

HS WineGlass Pik George – 1000 Miles and First Level Dressage Award Winner

By Nicole Mauser-Storer

When it came time for me to look at a new horse for my herd I was looking for a versatile athlete and something with a bit of personality. I was drawn to George right away from the sale photos that were posted and I got everything I wanted on both counts. HS WineGlass Pik George is a 2009 Shagya Sporthorse gelding by *Budapest and out of H.S. Lilly a Hungarian Sportlo mare. Linda Rudolphi told me before I took George home that he was the farm clown and she wasn't kidding. George has caused us to re-engineer many things around the farm over the years and is always full of entertaining antics even if he is the only one who thinks they are funny.



In 2013 George did the first part of the PShR inspection finishing up the rideability and interior test in 2015. That started the clock for the performance criteria. To be a Book 1 horse with PShR, in addition to pedigree requirements, a horse must pass the inspection and within three years complete the performance criteria. It may not seem important for a gelding to be a Book 1 horse as they'll never be used for breeding, but it does provide some great information on a breeding program and the offspring of a mare or stallion.

George nearly didn't have a career so to end up where he is now is impressive. In 2015 as we were conditioning for our endurance season he tripped, slid down the asphalt road on his front knees and we weren't sure what he had damaged or if he would ever be sound. After some great veterinary treatment, stall rest (which resulted in modifications to the barn by us AND George), limited turnout and about 6 months off George was back in business and hasn't looked back since.



We continued with our dressage training and our endurance rides at a comfortable pace and realized as 2017 came to an end that we were within reach of the PShR performance criteria to place George as a Book 1 horse. I calculated out what we needed to get to the 1000 mile mark in endurance and realized that not only could we reach that milestone, but if all the stars aligned we could also earn the United States Dressage Federation All-Breeds

Award at First Level and be one of a select group who met not just one performance criteria for Book 1 before the deadline, but two.

George and I started our dressage shows early in the season and had on the calendar the bare minimum number of shows required for the award. The All-Breeds award requires 8 scores at USDF competitions from four judges at four different shows, at least two tests above 60% at the highest test of the level and a median score of 60% or higher. I told George that we didn't have time to mess around, and that I was expecting a 60% or better on every test. At our first ever USDF show George managed to score a 60.000% on First Level Test 3. In true George fashion he did exactly what I asked, but made sure he did it his own way. From there things just got better and not only did we earn the All-Breeds Award, we also qualified for USDF regionals. We couldn't attend because at that point we were busy with our endurance season, but we did qualify which was exciting.



With dressage behind us in May, we moved to endurance. I calculated that we really had no margin for error and had to complete all the rides in the list, which was a busy schedule. We shuffled a few things after a family situation in August, which meant riding in some really miserable rain and mud a few times as well as upping miles from a 25 mile limited distance ride to a 50 mile endurance ride sometimes closer together than I would have preferred, but away we went with the goal in sight. Our last ride of the year, a 50 mile competition at the PShR National Championships in Indiana at the end of October would get us over the 1000 mile



mark. It was another cold, wet, miserable day where we took our time doing everything we could to avoid a lameness pull and ensure a completion of the miles. Success! We ended the year with 1012.5 miles (Our regional organization offers 12.5 mile novice rides which we had done a few of early in George's career).

What's next for George? That's a good question. I'm not usually driven by competition results but do like to set some sort of goal to aim for. George's only real goal is to enjoy the grass in the pasture with his friends! George and I have started work on USDF Second Level tests and continue to be involved in endurance riding. It will take a while, but maybe our next goal will be the Specialty Plus awards with PShR. Don't tell George, but I'd love to do a 100 mile endurance ride one day or maybe we'll take up jumping and you'll see us on a cross country course somewhere! It's hard telling what all we'll do from here, but I know that George is capable of just about anything and will continue to keep us all entertained throughout the process, just exactly what I wanted from the beginning.