

The Lead Line

A Publication of the Alabama Morgan Horse Club

2013 BOARD MEMBERS:

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Carol Potts, 256-482-3953

Vice President:

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- o Ann Canavan, 423-533-2688
- o Pat Cargile, 334-281-2955
- o Sara Jablonowski, 256-566-1228
- o Val Jones, 334-787-1637
- o Erica Lyons, 334-329-8354
- o Trula McMickin, 256-324-8254



AMHA Liaison:

Patsy Pennington, 256-332-5374

Newsletter Co-editors:

Pat Cargile & Val Jones

From the President...

On January 5, fourteen people met for our annual Christmas Potluck. We held a silent auction which did well. We welcomed five new members: Nancy Adams, Gail Dixon, Fred Helms, Wade Boelter, and Jon Thieman. As of that day, we had 15 members and 3 youth members.

I am so thankful, as I'm sure are the other Board members, to have Nancy Adams volunteer to be Secretary and Gail Dixon volunteer to be Treasurer. I wish to thank Sara for all of her hard work on the previous newsletters. She is stepping down, and Pat Cargile and Val Jones will be the new co-editors of The Lead Line.

With new members come new ideas and a resurgence of hope that we will keep the Alabama Morgan Horse Club active. I am grateful for each and every one of our volunteers and the talents that they bring.

I did ask for a planning committee and since everyone jumped at the chance, I guess that makes each and every member of the Club also a member of the planning committee. We hope to get some of our old members back. Tell us what you want. You may contact me or any member of the Board.

Spring is on the way. I say this as I looked out tonight and see a light covering of snow on the ground on March 2nd. It won't be long and we'll all be complaining of the heat!

Hug your horses!
Carol Potts

The Georgia Carriage and Horse Sale

The Southern Georgia Horse-Carriage & Antique Auction will be held May 9, 10, & 11 in Unadilla, GA, in the Southeastern Arena off of Exit 121. This is a good sale that has everything you ever thought of *and* the kitchen sink!

They offer auction items that range from antiques, barn storage clean out, farm goods, all kinds of tack, both English and Western saddles, driving horses, and harnesses. Most of the horses both ride and drive.

I have bought in the past a really neat bird house for \$1.50 and a English saddle in fair condition \$20. There are good buys for everyone!

Submitted by:
Pat Cargile

Our First Edition...

In a recent interview, Pat Cargile said that the newsletter is a type of lifeline reaching out to each member to communicate the latest local Morgan horse news". We plan to publish a quarterly newsletter, news or not, so there's no telling what you'll get. Stay tuned, my friends. This may prove to be a rocky ride, but we'll get there!

We are interested in hearing about your upcoming shows, drives, organized trail rides, cook outs, camp outs, and horses or items for sale. Please remember that advertisements are free of charge for current members.

A great way to add useful content to this newsletter is to develop and write your own articles or to include a calendar of upcoming events. This newsletter is your avenue to network with each other and advertise special offers that promote your products.

You can also research articles or find filler articles by accessing the internet. Any horse-related topic is much appreciated. Send your submissions in Word or text format to Val at valamarfarms@gmail.com.

Pat & Val

ASIAN BEEF AND NOODLES, Submitted by Pat

- 1 1/4 lbs. ground beef
- 2 (3 oz.) packs oriental-flavored ramen noodles
- 1/4 teaspoon of ground ginger
- 1 (16 oz) frozen Oriental stir-fry vegetable mix
- 3 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions

Brown the beef in a large skillet and drain. Add 1/2 cup water. Salt and pepper to taste. Simmer 10 min. Transfer to a bowl. In the same skillet, combine 2 cups of water, vegetables, noodles (broken up), ginger and the seasoning packs that come in the noodles. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat.

Cover and simmer for 3 minutes or until the noodles are tender. Stir occasionally. Return beef to skillet and stir in green onions. Serve right from the skillet and enjoy.

Alabama Morgan Horse Club Treasurer's Report	Horses for Sale
Beginning Bank Balance 875.02	9 year old gelding; Government Morgan. Pulls buggy & saddle rides. Approx. 15.2 hands. Amish trained - very gentle and drives very easy. \$900. 2 Morgan mares: 3 year old & 4 year old. Buggy drives single or double and saddle rides. Amish trained. \$2,200 ea. Call Gail (205) 305-2648 or Fred (256) 352-0167
Receipts –	
Auction 126.00	
Donations 25.00	
Membership Dues 145.00	Venturous Wind Chime (Venturous Legacy x Venturous Amanda) 5/21/11 Bay Filly (raf) \$2,000. Carol Potts 256-482-3953; alippitt@centurylink.net .
Total Receipts 296.00	
Expenses:	Stallion @ Stud. Venturous Donald (Primrose Donald Ash x Venturous Elan) Bay 4 yr. old stallion. Private Treaty. Contact Carol Potts 256-482-3953.
AMHA Club Dues 50.00	
Go Daddy Web Site 17.37	
Total Expenses: 67.37	Scatoaks Amazing Grace a.k.a. “Amy”. Foaled 8/11/10. Full Lippitt Sire: Venturous Colonel. Palomino Dam: Scatoaks Abiding Promise. Amy is for sale to an approved home. Imprinted at birth, she has been handled daily. Beautiful dark golden buckskin filly. John & Margie Singleton @ 256-757-9340 or scatoaks@bellsouth.net . www.scatteredoaksmorgans.com
Bank Balance as of 2-28-2013 1,013.65	

ALABAMA MORGAN HORSE CLUB MEETING

January 5, 2013

Held at the home of Carol Potts

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Potts. Val Jones read the minutes from December 2012. The motion was made by Margie Singleton to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Pat Cargile was unable to be at the meeting. Carol reported a balance of \$875.02 in the checking account. Treasurer report filed.

New Business: Patsey Pennington is going to send Carol her biography of promoting her horses to submit to the AMHA.

Discussion was held about pricing a lifetime membership. Carol told us about the different ways of determining lifetime membership cost. Nancy Adams made a motion to set the single lifetime membership at \$200.00 and family lifetime membership at \$300.00. Motion was passed.

Margie Singleton made a motion for ads placed in our newsletter by a non-member would be priced at \$5.00 for a business card size. Motion passed.

Elections:

President: Carol Potts

Vice President: Margie Singleton

Treasurer: Gail Dixon

Secretary: Nancy Adams

Patsey has agreed to remain as AMHA Liasion.

Margie made the motion to send \$50.00 to the AMHA to be an affiliated club with them. Motion was passed. Several new people signed up as members. Carol Potts adjourned the meeting at 4pm.

Val Jones, *Secretary*

Sara has agreed to stay on as newsletter editor.

Directors are as follows:

- Sara Jablonowski
- Erica Lyons
- Val Jones
- Trula McMicken
- Anne Canavan

Patsey has the horses for sale list information and will give to Sara Jablonowski for the newsletter and also have it put on the website.

Our website address is www.alabamamorgans.com.

Spring Farm Day

Landmark Park Dothan, AL

Turn back the clock 100 years and experience living history demonstrations of sheep shearing, blacksmithing, plowing with draft animals, quilting and other traditional spring farm activities.

SPRING Farm Day Celebrating our Agricultural Heritage
MARCH 16, 2013 • 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Admission

Adults, \$8 • Senior Citizens & Active Military, \$6 •
Children, \$4 • Park Members Free!



- Plowing
- Fiddlers' Convention
- Arts & Crafts
- Sheep Shearing
- Soap Making
- Quilt Display
- Talking Tent
- Plenty of Food and More!

Jeanne Mellin, known throughout the Morgan community as an artist, trainer, breeder and judge as well as the author of such notable books as *The Complete Morgan Horse* and *Horses Across America* is excited to announce the publication of her NEW book, *Pidgy's Surprise*.

The book is an "early chapter book," written at a third grade reading level (ages 7 – 8). With over 80 original drawings by Jeanne, this book is sure to please both fans of her artwork as well as those who love a fun, sweet horse story. Available through Amazon.com and Willow Bend Publishing.

To learn more about *Pidgy's Surprise*, please visit the publisher's website at: www.willowbendpublishing.com

Farm News, Clearwater Stables – Russellville, AL

Duke (Venturous Donald Ash) and I have been venturing out from our "comfort zone" and learning DRESSAGE!!! We started a couple of years ago, but things got in the way and we had to stop. As many of you know, I've been riding and instructing students in Western Pleasure for a number of years. When Duke was 3 and still a stallion, (he's 18 now) he was WP Grand Champion at the Lippitt Country Show in Vermont (1998). For all these years since he has been one of our lesson horses here at Clearwater Stables. And he is presently the ONLY lesson horse! Duke is very sensitive to the ability of the rider. I didn't hesitate to put 3 year old children on him when HE was 3. At 18 he is a seasoned lesson horse and has carried students from 3 to 65 and has never come close to having a mishap. My students from years ago are bringing their children back to take lessons with the Duke!

So we started Dressage again last spring and summer and were beginning to get the "hang" of it when I ended up getting pneumonia and having to stop for a while. I cannot say we were Jim Graham's "prize students" but we were coming along nicely and hope to pick up where we left off when the weather cooperates. We still trail ride a bunch, but now with more "finesse" than before and we both LOVE what we've learned and are anxious to learn more!

Patsey Pennington
Clearwater Stables
Russellville, Alabama
256-332-5374
clrwtrfarm@aol.com

Farm News, Graystone Manor Equestrian Center – Mathews, AL

Pat Cargile's Morgan filly, Tia, is reportedly back home after being trained to drive. Pat plans to go to the Georgia sale to buy a driving cart to fit Tia.

Crabby Mare Cure:

This works, I promise. Add a big handful of pennies to the water bucket of the crabby girl. Days later, as she drinks, see how much better she acts. I don't know how it works, but it seems the copper in the water must be the mineral she needs. It's a cheap fix. (You know how much better horses work with copper bits. They keep the mouth moist.)

Items for Sale

English Saddles – All sizes, mostly well-known brands. Offering jump and dressage saddles with leathers and irons. I have closed my riding school and will also sell a few school horses. All school horses are registered. I have no Morgans for sale. Call Pat Cargile for an appointment. 334-281-2955

2004 Circle J /Silhouette/ 4 Horse - Aluminum Steel Frame Horse trailer; Goose Neck; Dressing Room; Excellent Condition; 24 ft long; rubber pads on floor; padded dividers. Price: \$8995.00 or make offer.

Used Leather Harness - (made by the Amish) (Work gear) \$800 firm. Excellent Condition. Adjustable Collar comes with it. Adjusts from 18" to 22".

Wintec All Purpose Saddle - Slightly used, black, 17" seat / \$250

2 English Leather Show Halters - Red with red and black patent leather brow bands w/ show leads. \$40 each plus you pay shipping from me to you.

Two Western Saddle Pads – New, 30x30", Red and Black, \$20 each. You pay shipping.

Electrobraided Fence Wire, Posts, Driver, and Fence Charger - Not sure how to tell you how much of it is there, but it will surround about 2 acres of land with 4 strands of wire. \$1,000 (\$3,000 value) Used approx. 2 years.

For more information on the above items, call Patsey Pennington @ [256-332-5374](tel:256-332-5374) or email: clrwtrfarm@aol.com.

One Horse Wagon & One Horse Amish Buggy – Contact Carol Potts at 256-482-3953

Do you have items for sale? Please email your items to Val Jones at valamarfarms@gmail.com.

A FORK IN THE ROAD, by Ingrid Jensen

Throughout each of our lives, we will travel many roads. Some of these roads will lead us in parallel directions with our families, friends, and neighbors. And some will only intersect with them or may even re-direct us unexpectedly. It may seem hard to believe, but these sometimes unexpected intersections of our journeys and the resulting, and often painful, re-directions can ultimately put us back on track---even when we still think we are lost.

Each of us, as horse lovers, chooses to enjoy our horses in different ways. I love to ride and I love to drive. But I also love the challenge of learning and trying something new. Last year, my new and challenging direction was to be pairs driving. I was determined to put together two very capable geldings with plenty of experience. The challenging part of all this was to be the training of the driver---me. Until a year and a half ago, even though I am an experienced driver, I had only ever driven a pair, briefly, once in my life.

During the fall of 2011, I got a good sturdy pairs harness and began learning the basics of clothing my pair. I began ground driving them in harness and was thrilled at how well they were doing in spite of their driver. My plan for 2012 was to re-outfit my draft sized forecart for this smaller pair, gain some experience driving them, and then purchase a nice pairs carriage for the three of us.

Winter came with its usual cold and rain, so the harness stayed in the barn along with the horses. Just as spring quietly slipped in, and the weather was becoming friendlier, I noticed one half of my pair had developed some facial swelling and a persistently runny nose. Obviously, this delayed the pairs idea and I just concentrated on identification of this condition and whatever remedy would be necessary. While I hoped for something easily remedied, such as an infection from a bad tooth or perhaps a removable foreign body, I began to realize that it was something more. We went from rounds of antibiotics, to ultrasounds, to surgically invasive biopsies. The answer was a large, fast growing, malignant carcinoma of most of the sinus cavities. Surgery is always an option but rate of recurrence is quick and high. I am still heartbroken after eight months of missing this special horse.

Until the first of this year, I would go to the barn every morning and look at my horses as I fed, and think that it would likely be a very long time before my pairs project would ever become a reality. At this time, I have no other horses which I can partner with the remaining half of my pair. Everyone is either, too small, too big, or simply not ready. And then, near the end of January, I suddenly had an idea. As I stared at my half of a pair one morning, I noticed he was beginning to buddy up with one of the children's ponies. As they nibbled from the same pile of hay, I disgustedly thought, "Why, why, why, can't this excellent little driving pony be just a little bigger? Well, a rock could have fallen from the sky and clocked me on the top of the head and I wouldn't have been as surprised as I was by my very next thought. TANDEM! Yes, tandem, tandem, tandem! Why didn't I think of this before? For anyone who is unfamiliar with this style of driving, just picture a pair of horses harnessed one in front of the other instead of side by side. It is entirely possible to put two horses together in tandem when they are somewhat of a mismatch and not look ridiculous as they might if they were harnessed abreast. So there I stood that morning, in my pasture, staring at my future victims, once again, determined to drive two at a time---somehow.

It was right then that I realized that what I had thought was truly a dead end path for me really wasn't at all. If I had only looked a little farther through my own fog, I would have seen a very clear fork in the road. Be sure and tune in next newsletter for the beginning of my exciting new tandem adventure. I'm already having an insane amount of fun!

Happy Hoof Beats, by Audrey Willmon

My name is Audrey Willmon and I am fourteen years old. I live in Auburn, Alabama and got my Morgan in August of 2012. His name is Valamar Syndero Adonis, but I call him Doni. Doni is six years old and his riding skills are yet to be developed. One thing that I do with Doni is lunging. To me lunging is a listening exercise to see if he is paying attention to what I am asking. Lunging can help your horse's listening skills and also build a little muscle. Doni has been building muscle from bending. Since the horse is on a circle there should be a slight lateral bend in the direction that you are going. It may not sound like much, but your horse's muscles can actually develop a little from holding themselves up and working while bending.

Doni seems full of energy when we get to the ring, but after a little while he starts listening to me. He also relaxes. I believe that relaxation is important in your relationship with your horse. Once Doni relaxes he stretches his head down. I always praise him for this. This movement of stretching down is good because it means that the horse is stretching and lifting his spine from his head to his tail. This can help build a horse's back and rear end muscles because they are carrying themselves differently. Think of it this way: If you walk around with a slouch all the time, then your muscles are developed to support yourself with this slouch taken into consideration. But if you walk around and sit completely erect, then you may find that you get tired. This is because your back muscles are not used to supporting your body in this new, different way. Just like the way that people look nice when they stand up straight, as opposed to slouching, a horse will look nicer when they hold themselves up straight.

I have been lunging Doni since he arrived at my house, and I can tell a difference in the way that he moves and the way that he feels when under saddle. He now holds himself in a more upright position with his back lifted. Lunging can help your horse to learn to stand up straight. That may sound silly because if a horse is not standing up straight, then they would fall over, right? Not exactly. Horses get lazy. This is where the "slouching" comes in to play. Just like we all walk with some sort of slouch, so do our horses- to some extent. The body gets used to a certain balance and habit. When a horse is bent on a circle this lazy balance is thrown off. They now have to lift up their back, pick up their feet, and hold themselves up. If you had to hold yourself off balance and go to work that way every day, then your body would eventually build up the muscle it needed to function that way.

So if you lunge your horse regularly, then they will begin to build muscle. Lots of transitions can keep your horse on his toes, and he will have to be listening to you. Once your horse is listening and responding to you, change direction and do the same thing. Lunging doesn't take a lot of time, so even if you are busy and you feel like time is short you can still get out to the barn and lunge for a few minutes. I will take any opportunity to get to the barn, and won't we all? Well until next time, happy hoof beats to all from Doni and Audrey!

The Alabama Morgan Horse Club

Membership Application 2013

\$10 Individual Membership

\$15 Family Membership (includes children 18 years of age and under)

Name _____

Children (age 18 and under) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

This is a one year membership with annual renewal in December.

Send application & dues to:

Gail Dixon

Attn: Membership Dues

3630 Guinns Cove Rd.

Hayden, AL 35079