

Two years later I got my first horse, an unknown mixed breed gelding, and he was a wonderful teacher. Shortly after, I got my pony, and then the horses kept coming pretty rapidly. My parents bought a farm for me in northern Albemarle County, and we ended up with 7 horses, and several boarders. We did some showing, I was a Pony Clubber, and I fox hunted my pony with Keswick Hunt Club for several years. My favorite time spent on my horse was riding the miles of trails behind our farm, now turn into the Preddy Creek Nature Trails. When I moved to New England in 1986, I took 4 horses with me, and then got married and had a child so the horses became lawn ornaments. In 1998 I was fortunate enough to move my family back to VA, with 2 horses but then had to find a home for them when I had another child. Being horseless for 4 years was torture, but when my daughter turned 4, we found a wonderful instructor (who we are still with 13 years later) and I got involved again. I then purchased my beautiful Shire/TB cross, Aria, who is my horsey soul mate!

4 years ago I got involved with a group of ladies and their miniature horses, and we trained and took courses and were evaluated with Pet Partners to become registered therapy teams. Two years ago I officially adopted my therapy partner, Dolly, and we have become very busy doing inside visits to nursing homes and rehab facilities, working with the special needs children in our local schools, hospice groups, camps for special needs children and those battling diseases. It has become a very rewarding experience for me, and I love sharing Dolly and bring happiness to all those we touch.

I joined OPRC to be with other wonderful people who also share my love of horses. It has been a very enjoyable time, and I just love the camaraderie this club provides. Everyone makes you feel very comfortable, and it's just fun to be around other horse lovers. I am currently the treasurer for our chapter. I reside in Amissville with my husband and daughter, 2 horses, 2 rats, a rabbit and chinchilla.