

HORSE & SOLE

Hoof Care

Year In Review



NEWS

**ATTENDED
INTERNATIONAL HOOF
CARE SUMMIT IN OHIO**

**TOURED ROYAL MEWS,
LONDON, UK**

HORSE CAMP AT GMHA

**WORKING EQUITATION
CLINICS**

PARENTS VISIT

No philosophers so
thoroughly comprehend us
as dogs and horses.
—Herman Melville

New Year, Fresh Start

by Deanna Stoppler

Some say the New Year is a fresh start, and I guess to some extent it can be seen as a starting point but I see it more as a continuation of what came before, a space to reflect, to plan, to dream.

In 2017 I traveled, learned, played, and spent time with family.

During the last week in January, farrier Jen Poulin and I traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to attend the International Hoof Care Summit--four days of hoof care classrooms, roundtables, lectures, and a large trade show. My favorite presenter was Brian Hampson who collected data from four farriers each with a different trimming method. They documented their trim on the same horse (so four different trims on four separate horses) over the course of a year. Hampson found that some of the changes were healthy, more support in the back half of the foot, and some of them were not so healthy, such as toes that were trimmed excessively and lack of sole depth.



THE GOLD STATE COACH, ROYAL MEWS, LONDON

My sister, Val, and I traveled to London in May and spent a week exploring the city. We walked about 10 miles every day, exploring art exhibits, enjoying outdoor entertainment, and shopping at the street markets. We even stumbled upon the production of a movie. The best tour of all was the Royal Mews; the clip clop of hooves and smell of horse manure. Familiarity in a foreign city. We marveled at the Gold State Coach which was used in June 1953 for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. William the IV mentioned that riding in the coach was like "traveling in a rough ship at sea" and Queen Victoria refused to ride in it due to the discomfort. After WWII, rubber cushioning was added to the iron bound wheels for a smoother ride.



HORSE CAMP GMHA

In August I joined Stephanie Lockhart, owner of the Center for Americas First Horse in Johnson, and six of her students for five days of trail riding on the infamous Green Mountain Horse Association trails in South Woodstock. We were fortunate with the weather and only experienced one rain storm.

Our days were spent riding in shaded woods and letting the horses play and splash in cool streams. Our lodging at Fat Sheep Farm was relaxing and quaint. The horses were turned out in sheep pastures in the evening while we sat by the fire (well, Stephanie and I relaxed by the fire but for the most part the girls had boundless energy and played many rounds of capture the flag).

Ask me to show you poetry in motion and I will
show you a horse.
--Author Unknown



MORADO, STEPHANIE, WILEY, AND MATT, WORKING EQUITATION CLINIC, CENTER FOR AMERICAS FIRST HORSE

In September I hauled Honey to the Stowe Equestrian Center for another Working Equitation Clinic. This clinic was indoors due to rain but the arena was large enough to accommodate all of the obstacles, horses, and riders. Honey and I worked on skills learned at the August clinic and refined our techniques. We even got to ride with the Garrocha, a long pole used for herding cattle. Riding with the pole almost felt like dancing, if I didn't think too hard.

Fall came to a close with long overdue visits from my parents. First my dad drove here from Alberta, Canada, and traveled with me to work almost every day (many of you got to meet him), followed by my mom who arrived via train and stayed for about a month. I felt a deeper appreciation for my parents this time around and am so grateful for their strength, patience, wisdom, and humor.

Most of all in 2017 I am grateful for my health, my friends and family, and all of you.

For your support, kindness, trust, loyalty, and friendship.

Here's to another amazing year. Happy 2018!

August and September were fun months for riding. I took two Working Equitation Clinics with Stephanie Lockhart. The first clinic was outside on a warm, blue sky day. Matt and I took both horses to the clinic. Wiley had a blast and showed off his jumping abilities while Honey spent the day displaying her nature as a slow poke.



HONEY AND I PRACTICING OUR LATERAL MOVEMENT, WORKING EQUITATION CLINIC, STOWE EQUESTRIAN CENTER

with gratitude,
Deanna