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American Morgan  
Horse Association



**MORGAN OPEN  
HIGH-POINT  
AWARD SHOWS**

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# Competing INTERESTS

The Official Newsletter of the AMHA Open Competition Program

Fall 2009 • Volume 2, Issue 3

## Morgan Nabs Trail Horse of the Year Honors

LBF Hickory Smoke (Truwest Gold Peso x Rocking M Rosa Lita), ridden and owned by Esther Fiddes of Bethel, Connecticut, recently was named the Green Mountain Horse Association's (GMHA) Trail Horse of the Year!

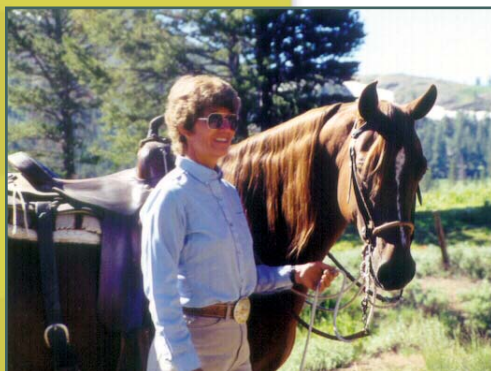
The year-end award is based on scores plus mileage of all horses owned and ridden by GMHA members at all Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association (ECTRA) sanctioned competitive trail rides. "Pokey" had the highest cumulative scores for all the distance rides.

Pokey is an 11-year-old brown gelding who also placed reserve in the 100-mile Middleweight division at GMHA's 100/60-Mile Competitive Trail Ride, held September 4-6 in Woodstock, Vermont.

Congratulations Pokey and Esther!



(Photo © Nick Goldsmith)



## Remembering Edie Lehman

*Edie has been a staunch supporter of the Open Competition for many years. She lost her battle with cancer in August. Here, her friends pay tribute to her.*

The Morgan horse community recently lost one of its staunchest supporters and strongest contributors. A nationally known and respected Morgan show judge, championship winning competitor and trainer, Edie Lehman touched the lives of hundreds of riders and horses. She lost a fierce battle with recurring breast cancer on August 26. Based for many years in Loomis, CA, she and her partner, Shirley Koch, owned and operated Loomis Basin Equestrian Center, a full service training barn. Specializing in junior riders and adult amateurs, Edie fostered the joy of riding and responsible horse ownership.

Edie had the unique ability to seamlessly blend old traditions with the latest show ring demands, and her association with the Morgan breed is no exception. An expert in the old California hackamore techniques, she had no problem adapting to the current demands of the competition arena. A particular favorite division of Edie's was Trail, and she won

numerous events and championships with the impressive Trail competitors in California. She recently won the Betty Green Trail Open Championship at the Mother Lode show in 2008. Edie and her Morgan gelding, Alamar's Barbados ("Mikey") represented the AMHA last year in Santa Barbara in "The Battle of the Breeds" Extreme Trail Competition. Edie also demonstrated her usual versatility when asked to help develop the new Western Dressage division in 2005 for the local Morgan Horse club. She won the class on Mikey riding in a western curb bit.

Always focused on the versatility of the Morgan horse and with a special understanding of all breeds, Edie gave lessons in every discipline—from cutting, reining and trail to dressage, sport horse under saddle, and in-hand. You could learn to show a halter horse, ride western, hunter pleasure or sidesaddle. In her tack room are saddles of every shape, size and discipline with bridles, headstalls, bits and reins to match, which have graced a multitude of horses of all breeds in many venues. Edie also enjoyed success with her Arabians as a noteworthy breeder, trainer, and champion. The most important lesson taught was to have fun while learning. She taught generations of adults and children the joy of owning and riding Morgans. Training with Edie was about enjoying and exploring the wonder of horses.

Her generosity was boundless and self-effacing. She volunteered her time, expertise and facility for a

**Do you have news  
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## Competing INTERESTS



## 2009 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SHIPSHOCKS

What a wonderful year for showing horses! It was not too hot and not too cold. Even the rain was light. We didn't do as many shows this year as in the past but the ones we did do were very exciting and fun filled. Lignite's Emrys was on his mark in all classes. We took some Grand Reserve in Halter and placed in most of our classes; we even placed above some of the Quarter Horses in our classes, not many, but it is always a thrill to place in large classes.

Emrys has done very well in his Showmanship classes. He loved to do ground work and show off his skills. At all shows someone is bound to ask us what kind of horse he is. And even better some know he is a MORGAN and say they love the breed. We are very proud to show the Morgan and pleased that people are starting to recognize the breed for its greatness and the variety of things the gentle, caring, sensitive horse can do. Again, I found my horse soul mate in all the Morgans we have; proud of this breed is an understatement.

*Gary and  
Claudia  
Shipschock*

*Continued from page 1*

wide variety of activities ranging from helping a first-time competitor struggling to learn the ropes at her first show to demonstrating trail techniques at the California State Fair or Horse Expo on Mikey. Managing trail trials, participating in and teaching search and rescue, organizing campouts and trail rides, or giving trail or sport horse demonstrations were all part of Edie's impressive repertoire.

She believed local Morgan clubs are the backbone of the Morgan organization and worked tirelessly to promote the breed, supporting the local club and Region VII. She and Mikey put on a trail demonstration at the AMHA Convention in Sacramento in February. Despite a heavy schedule of lessons, training, and showing, Edie managed to help whenever a club needed assistance. She provided demonstrations and clinics on everything from Show Grooming to Riding Trail. When she managed the Mother Lode Trail Trials, she went to SVMHC and asked the club to sponsor a Morgan Trophy to recognize the outstanding Morgan trail horses at the competition. In 2007 she was named Region VII's Trainer of the Year.

Sitting on the rail with Edie at a horse show was a mini-lesson in judging. Her unfailing eye for quality and skill earned her a reputation as a tough yet fair judge. A show judge since 1982, Edie officiated regularly at Morgan and other breed shows through the years. She held her Large R judging card for both Western and Arab. Here's how she described her feelings about judging "I most enjoy judging when I get to see horses and riders who are still at the stage of

'how do I do this?' and are beginning to show the signs of stardom to come."

As an exhibitor, Edie not only won National and Regional Championships on her own and on client's horses, she coached and trained amateur competitors to do the same on their horses. Although she was an incredibly accomplished horsewoman, she thoroughly enjoyed teaching an amateur to 'do it themselves.' Joel Fleming and JRM Royal Majesty brought home National Champion Amateur Trail, National Champion Western Seat Equitation 11 and Under and Reserve World Champion Western Seat Equitation 13 and Under all in one year, 1997. That same year Edie rode Silver Hills Drumson to the World Trail Championship (a high-point competition riding English, Western and Gambler's Choice). Mikey has his share of ribbons in addition to being an outstanding demonstration partner. He and Edie won both the Chalk Mountain Paradox and the Ramona Brave Perpetual Trophies.

There was magic in Edie's hands and amazing skill in her body. She could get a horse to do just about anything and make it look effortless. She loved horses and they knew it. She had high expectations and they knew this too, as did the people who rode them! She exemplified integrity, an incredible appetite for hard work, good humor and fun with the horses. Edie's horsemanship embodied her love, dedication, and respect for the Morgan horse.

She left us too soon.

*Submitted by Friends of Edie  
at Loomis Basin Equestrian Center*

## Harwich Tyrant Wins Sport Horse Award

The Old Dominion Morgan Horse Association (ODMHA) Show Committee was pleased to announce the premier of a new trophy in 2009 at their fall show on Labor Day Weekend, at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. Donated by Sylvia Brohawn of Showoffs Equine Displays, the ODMHA Supreme Sport Horse Award intends to celebrate the combination of true Morgan type with versatile ability.

This trophy will be presented at the fall show to the Morgan horse that has won the Justin Morgan Standard Class three times, High-Point Sport Horse three times, and first place in Sport Horse Suitability in its division three times at the ODMHA fall show. It is open to stallions, mares, and geldings, and it intends to encourage breeders to strive to combine form with function that is true to the original purpose and appearance of the Morgan.



*(From left to right) Sylvia Brohawn, Clara Hendin, Michelle Scott, J. Cecil Jones, Kimber Sobeck, and Harwich Tyrant.  
(Photo © Katrina Graham)*

The first ODMHA Supreme Sport Horse Award was presented to Harwich Tyrant (Ryegate Major x Indigo's Rosebud), bred by Michelle Scott of Missalette Farm. Michelle accepted the trophy for Tyrant, along with Clara Hendin of Rohan Morgans, who was instrumental in developing Tyrant's sport

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horse talents, and Sylvia Brohawn. Harwich Tyrant, presented by his trainer and rider, Kimber Sobek, was the winner of the Justin Morgan Standard Class at Old Dominion in 2002, 2004, and 2008. He placed first in Sport Horse Suitability Stallion & Gelding in 2004, 2006, and 2008, and was High-Point Sport Horse in those years as well.

This year, Tyrant was judged Grand Champion in Sport Horse Suitability at the Mid-A Show and also was Reserve Champion Working Hunter at Mid-

A. He has won top honors at Morgan shows in Classic Pleasure, Road Hack, and the Sport Horse Divisions. He has been presented with championship ribbons at Lippitt Shows in Kentucky and Vermont, in Carriage Driving Pleasure and Hunt Seat Pleasure. In 2007, Tyrant won the Allen's Major Award from The Lippitt Club for having the most horse show points of any Lippitt or Half-Lippitt in 2006. In open competition, Tyrant has achieved the AMHA Bronze Medallion in Eventing.



## The Reintroduction of the Morgan Breed Class –Dressage at Devon 2009

The 35th Annual Dressage at Devon show reintroduced a Morgan Individual Breed Class to the Breed Show Classes, which showcase nearly 100 breeds of horse.

A new group, "Friends of Morgans in Dressage," spearheaded by Marthe Reynolds and consisting of Teresa Acker, Donna Carlson, Kathryn Christie Matteson, and Rebecca and John Kosmark, raised the funds (\$500) to sponsor the Individual Morgan Breed Class.

This newly reintroduced Morgan Breed Class had just three entries this year, but an enthusiastic cheering section! The class was open to Morgans of all ages and sexes, and was scored 60% movement, 30% conformation, and 10% general impression on the triangle.

Statesman's Signature ("Sigi"), bred by Statesman Farm's Lynne Shpak and owned by Marthe Reynolds, was second to his yearling colt, Middlecreek Signature ("Stoli"), owned and bred by Donna Carlson of Middlecreek Morgans.

Stoli won the class and a sash and participated in the Parade Of Breeds after the Individual Breed Classes were completed. Marthe could not have been happier, as the goal of her breeding program with Sigi is to have his youngsters best their sire! In addition, Sigi had just won the GAIG/USDF Region 8 Reserve Champion Stallion at NEDA two weeks before, so he'd been ribboned-up lately!

Another youngster, two-year-old colt Battersea Xanadu, tied Sigi for second place and the tie was broken by Sigi's score in the walk movement. Xanadu was bred by Battersea Stud, owned by H. Carlton Huhn and Frank Calhoun. Xanadu won the Old Dominion Morgan Horse Show Sport Horse Suitability Championship and Perpetual Trophy as a yearling in 2008 and again won the championship in September 2009.

We hope to have many more Morgan competitors in the 2010 Morgan IBC (Individual Breed Class) at Dressage At Devon! The class is open to any age and sex of Morgan Sport horse, and it requires no qualifying scores. Marthe Reynolds will again be the point person for the Morgan class, and can be reached at [marthe@aboutsigi](mailto:marthe@aboutsigi) or [www.aboutsigi.com](http://www.aboutsigi.com). Dressage At Devon attracts more than 35,000 spectators each year for its Breed Show and dressage competition, and is one of the largest Breed Shows in the United States, and arguably the most prestigious.



*Owner/breeder Donna Carlson, handler Sara Vanecek and Middlecreek Signature.*

## Hotspur's Red Row! A Carriage Horse for All Seasons

Hotspur's Red Row is a five-year-old chestnut gelding sired by Book's End Trademark and out of L&A-Knapp Ule Easter Onyx. He is owned by Jack Merritt and Karen Chandor of Heritage Farm and Meritage Morgans of Stockbridge, Vermont. As a weanling he won the Vermont Morgan Horse Association breed futurity.

In 2008, breeder Andrea Alsup sent "Rowley" to Cheryl Pratt Rivers of Stockbridge, Vermont, for harness training. Andrea wished to sell Rowley, and Cheryl began looking for a suitable home for this promising young carriage horse. In August 2008 Jack

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*(Photo © John W.F. Miller, Spectrum Photography)*

## Competing INTERESTS



## TINKERS WINS SOME RIBBONS

My husband showed Chantelle Belle or "Tinkers" at the Amador County Fair in Plymouth, California, on Friday, July 31 and they did well! She was the only gaited horse that showed that day. Got a fifth place ribbon in the Walk/Jog Trail class with tough competition. Then a third in the Halter, 3-plus year old mares non-Quarter Horse type. It was so cute seeing Tinkers out there against four little mini mares! Then a third in Equitation and a fourth in a large Walk/Jog Pleasure class with tough competition.

The best part of the day was watching the crowds stop to pet Tinkers. She is so cute and friendly--it seemed every time we turned around a parent was taking a picture of her with their child. At least Tinkers got rewarded with some kettle corn which she adores, but passed on the corn dog with mustard!

*Sue Hokana,  
California*

## MORGANS TACKLE COUGAR ROCK—FLORIDA STYLE!

Cougar Rock is one of the hallmark photo op's of the Tevis Cup Ride each year. Last summer, MaryAnn

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Merritt and Karen Chandor of Heritage Farm purchased Rowley and retained Cheryl to train and compete him. Rowley competed in his first competition in October 2008 at the Saratoga Horse driving trial where he won the training level division and also the award for the best dressage score of the competition.

Rowley already has made his mark in the world of carriage driving in his first full season of competition. He began at the training level and rapidly advanced to competing at the preliminary level. His wins are too numerous to list, but include championships at Green Mountain Horse Association, Saratoga Carriage Classic, Maine Carriage Days,

Vermont Morgan Heritage Days, Rhode Island Carriage Days, Waldingfield Horse Driving Trial, as well as winning the dressage phase of every CDE he entered including Bromont International CDE, Green Mountain Horse Association CDE, and the Laurels CDE at Landhope.

Cheryl has been working under the guidance of Robin Groves, who has been a member of the most recent United States singles team. Cheryl and Rowley also work with Lisa Singer, many-time national Pairs Champion, every chance they get. The pair will continue competition next season in hopes of eventually competing in CDEs internationally at the advanced level.

## Year-End Honors

- Pep Rally (Trija Mr Pepperpot x C&B Memory Lane) won the AMHA Open Competition Award for the third year in a row at the Garden State Classic and BLM Championship Dressage Show held at the Horse Park of New Jersey on Oct. 9-11, 2009. She received a high score of 67.333% under Judge Hilda Gurney in a first level test, winning a class of ten horses! She was ridden by her adult amateur owner, Johanna Hugo of New Egypt, New Jersey.
  - Coming in at a close reserve was GKB Coal Magic (Ragtime Voodoo Magic x Metis Koffee), showing at 4th level with adult amateur owner and rider Lucy Tidd of Maryland. Both Morgans are always great ambassadors for the breed at these very competitive, open shows. Over 500 horses were entered in the show!
- LCS Ice Princess (Applevale Boy King x Black River Polly), owned by Pat Gesler of Norco, California, was inducted into the Morgan Medallion Hall of Fame this summer.
  - Pat has been driving this outstanding Morgan for 15 years. During that time, they have acquired many titles, both national and local including wins at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show and the AMHA Open Competition Program in which they are also bronze medalists. Congratulations Pat and Princess!
- Forsite Rhythm N Blues and Catherine Gerardi earned their USDF Silver Medal this year at the first horse show this year. Trainer Christopher K. Taylor has been the best trainer and has helped us accomplish so much in just over two years. Rhythm will be 19 in March!
- Betsey MacDonald wrote to tell us of her Morgans, JCP Lionheart and Willo Pond Knight Traveler's, accomplishments this year. They were champs of the Tanheath Hunter Pace series winning both paces, jumper division. Winners of Pomfret Hunter Pace, jumper division with 190 entries in the pace. Winners of BSTRAP pace series with a first and third. Winner and champ of the Tyrone Farm judged pleasure ride series. "All against all breeds and always wearing our Team Morgan shirts!" she said.
- Cindy Bradley told us she has completed 1,360 competitive miles so far this year. Congratulations!

**Do you have news or information for the newsletter?**

*Please send news to:*

Open Competition Program, 122 Bostwick Road, Shelburne, VT 05482 or [chris@morganhorse.com](mailto:chris@morganhorse.com)

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### Club Participates at Western States Horse Exposition

Attendance was down due to the economy, so the Western States Horse Exposition (WSHE) did not achieve the 60,000 spectator mark as in the previous 11 years. Regardless of the total numbers, plenty of folks had the opportunity to see and hear about the versatile Morgan horse. The Western States Horse Exposition (WSHE), held June 12-14, 2009 is known throughout the nation as the gold standard of equine exhibitions, by exhibitors and horsemen alike.

Eitan Beth-Halachmy (Cowboy Dressage) and Santa Fe Renegade performed each day as one of the paid clinicians. The performances were right in front of the AMHA booth which resulted in a lot of foot traffic to the booth before and after his presentations. AMHA, the Golden West Region VII Council and the Sacramento Valley Morgan Horse Club (SVMHC) were the sponsors of the breed booth located in the breed pavilion.

Nineteen-year-old Megan Evans of Evans Training Services was the primary person in charge of the Morgan activities with senior advice from Edie Lehman of Loomis Basin Equestrian Services and Ann Taylor of Wintergreen Morgans. Megan chose Lee Greenwood's song, "Proud to be an American," as the background music which was a great choice for the announcer to lead into the demo script. Seven Morgans participated in the breed demo and two of them are participants in the AMHA Open Competition Program. Susan Garmier of Woodland Stallion Station rode Ann Taylor's nine-year-old stallion Wintergreen Don Diego,

who has 12 Morgan World and Reserve World Championships and is one of the Open Competition participants in Dressage-Third Level. Don Diego performed a Third Level Dressage pattern in addition to a Jumping demonstration. Edie Lehman rode her 16-year-old gelding Alamar's Barbados in an Arena Trail demonstration using jog and lope over poles. Megan Evans rode her 11-year-old gelding Farceur's Wake Up Call in a Hunter Pleasure demo. Lin Hokana, the only amateur in the group, rode his six-year-old mare Chantelle Belle, demonstrating a gaited Morgan. Amy Prechter of Cedar Ridge Morgans drove her six-year-old gelding Baccarat's Senor Tango as an example of a Pleasure Driving horse. The Western Pleasure Morgan in the demo was EBP Electric Storm, a nine-year-old stallion, ridden by Jose Mendosa for Cedar Ridge Morgans. The yearling colt, HVR Fascinating Rhythm, was a wonderful example of Morgan type and conformation. He is owned by AMHA Director At Large Bill Pettis and his wife Carol.

The Morgan booth in the breed pavilion very proudly displayed the new AMHA table top booth with a wonderful variety of photos. This event was a team effort of AMHA, Golden West Region VII Council, SVMHC and the Morgan Single Footing Horse Association.

*Submitted by  
Connie Barker*

*Editor's note: This article was sent to us right after we sent the Summer 2009 issue of "Competing Interests," but wanted to include this since it was such great Morgan promotion. We are sad to report that Edie Lehman passed away in late August. Her friends pay tribute to her in this issue.*

### MORGANS TACKLE COUGAR ROCK—FLORIDA STYLE!

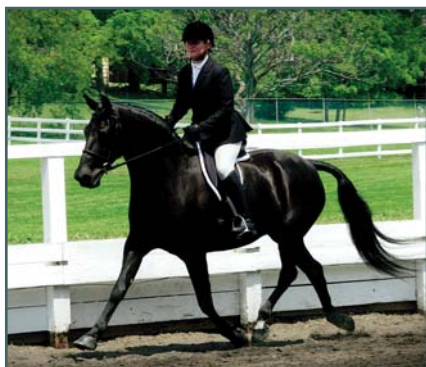
*Continued from page 4*

Schafer and Barbara Mottern decided to tackle Florida's version of Cougar Rock. Barb and There Comes A Time (24 years young) and MaryAnn on Bowood Elusiv Dream (25 years young), took turns climbing "Florida's Cougar Rock" and getting a picture for each other!



## Lacy Wins High-Point Honors

Lacy's High Fashion Magic (Lacys Black Mike x Tucks High Fashion), a black ten-year-old gelding, earned the Central Ohio Saddle Club Association's (COSCA) 2009 Registered Morgan Hunter Pleasure High-Point Champion. Magic, owned and shown by Louise



West Fraser, earned this year-end award by accumulating the most points in that class at two COSCA-approved horse shows and in open hunter pleasure classes at the Penn-Ohio Morgan Horse Show and Buckeye Morgan Challenge Horse Show (both USEF A-Rated Morgan shows). "I was so thrilled since this was my first season showing as a COSCA member," Louise said. "He finished the 2009 show season by winning the Road Hack Class at the 59th Annual COSCA Open Championship Horse Show out of a field of 19 entries."

Magic qualified for the 2009 Grand National & World Championship Horse Show, while fox hunting in between shows with the Chagrin Valley Hunt and participating in organized trail rides of the Chagrin Valley Trails and Riding Club.

"While the versatility of the Morgan breed has always drawn me to it, the versatility and stamina of a single Morgan horse has continued to astonish me since I owned my first Morgan as a child!" Louise said.

## Competing INTERESTS



# ON THE TRAIL

I am proud to report that Quietude Mackenzie has completed her first 50-mile CTR! Conditions were beyond horrific the first night and day with torrential rain, driving sleet, and howling gale force winds, but despite the severe terrain, mud, hidden rocks, wet leaves, some big mountains, and the fact that this is only her third ride, "Mackie" received Grand Champion of the ride and the Top Morgan award! She led our little group and set a quite pace. Canter and gallop seemed to be her favorites.

*Submitted by Esther Fiddes*

### News from Overseas



In our first year of competition, GWM Duchess Of Monico was the National Novice Champion. We attended the National Finals at Unex Towerlands Essex British Driving Society; we had qualified in the year for the Osborne Refrigeration's National Final 13.2 and over class (there are various qualifiers through the year at British Driving society shows all over the country including Scotland, Wales, and Ireland). We got into the top seven for the final judging and won. She is now The National Osborne Refrigeration 13.2 and Over Champion! We competed for the World Rare Breeds and we won that class too, beating four other Morgans. Three weeks earlier we attended the Victoria Foods Championship which again has qualifying classes throughout the year and all entries are show champions. We came in a healthy third overall.

Duchess has done quite well, considering she had not driven for five years when we purchased her. She is a true advocate for the Morgan breed and is very versatile. I am proud of her achievements, considering we have to compete against all breeds.

*Submitted by Julie Elliott*

## David Macmillan Earns USDF Gold Medal!

Congratulations are in order to David Macmillan, who has earned his United States Dressage Federation Gold Medal on West Mt Winston.

Requirements for the gold medal are two qualifying scores (60% or better) at Intermediare 1 or Intermediare 2 and two qualifying scores at Grand Prix. The scores must be earned at four different USDF approved shows from of four different senior judges. David and Winston have now earned 13 qualifying scores at Intermediare with scores up to 66.250% and four at Grand Prix with a high of 64.225%. Grand Prix is the highest level and is the same test that is used for Olympic competition.

David started training and riding four-year-old Winston (Far Well's Brooks x West Mt Santana) in 1999, earning his USDF bronze and silver medals on the way to the gold. The pair has won four World Championships at Morgan Grand Nationals in Oklahoma City as well as numerous year-end high point awards from the AMHA, USDF, Morgan Dressage Association and the Utah Dressage Society along with. Most recipients earn the Gold riding European warmbloods, and it is unusual for a rider to earn all three medals on the same horse.

When David starting riding Winston, he was an accomplished rider, but had no experience in training. Winston was a four-year-old training level horse who was willing to work hard, but was somewhat uncoordinated and had an over-abundance of "attitude." David took lessons on Winston from a local trainer and participated in clinics with top dressage instructors, but he says that his most important lessons were taught to him by the gelding. Horse and rider ended up training each other and ten years later David has become a respected dressage trainer, and Winston is a reliable grand prix mount.

We commend both horse and rider, who are great ambassadors for our favorite breed!

*Submitted by Karin Weight*

## Working Western News

The AMHA Working Western Sub-Committee has been hard at work this year expanding opportunities for Morgan working western riders. The AMHA Open Competition Program accepted for the first time this year working western competitions from unsanctioned events as well as team penning and cowboy mounted shooting events.

For those unfamiliar with cowboy mounted shooting, this fast growing sport requires rapid action shooting while mounted using two .45 caliber single action revolvers each loaded with five rounds of specially prepared blank ammunition. These timed events take in account both speed and accuracy and offer many levels of competition from beginner to advanced. For more information about these events please visit the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association "CMSA" at [www.cmsaevents.com](http://www.cmsaevents.com).

The Working Western Sub-Committee encourages everyone to read the new expanded Open Competition Working Western guidelines and consider getting involved in one of these exciting western competitions!

### Working Western Sub-Committee

*Chairs:* Karen Myers and Travis Filipek, *Members:* Ellen Palillo, Gerry Paiva, Pam Chandler, Becky Totten, Gary Jackson, and Josette Conti

## AMHA CREATES NEW PROGRAM FOR SHOWS

Starting in 2010, all shows with Morgan classes can apply to AMHA to receive a “Star Rating,” a way to encourage horse owners to compete on all levels and for smaller shows to expose others to the breed.

AMHA Executive Director Julie Broadway said Morgan horse owners from around the country have asked to learn more about “fun, affordable” shows outside of regional competitions and USEF-rated shows. “AMHA wants to be *the* source of information about competitions of all types and sizes that showcase the Morgan,” she said. “Plus, AMHA wants to encourage horse owners to compete at all levels to show the beauty and versatility of the breed. Often multi-breed, smaller shows are a great way to expose others to the Morgan.”

The AMHA Star Rating Competition Program was designed with two goals in mind: to educate and increase awareness of all types and levels of competitions that promote the breed and to provide a tool to help horse owners identify affordable, convenient competitions where they can enjoy the fun of showing and test their skills. The rating also is a tool to allow novices to compare the offering of

competitions so they can choose the right venues for them; as their level of experience and confidence grows, riders and drivers can select higher-rated competitions.

Show ratings are one to four stars, with Regional Shows being an exception. Shows that participate in the program will receive extra publicity and promotion by AMHA. Once the show’s application is received, the show will receive its star rating logo and competition number that can be used with publicity. Among the benefits offered as part of the program, depending on a show’s rating, are ads in *The Morgan Horse* magazine, press releases, and calendar listings. Press release kits will be provided to help the show self promote and scripts will be provided for announcers to highlight the show’s star rating. The accompanying matrix specifies requirements and benefits for shows per star rating.

Applications will be available from AMHA on December 1, 2009. Contact AMHA at (802) 985-4944 for more information or to request an application.

SHOW RATING	ONE STAR	TWO STAR	THREE STAR	FOUR STAR	AMHA REGIONAL	DESCRIPTION
<b>Application Process</b>	1 page form	1 page form	2 page form	2 page form	regional packet	application with checklist of requirements and benefits
<b>Minimum Requirements</b>						
USEF rated	no	no	no	yes	yes	
% of morgan classes of total classes	10%	20%; suggested 30%	40%; suggested 50%	80%	N/A	
Medal Classes Offered	no	no	no	Min. 2 medal classes	Min. 5 medal classes	
Youth of the Year Program Offered	no	no	no	no	suggested	
Judging Officials	horseperson, USEF Learner judge or state horse judging certification	Learner Judge	USEF r judge	USEF R judge	USEF R judge	
printed prize list submitted	no	no	no	yes	yes	
Championship classes	no	no	no	yes	yes	
You Be the Judge Program	no	no	no	suggested	suggested	
<b>Benefits</b>						logo to be provided with signed agreement
show may use AMHA logo on all publications	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
show dates on AMHA website calendar	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
show press releases distributed by AMHA staff	no	no	no	no	yes	
show eligible for ad in <i>The Morgan Horse</i> magazine	text ad on calendar page	text ad on calendar page	text ad on calendar page	1/12 B&W display ad	1/3 B&W display ad	
show eligible to apply for AMHA Grant	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
championship plaques provided	no	no	no	no	yes	
show eligible for automatic AMHA Funding	no	no	no	no	yes	
champion certificates provided	no	no	no	no	yes	
						preshow promotion ad

**Competing INTERESTS**



**Please Help AMHA Get the Word Out!**

In an effort to recognize Morgans in Open Competition, AMHA expanded its recognition efforts in 2005 to include open shows across the nation. The AMHA Morgan Open High-Point Award recognizes the highest scoring Morgan at open competitions, regardless of the division. Points from classes open to all breeds are used to tabulate the winner. Awards are provided by AMHA to any show submitting an application within at least two weeks of the event. Please tell the managers and organizers of the shows you attend about this exciting and free award opportunity by supplying them with the detachable application below.

-----  
**Name of Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Event sanctioned by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of horses expected:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Morgans that competed last year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form to:**  
**American Morgan Horse Association**  
**122 Bostwick Road**  
**Shelburne, VT 05482**  
**Phone: (802) 985-4944**  
**Fax: (802) 985-8897**