

I grew up riding western and my dad bought me my first large pony when I was 9. The pony was a beautiful part-Arab palomino named Flick. I was very active in 4H. 4H was where kids learned horsemanship in that time and place; we'd never heard of Pony Club. When I outgrew Flick, I got several other horses and have owned a total of 12 or 13. I competed seriously in barrel racing and pole bending with the Girls Barrel Racing Association of Indiana. I learned to ride hunt seat when I was a teenager and really enjoy learning to jump. Dressage was only an event we saw on TV during the Olympics. When I was in my 20s, I moved to Virginia and spent a short time riding grand prix jumpers (Selle Francais) full time for a living.

Then, I got married and had 3 beautiful daughters and didn't have any involvement with horses. As the years went by, I got divorced and my girls grew up and I got heavier and heavier. I didn't believe I'd ever have a horse again. Six and a half years ago, with my girls grown and out of the house, it struck me that I was still passionate about riding. God does make large horses after all! With the encouragement of my kids and my best friend, I bought Jefferson, a 16.3hh Irish Draught with a heart of gold. Jefferson was strong enough to carry my bulk and still be an athlete.

I joined OPRC just after buying Jefferson. People in the club have been so good to me. Jefferson was green and I wasn't physically or mentally able to be a good rider. Nevertheless, I was welcomed with open arms. I'll always be grateful for OPRC and how you folks helped Jefferson and me. Jefferson died suddenly in September of 2017. I purchased Murphy, a young Clydesdale, soon after Jefferson died. Murphy will never be the beautiful athlete and rock-solid trail horse Jefferson was; but with training and patience on my part, Murphy will be a wonderful companion.

I look forward to being your president. I'm sure OPRC will continue to give us times to remember. We are adults who love horses and are there for each other. Trail On!