

Featuring
Dave Skofstad
Posse Members since 1993

Yes. I was that guy. I bought my first horse, Hunter, from Fred Carney in September 1989 and rode him in the Posse Fall Ride in October. The ride was open to the public at that time. I showed up with a horse I didn't know in a borrowed truck and trailer wearing a ball cap and tennis shoes, and purchase my ticket from Ruby Holmquist, to risk life and limb among six hundred horses, a great many of whom were similarly ill-prepared. I have often said the only thing that kept me alive was that Fred sold me a horse that was smarter than I was.

It was on that first Fall Ride that I was introduced to Roy Westergard. Shortly after our group of one hundred horses entered the woods on the south side of Wadsworth Road, we came to a halt. After a lengthy time standing and with several of the horses becoming fractious and impatient, a lone rider on a dark bay gelding came working his way through the line of horses, grumbling to himself, "You can always tell how much trouble you're gonna have on a ride by counting the number of palominos!"

That "little bay walkin' horse", as Fred often referred to him, went on to keep me alive through twenty-three consecutive Fall Rides and many other adventures, culminating in being tapped for the honor of Posse president in 2007. My faithful Hunter was retired after the New Year's Day ride in 2012 and just last week, aged thirty-four years, he was laid to rest next to his beloved Honey who was his constant companion for twenty-four years.

Our family acquired more horses over the years. There was Haley the Devil Pony, a registered Appaloosa with no spots named Sheza Classy Dandy, and a navicular Quarter horse named Traveller. We have never sold a horse. The most remarkable of the lot was Honey By Sam, a palomino (sorry Roy) mare who was my wife Colleen's mount for many years until our youngest daughter needed a 4H horse and our selection of Traveller turned out to be an unwise choice. In his defense, Traveller was drugged to conceal his chronic lameness both times we went to try him. With no time to search out a suitable mount for Morgan, it was agreed Colleen would give up Honey.

So, at the age of twenty-three, Honey began her show career. In what was the first show for both Morgan and Honey, they took Grand Champion Western Pleasure for the intermediate level. For six show seasons, Morgan and Honey collected many blue ribbons and never failed to bring home at least one Grand Champion trophy. That includes their last season when Morgan made the decision to retire Honey from the show ring at age twenty-eight. For four more years, Honey continued doing trail rides and appearing in the Posse parade unit. She did three parades and the Fall Ride in her last year at age thirty-one.

My family has been so blessed by having our horses in our life. And the Posse is a good part of the reason. All the help, support, and camaraderie has added richly to our experience. We have made friends that are closer than family.