NEW CANAAN MOUNTED TROOP

TROOP SCOOP

SUMMER 2015 EDITION

2014-2015 CADET MAJOR
Margot Tucker

The Troop Community

by Margot Tucker

Over the last nine years, I have found that there is something truly wonderful about devoting your time to horses. They are so much more complex than dogs or cats, yet they can be just as gentle if you give them your heart.

Despite all their bad habits and stubborn quirks, horses have this extraordinary ability to make you feel rare and pure and special. Whether you've had an awful day at school or your siblings have just been getting on your nerves, there is something truly amazing about horses that enables you to push those negative feelings to the side and just enjoy the simplicity of life.

Often times when I was younger and I heard people talking about how fast time goes by, I tuned them out and just thought about what homework I had due the next day. I've now realized that those days as a young Trooper went by incredibly fast, and it's hard to believe that I have been a part of this family for nearly ten years. I can still remember my first day at NCMT, when I met Anne and dusted off wall boxes with Barn Day Captain Olivia. I can still recall the names of the girls in my very first riding lesson and who each of us was riding. Most of all, I can still remember those feelings of pure joy as I walked down Long Aisle for another barn day. Growing up with NCMT and so many wonderful cadets has definitely shaped me into the person I am today, and I can confidently say that I have learned so much about horse care and riding from old captains, staff members, and horses past and present.

In this past year alone, I have met at least a dozen new Troopers, worked and played with nearly all of the cadets, and strengthened friendships within my beloved Leadership Council. My fondest memories of my senior year are most definitely the ones that I made with my fellow Troopers. I will of course come back and visit whenever I have breaks from school, but I know that I am leaving you all in Amanda's very capable hands and that you will continue to thrive at NCMT just as I did. ■

The NCMT Staff would like to thank Margot for her hard work and dedication over the past year. She has been an exemplary Cadet Major, and we wish her the best of luck next year at college!

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Amanda Bauersfeld Takes the Reins

I am a seventeen year old rising senior at New Canaan High School and have been at Troop since the summer of 2005 at the age of seven. I instantly fell in love with the Troop community and the horse I rode during summer camp, Whisper. As a child, I was bashful and reserved, but my experience at Troop has given me confidence and has allowed me to flourish. Through Troop, I have made lifelong friendships and many amazing memories. Going through the ranks, I always looked up at the Cadet Major, and I am truly honored to hold that rank during the 2015-2016 program year. ■

Ten things you may not know about me:

1. I have been going to Vermont since I was six months old
2. I am an Irish Twin (my brother, Andrew, is eleven months younger than me)
3. I have two Labrador Retrievers named Ellie and KC
4. My favorite color is turquoise
5. I played soccer and lacrosse competitively, but I stopped before my freshman year of high school due to a hip injury
6. My favorite Troop horse is Eddie
7. I met my best friend at Troop
8. I snowboard in the winter
9. My favorite subject in school is math
10. I traveled to Nicaragua in June of 2014 to build a school for a local Nicaraguan community

GRADUATING SENIORS

MARGOT TUCKER

Came to Troop in 2006
Favorite horses are Daisy, Doc, and Pearl
Favorite Troop events are Capture the Captain and the Benefit Show
Hometown: New Canaan
Graduated from New Canaan High School
Attending Bucknell University to study Animal Behavior next year
Best memory at Troop: Hacking after summer camp and making Wal-Mart runs to buy ridiculous outfits for Drill Team

HANNA VOSSLER

Came to Troop in 2010
Favorite horses are Sandy and Braveheart
Favorite Troop event is the Halloween parade
Hometown: Darien, CT
Graduated from Darien High School
Attending the University of Virginia next year
Best memory at Troop: Helping with Super Troopers!

MADDIE BERNSTEIN

Came to Troop in 2005
Favorite horses are Cody, Sandy, and Rocco
Favorite Troop event it the Benefit Show
Hometown: Westport, CT
Graduated from Staples High School
Studying Veterinary Science at UCONN next year
Best memory at Troop: Water balloon fight at Trooper Night

DEVIN MCLEAN

Came to Troop in 2009
Favorite horses are Doc, Mongo, and Spot
Favorite Troop activity is bathing horses
Hometown: Norwalk, CT
Graduated from Brien McMahon High School
Studying Law Enforcement and Veterinary Science next year
Best memory at Troop: Jumping Otis

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Sara Tucker
Executive Director

10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I love to travel and have been to some pretty incredible places. I've visited South Africa, Vietnam, Cambodia and Uruguay, and have lived in Trinidad and London.
2. I am the youngest of seven children
3. I live in New York City, as well as in Westport
4. I started riding at Troop in 2011 in the Adult program
5. I am a registered nurse
6. I used to volunteer with Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, where I worked with Hannah's sister, Macayla
7. My favorite horse here at Troop is Otis
8. I once rode horseback for six days through Provence, France, stopping at inns at night and riding through the Luberon Mountains!
9. I consider myself a Jersey girl, through and through
10. My favorite NCMT memory is watching the Drill team perform, and then getting to practice the routine in the Sunday Adult lessons.

Lyn Pedersen
Equestrian Program Coordinator

10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I first started riding when I was seven, and my first pony's name was Lucy
2. My husband and I are beekeepers, and we keep bees on our property at home
3. I've been nationally ranked in the top ten Amateur Owner-Riders for the past five years
4. I have three dogs: a pug named Tula, a Boston Terrier named Roxy, and a Shepherd-cross named PJ
5. I'm scared of heights…unless I'm on a horse
6. I love scuba diving
7. My favorite Troop horse is Mongo
8. I co-founded Empower Africa, a conservation, preservation, and education non-profit
9. I was married in a Zulu wedding in South Africa
10. My favorite NCMT memory is watching the Gambler's Choice at the Annual Benefit Gymkhana!

REMARKS BY LYN PEDERSEN

Review Ceremony – June 7, 2015

I have ridden at many different barns over the years, but I have never seen a place as special as New Canaan Mounted Troop. It is a magical place that allows young people and adults alike to experience the gifts that horses have to offer. In addition to riding, the learning that takes place here is immeasurable. I've witnessed team work and support within this group that I haven't seen anywhere else. The leadership, friendship, and camaraderie are amazing! I know that the friendships and bonds that are you are forming here today will last a lifetime.

The days I spent at the barn formed, in many ways, the person I am today. Horses have taught me so many things. Things like kindness, perseverance, commitment, dedication, humility, and grace in triumph as well as failure. So I thought today, I would speak about some of the specific lessons I've learned that have helped me in my life.

Remember to always find your edge…

In riding, you are always evaluating where you are with your horse. You try to ask your horse to bend a little more, step a little stronger, move with a little more bounce. You work on aiding a little softer, sitting a little deeper, developing a more consistent contact. Whenever you have achieved a level of mastery in your riding skills, you assess where you are and look for the next step. Riding is an act of constant learning, improving and discovery. Pushing yourself that one little bit more toward either a new level of understanding and ability, or toward a completely new skill. Hopefully, your life will be that way, too.

Just as you can learn a riding skill more deeply, you should also seek to develop your skills and experiences in all aspects of life. Become a life-long lover of learning, a seeker of adventure. These are the ingredients of a full life. Remember to always find your edge.

Find balance…

In riding, it's all about finding the right balance. Learning to find a useful, correct balance in horseback riding takes time and perseverance. Balance between hand and leg, pressure and finesse. Once you have achieved even a basic level of balance, things flow more smoothly, and riding becomes easier.

In your life, when you find the balance between work, play, studying, and doing something *for yourself*, things somehow seem to go smoother, easier, and you might even find yourself becoming happier! Remember to find balance.

Never Get Bored…

From the outside, it looks like the horse and rider are going round and round and round in circles. From the inside, you are so focused on the process of developing so many things *while* you go around those circles that you never have a chance to get bored! I have often heard from non-riders that it looks like the horse is doing all the work. That's the way it *should* look, but we all know that's not really the case. For me, riding is never boring.

Finding the things you love to do in life will leave you satisfied and content. Finding a sense of purpose and reaching for that ultimate goal will keep life exciting and new. Remember to never get bored!

Learn to listen…

There is a constant communication between you and your horse. Even if you don't know it, it is happening and your horse is picking up signals from your every action. As you develop communication with your horse, you will realize how much you can read from the horse's behavior and subtle communications.

The same goes with life. The concept of listening to our fellow humans, from a personal level to a global level, is critical to the development of humankind. Communication is key in all aspects – from making friends as children, to learning skills at school, to maintaining personal relationships, to holding jobs and securing business deals – life is communication. And the most critical step in communicating is listening. Remember to listen

Get back on the horse…

In the end, riding is really all about falling down, dusting ourselves off, and getting back in the saddle. This will be your life. Over and over. You will have amazing days, but you will also have bad days. It is on those bad days that we can fall back on our experiences riding horses and being at Troop. You will have to dust yourself off and get back in the game. Remember to get back on the horse.

Finally, I want to remind all of you that you are Troopers, and you represent NCMT everywhere you go. It is for this reason that we all have to behave in a manner that would make us proud to be represented by you. And so, in all areas of your life, remember to be a Trooper. ■

INDUCTEES

June 2015 Inductees

Mimi Bartolovic, Sophie Jaeger, Sophie Kang, Lucy Kennelly, Maddie Mendicina, Taylor Peck, Kate Senneff

The Cadet Pledge

I pledge myself to be kind to animals
To be a sportsperson, win or lose
To be courteous and obedient to my officers
To work and play with my fellow cadets
As I would have them work and play with me
To hold honor, truth and courage in high regard.

The Cadet Maxim

It is never the fault of the horse when something goes wrong; it is always the fault of the rider. When you improve your own skill, you will be able to ride and care for every horse successfully.

PROMOTIONS

Cadets proceed up the ranks through Corporal, Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Captain and Cadet Major. Promotions are given based on evidence of leadership, work ethic and overall commitment to NCMT.

To Corporal

Daisy Fichthorn
Riley Meyer
Hayley Sayewitz

To Sergeant

Alessandra Andrade
Bella Andrade
Riley Bazaar
Emma Cody

To Second Lieutenant

Sophie Broll
Kate Murphy
Annie Salvi

To First Lieutenant

Alexi Goodman
Annika Srivastava

To Captain

Lauren Hanny
Chris Joyce
Mollie McMullan
Conal Mueller
Hannah Vossler

To Cadet Major

Amanda Bauersfeld

HONOR BAR RECIPIENTS

NCMT confers honor bars to recognize members of the corps who have shown themselves to be outstanding in qualities which NCMT considers to be important.

Courteousness and Soldierly Appearance

Awarded to cadets who have shown themselves to be the most courteous to both officers and fellow cadets, whose appearance has been consistently neat and trim, and who have proven to be good role models to fellow cadets.

Greer Anderson, Bella Andrade, Riley Bazaar, Mia Cappelli, Brooke Dirvin, Jaiden Gibson, Libby Hinshaw, Katie Holmes, Katie LeBaron, Maddie Mendicina, Maggie Ruvinsky, Ellie Turner

Sportsmanship

Given to cadets who have shown themselves to be good sports win or lose, who can take a toss without blaming their mount, can accept the assignment of a horse they do not find especially agreeable without complaining, and who show when the going gets hard they carry on with good spirit.

Sarah Kate Alford, Leena Aronson, Mimi Bartolovic, Dylan Bazaar, Sophie Broll, Maya Coniglio, Taylor Corbett, Savannah Haims, Annie Harrigan, Sophie Jaeger, Katherine Kenneally, Caroline Lagarde, Tessa Markham, Brooke McEntire, Riley Meyer, Victoria Novothny, Ella Olafsson, Megan Rigione, Aliana Rivas, Hannah Rutherford, Bella Sabino, Hayley Sayewitz, Kate Senneff, Katherine Sloan, Georgia Stewart, Camryn Sung, Helen Whitney

Effort and Improvement

Recognizes cadets who have tried to improve by recognizing their own weaknesses and refusing to give in to them. Improvement in horsemanship, sportsmanship, foot drill appearance, general attitude and willingness to accept responsibility are all taken into consideration.

Alessandra Andrade, Olivia Collot, Lauren Goll, Alexi Goodman, Hannah Gunn, Laura Haley, Isabelle Johnsen, Ellie Lyon, Maddie Malone, Daisy Marasciullo, Fiona Mueller, Kate Murphy, Bryn Olafsson, Taylor Peck, Meredith Saba, Natalie Schlesinger, Mary Grace Thomas, Fionn Tierney, Elena Uttley

Stable Efficiency

Given to cadets who have shown themselves to be efficient and hardworking in the barn. At their levels, these cadets have demonstrated outstanding achievements in organization and self-discipline while carrying out their stable responsibilities and caring for their horses.

Karey Balkind, Kate Barnard, Amanda Bauersfeld, Nate Broll, Emma Cody, Elizabeth Dedon, Daisy Fichthorn, Lauren Hanny, Christopher Joyce, Sophie Kang, Elizabeth Lavin, Isabella Madrid, Emily Oh, Kate Papadatos, Julianne Reilly, Cece Salvatore, Annie Salvi, Holly Silva, Cassie Warren, Paige Zamsky

Troop Spirit

Awarded to cadets who have truly shown that they put the good of the Unit above their own personal desires.

Kelsey Allen, Maddie Bernstein, Isabelle Broll, Elizabeth Farrell, Harper Judelson, Kaitlin Karr, Elizabeth Kenneally, Lucy Kennelly, Brynn McClymont, Devin McLean, Mollie McMullan, Conal Mueller, Alexis Rodgers, Emily Rodgers, Isabella Speranza, Annika Srivastava, Margot Tucker, Sarah Volpitta, Hanna Vossler

EQUINE CARE HIGH POINT HORSEMANSHIP AWARD

The NCMT mission statement is building leadership, responsibility and confidence in youth through sound horsemanship. Each week, cadets attend equine care lectures and have the opportunity to use the skills they are taught during the barn day as well as their riding day. Each semester, cadets have the opportunity to participate in a challenge to demonstrate their knowledge by taking the Equine Care High Point Horsemanship Examination. The cadet in each rank who scores highest on the exam earns the championship sash.

Inductee	Kate Senneff
Cadet	Elizabeth Lavin
Corporal	Mary Grace Thomas
Sergeant	Brynn McClymont
Second Lieutenant	Megan Rigione
First Lieutenant	Emily Oh
Captain	Margot Tucker

NCMT PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS

NCMT CUP – **Margot Tucker**
for responsibility and unselfish interest in fellow officers

SKY ROCKET TROPHY – **Alexi Goodman and Cody**
for the horse and rider showing most improvement

MacLACHIAN TROPHY – **Maddie Bernstein**
for dedication to Troop

CORTELL SERVICE TROPHY – **Julianne Reilly**
for outstanding service

SMALL FRY TROPHY – **Kate Barnard**
for contributing to Troop in alternative ways

RITCHIE MEMORIAL TROPHY – **Isabelle Broll**
for most outstanding officer of the year

MAXWELL TROPHY – **Isabelle Speranza**
for most improvement in riding

STABLE TROPHY – **Libby Hinshaw**
for showing the most interest in stable management

MILITARY EFFICIENCY TROPHY – **Devin McLean**
for the most efficient barn day officer

TIGER LILY MEMORIAL TROPHY – **Mary Grace Thomas**
for barn organization

DANNY JESUP TROPHY – **Emma Cody**
for the most willing to help others without complaint

TERRY NOBLE TROPHY – **Sarah Kate Alford**
for dedication and perseverance throughout the winter

CHASE CHALLENGE TROPHY – **Hayley Sayewitz**
for the most outstanding first year cadet

ROB ROY TROPHY – **Lauren Goll**
for the most outstanding corporal

MEADOWSWEET TROPHY – **Brynn McClymont**
for the most outstanding sergeant

WORKHOUSE TROPHY – **Camryn Sung**
for the most outstanding second lieutenant

BARTLET TROPHY – **Chris Joyce**
for the most outstanding first lieutenant

FRIAR TUCK TROPHY – **Kelsey Allen**
for the most outstanding captain

HORSE OF THE YEAR

DOC

Born in 1996, our recipient is a Dutch Warmblood who joined Troop in 2010. He has been an invaluable member of our program, teaching cadets how to jump and carrying them through innumerable horse shows. He has been a successful member of our Drill Team, and is the handsome favorite of many students. If you haven't yet guessed who it is, he lives up to his show moniker, The Dark Knight, has a corner stall with a view of the woods, and is constantly snaking his head out of his stall to beg for attention. This year's Horse of the Year is Doc.

TROOPERS OF THE YEAR

Barn Day of the Year

Barn Day of the Year goes to those cadets who have demonstrated commitment to their chores and exhibited sportsmanship and teamwork in order to get the job done.

WEDNESDAY FIRST SHIFT Margot Tucker, Katherine Sloan, Isabella Speranza, Caroline Lagarde, Harper Judelson, Leena Aronson, and Maddie Mendicina

Lesson of the Year

Lesson of the Year is awarded to the lesson group that over the course of the year has done the best job caring for their horses, equipment, and barn both before and after their lessons. This group exemplifies all the values at Troop of horsemanship, sportsmanship and responsibility.

SATURDAY 1:00 LESSON DeeDee Bazaar, Alessandra Andrade, Holly Silva, Brooke McEntire, and Maddie Mendicina

Thanks to all our staff and volunteers:

Suzy Angier

Jess D'Urso

Anne Dylewski

Caroleigh Evarts

Stacy Gendels

Nicole Karaman

Fredi Martinez

Anna McMorrow

Lyn Pedersen

Francisco Tinajero

Sara Tucker

Hannah Wirfel

REMEMBERING OPUS AND JACK

Jack: 1994-2015

Opus: 1990-2015

SUPER TROOPERS

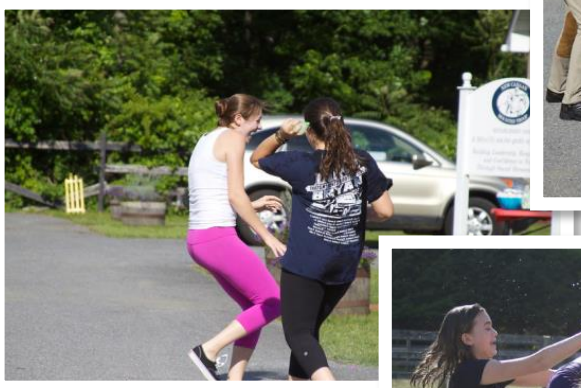
THERAPEUTIC RIDING AND EQUINE CARE

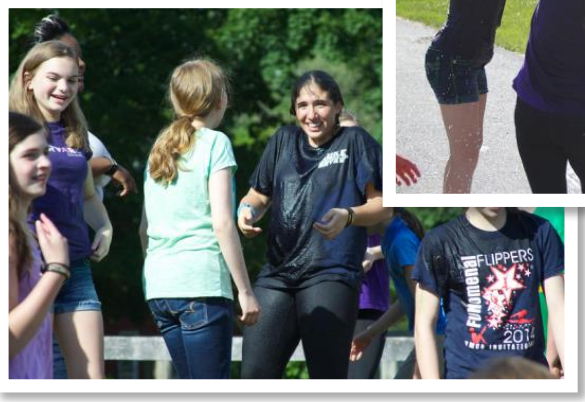
The Super Troopers program had a great spring session, serving over fifty students in our various therapeutic programs. NCMT partnered with Waveny LifeCare Network in a pilot program to service adults with Alzheimer's dementia and other neurocognitive disorders. We're looking forward to our upcoming Summer and Fall programs, and we want to thank everyone for your support!

2015 BENEFIT GYMKHANA

2015 BARN DANCE

FAREWELL TROOPER NIGHT





2015 JUNE REVIEW HORSE SHOW