

Hi Folks,

I wanted to give you a report on our group's trip to the dressage show on January 31.

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### GRMYC South Field Trip Report

On Saturday, January 31, six Gold Rush Morgan Youth Club South members, two moms, Carol Davies, her husband Bob and their dog Genni met at the Rancho Murieta horse show grounds about 10:00am. We went to the main covered arena and watched several horses and riders perform their tests. The level of the tests ranged from Third Level all the way up to Intermediare I. As the group watched the rides, Carol explained in basic terms what the movements were, what the judge was looking for and whether the rider was performing well or not. Just before the lunch break, the group saw a Second Level Pas de Deux performance. That's two horses and riders performing a custom Second Level pattern to music. The music for this performance was rock 'n' roll and it was a very lovely, toe-tapping performance.

After lunch, we watched a Grand Prix level ride. Then Bob came back from taking some things to his vehicle and told Carol that he had met up with Jo Cain-Stiles. she is the lady who owns El dorado Equestrian club, the facility where our group held their first two meetings. She was at the show with her six year old, sometimes very excitable Oldenburg mare, Phantasia (fondly known as Phannie). Since she didn't have any helpers with her that day, she asked if our group would come and help keep Phannie calm and focused. the kids were delighted to help with brushing, petting and talking to Phannie. As they watched Jo go through her warm-up routine, Carol explained what Jo was working on and pointed out the signs that Phannie was gradually relaxing and focusing on her work. When Jo took a break, she explained to the kids what she was feeling with Phannie. When the group went to find seats in the stands to watch Jo and Phannie do their test, Carol and one of the moms, Karen Baily stayed wit Jo and walked over to the arena with her to watch her go. They had a lovely First Level ride and Jo was very happy with Phannie.

Right after their test the vet came over to draw blood and try to collect a urine sample for a random drug test and Phannie got a bit excited. Jo and Phannie had another test to do in less than an hour and Jo was concerned about Phannie's attitude because she can buck and rear when she gets upset. She never did settle down enough to urinate, but once Jo put her bridle back on in preparation for their next ride, she seemed to relax. During their short warm-up, Jo could feel that Phannie was getting quite tired and she seemed irritated by something in her ear. Their second ride was not quite as nice but the worst that Phannie did was to toss her head a bit during the "stretchy circle" near the end of the test.

Our group needed to leave to get the kids back home before Jo and Phannie's scores were posted. However, when Bob and Carol took a CD to Jo with the pictures that Bob took at the show, Jo told Carol that she and Phannie won their first class and came in second in their second class! She was so pleased that she wrote a note to the kids. It is included below.

"Dear Morgan Horse Club,  
Thank you so much for helping me at the horse show. You guys really helped me and Phannie to focus and warm up.  
We won our class in the covered arena and took 2nd place in the last class.  
Keep practicing and you will be showing soon.  
See you soon,  
Jo and Phannie"