

KDCTA HOOFBEATS

MEET A MEMBER: Stephanie Dobiss

Hello, Stephanie!

How long have you been president of KDCTA?

Since 2014, although I held the secretary and president positions off and on over the past 20 years.

How long have you had horses?

I did not own my own horse until after I was married. I started to ride around 12 years old, I attended Girl Scout Camp and was Rider of the Week and subsequently asked to join the riding team. I also did catch riding as a teenager. I went to Meredith Manor when I was 20 (and met my husband there) and obtained a Riding Master's degree. I worked at Grier School at their summer camp for 3 years and became a CHA certified instructor. I have continued my instructor certification which includes continuing education, and I have a small lesson program.

Where did you grow up?

Fort Wayne, Indiana and lived there until we moved to PA in 1993.

Tell us about the horses you have in your life now and what you do with them.

We have a 25 yr. old Arab mare, Parada that we've had since she was 2. She was originally Joe's endurance horse but has now turned into my dressage/lesson horse. We also have a half Arab, El Dorado who at 16 is learning dressage, jumps, and does drill team; Tinkerbelle, a pony, plays with the kids who come for lessons; and I co-own an Andalusian gelding named El Cid with Molly Allen.

What are some things you have done with your horses and what are your interests now?

I used to show in Arab shows doing a little bit of hunters, dressage, obstacle rides. I also did a 25-mile CTR and always enjoy trail riding. Now my main interests are in Dressage and Working Equitation.

What are some special interests you have in the horse field?

I've done event organizing and have managed many shows. Working Equitation is probably my main interest now as it combines dressage along with the obstacle challenges.

What jobs have you worked at in the past and what do you currently do to support your horse habit?

I did Market Research for 30 years. I started out in high school as a telephone interviewer, got promoted several times, and managed the call center. I continued in this field when I moved back to PA. In 2015, the company I worked for went bankrupt, but I continue working for some of the former clients. Currently, I am a caregiver for my husband. I have a couple of small work-from-home jobs, and my lesson program supports my horse habit.





What are some other hobbies you enjoy besides the horses?

I like to do crafts, and I love to sew. I sew vestments for the clergy as well as do horse blanket washing and repair.

What other type of furry members of the family do you have?

We currently have two cats, Ace and Josie.

What type of music do you enjoy listening to?

I don't listen to music much but probably 80's and classical are my preference.

What is your favorite food?

Chocolate!

If you had unlimited money to go on vacation, where would you go?

Somewhere I could ride a schoolmaster, I think that would be really cool.

What could you tell us about yourself that might surprise some people?

That my husband is an Eastern Orthodox Priest.

What do you think your strongest asset is?

Patience, attention to detail and organizational skills.

What horse trainer do you most admire?

There are so many good ones out there. Right now, I have gained a lot of knowledge from Thomas Ritter and the Artistic Dressage program. He provides some great exercises to help with problems and explains things so well. I come away wondering, "Why didn't anyone tell me that years ago?"

What is one of your goals for 2022?

To take time for myself, and to get the KDCTA club members active!

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

I really enjoy our horse community and enjoy the role of getting people together. I've done the KDCTA shows for over 15 years as well as being the drill team coach. Horses are my passion and always will be.

