show this last weekend. We placed 3rd (out of 18) in Western Pleasure, and 5th (out of 8) in Western Equitation, not bad for our first western class at a show (ever), and we just recently (two weeks ago) started trying western (we haven't had any formal training)! => LOL!!!*

*Noel Powers*





## Chapter 3

### Breed Promotion and Civic Activities

**MORGANS DO IT ALL AND HERE'S PROOF** Noel Powers



And, my final Morgan lesson, Morgans are about the most versatile breed you will ever ride. I have had the privilege over the last few years riding Athena of tackling several new disciplines, most without prior training, and my lovely horse quickly adapts to all of them! We truly embody the Morgan "breed slogan", "Morgans do it all!". We have competed in endurance racing (limited distance and 50 miles), competitive trail (trail trials and trail classes at shows), western and English pleasure/equitation, halter/showmanship (we consistently win in this category), pleasure riding, riding in parades (we got first place in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July show this last year for our patriotic costume), dressage, and next year are going to tackle the sport of combined training/eventing. I also learned just last week that Athena and I received third place in my Trail Trial region's high point program in the novice class, in our very first season!!!

And thus, we return to the original story of how I came about owning this wonderful

gaited and colorful Morgan? Well, one fine fall day, after Karla and I came back from an endurance race, we got the bright idea to body clip Athena before we released her back into the pasture (to keep her cooler in future endurance races). Well, in typical Athena fashion she quickly "told us" what SHE thought of our desire to clip her (versus her desire to get the hell out of dodge!). To my utter disbelief (and horror), she KICKED out at Karla while we were attempting to clip her (not a good reflection on the ground training I had done with her!). Karla was understandably indignant and quite angry that Athena had kicked out at her. She told me in the next few moments in quite clear and colorful terms, that if I didn't buy the mare, she was gone (she threatened to place an ad in the Morgan magazine that next month to sell her). I looked at Karla and said "well, I guess I'm about to become a Morgan owner!!" which made her laugh.

Thus began my ownership of Athena, and now that we have a few years under our belts, I have to say, not a day goes by that I don't feel humbled by the privilege of owning such a wonderful and talented horse (plus, she gives good "kisses")!! Athena has had quite the "ownership ride", I think I'm her 5<sup>th</sup> owner, but she's here to stay with me! Plus, through owning her, I have been exposed to the fascinating history of the Morgan, and the very different world of gaited horses, and the even more confusing (but still really cool) world of colorful Morgans!! I am definitely "sold" on gaited Morgans, and would buy another one in a heartbeat!!

## Chapter 4:

Pleasure Driving Carriages and buggies on parade

Insert flip booklet  
Of gaited Morgans  
driving



Jim and Vali participate in the Lebanon Missouri Christmas Parade Winning a nice trophy and blue ribbon. The colt is a black gaited colt we bred And is not related to our driving mare Who is a trotter.



Mary & Dwight Hanson from Nebraska compete in combined driving and were volunteers at the

**2010 WORLD EQUESTRIAN**

**GAMES**



## Chapter 4:

### Non-Horse Show Activities

The Morgan Single-footing Horse Association annual ride and meeting was at Monument Valley Utah this year in September. Nine gaited Morgans gathered along with members of MSFHA, the Sierra Morgan Club, The Arizona Morgan Horse Club and the Tuscon Saddle Club. Gaited Horses included Gaited Morgans, Paso Fino, TWH, Spotted Saddle Horse, a Peruvian Paso, and Missouri Foxtrotters. The strength, durability, agility, speed and courage of the gaited Morgans were overall very impressive.



As we turned the corner into the visitors center that day, my breath was taken away at the reality of the majestic beauty of this place on earth. The landscape of God juts up from the valley floor as if formed there by hand and tool. As we lined up along the roadway to the visitors center where we were to meet, and other trailers continued falling in line behind us, I couldn't help but feel the excitement of such a gathering of like minded people. To come to this special place from distances across the country to experience this ride in this landscape cannot be described in the words I can write down here. Honor was bestowed upon us as we were invited in by the Navajo Indians and even allowed to tread among the sculptures in this valley, truly the **8th Wonder of the World**. 30 or so trailers lined the road into the visitors' center as we awaited our park ranger to check our papers and guide us down into the valley. We were the subject for many tourist cameras as they were just amazed at the gathering of such massive truck and trailer outfits and the cargo we carried. Other vehicles were stopped on the trail, yielding for the "big rigs", taking photos and pointing fingers. It was so fun to wave our hats and cheer out our yippee yahoo's at the tourista jeeps and really give 'em something to take pictures of. Let the fun begin, and so it did. I can tell you that the brakes were definitely **ON** over in the passenger side of our truck. As we made that first dip down from the top, I was fervently helping with the braking although I know it had no effect at all except to make me feel better! Camp was in a box canyon about 25 miles down into the valley. Our wall of the canyon had a shape to it that looked like an eagles head and wings spread out from either side and we parked right in the middle of it, embraced in the spirit of the place.

The first morning out to ride was just a little wild. Riding in a large group seemed to bring out the youth in every horse there. There was quite a of squirreling around for about the first hour of the ride. As they day went on and 3 hours turned to 6, the last burst of energy was felt as we turned back to camp for the day. Each day was a new experience, watching horses and riders, and the events that would unfold. We all enjoyed nice riding through the arroyo's and landscape of the monument valley, something amazing around every bend, as we picked our way through the crevaces and dry stream beds. It seemed impossible at one point that anything more beautiful could await us than what we had just ridden through, but there was not one disappointing view to behold. The curiosity of the region and the people who have lived there could encompass a lifetime to ponder. There are so many questions, so many discoveries, many delights to the eye, mind and heart. I took one-thousand, one hundred and six photographs, and emptied several other camera cards onto my laptop. There were just a few places that were white knuckle encounters, but only one where it was advised even by our Indian guide that we might dismount and relay our horses down. That was an amazing place on earth that deserves some kind of name like Top of the World, or Drop Dead Trying. I came away from this week of riding feeling pretty satisfied with the adventure I had just had, new friendships that were made and grateful...just grateful. If you would like to enjoy more of the photos I took, venture over to the Morgan Single-Footing Horse Association website at [www.gaitedmorgans.org](http://www.gaitedmorgans.org) and follow the link on the home page to the Monument Valley ride slideshow, complete with the native music we enjoyed with our hosts.

See Copy of a book in back pocket that was made by club member Annie Perhonan to share with those who were there.

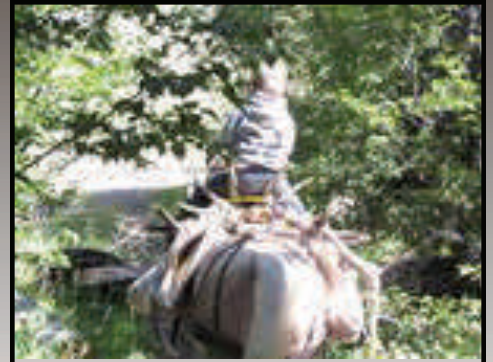
## Chapter 4: Non-Horse Show Activities

### AMHA Pathways participants with AMHA in 2011

Janet Hunter

Lin Hokana for 2011 450 Hours

Letha Simmons



Brent Skidmore's Grandson "Cooper" riding his Dads 2010 Elk and Sky Sun Dust (Mary Mels Swinger X Jan MabiePace)



Jordan John and Gary Gray packing into the Uintah Area of Utah

Janette Dove Trail Riding at Eminence Missouri with other club members  
Janet and Stan Hunter



### MSFHA Member Paula Dennis receives New York State Horse Council Award Erica Raab Award

Congratulations to Paula Dennis, Charylle Dines and her daughter, Joleen, who recently received the New York State Horse Council's Erica Raab Award! This award is given to people dedicated to the horse and who have helped horse people along the way.

This family was instrumental in saving their horses following Hurricane Irene in August. Charylle's home was close to the Catskill Creek, which flooded their farm and took their home off its foundation and into the creek. They had just hours to save what was left of their 25 acres, and two horses were lost in the flooding. The property was completely under water and some of their horses were stranded on a small island developed after the flood. Since it was an unsafe situation, the fire department did not let anyone near the parcel to save the horses. The determination, love, and dedication was too much for Charylle to endure, so finally she swam out to her two Morgans and pulled them to safety!

These three generations of women have proven their love and dedication to the Morgan horse. Congratulations!



[reportid=1424](#) Paula Dennis has a heartbreaking story to tell. When Paula first posted the information to our group forum at [gatedmorgans@yahoo.com](mailto:gatedmorgans@yahoo.com), I don't think we all knew the whole story. Paula not only lost her Cowboy, but her granddaughters Pony, and her daughters entire home and farm were wiped away down Catskill Creek. Please help Paula keep an eye out for Cowboy...maybe he had a chance and is still lost somewhere.



# Chapter 5

## Fund Raising

**Be sure to visit our MSFHA Store on our website...**there are dozens of items to choose from at reasonable prices. Items purchased help support projects for the club like the Group Ads we place in different periodicals and the cost of our website service. While the design and maintenance is provided to us for free by Heidi Sutton Design, we still have to pay for the internet site monthly. Help support YOUR MSFHA while enjoying the fun and practical products.



MSFHA postage pal  
\$6.50



\$13.99



\$14.50



\$41.00



\$16.99



Clock \$15.00



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100 for \$86.00



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Large mug \$14.00



Adult \$25.00  
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# Chapter 8

## Special Promotion



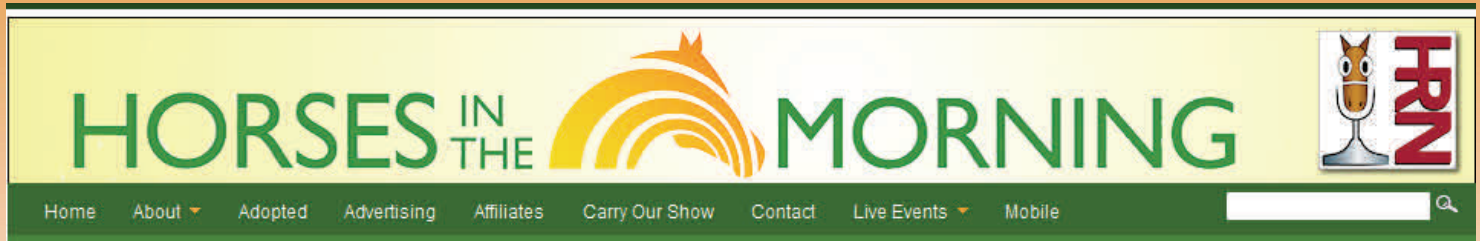
An Award Winning Website, The Morgan Single-Footing Horse Association maintains an extensive website consisting of anywhere from 20-30 pages at any given time. Those pages contain information pertaining to gaited Morgans, the membership activities of MSFHA, AMHA news and the following: About us, MSFHA News, Officers and Advisors, Member Directory, Stallion Showcase, Classified ads, Gaited Morgan photo gallery, over 100 videos of documented gaited Morgans, and an Events calendar page, Gait Education and a website contact page. There are over 50 photos of Morgan horses on our website at any given time. Our Recent posts pages always contain the most recent monthly and weekly update from AMHA as well as news about Members. Our home page features a different members photographs submitted every 3 weeks or so. Members who pay for advertising in our printed newsletter also have their ads placed on our website. The website header is changed periodically, usually with the seasons. Maintenance is provided by Heidi Sutton Web Design and changes are frequently made by members Janet Hunter, Secretary of MSFHA and Vali Suddarth Publications. Our classifieds advertising page on the average features 20 gaited Morgans for sale. Non-gaited Morgans, tack and equipment and even real estate may be advertised. Ad placements are available to non-members for a fee of \$15.00 until sold. Our website is connected to numerous links across the web through member sites, through Horse for Sale sites, through Facebook, Tweeter, MySpace, and a Blog, and maintains a consistently high ranking on the first page of all search engines. Below are headers of the website from different times of year.



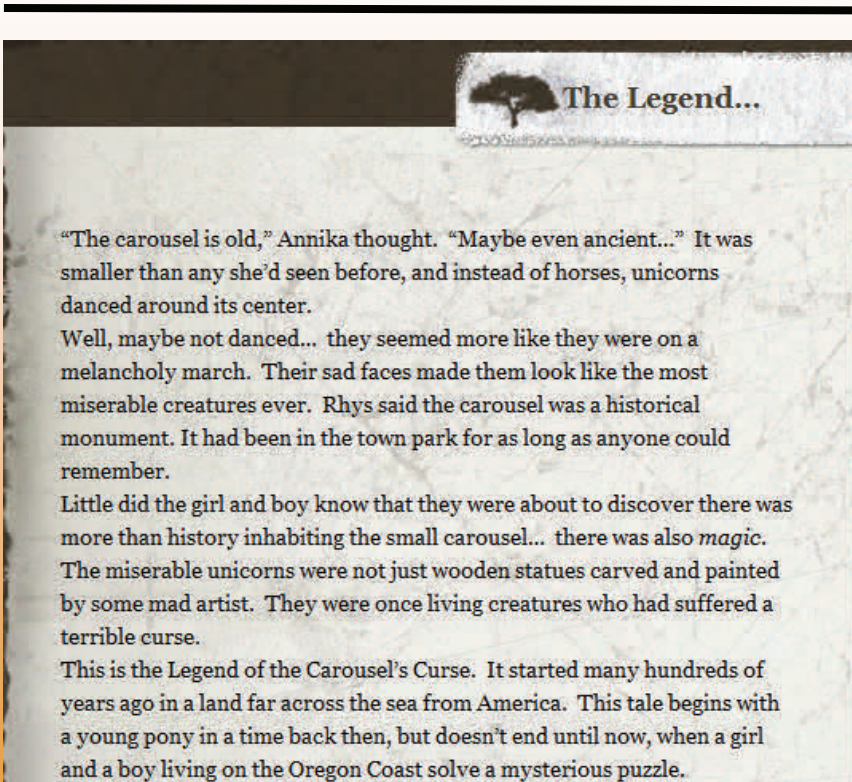


## Chapter 8

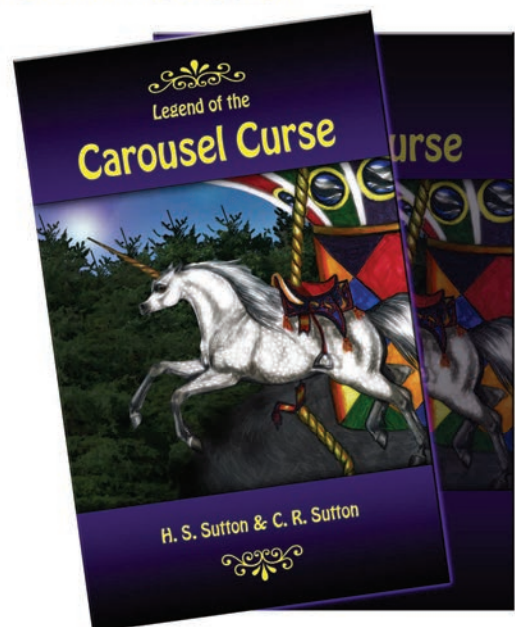
### Special Promo-



Radio Interview with Horses in The Morning about Morgan Horses, gaited Morgans, FOSH and 15 Gaited Breeds of horses. Discussion of Justin Morgan, the breed registry and the history of the Morgan horse was the topic, and where the gaited Morgan occurred in the lineage. We talked about the terminology for gait...Gaited versus Single footers. Show standards were subject to the conversation where the limitations for showing gaited Morgans are restricted to non-Morgan open gaited breed shows across the country. This limitation is due to the actual numbers of gaited Morgans and the likelihood of any participation, thus limiting the demand for such classes under USEF rules. Our interviewer was excited at the prospect of how rare the gaited Morgan is and the work that is being done to preserve those bloodlines and strengthen the gait in certain families of the breed. Further talk ensued about the gaits, types of gaits, speed of gaits, breeding for gaits and how to obtain the optimum gaits from your horse. Websites for more information about Morgan Horses at [morganhorse.com](http://morganhorse.com), for gaited Morgans at [www.gaitedmorgans.org](http://www.gaitedmorgans.org), and for Friends of Sound Horses at [www.fosh.info](http://www.fosh.info). The radio hosts mentioned they knew little about Morgan horses and certainly did not know there were gaited Morgan Horses. All in all this fun interview lasted about 20 Minutes.



Written by MSFHA Members,  
Clint and Heidi Sutton



Available at Amazon.com



