



BOZEMAN DRESSAGE
&
COMBINED TRAINING

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"Shut up and Ride"

May 2007

As you see, we have a new logo. The winner of the gorgeous book "Stables" for her efforts is Our Esteemed President, Jenn Allain. Expect to see this new logo on club stuff in the future - Thanks, Jenn!!!

"Silverado's Spring Fling" at Creekside Dressage, April 15 2007

(From the Horse's Mouth!)

It all started when My Human, Jeanne B. learned that her friend Miss Edee went to the USDF cavaletti clinic in Kansas City last December. Blissfully unaware that they were oohing and aahing over the Ingrid Klimke DVD... I was busy being hairy and eating with my pony friend Lucky. That darn DVD inspired them to put me on "a program" and temporarily interrupted my retirement.

By the way... I am 23 years young and I have owned my human for 20 years. Since she just had two children I had accustomed myself to a leisurely life of grassy turn-out with friends, with small doses of work in my "years of purpose and dignity".

But now I found myself back on a slow and gentle conditioning horse-er-cise program with my Jeanne, she being very considerate of my furry coat and lack of condition. Then to my astonishment, what pulls into my field but a truck loaded with jump poles and colorful Quick Cavaletti! I'm not very coordinated and these torturous-looking items became cause for concern. But it wasn't much for me to worry about... as a cart and harness also arrived and by the size of them I just knew they were for my little pony friend Lucky.

I was hoping the jump poles and blocks were also for her.... but my leisure was soon disturbed again on the first

sunny day by Miss Edee and Jeanne, who fitted me with a variety of dressage tack, watching me go 'round on my lunge line over a ground pole and adjusting this and replacing that and re-trying something else until they found what made me secure and happy.

I used to be a little grumpy in my old age and thought all this training stuff was behind me! They didn't get cross with me and that made me want to try my best. Miss Edee cleverly determined that I am disorganized with my leads - a nice way of saying that I just take whatever lead is most convenient (as in closer to the barn!)

I had a laugh, as after they worked me, I saw that Miss Edee made My Jeanne do yoga exercises to improve her body positioning and strength too! Ah Haaa!!! I'm not the only one who needs reconditioning! I was hoping that Miss Edee would also bit up My Human and trot her around over the cavaletti - lunge whip and all, but if they did, I didn't see them. Darn...

I was glad they figured out that my stiff old hocks could use some support - so soon I was yumming up equine senior joint supplements and wearing fabulous new shoes that helped me move with ease. I felt so much better after a few weeks that I found myself getting rather silly during the cavaletti work - snorting and arching my neck and waving my tail like a flag - because I felt so good! My Jeanne laughed at me and set up a little jump, which I sailed over with ease. Surprised even me! That little jump did me a world of good - got me balanced and my back free - yahoo!

But then the next week, to my dismay, I saw My Jeanne measuring out the old dressage field and setting out those darn letters. I used to hate pounding around practicing dressage, so I'd buck and counter-canter and kick sand at the

letters, which made everyone laugh - except My Jeanne.

My back used to hurt and I remembered having my wide 5 1/2" mouth pinched by regulation sized 5" bits as a young feisty horse, which made my neck curl up to evade that pinching - which really hurt my spine.

So - when they took me out to practice the new tests I hopped around and broke gaits, throwing in all kinds of cute bucks and inventing gaits that you'd never expect an old fella like me to do... but then I heard "JUST LET HIM CANTER, IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS!" and so I got to canter on the buckle! I warmed up, found my balance and had some fun!!

My conditioning program and joint supplements had made such a difference - I just floated along! I could breathe deeply and my spine and muscles felt so free. Then after a nice walk break, My Jeanne asked me to try the test again and it was the best ever. My Jeanne and Miss Edee pronounced me - A Dressage Horse! My Jeanne filled out her show entries and on the first warm day I was clipped and shampooed. (That Orvus paste shampoo makes me look like a fluffy white rabbit...)

I will confess that I don't know why they decided to recondition me in early Spring - the weather and footing were so unpredictable, downright miserable, I say. I know they had the trailer hooked up but canceled lessons at least 4 times because of SNOW, but finally I got hauled to the indoor arena for practice. (HoHumm....!) But to my surprise that beautiful Spanish mare Lady Condesa was there for me to hang out with! Now *that's* eye-candy.. a

younger gal like her makes an old guy like me happier to work so I really put on my best moves for her.

Finally... Show Day! Blessed with the only dry, warm weather for 12 weeks, and that pretty Lady Condesa was there to watch me perform, everything was perfect. I felt great and had a blast doing my Training Level Tests. I was all groomed up so sleek and stylish and My Jeanne was so beautiful in her fancy show clothes. I was so happy to hear them say that we got out Personal Best scores ever! (So... staying in the proper gait and getting my leads paid off... but I did have a flashback in the warm-up, and got upset and kicked sand at the letters, but My Jeanne stayed relaxed and didn't stress. She just reminded me to focus, and breathe, and I heard her reminding herself to breathe so we both relaxed.)

After my last class and a nice cool-out, I had a chance to enjoy a little snooze with my favorite people (and next to that pretty lady mare) and to watch Mr. Ernie eat the chocolate cake the Creekside office ladies kindly made for him. (Ernie always comes to watch Miss Edee ride - he says - but I know he comes for the treats!) Miss Edee and My Jeanne were staring at all that cake.... I thought they'd take it away from Ernie and if it had been carrot cake, I would have! I'm kind of liking Dressage these days, but I still think I'd like to make up my own test - maybe to music - I think they call it a "pot 'o stew" or something. And I hope they have carrot cake!

(Submitted by Jeanne Broveak on behalf of Silverado, who only types "hunt and peck".)

