



November 2013

2013 Officers

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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

Please send good thoughts to Dottie Green who is recuperating from back surgery and Andriette Goudreau from hip surgery. Hope to see you at the Christmas Party.

This and That

- ✚ Next meeting, November 11 , at Sunrise Café, Middleton, 7:00 pm
- ✚ Spotlight for October - Heidi Young Wonderful! Thank You Heidi

FACEBOOK NEWS –

For those of you who joined the Facebook Group, Southern Comfort Gaited Horses, Heidi Young has graciously created a new Group, *Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club*, where members can post pictures, and find out about events of the club. If you joined our original group, please find your way to the new group and join. The original group will go away eventually so please join the new group.

Next Meeting



*Monday, November 11, Sunrise Café
Middleton, Idaho,
200 E. Main St. 585-9700.*

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

This meeting will be to plan the Christmas Party on December 9th. The Party will be for all members of the club. Members are allowed to bring a guest for the price of the dinner, to be determined later. The club treasury will pay the bill at the restaurant so all those who are guests and paying for their meal must pay the treasurer for their dinner. Then one check will be given to the restaurant. More details to come.

Also we will talk about the Playday and all the fun that was had by all.



Happy Birthday
November 19 – Janet Zandersmith

Spotlight - Heidi Young

My pursuit of horses began as a teenager. I convinced my parents I truly wanted to learn to ride by 1) agreeing to take piano lessons, and 2) paying half of the cost fancy-shmancy Connecticut riding academy charged or required. I only earned a buck an hour babysitting so it took a lot of hours just to pay for the required uniform. You know, buff-colored jodhpurs (and back then they were poofy and distinctly unflattering), boots, a velveteen hunt cap and a plain, button-down shirt. We all looked exactly alike and the gestapo instructor didn't even try to use your name. As we endlessly trotted around the arena, she'd yell out *"YOU THERE ON JIMBO: HEELS DOWN, SHOULDERS BACK !"* After a year or two of weekly lessons, I asked when we were going to actually ride the trails around the stable. They replied something like *"we don't do trails"*. I never went back.

Luckily I babysat for a family down my street that had a retired thoroughbred racehorse and they graciously let me ride him. After learning how to groom and tack up, with double bridles and running martingales, I hit the trails and explored any forest I could get to. I think that's where I learned to STAY in the saddle. A short 14-year old girl, remounting a 17 1/2 hand horse out on the trail took some doing. I made sure I didn't need to do it often.

College and various career paths came next but I'd find an way to ride or rent a horse whenever possible. Rented horses were pretty boring so I started asking for horses that hadn't been ridden in a while, or were too much for the others to handle. One time I was riding my uncle's friend's mare out in the countryside of Brazil and we were visited by a roaming stud. I had to find a branch to beat the guy off of us. And for some reason the mare didn't appreciate my attempts to protect her virtue. She backed me down a drainage ditch and tried to rub me off on a scrubby tree. But I won that round and

was fairly proud of the scratch along my boot for many years to come. Every bump, bruise and scrape that I seem to acquire far too easily, are in my mind, are just part the price of admission. You gotta 'pay to play' and I do like to get out there and play.

Years later, when my husband and I were traveling around the country, living full-time in a big RV, we spent our winters in southern California. I found a young woman nearby that needed help exercising and training her Arabs as endurance prospects. For several winters, I'd ride her horses, long-trotting for hours to see if these not-quite-stellar ex-racing horses could be resold as useable mounts. With lots of wet saddle blankets, and a little natural horsemanship here and there, and an endurance ride every so often; we'd turn these guys around.

After a while, my husband decided to UN-retire and help fight forest fires. He had flown helicopters back in Vietnam and maintained his pilot's license. To get current with his helicopter time, he spent a summer flying tours over the Grand Canyon. While he flew, I went and found a job as a trail guide at a small ranch near the south rim of the canyon. Not leading the literal train of mules going down into the canyon; these were regular horseback rides in the forests just outside of the park. The other cowboys didn't think too much of English-style riding, Arab horses or endurance riding. Heck, they didn't think much of trotting. It seemed to me they just sat on their huge quarter horses (everything seems big when you're used to Arabs) and walked really slowly -- no one ever WENT anywhere. I always volunteered to ride out and bring in the string of horses in the mornings; anything to get out there and get going somewhere. They did learn not to ask me to bring in a specific horse, like the little red roan; because I never could figure out what all those words actually meant.

But I worked hard at becoming a western rider, which translated into *not* sitting up straight. I even wore chaps, a plaid shirt and a cowboy hat. I almost wished I had a can of tobacco in my back pocket to complete the picture. Tourists assumed I was a western cowgirl as I'd point out the flora and fauna during the guided rides. I didn't think it was appropriate to disabuse them of that notion.

At our next fire season assignment, we were based at a forest service heli-base in the middle of Nowheresville, Montana. Groceries were an hour and a half away on a gravel road. But there was a large, working cow ranch nearby and the family sponsored a nationally-recognized endurance ride each year. So I approached them to see if I could ride, help out, move cows, whatever they might need. Lo and behold, they gave me a 3-year old Arab to work with for the entire summer. I'd decided this was the perfect opportunity to use the Parelli system. Armed with my carrot stick, my lead line and a little book listing out the lessons; we'd try and figure out the 7 games in some meadow, out of sight from anyone. By the end of the summer, we'd both learned a whole lot. He only dumped me once, but since no one saw it; it didn't count.

After 10 years of traveling in our RV, we settled in Boise and found property out in the country; and it was just too perfect for horses. I'd ridden other people's horses for so long, I hadn't really thought I'd ever own one. I decided to look for an Arab-Quarter cross; figuring I'd get the best of both breeds. But a neighbor that didn't even know me, heard I was shopping. Having recently discovered Paso Finos, she tracked me down and insisted I consider them. She hauled me down to meet Sandy Young and I took a test ride. Since that day, I have been so grateful for her recommendation.

The Paso Fino energy and brio didn't bother me at all after riding Arabs. And since I have a screwed up spine, I knew this gaited thing was a good thing for me. I would never be able to ride half as much as I do if I was on a trotting horse. After researching the breed and preparing our property for horses, I got serious about finding one. Luckily, Sandy had the perfect first horse for us; a solid-

boned and serious 10-year old grey gelding named Chico. You could put your grandmother on him and not think twice, he was that solid.



Chico – Mr. Solid

Over the past 10 years that I've lived in Idaho, I've actually had several Pasos. I had a wonderful and gentle gelding named Francisco but lost him to *DSLD about two years ago.



Chico and Franco in antlers

Currently, I have Arrogante', a 20-year old gelding who finally is the horse I'd hoped he'd be when I got him for my husband 6 years ago. Those of you that see him now and think he is such a wonderful horse would not recognize what troubles he used to give me. Years ago I took him to a Larry Whitesell clinic (he is a gaited trainer), I couldn't even mount up in the arena; he was that distracted and reactive. Now, of course, he loves our arena time at the clinics.

Arri and I have progressed our way up to liberty 'work' (its more like play) in our natural horsemanship journey. And while this surely takes time, patience and dedication, it's been so

rewarding. I know I would never have progressed half as far without these ongoing clinics -- and a really good coach. I've been lucky enough to watch Pat Parelli, Clinton Anderson, John Lyons, Buck Brannaman, and Monty Roberts; but nothing is as good as a coach that knows you and your horse.



Heidi and husband Terry

My husband and I used to do a lot of ride-camping and mounted orienteering together. He doesn't ride anymore, so in the past few years I've explored other ways to get out and ride. Getting involved with the gaited club has helped tremendously. From the drill team to the fun-show classes to the natural horsemanship clinics; it's all been a great learning experience. I hope I'm still riding in my 60's and 70's; we have some great role models around us that make me think it's entirely possible!

* DSLD: degenerative suspensory ligament disease is now called ESPA: Equine Systemic Proteoglycan Accumulation. It is actually a systemic disease of all the connective tissues in the body, but is most easily seen in the suspensory ligaments. It has no known cure. There is an herbal treatment protocol to help with pain and possibly slow the progression although it did not help my horse. It is hereditary and affects any breed as much as another.



Arri and Heidi doing maneuvers



PLAYDAY 2013

**Dues - \$30 individual, \$40 Family please join in 2014
Applications and dues – due in January**

Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club

Check One:

_____ New Membership

_____ Membership Renewal

Name (print)_____ Home Phone_____ Cell Phone_____

Address_____ City/ST/Zip_____

Email Address_____ Birthday (month/day, Optional)_____

Emergency Contacts_____

Life Flight Member Yes_____ No_____ If yes, which Provider_____

Veterinarian Name and Phone Number_____

Your Horse's Name_____ Breed_____

What kinds of equestrian events are you interested in:_____

I agree to comply with Club By Laws and will help promote the Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club. I understand that the officers of the Club shall make all final decisions on Club policies. I understand as a member I may request to review club records and policies.

Please note the club calendar of events is published on the web site www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Signature of Applicant_____ Date_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian if under 18 years of age_____ Date_____

Please fill out Hold Harmless Agreement.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS

Effective Calendar Year _____

NOTICE: This Document is a Legally Binding Contract Limiting Your Rights to Recover for Injury or Loss!

Nothing in this agreement is intended to limit the effect or replace the limitation of liability provided by Idaho's Equine Activities Immunity Act, Idaho Code 6-1801 et. Seq. This agreement is intended to extend greater protection to Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club. By signing this document you waive your rights to bring any legal claim to recover compensation or obtain any other remedy for injury or death to yourself, your spouse, your children, or others for the loss or damage to property, however caused, arising out of the negligent or other tortuous acts of the officers or agents listed below, now or at any time in the future, caused by their actions or failure to act, or otherwise. You also agree to protect, defend, and indemnify the officers or agents listed below against all claims for injuries you caused to others in connections with any of their activities.

1. Definitions. Herein "SCGHC" means Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club, its officers, agents, activity coordinators, activity leaders;

"I" means the undersigned individual, all heirs, and the members of their family, including any minors whether or not

accompanying the individual, and the personal representative, executors, and administrator of the individual.

2. Release and Waiver of all Claims and Covenant not to Sue. In consideration of participation in the activities of SCGHC by me, by my spouse, children and other dependents, I irrevocably waive and release SCGHC and the owners of all facilities, equipment, and land used in SCGHC activities from, and WAIVE MY SUBSTANTIAL RIGHT TO ASSERT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION, CLAIM OR DEMANDS OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER, including but not limited to, any claim of negligence, which I may have or acquire in the future against SCGHC on account of personal injury, property damage, death, or accident of any kind, arising from my involvement in SCGHC activities, however the injury or damage is caused, including, but not limited to, the negligence of SCGHC. I contractually release SCGHC and agree to hold SCGHC harmless from any and all liability for any claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of actions or suits of any kind or nature whatsoever, which result or may result in the future from activities sponsored by SCGHC or coordinated by SCGHC members. This release applies to all SCGHC activities in the future in which I may participate. This release shall be effective and apply to all my heirs and the members of my family, including any minors, whether or not they accompany me and my personal representative, executors and administrators.

3. Legal Actions Limitation. If SCGHC has to take legal action in relation to this Agreement, and SCGHC is successful in the action, the unsuccessful party shall pay SCGHC, in addition to all sums that the unsuccessful party may be called on to pay, a reasonable sum for SCGHC's attorney's fees and court costs. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Idaho. Venue for any dispute or litigation arising out of this Agreement shall be in ADA County, Idaho District Court. Any modification of this Agreement or additional obligation assumed by either party in Connection with this agreement shall be binding only if in writing signed by each party or authorized representative of each party. There shall be no oral amendment or modification of this Agreement.

4. Acknowledgment of Risk. I hereby acknowledge and agree that activities of SCGHC are frequently inherently dangerous and have a high degree of risk. I acknowledge that by execution hereof, I am waiving and releasing all claims against SCGHC for any injury whatsoever. I agree to participate as a common adventurer, being personally responsible for my own safety and not looking to any others to protect me from harm.

5. Statement of Capacity and Understanding. I will not undertake any activity of SCGHC without becoming fully aware of the nature and extent of the risks inherent therein. By participation, I am voluntarily assuming the risks. I will not engage in the activities unless I am in good health and have no physical limitations, which could preclude my safe participation. I understand I am responsible for my own instruction in safety and providing for my own safety. I am of lawful age (18 years or older) and other wise legally competent to sign this agreement. I understand that the terms of this agreement are contractual and legally binding. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have carefully read this agreement, and sign of my own free will.

XSignature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

If above named individual is under 18 years of age: Parent or Guardian Consent: I as parent or guardian of the above named minor under 18 years of age, hereby consent to the terms and conditions set forth in this Release and Waiver of Claim form. I authorize his or her signing it, and covenant not to sue. If any provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable or in conflict with law of any jurisdiction, the validity, legally and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

XSignature _____ Date _____

Print Your Name _____

Playday Pics



Calendar

November

- 2** Playday, Al Birt Arena
11 Club Meeting 6:30 Social and 7:00 Meeting, Sunrise Café, Middleton
15-17 Mark Harnden Clinic, Triple Ridge Stables, Eagle
16 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD
19 Southern Comfort Trail Ride TBD

December

- 9** Christmas Party, TBD

**Mark Harnden Clinic
November 15-17
Triple Ridge Stables
3390 Triple Ridge Place
Eagle, ID 83616
8:30 - 5:30 Fri., Sat., Sun.**

Mark is an expert reiner and dressage rider. He is happy to address any issues including rearing, bucking, general horsemanship and trailer issues. He does incredible groundwork and trick training (Spanish Walk, Bowing, Laying Down, etc.) You can reference him at: harndenperformancehorses.com

Sessions will be scheduled at 45 minute increments each at \$110. They are traditionally private sessions but you are welcome to share your time with someone else if you like. Auditors are welcome at no charge. Bring your own chair.

Please contact Sarah Filiger
to schedule a ride or for more information.
Call or text: 208-891-3460
or Email:
sarahfiliger324@msn.com.

Happy Thanksgiving to all

