

# It's all about family for Dick Kearneys

"You have to love the horse to be in this business," says Dick Kearney of Kearney Farms, Prosperity, PA. "If you work hard and don't stray from your goals, be patient and keep trying, things usually work out."

And things have worked out well for Dick and his wife, Nancy - so well that now the third generation of their family is sharing their love for the saddlebred, with grandchildren Kaylyn, Sam and Ross enjoying riding, driving and showing.

The 50-acre farm's breeding, lesson and training programs are growing and they have several nice prospects coming on and for sale. Longtime breeding manager at the farm is Elizabeth "Biff" Sims; Eliz Sims is assistant trainer.

Kearney's senior stallion is Catalyst, a Manhattan Supreme son he purchased as a fancy week-old foal to be a show prospect - not a breeding horse. He liked him because he had known and admired his sire and dam, Lakeview's Captured Angel by CH Superior Odds, since both were young.

Even as time passed the Kearneys didn't think of Catalyst as a stud prospect. The colt was training well, so they gaited him.

"We didn't get around to castrating him by the time he was two and we had some mares to breed, so....," Dick remembers. When Catalyst's first son was born, one look told the Kearneys that Catalyst was something special. His first colt was WC George Amos.

Now many years later, Catalyst is the sire of some of the winningest colts in the saddlebred industry: WCs, RWCs and many, many champions including CH Cat Cracker, The Perfect Storm, Long-Vue's Sophisticat, Catastropic, Catabolic.

A Magic Spell, and Itchy Foot Moe.

They also stand Good Time'n Man (Catalyst x On Line by Flight Time), who is becoming a top breeding horse in his own right.

"We have been very fortunate how it's turned out," Dick says. "Calalyst and his son are very, very nice horses and now they're siring top quality sons and daughters to carry on the family."

Dick estimates that 75% of his farm's breeding is with shipped semen, a system that's working well for his program.

"Transport expands the gene pool by giving an advantage to mare owners living a distance from the stallion," he says. "The disadvantage for me is that I don't see many mares or foals, so I don't have enough follow through. I have to wait and see the colts in the show ring.

"Papers are no good without something to go on. It's been proven that when you breed to quality, more often than not you will get quality. When it's all said and done, it comes down to which genes click. That's why I ask mare owners to send me their best mares."

The Kearneys live in southwestern Pennsylvania, only an hour from the Pittsburgh airport at 136 Weir-Cole Road, Prosperity, PA. 15329. (724) 222-0329.



*Catalyst,  
Good Time'n Man  
stand in  
Pennsylvania.*



*Dick & Nancy Kearney's grandchildren Kaylyn Kearney & Zipper (top), Ross Kearney & Coach Ticket (bottom left) & Sam Kearney & Corsair's Comet (bottom right) carry on the Kearney Farm tradition.*

