



Happy Holidays

Morgan Tales December 2006

MORGAN TALES

December 2006

The official publication of the Mississippi Valley Morgan Horse Club
AMHA 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Club of the Year

www.mvmhc.org

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President's Column

Hi Members!

We had a wonderful meeting and banquet at Jacksonville. For those of you who missed it, the food was great again. Mark Bodnar talked with us and answered questions. He did an excellent job and everyone was so inquisitive that we had to be careful not to go past our scheduled time for the room. It was great.

I missed the chance to ride on Thanksgiving, since I put on a small feed at home, but wasn't the weather perfect!

Then December 1st struck. Here in Canton it sleeted first and we got buried with about 18 inches of snow. However, I saw at the Christmas party today that Springfield got hammered with heavy ice and then snow. I slipped on the ice at home and fell on the corner of a board earlier in the morning. Now, I know why some of us have more padding on the tush, it is for protection when we land on hard surfaces.

I want to thank Ruth Catlett for having the Christmas party today. She did a fabulous job. Many types of goodies, and I sampled them all. Speaking for the members that were there, I think it is safe to say that everyone had a great time.

Until I see you in January, everyone take care and be cautious in the bad weather.

Brenda

Membership Renewal/MVMHC Directory

It is membership renewal time again. All memberships expire on December 31, 2006, unless you joined the club since September 2006 (check your mailing label if you are in doubt). PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED FORM WHEN YOU RENEW. Many times, people just pay and never fill out the form. That's a good way for you to get omitted from the directory, as the forms are used when the directory is compiled. Also, it is a way to confirm your address and telephone number.

Also, please consider listing your horses in the club's directory. It only costs \$2.00 per horse (no, it is not included with your membership fee) and is a great way to let everyone know who you own! Also, if you have a horse for sale, the directory is used when inquiries are received for persons looking for horses. There is no additional charge to list a horse for sale.

Advertising is also a great way to let people know about your farm or business. There are 300 copies of the directory printed each year, and they are distributed at Horse Fair, the MVMHC Sale and area horse shows. Where else can you get a full-page ad for just \$25?

Scrapbook Party

The scrapbook party is at the Firch's on the 26th of December. Call ahead (217/793-0723) if you can help finish the scrapbook so Carolyn knows how much pizza to make. Club members are invited for an evening of scraps, gluc, pizza, fun and a Mouthful. Come anytime after 4:00 P.M.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December

26 - MVMHC Scrapbook Party, Firch's, Springfield, IL

February

14-17 AMHA Convention, Atlanta, Georgia

March

2-4 IL Horse Fair, IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

24 - MVMHC Tack and Horse Sale, IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

If you know of any events that would be of interest to our members, please send them to: Kathy Firch, 6009 Old Salem Rd., Springfield, IL 62711 for a free listing in the calendar of events.

Minutes from the November 12, 2006 MVMHC Meeting

Lois McDermand moved and Pat Bannon seconded that the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee be accepted:

President: Brenda Whiteman

Vice-President: Darlene Wise

Treasurer: Janet Williamson

Secretary: Eugene Mathes

Directors: Terrie Jones, Pam Wallace, Jeff Whiteman, Ellen Collins, and Jim Hallbauer

Historian: Carolyn Firch

Publicity Secretary: Kathy Firch

Youth Director: Janet Williamson

Youth Representative: Kalie Bozarth

Ambassadors: Warren Hohmbraker, Nancy Bower, Melissa Mathes, Merton Ferguson, Emily Essary, and Ruth Catlett

Motion passed.

Darlene Wise moved and Kathy Firch seconded that the minutes of the October 9, 2006 meeting be accepted. Motion passed.

Janet Williamson reported that the Club has \$3,809.72 in the checking account and a \$1,000 CD.

Jim Hallbauer moved and Darlene Wise seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion passed.

Under Old Business Darlene Wise reported that the MVMHC Horse Sale would be held on March 24 and that the Incentive Program (money to be awarded to the purchaser of a horse which won a blue ribbon at the State Fair that year) would involve a sum of \$500. A silent auction would be held at the sale.

Under New Business Ruth Catlett announced that the Christmas party would be held at her place on December 3, 2006.

Darlene Wise moved and Jeff Whiteman seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.

The results of the silent auction for Directory covers was as follows:

Whitemans purchased the front for \$55 and Carol Witter purchased the back for \$75.

Carolyn Firch announced the winners of the Worst and Most Goofy picture contest.

Mark Bodnar answered questions about the Jubilee, horse training, judging, etc. He stimulated a lot of discussion. A great time was had by all. Thank you Mark.
Eugene Mathes, Secretary

Senate Passes Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act


Just before recessing in September, the Senate passed by unanimous consent the "Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act" (S. 3880). Introduced by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), this bill amends the Animal Enterprise Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-346).

Specifically, the bill clarifies that it is a crime to damage or interfere with a legitimate, legal animal enterprise. As defined by the bill, "animal enterprise" includes commercial and academic enterprises that use or sell animals or animal products for profit, food, agriculture, education, research and testing. This definition also includes equine activities such as rodeo, horse shows and similar lawful equine events.

The bill expands the monetary and criminal penalties for these crimes and requires restitution for certain economic losses. The bill contains a provision noting that this bill does not prohibit expressive conduct (including picketing or other peaceful demonstration), which is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

A similar bill, H.R. 4239, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI). The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on the bill on May 23, 2006. H.R. 4239 does not include the First Amendment provisions contained in the Senate-passed version.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the American Horse Council at 202-296-4031.



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Fat Fillies and Slothful Stallions: The Obesity Epidemic Hits Equine Companions, Brooke Nitzkin, University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine

The obesity trend is affecting every man, woman and child in America today. Unfortunately, pets are suffering the same overindulgences and are succumbing to this trend. Oftentimes we forget that many horses are companion animals as well and can suffer their own problems from obesity.

For the health of your companion, it is important to address weight issues in animals. The first step to addressing the problem is recognizing that your horse is overweight. It isn't necessary to be able to see ribs on your horse, but they should be easily felt beneath the skin. Another place to check for a horse's body condition is at the top of its neck. If a horse is overweight, it will accumulate fat along the ridge where its mane grows. If a horse has a "crest" on top of its neck, you should consider the fact that your horse could be overweight. Lastly, you should check for excess body fat is at the base of the tail. The area near the base of the tail should feel relatively bony; thickening around that area can be attributed to excess body weight.

In general, "most horses get fed too much for what they do," says Angela Yates a third-year student at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, Ill. Most family pets are middle-aged geldings, or castrated males, who get ridden once or twice a week. Most horses getting this limited amount of exercise do not require grain or pelleted feed because these feeds are high in calorie content. An athletic horse that is competing—a jumper or a barrel racer, for example—and is being ridden three to four times a week may require grain.

Horses can obtain a nutritious meal from eating good grass, hay and, of course, plenty of water. In fact, a horse will not get all of its essential nutrients from grain alone; horses need roughage. Grains and oats have the highest calorie content, followed by alfalfa hay and, lastly, simple grass hay.

Good grass hay is characterized by a lack of weeds, a fresh smell and is green on the inside. In the springtime, grass pasture can be added to a horse's diet. However, many animals can become obese simply from overindulging on grass pasture. For this reason it is important to be careful to introduce a horse slowly onto lush spring grass.

Many owners complain that their horses become too fat when allowed to graze on pasture. There are a few solutions to this problem. You can limit your horses' time on pasture, which can be difficult because many people let their horses out and come back later to let them back in. If you have unlimited resources, a pasture without grass—such as a riding ring—is a great alternative. A commercially-distributed device called a grazing muzzle could also

be of assistance. When placed on a horse, they allow a horse to graze, but they significantly limit the amount that they can eat.

Because there are some medical reasons for obesity in horses, if you have tried reducing your horses' weight and can't seem to get it down you should consult a veterinarian.

"In general, ponies are predisposed to obesity," says Dr. Jonathan Foreman, an equine medicine veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, Ill. "You also have to remember that if a pony is a third the size of a regular horse it must be fed a third the ration," he reminds.

Cushings disease, an excess in steroid produced by a horse's adrenal glands, can also cause obesity. There are a few other causes of medical obesity in horses, but diseases, like hypothyroidism, that cause fat accumulation in human beings simply don't exist in horses.

It is also important to consider that another very common cause of "horse enlargement," is pregnancy. This should be kept in mind when you are watching a newly-purchased mare getting bigger in the pasture.

However, most cases of obesity are simply due to overfeeding. There is the rare case when it is not and it is good to keep a few other causes in mind.

By sticking to some of these suggestions you can take some of the weight off of your equine companion. An in-shape horse will most likely live longer and have fewer medical problems than its obese counterpart. That means more years to spend with one of your best friends.

For more information about weight issues in horses, consult your local veterinarian.

Morgan Book Receives Award Nomination

Morgan owner Ellen Feld is excited about yet another award nomination her Morgan Horse childrens book series has received. The book grabbing attention this time is Feld's brand new title, "Shadow: The Curious Morgan Horse," a hard-cover short-story filled with over 20 beautiful illustrations by well-known equine artist Jeanne Mellin. This time the nomination comes from the 2006 Children's and YA Bloggers' Literary Awards, also known as the Cybils. The award was established to recognize excellence within the Children and Young Adult book market and winners will be decided by a panel of distinguished authors and publishers. Winners will be announced in early spring, 2007.

2007 Baddest/Goofiest Photo Contest

Yes, we will have another photo contest and there are already two or three entries taken by three members. One picture is of the person taking the "official" picture of the Christmas party. Start getting those "great" shots.

Carriage Driving

Champion: Royal M Kodi, Rocking Horse Morgans

Reserve: Stella Blue, Eugene & Melissa Mathes

Side Saddle

Champion: Royal M Kodi, Rocking Horse Morgans

Open English Pleasure

Reserve: Royal M Kodi, Rocking Horse Morgans

Open Pleasure Driving Horse

Champion: Royal M Kodi, Rocking Horse Morgans

Reserve: Rolling K Sugar Baby, Rocking Horse Morgans

Open English Halter

Reserve: Merriehill Isabella, Rocking Horse Morgans

Open Western Pleasure

Reserve: TCC Dustin, Dave Williamson

Lead- 6 Years and Under

Champion: Benton Collins

Champion: Leah Collins

Champion: Sydney Wahls

Walk-Trot – 10 Years and Under

Reserve: Austin Ruzic

Morgan Saddleseat Equitation

Champion: Kalie Bozarth

Youth Awards

Champion: Kalie Bozarth

Reserve: Cheyenne Huff

6th Austin Ruzic

National Animal Identification System to be Voluntary Equine Species Working Group Recommends No Movement Reporting

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is emphasizing that the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) will be a voluntary program and that no plans are in place to make the program mandatory.

The NAIS has been a hot topic of discussion for the past few years concerning livestock - including horses. It is a system intended to control the spread of disease and to minimize the negative impact of a disease outbreak on the livestock industry. This would be done through the identification of premises that hold or manage livestock, animal identification and the recording of animal movements. Some states are mandating parts of the system within their state, for example mandatory premises

registration in Wisconsin, but the NAIS as a national comprehensive program is not mandatory.

"I've been taking a hard look at the program, basically took it all the way down to the frame and rebuilding, trying to make it simpler, make it more evident of what it's all about, trying to dispel some of the misinformation and rumor and innuendo that's been associated with it," said Bruce Knight, the new under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs at USDA in an article that appeared on October 20, 2006 on the Brownfield Ag Network.

"I think the most important thing for everybody to recognize is this is a voluntary program," continued Knight. "So that means that we've got to have a program that a rancher can look at and say, 'this is worth the extra cost on my operation.'"

One of the key recommendations made by the Equine Species Working Group (ESWG), the task force developed to evaluate the NAIS and develop recommendations as to how the horse industry might be able to participate in such a system, is that no equine movements should be reported.

In their recommendations submitted to the USDA in August, the ESWG proposed that horses that move to a premises where a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), Brand Inspection, VS-127 permit or International CVI are required should be officially identified and that the records maintained through those currently existing and utilized movement permits capture the high risk movements that pose the largest threat of spreading disease. Animal health officials would be able to query the state databases in the event of a disease emergency to obtain the necessary records.

Other recommendations submitted to the USDA by the ESWG include the standardization of requirements for CVIs, that the equine-related components of the NAIS should provide definitive benefits to the horse industry that exceed the cost to stakeholders, that when practical, the NAIS should be compatible with other nations, especially Canada and Mexico, and that USDA-approved identification and movement databases must be exempt from FOIA requirements.

If horse owners choose to utilize microchips for the purpose of official identification, the ESWG recommends use of the ISO/ANSI compatible RFID chip (11784/85, 134.2 kHz) and that RFID reader and scanner manufacturers and suppliers should make an immediate effort to provide readers and scanners that can read ISO/ANSI 11784/11785 microchips, and read or at least detect all 125 kHz frequency companion animal microchips.

For further information on the NAIS, please visit www.usda.gov/nais. If you have any comments or questions, contact your state Animal Health Official or the USDA. For information on the ESWG and their recommendations, please visit their website, www.equine-species-working-group.com.

In Memory: BPM Blazing Star (HVK Frango x Becky Boone)

On November 16, 2006, Star coliced, badly. The vet stabilized her and medicated her several times, but by mid afternoon there was no improvement. She was taken to Kendall Road Equine Clinic in Elgin, IL where it was determined that she most likely had suffered a small intestine die off and bursting due to an intestinal fatty tumor. Her abdomen was fluid and blood filled and had too high of a protein level to survive surgery. She was brave and alert to the end. She was put to sleep about 5:30pm CST.

Star did just about everything we asked of her, except she thought jumping was dumb. Al drove her carriage pleasure and CDE. I rode her western and hunt seat as well. She was an in hand champion many times trained by Merriehill Farm. She even was Top Five at the Morgan Grand National in Western Pleasure under Jordy Johns as a three year old. She was a wonderful trail and lesson horse.

She will be sorely missed by everyone at Briar Patch Morgans, especially Christie Batka, who already had her show season planned for next year, and Marek Kokosinski and his daughter Anya.

Kris and Al Breyer

Attention Artistic Youth

Award winning author Ellen Feld is looking for a few young artists to feature in an upcoming issue of *The Morgan Horse*. Feld is the author of a series of children's books based on the Morgan horse. Her series, *Blackjack*, *Frosty*, *Rusty: The High-Flying Morgan Horse*, and *Robin* have been award winning favorites of readers both young and old. Her newest book, *Shadow: The Curious Morgan Horse* introduces younger readers to the antics and adventures of her equine characters.

Feld is developing a series of articles focusing on artists who use Morgan horses in their artwork and would like to include a few of our talented youth members in her article.

"The interested artist will need to be interviewed, either via phone or email, and will need to send two photos, either via email or hard copy, to the magazine to accompany the article. This is a great opportunity to have your artwork featured in a national magazine," says Feld. If you are interested in finding out more information, and possibly having your artwork featured in an upcoming issue of *The Morgan Horse*, contact Ellen Feld at: effeld@amherst.edu.

2006 Illinois Horse and Pony Breeders and Exhibitors Association Champions

Morgan English Pleasure

Champion: Merrichill Isabella, Rocking Horse Morgans
Reserve: Southview Symphony, Linda Hudson

Morgan Pleasure Driving

Champion: Montbelle Endeavor, Eugene & Melissa Mathes
Reserve: CHF Kaboom, Samantha Bundy

Morgan Park Horse Saddle or Harness

Champion: SMS Justmine, M/M Eric Vannaken
Reserve: Merriehill Isabella, Rocking Horse Morgans

Morgan Hunter Pleasure

Champion: Jendon About Time, Jeannie Kent
Reserve: Senator Sharcoal, Rocking Horse Morgans

Morgan Western Pleasure

Champion: JCC Dustin, Dave & Janet Williamson
Reserve: Coal Creek Black Stetson, Cathy McKinley

Morgan Halter - 5 Years and Older

Champion: Merriehill Isabella, Rocking Horse Morgans
Reserve: Montbelle Endeavor, Eugene & Melissa Mathes

Morgan Classic Saddle

Champion: Royal M Kodi, Rocking Horse Morgans
Reserve: Montbelle Monterey, Eugene & Melissa Mathes

Morgan Classic Pleasure Driving

Champion: Royal M Kodi, Rocking Horse Morgans
Reserve: CHF Classic, Samantha Bundy

Morgan Saddle or Harness Junior Exhibitor

Champion: Kalie Bozarth
Reserve: Cheyenne Huff

Junior Morgan Halter

Champion: Cingate Only Imagine, Jeff & Brenda Whiteman
Reserve: Scarlet Begonia, Eugene & Melissa Mathes

Junior Morgan Horse Performance

Champion: Stella Blue, Eugene & Melissa Mathes
Reserve: Asylum's Cassidy, Eugene & Melissa Mathes

You can try to miss getting your picture taken, get really bad shots of you or your behind, but you can't miss Mouth or a great shot for the scrapbook. Welcome to Mouth.

From the Storm Stories - how do you stay warm under your electric blanket if the power is off? This was mentioned twice.

Who drove all the way to Kansas City to get a hot shower and place to sleep? After two days without power she was desperate. Well there was a horse convention in KC and her husband could pump water by hand for the horses.

Finally this month don't let your "boss" drive the snowplow or tractor thing. He hit the side of a structure and took out two display cases. One horse got really fired up until he realized that his "boss" missed his display case.

SALE BARN

Advertising Rates: Full page \$10, half page \$5, classified ads \$2 per column inch. Ads due by the 25th of each month. Send to do Kathy Firch, 6009 Old Salem Road, Springfield, IL 62711. Payment payable to do MVMHC must accompany ad.



FOR SALE: New, never hitched, extension topped Phaeton built by Great Northern Livery in Wisconsin. This black bodied, maroon wheeled and under carriage vehicle comes complete with lovely battery operated lamps. It is on rubber tires, modern hubs and disk brakes. The vehicle has wool, black, upholstery as well as a beautiful basket on the rumble. It is for a single horse of around 15-16h (a pole could convert it for pairs use).

The asking price is \$6,000.00, original cost was over \$7,500.00.

Please contact me for pictures or more information.
Kris Breyer
847/526-3012

Welcome New MVMHC Member

Please welcome:

Linda Hudson
710 E Michigan St
Urbana, IL 61802

Many of you already know Linda, and her beautiful mare, Southview Symphony. They were at the Versatility Show, Brunk Museum Show and Autumn Fest.

Christmas Hoof Beats

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the barn, all the creatures were sleeping all safe, snug, and warm.

The feed pails were hung by the stall doors with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The horses were all nestled all warm in their beds, while visions of carrot cakes danced through their heads.

The Quarters, the Paints, the Thoroughbred, and even the Apps, The Minis, the Ponies, the cutters and speedsters were all taking naps.

When out in the paddock there arose such a clatter, I awoke in my stall to see what was the matter. I moved to the window, quick as I could, To see where the noise came from, if I could. The sight I beheld as I gazed out that night Was a beautiful horse all whiter than white.

He wore a red blanket so nice to behold, His hooves how they sparkled all glittery-gold. With swift certain motions to our barn he came, And silvery moonlight danced from his mane.

More rapid than racers, his hoof beats they came, And he neighed and he snorted and called us by name. He was our Christmas, a ghost-horse of white, Who has come to all horses, since that one special night.

For those special horses who shared stable and stall, To give comfort and warmth to the Savior of all. Now thinking of them, he entered the door, To distribute among us his gifts and more.

Down the aisle he came his hoof beats so light, And he stopped by each stall in our stable that night. Such presents he gave to us all in our barn. More heart or more courage, or to be free from harm.

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work, And he filled all the feed pails, then turned with a jerk. And nickering softly on gold hooves so bright, And giving a nod he went into the night.

I heard him neigh as he went out of sight, Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good N-i-i-i-ght



**Dashing through the snow,
in an open field carrying hay.
Over the ice I go. Sliding all the way.**

**Round bales could ease this pain. Grain is
on the rise. Is this fun or just insane, to
have a date with Capt. Morgan tonight.**

**A very Merry Christmas to all!
The Whiteman Family**

I'm beginning to look alike like Santa,
everywhere I go.
May you and yours have a good holiday
season.

Eugene & Melissa Mathes



May this Christmas season bring
your family generations of peace
and family to come.

Jim & Emily Esarey

**AS WE VENTURE INTO 2007 LET
US PRAY FOR THE BEST FOR
ALL OF US AND OUR EQUINES.
DAVID, JANET & ANDREW
WILLIAMSON**



*It's that time of the year when we wish all our friends a
very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.*

Darlene & Poeder Wise

May your dwellings rock with love,
family, peace and joy this holiday
season.

Carolyn & Kathy Firch &
The Rocking Horse Morgans Gang



*It's holiday time all through the
land.*

*Here's hoping that you & yours are
wonderful & grand.*

*May the New Year bring peace &
prosperity*

Warren & Mary Hohmbraker



**Ho Ho Ho Holiday greetings to
all my Morgan friends.**

Tom Dove

SANTA'S TIP

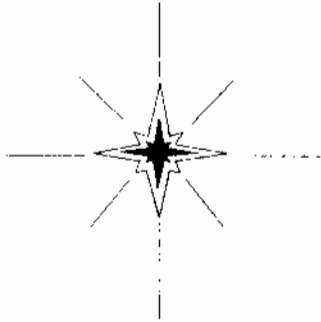
**WHEN YOU QUIT BELIEVING YOU GET
UNDERWEAR!**

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

CUDDLE ME MORGANS

CAROLYN & LARRY JANSSEN

PAM WALLACE



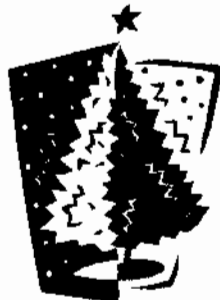
**May you have the peace and joy of
Christmas with a glorious New
Year.**

Carolyn & Jim Hallbauer

**May your fields be rich and your horses
and family healthy in 2007.**

Richfield Morgans

Doc & Nancy



***Season's Greetings and a Bonny New
Year.***

Bonnie & Carl Adams

MVMHC MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY LISTING

Please fill out this form to register your yearly membership and to list your Morgans for the directory. Please use the back of this form to list your horses for the directory with stallions first, followed by mares and geldings. PLEASE PRINT! Also, please include a copy of any advertising you wish to have in the Directory. If pictures are included, please try to submit them in black and white. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES, LISTINGS FEES AND/OR ADVERTISING FEES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 28, 2007.

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____

Full Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Town, State, Zipcode _____ E-mail address: _____

For family membership, please list all children under 18 years of age.

Name	Date of Birth	AMHAY (Yes or No)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Check if you are a member of: AMHA USAE Land of Lincoln IHPBEA Jubilee IL Morgan Futurity MidStates Morgan

other (please list): _____

_____ Membership Dues (Family \$20, Individual \$15, Youth \$10)

Mail to:

_____ Horse listings (\$2.00 x ___ number of horses)

Kathy Firch
6009 Old Salem Road
Springfield, IL 62711-6016
217/793-0723 evenings
217/793-9727 fax

_____ Full page ad - \$25.00

E-mail rockinghorseorgans@springnet1.com

_____ Total Amount (Please make checks payable to MVMHC)