

HOOFBEATS

EDITED BY HEIDI YOUNG, ENTRIES FROM CLUB MEMBERS ...

Membership forms and previous newsletters and articles are on our website: www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Facebook: Search for "Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club" or click <https://www.facebook.com/groups/636027703108388/> and request to be added. Here, club members can post pictures or share quickly and easily.

Lifelight Insurance: If you missed the group sign up, contact Lifelight and they will prorate your membership to bring you to our annual renew date of July 1. This gives us all \$15 off the \$60/year cost. www.lifelight.org

Spotlight: Nick Webber

I was born in Pennsylvania, but grew up in the tiny midwestern city of Chicago. Surrounded by concrete and developing finely honed urban survival skills, there wasn't much opportunity to even consider the possibility of touching a horse someday.

My boyhood heroes were The Lone Ranger and The Rifleman, who took the place of an early exited dad. And somewhere in there, the principles of justice, respect, honor, integrity, loyalty, and decency became a seed that grew. And the beauty and magnificence of the horse and rider as one unit resonated in the back of my little brain for many years.

Years passed as I served in USAF intelligence, and other careers that included police work, flight instructing, charter and airline and helicopter flying, aircraft accident investigation, and working as an FAA inspector and pilot. No where in there was a horse in sight.

It wasn't until about four years ago that timing, circumstance, coincidence, and God's hand placed me into the world of horses. Nothing has been the same since. As in all things, doing it *half-assed* was not an option. It was *full-assed* or nothing.



Hoping to avoid some of the mistakes of those who have gone before, I dove headfirst into the world of horsemanship, where I discovered horseman/authors such as Klaus Hempfling, Mark Rashid, Richard Maxwell, Buck Brannaman, Impke Spilker, Jonathan Field, Martin Black, Bill Dorrance, and Frank Bell, as well as probably a few I forgot to mention.

I had the honor and privilege to get to know, study with, and eventually consider friends, horsemen who resonated with my intuition (finely developed urban gut feelings, see above paragraph) about the kind of relationship, based on mutual trust, cooperation, respect, and understanding between horse and human, that I hoped to become part of with my own horses. While each of them, as do we all, have different methods, their core principles are similar.

To anyone looking for a better connection with their horse, I would offer, in addition to the above authors, these horsemen (and my friends) to your list of people to learn from: Frank Bell, Jim Rea, Carlos Tabernaberi, Bill Campanelli, Rick Gore, and certainly our local gaited horse guru Nya Bates, with whom I have shared, and learned from, in a few great discussions about horsemanship. I have been blessed to have them all in my life.



We (my wife Catherine and I) started with one, scrawny two-year old red roan mare, who is now a big, beautiful athletic horse in someone else's care, and in a convoluted and complicated way, arrived less than two years ago into the world of gaited horses. We haven't looked back. They have

been a challenge, and even more of a joy. Ranger, my champagne Kentucky Natural Gaited Horse Assoc. gelding has become the best trail horse and partner I could have hoped for. We go on the trail bitless (both of us), and barefoot (him, not me), and have a great time. He's my boy.



And getting to know the local gaited horse people, specifically the very nice people of the Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club, has been icing on the cake in our horse journey. I take nothing for granted with my horses, and I still get moved when I see the partnership of horse and rider in perfect unison, whether it's on the big screen, out on the trail,

or in the arena. It's a special bond I am blessed to realize with my own horse, and I wouldn't trade it for the world. It's a far place from the concrete of Chicago, but it's an awesome place.

NEWSFLASH: SOUTHERN COMFORT SPANISH DRILL TEAM PERFORMS AT THE IDAHO DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION'S COMPETITION

From Heidi Young (Editor and Drill Team Coach)

Six local drill teams competed at the annual drill competition at the Ford Idaho Center on July 11th. The winner got to open the Snake River Stampede the following weekend. The Treasure Valley Leather Slappers got the honors and a fine showing they made.



Our Spanish gaited performance team (and we need a name, send in your suggestions!) performed as 'halftime entertainment' at the competition. I'm thrilled to say, as the coach of this fine group: we did exceedingly well. It was the first time riding in the drill formation for Laurie Marx on her Peruvian (she carried the flag at our Expo performance) and it was the first time in the big arena for John Garro on his Paso Fino. Now if you've never entered the Idaho Center arena through the "chutes", I guarantee its not going to be on your horse's top ten list. This is my 3rd year performing with the team – and my Arri is just now getting used to it. Gladiators in the Coliseum may have felt similarly.

We showcase our gaited club at every one of our appearances. And we are often stopped and chatted up by gaited horse owners in the area that are not in our club. Hopefully we can lasso these folks into our fold as they see our drill team out and about.

Congratulations to each and every one of these dedicated folks on our team! Its takes an awful lot of time and energy to make these performances happen. But our hard work paid off – and a side benefit is that each of our horses are better for the experience.

<https://youtu.be/c7A6AiZQ8ZI> for a video that Liane's husband took of our performance.



WEBSTER 9 yo sorrel TWH (unregistered) gelding. at 16hh. He has excellent TWH gaits, super disposition and 6 years of trail (desert & mountains) experience. Nice riding mount for any level rider.

JOJO 12 yo black RMHA mare: Jojo is an excellent trail mare for \$5500. Contact me for videos.



Tribute Sky Walker "Sky" is an 8 yo TWH gelding 15.3hh. Nice trail mount with excellent gaits. Friendly personality. \$4K.

Some others available (Please ask!)

- **NASH** 6 yo spotted (b/w) TWH gelding
- **SPOTTIE** 11 yo spotted (b/w) TWH mare
- **ROKA** 9 yo solid black Icelandic mare
- **WILL** 9 yo TWH gelding
- **DEE VEE** 11 yo brown MFT mare (spayed)

Calendar of Events

August

- 10 Club Meeting at Sandy Young's house.
- 21-23 German Schneider in town, call Sarah Filiger: 891-3460

September

- 6 Old Selam, SWITDR Endurance Ride, New Centerville
- 12 Western Riding Club Black Tie Poker Ride & Dinner:
Eagle Island Park
- 14 Club Meeting at TBD
- 17-19 German Schneider in town, call Sarah Filiger
- 26 WRC Playday at Western Riding Club Arena
- 26 IMO Ride at Banner Ridge

October

- 4 Southern Comfort Poker Ride, Eagle Island Park
- 10-12 Owyhee Canyonlands Pioneer ride by SWITDR
- 12 Club Meeting at TBD
- 16-18 Utah State Paso Fino Horse Show:
Spanish drill team performs
- 23-25 German Schneider in town, call Sarah Filiger

November

- 9 Club Meeting at TBD

December

- 14 Christmas Party

Folks, you can see our Member's Offerings page is growing. Love to include you — but you gotta send it in to be included. Here's how easy it can be: take a picture of your business card as I did with Lois's →

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