

HOOFBEATS

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

Note from editor: By now we would typically be sharing pictures of the club's presentation at the April Horse Expo and other fun club rides, camping trips or clinic. But Covid makes it all different! We were able to have an April club meeting at Eagle Island state park and will do that again in July.

We've been able to have some small group rides and lots of pictures are shared on our Facebook group page. (we have a public page and a private page)

March at Hardtrigger with Roberta, Lisa, Erica, Jeanne and Roberta behind the camera: (there is a video on FB too).



Next Meeting: July 13th Eagle Foothills Meeting: 7 pm

Ride before mtg : 5:30
(or ride after mtg)

Website:

Membership forms
available, previous
newsletters, articles and
pictures:
www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Facebook:

Search for "Southern
Comfort Gaited Horse
Club" or click [https://
www.facebook.com/
groups/
173300099742934/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/173300099742934/) and
request to be added. That
is our PUBLIC group and
has a nationwide coverage
with over 225 followers.
We also have a separate
PRIVATE page, solely for
members.

Barry Bean's family doing
some "ranching"



Eagle Foothills in April:

Heidi, Jeanne, Catherine, Lisa, Jan,
Derek, Johnson's son, and Nick
behind camera.



June, near Bryce Canyon in Utah:

Jan, Anne,
Jeanne,
Janice (a
friend that led
our rides),
SueB and
Heidi (behind
camera).
More on the
FB page,
videos too.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTINA FENNER

We moved to Nampa from Meridian in the fall of 2017 because we'd found a place where we had room for a horse or two. Up until then, my first and only horse, Magic, a Missouri Fox Trotter, was boarded for 5 years. Shortly after the move my neighbor with horses moved away and I felt bad that Magic didn't have any companions, not even at a distance. So I decided to adopt a wild burro, Loki. I'd never owned a donkey before, let alone a "wild" one. They are a hoot! Luckily my hoof trimmer is somewhat wild himself, so it worked out.



I was born, raised and lived in Germany most of my life and I've loved horses since before I could talk. At age 14 my dad agreed to pay for vaulting lessons, which I took for 2 years. They won't let you stay on past age 16. Then I took riding lessons for maybe a year. I didn't know until I moved here and got involved with horses that they were English riding lessons. Over there it was just how you rode.

Fast forward. I moved to the U.S. and Idaho in 2001. And in 2010 I started volunteering at Blazing Hope Youth Ranch, run by a former pastor with a big heart for children, Blazer horses (a breed that originated in Star, Idaho) and ministry. He would let these kids ride for free after they did horse chores and he was always in

need of volunteers. Many of these children are from broken homes and he is a father figure to them. It was in this environment that my buried dream of owning a horse one day came back to life.

When I set out to find a horse I pictured a specimen I'd be going on lots of beautiful trail rides on. I wasn't looking for gaited, didn't even quite know what that was, however, I had heard of the Icelandic tolt before. Not that Magic did much gaiting when I got him. Or anything else for that matter. Nor did I. Formula for disaster? It can be. But I found an excellent trainer and both Magic and I learned a ton in a short time. Everything but gaiting because my trainer knew nothing about it and frankly, it was not on the forefront of my mind since I had all these other fundamentals to cover first. The gait came back, hesitantly at first, after I'd watched videos and read up on the subject, tried this and that. The breakthrough came, however, when Ivy Schexnayder came to town and I was so fortunate to get a private lesson with her. Having someone there in person, showing me, made all the difference in the world! With practice it got better and better and I wish I could say we're perfect but we're not. Not even close. But man, is it nice when it happens! Needless to say I'm glad I stumbled upon a gaited horse. As you know with horses there are lots of ups and downs and I wouldn't change a thing including my recent concussion. That too taught me something: wear a helmet and keep your Lifeflight membership current. Also work on de-spooking your horse (especially mine).

Thank you for all your well wishes after the accident, I very much appreciated them.