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VOLUME #12

SWITCH WILLO STABLES NEWSLETTER



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you for being a member of our barn family! As we welcome 2023 we extend our deep gratitude to you for being a client at Switch Willo. We are excited for all that the new year has to offer.

L: PATIENCE READING AND SYDNEY BEAUMONT, "BEAU"

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 19-22: BLUE RIBBON WINTER SHOW/WACO
- JAN 28-29 NEW BEGINNINGS GHJJA SHOW/KATY
- FEB 11: IEA REGIONALS IN SAN ANTONIO
- FEB 25 AT 6:00: CENTEX AWARD BANQUET AT THE OASIS
- MARCH 15-26: WEC WINTER SPECTACULAR/OCALA



L- R: ASHLEY MYERS, KYLIE WIGGINS, & LINDSEY MORTIMER AT THE FINAL CENTEX SHOW

NEW YEAR/NEW PARTNERSHIPS!

We find wonderful ponies and horses to lease or buy for riders of all levels. Why lease or buy? It's the best way to get more riding practice because (once approved by a trainer) you are able to hack your horse outside of lesson times. We currently have several very special SWS ponies and horses who are looking for full lease partners. We get many questions about half leases, please note that we have limited half lease horses available. We do have a large network of resources for quality horses if one of ours isn't a fit and are experts at matching riders with the most suitable horse or pony. We encourage you to discuss with your instructor and then reach out to michelle.simmons@gmail.com to find your best match!

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR HORSEMANSHIP CLASS?

Switch Willo now offers a Horsemanship Class to new riders joining our program! This eight-week class takes students through the fundamentals of riding to prepare for success in lessons. We take a deep dive into grooming, parts of the horse and tack, tacking up, leading, and rider position. Since its inauguration in spring of 2022 we've had four groups complete the program and we are thrilled with the results. See photos below of classroom sessions and students practicing grooming.



WHAT'S NEXT?

We often hear this question from students and parents in our Lesson Program. What is next for my rider? When do we consider adding additional lessons or moving into the Boarder program? It's never too early to consider leasing or buying, as this is the fastest track to gaining skill and competing successfully in horse shows. Aside from that, the answer is variable for each rider, but here is a general guide:

- Riders start in once/week lessons w 1-3 horse shows/year. We expect they will move to twice/week lessons after one-two years.
- Participate in twice weekly lessons with 3-5 shows/year for another year.
- Lease or purchase a horse and move into Boarder program

RESERVING A LESSON HORSE: THE INS AND OUTS

Yes, you can reserve a lesson horse for your weekly lesson! When starting to ride we generally encourage new students to ride many different ponies and horses. For timid riders, however, reserving a horse when starting to ride can give them the consistency to gain confidence. More established riders in twice weekly lessons may choose to reserve a horse for one of their lessons. We encourage you first to discuss this with your instructor, as they will have important feedback regarding whether reserving would be helpful for you and if so, to find the best partner for you. Then if you want to reserve, reach out to lessons@switchwillo.com for next steps. There is an additional fee of \$175/month for this service.

CENTEX END OF YEAR AWARDS BANQUET

The Banquet is BACK and we couldn't be happier! Switch Willo riders were once again dominant in the ring throughout the Centex season. The Awards banquet is a fun opportunity to celebrate our riders! Save the date of February 25th at the Oasis, 6:00 pm. Go to <https://www.cthja.com/> for all the details and to get your tickets!

HOW IT'S DONE--MOVING FROM CAMP TO BOARDER PROGRAM

RIDER SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE YORK

Natalie started at Switch Willo by attending one camp in 2019. That led to many camps that summer as she begged to attend all weeks! She quickly moved in to lessons where her favorites were Tigger, Bean Dip and Chester. She remembers jumping her first cross-rail on Tigger and says she felt like she was flying! Natalie found a great partner in Durango who she leased for two years starting in January of 2020. She showed him to numerous tricolors at Centex, A shows in Katy, and the World Equestrian Center in Ocala. Natalie's mom Emily says, "Durango is loved by our entire family and has taught Natalie many lessons including perseverance and determination. The more experienced riders at Switch Willo have treated Natalie with such kindness and have taught her so much. Magnolia, Abby, Izzy, Catherine, Josh, Sarah, TJ, and Annie have gone out of their way at many shows to show her the ropes. Glenn, Michelle, Kylie, Lindsey and Kirk have been fabulous trainers and Nat looks up to all of them. In particular, Michelle has devoted a *lot* of extra time teaching Natalie all she knows about riding and caring for horses. Natalie would not have had the success she has had with Durango were it not for Michelle". Natalie is grateful and excited to start working with her new pony, EJ. We wish her the best in 2023!



**CLOCKWISE
FROM L: EJ, BEAN
DIP, DURANGO
X2**

NEW YEAR PHOTO GALLERY



**ABOVE: BEST BOY EURO
GETTING EXTRA TLC FROM
CATHERINE MOORHEAD**



ABOVE: JILL BARTLOW AND CASSINI



**ABOVE: SWITCH WILLO
RIDER RIBBON WALL AT
FINAL CHASE SHOW**



**ABOVE: PATIENCE READING
AND BEAU**

NEW YEAR PHOTO GALLERY



ABOVE: TJ ARNOLD AND OCTAVIAN, "TATER", HAD A GREAT 2022 SEASON IN THE ADULT HUNTERS



ABOVE & R: BEST FRIENDS IN THE SHOW RING AND AT HOME, GWEN GLEINSER AND VIOLET HILL, "VALENTINO"



THJA "A" SHOW YEAR END AWARDS

Incredible, that's what you are! Congratulations to these riders for their accomplishments at the state level!

- Catherine Moorhead
 - Eurokom, Reserve Champion Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35
 - 4th Adult Amateur Equitation
 - 7th TJHA Medal Finals
 - Brunos Bellini R, top 20 Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35
 - Brunos Bellini R, 3rd Amateur Owner 18-35 3'3"
- TJ Arnold
 - 5th Adult Amateur Equitation
 - 6th TJHA Medal Finals
 - Octavian, 7th Adult Amateur Hunter 50/O
 - Ariat National Adult Medal Top Ten
 - Octavian, Green Hunter 3'3" Top Ten
- Paula Moorhead
 - C'est Ca Z, Reserve Champion Low Adult Hunter 36/O
- Alexandra Lundin
 - 10th Adult Amateur Equitation
 - 8th THJA Medal Finals
- Blythe Monheit
 - 19th Adult Amateur Equitation
 - Oxford Optimus, 6th Adult Amateur Hunter 36-49
 - Oxford Optimus, Top 20 Low Adult Hunter 36/O
- Stevie Jones
 - Lonesome Dove, 7th Junior Hunter Small, 3'3"
- Patience Reading
 - 6th Modified Adult Equitation
 - 5th Modified Adult Equitation THJA Medal Finals
 - 9th THJA Mini Medal
- Vivian Dodson
 - 9th Junior Equitation 14/under
 - 9th Junior Equitation 14/under THJA Medal Finals

2023 USEF Horse Show Schedule

December 8 – 11	Thanksgiving Show	Waco, TX
January 19 – 22	Blue Ribbon Winter	Waco, TX
March 15 – 19	WEC Winter Spectacular XI	Ocala, FL
March 22 – 26	WEC Winter Spectacular XII	Ocala, FL
April 4 – April 8	Pin Oak Charity Horse Show II	Katy, TX
April 12 - 16	Pin Oak Charity Horse Show III	Katy, TX
May 3 - 7	Great Southwest Round Up	Katy, TX
May 10 - 14	Fiesta Classic	Katy, TX
June 15-18	Blue Ribbon Summer Festival I	Waco, TX
June 22-25	Blue Ribbon Summer Festival II	Waco, TX
July 26 – 30	Ocala Summer Series Week 8	Ocala, FL
August 2 – 6	Ocala Summer Series Week 9	Ocala, FL
September 20 - 24	Southwest Showdown	Katy, TX
Sept 28 – Oct 1	GSEC Fall Classic	Katy, TX
October 19 - 22	Monster Mash	Katy, TX
November 8 - 12	Great Southwest Autumn Classic	Katy, TX
November 15-19	Final Chase	Katy, TX