



Gaited Morgan-Dawnwind's Kin-Ring and Jennifer Conditto

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Gaited Morgans are still unknown in many equine avenues, but not for long. One person determined to share and inform the public that there are indeed gaited Morgans is Jennifer Conditto. She and her beloved gaited Morgan, Dawnwind's Kin-Ring, or better known as "Kinner", participate in various activities with their Show Me Morgan Horse Club of Missouri as well as independent equine events. With their club, they participate in Lewis and Clark Heritage Days at St. Charles' Frontier Park and the yearly event of Daniel Boone's Pioneer Days. The St. Charles event is to "commemorate the encampment and departure of the nation's most noted Expedition of Lewis and Clark" while the Pioneer Days represent the contributions made by Daniel Boone. Both occur in the near same time period allowing reenactors to don the same authentic clothing. Other events

they participate in are breed demos, riding clinics-gaited and non, and trail riding.

Shared first is Jennifer's participation in the Lewis and Clark Heritage Days. Among the crafters, demonstrators, entertainers, food vendors, settlers and traders portraying the time period of 1750-1812, are Morgans who demonstrate the way of travel during that time period. One of the favorite events witnessed by attendees. The reenactment begins with a parade through the cobblestone streets of down town historic St. Charles with the Morgans completing it with their historical depiction of life with horses. While there are several people riding, driving, and demonstrating their Morgans, one stands out among them, a horse "moving differently than all the others." His demo focuses on him gaiting or doing a flat walk gait to a running walk gait. Imagine the sound of his hoof beats as

they echo off the historical buildings from the cobblestone! Jennifer, dressed as a gentlemen riding astride, travels on a smooth moving single-footer, demonstrating the profession of Bureau of Land Management and Indian Affairs-a liaison between settlers and the Native Americans. The liaison would have spent hours upon hours in the saddle traveling among the tribes. Riding in comfort would have been necessary!



Kinner gaiting during Lewis and Clark Demo '06

Kinner and Jennifer depicting liaison for BLM and Indian Affairs during Lewis and Clark Heritage Days '06



Second event she participates in with her Morgan Club is the Pioneer Days event. It is a two-day celebration of pioneer life at the Daniel Boone Home and Boonesfield Village. It is located in Marthasville and occurs each year in September and is organized and operated by Lindenwood University. The event provides visitors an opportunity to experience what pioneer life was like in Missouri during the early 1800's. Pioneer Days consists of numerous encampments, craftsmen and artisans demonstrating their skills in chair making, wood carving, metalworking, spinning, weaving, open hearth cooking, blacksmithing, colonial gardening, dying and soap making. Adding to the experience, is the presence of horses, more specifically, Morgans. They again, demonstrate the importance horses played in history. Dressed in authentic historical attire, the Morgan Club members demonstrate the various professions and activities dependent upon horses of that time period. Jennifer and Kinner demonstrate his



smooth gaits, prompting many questions from on-lookers. Who knows, maybe even a foot race like in the times of Justin Morgan, may arise between Kinner and other “non-gaited” Morgans!

Another event the club has been invited to reenact in is the Boone Trail Days hosted and put on by Boone Trail Elementary and PTA. It, too, celebrates the contributions of Daniel Boone, the school's namesake. One day is contributed entirely to reenactors visited by over 1,200 students walking from demo to demo! The Morgan Club will be included this year by giving three demos focusing on 3rd – 5th graders. Jennifer, who is a fifth grade teacher at Boone Trail, will have special learning opportunities of historical significance for her students. This will be an excellent opportunity for future Morgan owners! Imagine the students who will want riding lessons!

Kinner and Jennifer also share their unique partnership at other non-historical events. They have participated in a gaited horse clinic given by David Lichman, a 5 Star Parelli Instructor. Since Kinner demonstrated that he was one of the smoothest gaiting horses there, he sure caught the eye of Mr. Lichman who wanted to take Kinner back to California with him! “Not for a million dollars!” Jennifer said.



Kin Gaiting



English lesson with Kin



Last year they were asked to participate in a Gaitway Walking Horse event featuring an all gaited breeds demonstration before the show classes began. They agreed and demonstrated the Parelli Natural Horsemanship techniques, as they are Level 2 graduates of the program and are now studying Level 3. While the announcer was reading the script about gaited Morgans, the crowd was over heard commenting that they didn't know Morgans could be gaited! Sure enough, Kinner has gaited since birth! Jennifer shared, "What was I thinking when I tried to train the gaits out of him!" He was so strongly gaited, that I decided to allow him to gait. He only needed his gaiting muscles to be strength-

ened after not being allowed to gait, only to trot. Six months later, he was moving so smoothly and demonstrating multiple gaits! I'm so glad I decided to let him gait. My back is thankful, too."

Of all the events, Jennifer says her true love is to trail ride with Kinner. She couldn't ask for a more loving devoted partner to move so eloquently and smoothly down the trails with her. They are a team for life and have made it their mission to share Kinner's gaits as well as the wonderful Morgan disposition and temperament, not to mention versatility, with all they come in contact.



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