

Southern Comfort



Gaited Horse Club

June, 2013

2013 Officers

President – Shawnda Kasma
Vice President – Phil Carroll
Secretary – Deb Haake
Treasurer – Margaret Carroll

Committees

Trail Rides –John Franden
Sunshine – Sue Harwell
Membership – Jan Gibson
Education and Clinics – Nya Bates, Sandy Young
Ways and Means – Shawnda Kasma
Newsletter– Margaret Carroll
Website, Calendar–Margaret Carroll, Barb Recla
Liability Insurance – Nya Bates

This and That

- ✚ Next meeting, June 10, at Sunrise Café, Middleton. 7:00 pm
- ✚ No July meeting at Sunrise Café, Meeting in Horseshoe Bend with Orienteering Ride at Murphy's
- ✚ Spotlight for May - Sue Harwell, Lawrance Valdez
- ✚ Updated calendar.
- ✚ Photos from Parade America
- ✚ Photos from Expo 2013

Thank you Linda for pictures of Parade America and Sandy for Expo and Lawrance.

Welcome New Members Susan Browning, Tim Johnson, Lana and Bob Leake and Phyllis and Craig Sheveley.

Next Meeting



*June 10, Sunrise
Café Middleton,
Idaho, 200 E. Main
St. 585-9700.*

*Meeting at 7:00 PM,
come earlier if you
want to eat.*



Happy Birthday
June 9 – Liane Kerting-Vick
June 30 – Andriette Goudreau



The meeting in July will be held on July 6th in Horseshoe Bend in conjunction with the Southern Comfort Orienteering Ride at Lois and Bill Murphy's Ranch. More details and directions to follow.

Spotlight - Sue Harwell

1. Tell us about your first horse? Breed? Age? Your Age? (Child, Preteen, Teen, Young Adult, Mature,)

Great grandson of Man O'War. My husband, who was my childhood sweetheart, parents raised thoroughbreds in San Diego County. He was about 6 months old and I was 26.

2. How did you get involved with gaited horses?

At about age 16 when my sister bought her 1st Tennessee Walker out of Rogers Go Boy.

3. What are your favorite types of riding? What is your favorite event to participate in with your horse? Your favorite Southern Comfort Event?

Competitions, trail events, showing, drill

4. How long have you been a southern Comfort Member? Why did you join?

I enjoyed coming and participating at the Poker Ride.

5. How many horses own you? Tell us something about them we have not heard before.

One horse owns me.

6. Tell about one of your favorite horses. What makes him or her special. Describe the horse. Size? Color? Age? Breed? Sex? What does the horse do well?

My favorite horse was Topaz. She was a Palomino Roan. I think she was a small draft breed. I could ride her with her halter and a pad anywhere.

7. If your horse could describe you what would (s)he say? What makes you a good human? What would your horse want you to do more? Less?

I reassure my horse that everything's ok. I do everything so he knows what to expect. I try to always be patient. I think he would like me to take him out on the trail a lot more.

8. If you could ride anywhere in the world, where would you ride? Why?

Good Question. . .

More background from Sue

My first horse was when I was about four years old and replaced my stick horse that I galloped around the house with.

This one was beautiful and large enough for me to ride on while watching the Lone Ranger. It was suspended on springs that I faithfully rode every day in the middle of our family room in the basement of our big house. When I reached the age of about 8 or 9 and my parents bought me a bicycle I would pretend that it was also my horse.

Years later after moving to California and the divorce of my parents my older sister Judy purchased her 1st Tennessee Walking Horse and had her mare boarded close by Griffith Park in the San Fernando Valley. I would go with her to see her horse while she took care of "Scarlett" however I would usually have to retract back away from the hay and dander of the horses due to severe allergies. I so wanted to not be allergic, It just didn't seem fair. After a time two other siblings also got there own horses so I decided that at least if I was heavily medicated I could ride every now and then.

Well as fate would have it, I graduated from High School from Van Nuys, Ca. and decided to move to Salt Lake City Utah to be close to my dad after not being able to and proceeded to go to College. When I graduated my Junior High School sweetheart and I decided to marry and I moved back to California. His parents raised Thoroughbreds for the race track. To make a long story short by some fluke we ended up with one of their horses they had gotten on a trade. I didn't think I would be able to be involved at all because of all the trips I had in and out of hospitals as a child but apparently I had grown out of being allergic!

The rest is history! I had to make up for lost time and boy did I enjoy finally being able to be around horses and have had one of my own since the days of "Man O Wars" great grandson.



Sue and Sun's Merry Cimarron

Spotlight - Lawrance Valdez

I grew up in Rupert, ID. I have always been around horses and had the good fortune to have a father who understood the horse and trained them. So I was on my way to becoming a horseman from the beginning. Once the passion was ignited there has been no way to smother it and put it out.

1. Tell us about your first horse? Breed? Age? Your Age?

I got my first horse, or I should say pony, was when I was 3 yrs old. My Dad bought me a 1 yr old registered Shetland pony. He was a red chocolate with a flaxen mane and tail. Of course I named him "Silver". Hey, what can I say, I was 3 yrs old and that's what I wanted to name him. But my dad helped me train him and bring him along and he was a wonderful first horse. I had him till I was 10 and out grew him.

My next horse was a POA gelding named Thunder. He was a seal blue with leopard spots on his back and rump. We got him as a 2 yr old and my dad helped me train him. He turned out wonderful and was a real gem as he took care of me as I grew up. When I out grew Thunder, I sold him to a good home in order to buy my next horse.

A beautiful blood bay $\frac{3}{4}$ QH $\frac{1}{4}$ Arab mare named Sweet. At this point I was 16 yrs old. We started her as a 4 yr old and she was an awesome mare who helped me earn many awards in the 4-H and Arab shows here in Idaho. I had her till I went off to college and then sold her to my cousin.

I have had many horses at the same time I had these horses, but these were key horses in my life that really made a difference for me as I developed my horsemanship skills and knowledge.

The next really important horse in my life was an amazing Appy mare named Indy. Indy came to me to be trained. Her owner recognized that the mare was more horse than she could handle and I bought her from her. So I started working with her using all of the conventional tools in my tool box and unfortunately none of them worked. She kept getting worse. This was a SUPER sensitive horse, needing less than an ounce of pressure to get a response. When I started with her, I thought I understood how to apply pressure and be aware of my energy. But boy oh boy did she humble me. And thankfully, I was willing to realize that I needed more than what I knew at that time and I started to look for answers in other places. This mare is the one who lead me to Natural Horsemanship, which was when I found Parelli and started to follow Pat all over the

country. I was like a sponge. I couldn't get enough. I earned my levels 1-3 with Indy and it turned her life around and mine too. This would have been more than 23 years ago. I gave it everything I had. I wanted answers and I was willing to work for them. And I got them. Indy had high expectations for me and made me work for everything I got from her. She made me toe the line and wouldn't give me an inch. She was so sensitive her skin would literally crawl when she was touched. I felt like I was riding a cube of butter. Laugh if you want, it does sound funny to imagine that. But I got so much out of my time with her. I would spend hours and hours and hours riding her, trying to build a connection with her. We went everywhere. She could go all day long and all night too and not get the least bit tired. And we literally did rides that were all day and night at times. I now realize that one of her gifts was that she could do the "Indian Shuffle" (my first exposure to smooth gaits). She was from the lines of Appaloosa known to produce horses that could perform this gait. Old timers said she was doing the running walk so that is what I called it at that time. And I really appreciated it too!!! One of her other amazing skills was that she would NEVER get lost. Ever!!! Didn't matter how far we'd gone. It's like she had a GPS built in and knew every turn and twist in a trail and where it went and how to get back home. She had one foal for me, who I still have now as a 5 yr old. His name is "Chad-A-Hoochy in Blue Jeans". Indy died at 21 yrs old on my birthday leaving Chad with me at a month old. Of course I miss her, but she blessed me with one of the greatest opportunities to advance my horsemanship to date. And I have only just begun. Never seems like I can get enough knowledge.

Another key horse in my life was the Peruvian stallion, Marevida, who was big, stunning, gaited and solid black with 3 white socks. He and his band of mares came to be with me for many years. I rode this horse to the Champion of Champions title for the breed. This is the horse that everyone remembers me by because of seeing me in so many parades and shows and such. Quite an impressive horse. I tried to be worthy of him in every way. I took a lot of pride in that horse.

Because horses are my life and business I have had many many horses come and go from my life. All have been great teachers for me as I work with them and bring them along for myself or for their owners. But certain horses like the ones I have mentioned, become key horses that represent turning points in my horse career.

In the present: I acquired my buckskin Paso Fino mare Chenille, and another paso fino gelding named Cory, from Jan Gibson after having several of her horses sent

to me for training. You are all getting to know these horses thru seeing us at rides, clinics, demos & performances with the club. Both are amazing horses and have their own stories. They have opened up another door for me into the world of the super sensitive horse with a high level of intelligence and energy and athleticism, and they are showing me more and more all the time. Having learned what Indy taught me, I am ready to take things to an even higher level now. It's a progression. One thing builds on another. The more I learn, the more I realize I have to learn. And I know it'll never end.

2. How did you get involved with gaited horses?

I got involved with gaited horses first thru Indy. But my first significant exposure to them was when I had an opportunity to work for a year with a gentleman from Paul, ID who raised Peruvian Horses. He taught me about the breed, their gaits, training them, everything he could share with me, he shared and I absorbed. When he passed away, his widow sent all of their Peruvians to me. They stayed with me for many years until a point in my life when it was necessary to send them back.

During the time they were with me, I participated in trail rides and any shows and parades that were available in Idaho. The black stallion, **Marevida**, is the horse that everyone remembers me by. And even though he is now passed away, I still have people ask me about him.

I got involved with the Paso Fino breed thru Sandy Young in 2008 when a friend of mine introduced us. I acquired a couple of her horses and have been having a blast with the breed ever since. It's hard to believe I had gone so many years without a gaited horse after sending the Peruvians back to their owner. But I am at it again and enjoying every minute of floating around on these horses doing everything I can manage to do, including trail rides, working cattle, parades, demos, breed challenges, drill team, and more. As you all know about our gaited horses, there is nothing that they can't do. And I like to do it all.

3. What are your favorite types of riding?

Anything to spend time with horses. Anything!!!!

What is your favorite event to participate in with your horse?

When it comes to competition I love Reining horses. It's my forte. It's like western dressage. I LOVE it!!!! And any breed of horse can do it. I have had the privilege of capturing several reining championship titles over the years.

What is Your favorite Southern Comfort Event?

I have only been in the Horse Expo demos and the Gait clinic held May 12th (that was really well done, I enjoyed helping people with the trail obstacles) and judged the

play days for a couple years. I have enjoyed them all. If I lived closer, I'd be able to do more with the club outside of those events. But I am glad to be involved whenever I can. I am looking forward to the gaited drill team demo on July 13th. I would like to come up for some of the trail rides and camp outs.

4. How long have you been a southern Comfort Member?

Two years as an official member. I have known about the club for some time and knew several of its members.

Why did you join?

Because it seemed like a good thing to do since I was participating in more things with the club and I could take advantage of the benefits offered. I am enjoying doing more things with the group as I can. It has been a real pleasure to be connected with this group and get to know the members better.

5. How many horses own you? Tell us something about them we have not heard before.

I currently have 4 horses. **Chad, Trixie, Chenille and Cory.**

Chad, is now a 5 yr old and was Indy's final gift to me. He ended up being an orphan. His momma died on my birthday when he was a month old. I tried to get him on another mare, but she would only let him nurse if I was around, which was not as often as needed, so he ended up being given milk replacer. He has bonded really strongly with me and fortunately is not spoiled in anyway.

Trixie is a Hackney Pony that I went to back to Iowa to get. She is a driving pony and I got her so that my mother, who I had nominated for Grandma Queen, would have a way to make her entrance into the arena when she won. She had polio and is in a wheel chair and is not able to ride a horse. So this will allow her to make her grand entrance and do things with horses that she otherwise can not do.

Chenille is my special paso fino mare who I think was sent my way in order to wake me up and send me to a higher level of horsemanship. I have had life changing experiences with this little mare and I would expect many more are coming my way. She has a very high level of sensitivity and energy and has not been spoiled in any way. It has been a pleasure to have a horse like this come to me that is a clean slate with no issues. She has allowed me into her life to share and play with me at a high level of horsemanship. You will see us doing many things in the future as we progress to new heights.

Cory is my super ultra sensitive, highly intelligent, very athletic, paso fino gelding who has an interesting history associated with how he came to be with me. He started off his life with kindness and good handling. But when he was sent off to be started under saddle, he had the misfortune of being with someone who didn't have a clue bridle and rode with the "carrot sticks", which are used to

help guide a horse as they are progressing to upper levels to ultimately be able to have only my body and legs guide her and no sticks. But she wasn't ready to do it without sticks yet. But to have her canter and turn and spin and shift gears and stop and so on, showed what can be accomplished. To finish I dismounted and played with her at liberty on the ground. She copied my moves, circled around me at a canter, we played the beginning of a cutting game, side passed to me and away from me and more. For her to be able to do this, especially in front of a crowd when she had never been in front of one before, is saying a lot for the bond and level of trust that was created between her and I. I was so proud of her I felt like crying. She gave me the best feedback I could have ever asked for that evening. It didn't matter that we didn't win. I won her heart and it showed in a big way. That meant more to me than anything.

I am glad that so many of you were able to attend and be in the stands to cheer us on. I heard you all up there and really appreciated having you there on my side. Thank you for supporting me in the event.

And the other thing that came out of that performance is that the Expo organizers have asked me to participate next year as one of their clinicians. You can't beat that. How to read what a sensitive horse like this needed to help him accept the work being done. The horse interpreted what was going on as being predatory in nature. He was scared to death, but he did manage to muster enough courage to figure out he needed to do something to get it to stop, and so he became a buck. And not just ordinary crowd hops. This was as good a buck as you'll see at any rodeo. He did not trust that he was going to be OK. And he was going to give it his all to make sure "what" he didn't trust (the human) was going to leave him alone. So when he came to me to be trained, I had some work to do to "un-do" what had been done before. This was no small task. I made some progress in some ways, but there was always a suspicion and he was always "locked and loaded" and ready to explode when least expected. And he was good at reading when you were least expecting it. Anything could set him off. So I discussed some options with Jan, and it was decided he needed to go back out on pasture to have some "down time" so he could chill out and just be a horse and not have anyone asking anything of him when it came to riding. He got a chance to grow up. Then when she was sending some other horses to me for training, we discussed Cory and I decided that I wanted to have Cory come and live with me permanently. Arrangements were made and since that time, it's been a slow progression and steady improvement. The turnout time did him wonders. While I am aware that a buck could appear at any moment, Cory has been on trail rides, in parades, worked cattle, been in drills, run timed events, and helped me in clinics, and on and on. And since I have had my awareness shifts with Chenille about my energy and how I use it, this horse has finally started to allow me to touch him in ways that used to cause him to kick or move away from me, even though I thought I was being respectful and

trustworthy. He is really giving me another eye opening opportunity to become a more aware horseman and give back more to my horses than I have ever been able to do before.

6. Tell about one of your favorite horses.

All of my horses are special to me. See the previous descriptions about many of them.

But I would have to say that Chenille is one of my all time favorite horses. I have already spoken about her a bunch. But again, this little mare is one of the greatest horses to have ever come into my life. She is the one I rode in the "Breed Challenge" at the 2013 Horse Expo. Preparing for the event, really made me stretch. I had two months to get ready once I decided to participate. She was 16 yrs old and even though she'd been started when young, she'd only been used as a brood mare. So we got busy and I really had to pay attention to everything, especially to my own energy and how I used it to help her learn what I was asking of her and to develop the trust that was needed to help her have the courage to perform in a situation that was scary for her. I had several "oh wow" moments as we practiced. And by the time we performed at the Expo, Chenille did a beautiful job with her performance and managed to get the attention of the audience. I started riding her with a bridle in a simple reining pattern. Then I took off the

7. If your horse could describe you what would (s)he say? What makes you a good human? What would your horse want you to do more? Less?

I would hope that they would say that I am a fair, kind, respectful person and that I go about things with them in a way that gives them a say in everything that we do. I give them the opportunity to grow and learn just like I want to do.

Do unto them as you would have them do unto you. If you want to be treated fairly, then treat them fairly. If you want to be respected, then treat them with respect. If you want them to be kind, then be kind with them. Tit for Tat. What goes around comes around. What you give out you get back.

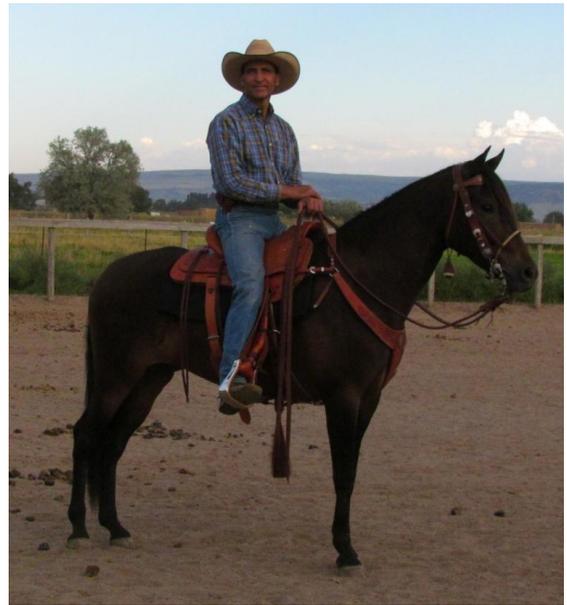
I think there are probably times when my horses would like to have me slow things down a bit and enjoy more time with them.

8. If you could ride anywhere in the world, where would you ride? Why?

I would ride in the Canyon lands of southern Utah and into Arizona. The red lands. It's south western and I love the culture and the feeling it gives me. A good warm feeling and it is in my culture, which I love. My roots go back to it. My ethnic background is Basque, German and Native American.



Lawrance and Chenille



Lawrance and Cory



Expo 2013



Lawrance and Indy



Expo 2013

Calendar

June

- 1** IMO Wildcat Springs Marsing Area, TBD
- 1-2** Open Idaho Mountain Trail Challenge, Thistle Creek Ranch, Wilder
- 8** Buckskin Challenge, SWIT andDR
- 8-9** Natural Horsemanship Clinic with Lawrance Valdez, Al Birt Arena
- 10** Club Meeting 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
- 15** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
- 18** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
- 22** IMO Jump Creek Marsing Area
- 24-28** Southern Comfort Trail Ride Camping Exploratory, McCall
- 27** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD

July

- 6** Southern Comfort Orienteering Ride, Horseshoe Bend, Info, Lois Murphy
July Meeting
- 9-14** Southern Comfort Trail and Camping, McCall, Info Anne Martin
- 12-13** Eagle Fun Days
- 13** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
- 16** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
- 20** IMO Banner Creek, TBD
- 25** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD

August

- 6-10** City of Rocks, SWITandDR
- 12** Club Meeting 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
- 16-18** Southern Comfort Trail and Camping, Cowboy Campground, Idaho City
- 17** IMO Dry Buck Sweet Area TBD
- 20** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
- 29** Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD

September

- Aug 31-1 Old Selam, SWITandDR, Centerville, ID
7 IMO TBD
9 Club Meeting 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
14 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
17 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
21 IMO TBD
26 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
28-29 Natural Horsemanship Clinic with Lawrance Valdez, Al Birt Arena

October

- Roughriders Poker Ride TBD
Blazer Poker Ride TBD
6 Southern Comfort Poker Ride TBD
14 Club Meeting 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
19 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
22 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
31 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD

November

- 2 Playday, Al Birt Arena
11 Club Meeting 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
16 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
19 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD

December

Christmas Party, TBD

Parade America in Nampa, Saturday May 18, 2013
Jan Gibson on Contessa and Lawrance Valdez on Sunny



Expo 2013



Kristi



Liane



Greg



Kathy
with
Salsa



Judie



Deb



Sue H



Jan



Expo 2013

Black
Royal Blue
Moss
Mango
Pomegranate
Pink
Red



For those of you who might want to order a Salamander for your helmet, I thought you might enjoy the letter we got from them when we placed an order. It was too funny not to share.

Today your order was lovingly removed from our shelves by Julie, our Product Specialist, and placed into our velvet-lined wheelbarrow.

Our 5-member equine team, headed by Royale Rouge, inspected your items to make sure they were in the best possible condition before mailing.

Stephanie, our Ordering Specialist, rang a bell and a hush fell over the barn as our Shipping Specialist, placed your items into the finest corrugated box that money can buy.

We all had a wonderful celebration afterward and our entire team waved goodbye to your package, on its way to you in our private A.R.T. jet.

I hope you had a wonderful time shopping with us at Action Rider Tack. We certainly did. We wish we had a picture of you and your horse to hang on our wall as "Customer of the Week" and to add to our website photo gallery. We're all exhausted but can't wait for you to come back to ACTION RIDER TACK.

Happy Trails!

Candy Kahn **BE ONE WITH YOUR HORSE!™**

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