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Save the Date January 25, 2026 Annual Banquet

SEND IN YOUR SCORES and VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR YEAR END AWARDS !!

SCORES we need your SCORES!!

Did you nominate yourself and your horse for Year End Awards? Want to know how to submit your scores? Submit your volunteer hours? You can do this at IaDCTA.org



IaDCTA is a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO), and all members are automatically USDF Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.

We're Online: [IaDCTA Iowa Dressage](https://IaDCTA.org) and [Combined Training Association](https://IaDCTA.org) or visit our Facebook page.

To open links use CTL + click





YEAR END SCORES

RULES AND HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR SCORES



The IaDCTA Show Year runs from December 1st to November 30th

For all divisions The rider/handler must be an IaDCTA member. The rider/horse combination must be nominated in the specific division before the time qualifying scores are received. A rider is **not** allowed to enter more than one (1) division (i.e. cannot enter Open and AA).

For Dressage, Western Dressage , Musical Freestyle, and Sport Horse divisions Only scores of 60% or higher (Dressage or Western Dressage) or 70% or higher (Sport Horse) by an "L" Judge or better with **ONE** of those being within the State of Iowa will be counted toward IaDCTA year-end awards. **Equitation and Musical Freestyle will not be divided into AA, Senior, Junior, Open, or YR divisions.**

*****Multiple scores may be submitted, but the top three (3) scores used to determine awards must be obtained by participating in at least three (3) separate shows with at least two different judges.!! ******

Individuals riding at all levels (except INTRO and Walk Trot) will be required to ride and submit scores from at least three (3) tests of the chosen level with at least one (1) test submitted being the highest at the level.

For Dressage Introductory and Walk Trot Levels Individuals riding for dressage year-end awards at INTRO Level must ride/submit at least three (3), level C tests to qualify. For the young and/or inexperienced riders/horses, IaDCTA added a Walk Trot division to the year-end awards. The tests used for this division will be Intro A and Intro B.

For Eventing/Horse trials with 3 phase Horse Trials do not need to be in the state of Iowa to be counted toward IaDCTA year-end awards. Multiple scores may be submitted, but the top three (3) scores used to determine awards must be obtained by participating in at least three (3) separate events with at least two different judges.

DEFINITION OF RIDER DIVISIONS: A. Adult Amateur (AA): Competitors shall compete as adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the **age of 18** B. Open (O) division is for professionals as described by USEF rule GR1306 C. **Junior riders (JR) are 17 years and younger.**

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT for YEAR-END AWARDS Members will be asked to attest that the volunteer requirement of 7 hours time has been met prior to the Annual Meeting. When entering your scores on line, you will find a place to enter your volunteer hours and where you volunteered. Volunteer hours may be gifted from an IaDCTA member to another member and by non-member family to-family members. Please let me know if you have questions about this requirement. ANY volunteer service related to riding and/or horses is acceptable!

Report your scores and volunteer hours by going to IaDCTA.org You will be required to list shows and dates where you were volunteering.



Home page> Report End of Year Scores 2025

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Annual Meeting , Silent Auction, and Elections...

Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation will be held January 25, 2026. **This meeting will be held at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club in West Des Moines.** Festivities will include a lunch, short business meeting, guest speaker The Italian Buffet was a hit and we will offer it again !



Upcoming Election News

Members will have the opportunity to vote for new Board Members and Officers. Board members are elected to three-year terms. This year there are three Board members whose terms expire. If you are interested in serving on the Board for a three year term beginning January 2026, please Alex Novotny –Pasker AlexNPEquestrian@gmail.com by November 30. Elections will take place at the meeting. New Board members will begin their terms after the Annual Meeting.

Terms expiring this year:

Lisa Grove Board Member

Carmen Pierce Board Member

Rhea Allen Board Member

Serving on the board includes remote meeting once a month, helping with competitions that we sponsor, and volunteering to attend national meetings as our representative. We are looking for someone to lead our awards committee where you get to design and chooses our year end prizes. Who doesn't like to pick out cool horsey swag? We are also looking for someone younger to head up social media and someone to lead our membership outreach and maintenance.

Any other members interested in running, please contact Alex Novotny –Pasker AlexNPEquestrian@gmail.com

Have something you would like to donate to the Silent Auction??

Baskets of goodies, equipment, services, art work... all manner of items are welcome. You never know what will tickle someone's fancy. If you can let us know ahead of time so we can get enough tables set up that would be wonderful!

>USEA NEW DRESSAGE TESTS<

The following tests have changes for the 2026 competition season.

Beginner Novice A

Novice A

Novice B

Training A

Training B

Modified A

Modified B

Preliminary B

Intermediate A

Advanced A

Starting 12/1/25

through 11/30/29

All 2026 tests are published on the USEA website and can be found [HERE](#)



IaDCTA and Tamarack Championships



By Tammy Lisi of Tamarack Stables Iowa.

The 2025 Championship show weekend was a success according to the competitors polled. People loved the Friday evening crawl, and the other contests through the weekend. Jumping numbers were a little lower than in the spring, but the pony club was able to raise a bit of money by offering jumping.

I wish I could stop there, but I would be remiss if I didn't discuss the challenges that require a bit of thought between IaDCTA and the Tamarack Series

A little history to how we ended up here.

Tamarack Shows are held by Tammy (myself) and Tom Lisi since 2005. I decided a long time ago, to put on events that were unburdened by club politics. Without club politics, I could alter the prize list as needed. I could add special awards for people who needed encouragement, or whatever I felt was in the best interest of the local community.

As a result of our growing show participation, Tamarack was asked to bring dressage shows back to Kirkwood in 2019 (by the equestrian center manager). Kirkwood offered us better dates and two show dates in 2021 (spring and fall). 2021 was also the year that IaDCTA approached Tamarack and asked if we would be willing to hold their championship show. Tamarack agreed as long as Tamarack has complete authority over the events (all financial responsibilities belong to Tamarack). IaDCTA in exchange is asked to help find volunteers and provide their own awards.

Kirkwood since then has changed management (2023). The new management is putting some interesting restrictions and extra financial responsibilities on the show without improving the outdoor facilities or maintaining the jumping equipment. Previously, we could bring in our own caterer, now we must use Kirkwood. There are extra charges per day for vendors of any type (we consider them sponsors of the show, and do not pass that onto the vendors). The minimum is now \$6,000 for the weekend (which is 100 stalls- remember bedding, arena maintenance, manure disposal, etc. are extra). In addition, Kirkwood has started charging \$500 to add the show on Friday.

Tamarack has excellent sponsors who help to finance the expense of using a facility like Kirkwood. The sponsorship amount required to keep show fees as is has topped \$5000 for the year. Keep in mind Tamarack holds 2 shows at Kirkwood (Spring and Fall so this is \$2500 per show). Tamarack does not ask for or receive any sponsorship money from IaDCTA. How do we move forward from here?

Tamarack has made the decision to not hold shows at Kirkwood in 2026. Part of this is due to the high burden of expense, and part due to Kirkwood wanting our date for someone else. They offered us the weekend before Thanksgiving OR third weekend in August.

Tamarack's Spring Boot Camp and Show starting May 14 will be at Winds Reach (Iowa City) and feature Jodi Ely "S". Tamarack will most likely be moving our Championship to Wind Reach in October of 2026 (we just need to finalize the date).

In addition, Tamarack will hold two shows at Greenbriar in the summer of 2026.

There will be discussions between the IaDCTA Board and the Tamarack team on the best path forward and each is committed to the best interests of our members and community.



IaDCTA Autumn Antics



This year IaDCTA voted to hold a fall show so on October 11th. Board member Mallory Huggins offered to hold the show at Tallinn Farms near Prole, where she is based. It was a glorious fall afternoon for a show. The only problem was when the farms barn cat, appropriately named Hunter, brought a mouse she had caught and proceeded to toss it into the air next to the dressage ring. Hunter was given a time out in the barn office for her efforts. Here's to the crew of volunteers who picked up the dressage ring at MLEC and got it set up perfectly !



IADCTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2025 Iowa Classic Championship held at the Tamarack Fall Show at The Iowa Equestrian Center, Kirkwood Community College was attended by many equine enthusiasts.



Riders qualified at previous events and competed on Saturday for IADCTA Classic prizes and ribbons. The IADCTA is happy to announce and congratulate the 2025 winners!

USEF/USDF Intro B

Adult Amateur Champions –Sarah Claney on Frosty

JR/YR Champion- Makenzie O’Brien on Derby

Open Champions—Michelle Blackler on Bliss Oak Celestine

Reserve Champion- Jaimie Westrum on Windor’s Mishka May

USEF/USDF Intro C

Open Champions – Jaimie Westrom on Windor’s Miska May

JR/YR Champion- Kalea Mathis on Buzz

Reserve Champion- Grace Stodola on Toro

USEF/USDF Training Level

Adult Amateur Champions – Leslie MacBride on Sharaz II

Adult Amateur Reserve CH– Jenna Lovett on East Moon Lake

USEF/USDF First Level

Open Champions– Michelle Blackler on Not Now Cato

Adult Amateur Champions – Sydneamy Burlingham on Bliss Oak Spyder

Adult Amateur Reserve Champions – Karen Bright on Chapiro

JR/YR Champion—Evy Thompson on Theodore

USEF/USDF Amateur Handler- Amanda Steffen and Constellation’s Painted Shamrock

IADCTA leadership was on site and received both some positive and constructive feedback. Specifically there was confusion on awards differences between Tamarack and IADCTA. IADCTA and Tamarack leaders are working together to resolve these and other feedback we received for the future.

USEF/USDF Equitation Walk Trot Canter

Adult Amateur Champions- – Leslie MacBride and Fritz NHH

Adult Amateur Reserve CH– Jenna Lovett on East Moon Lake

Musical Freestyle

Adult Amateur Champions– David Law on Jake

Open Champions—PJ Koehler on This Magic Moment

USEF/USDF Second Level

Open Champions - PJ Koehler on This Magic Moment

Adult Amateur Champions– Leslie MacBride and Fritz NHH

USEF/USDF Sporthorse Prospect in Hand

Open Champion– Jaimie Westrum and Kayla

Open Reserve CH– Amanda Steffen and Constellation’s Painted Shamrock

Adult Amateur Champions – Leslie MacBride and Sharaz II

WDAA Basic Level

Adult Amateur Champions– Cassie Stowe and VR The Love Bug

JR/YR Champions– Sophia Erickson on Hocus Pocus

WDAA Level 1

Junior Champions – Jackson Williams on Atlas

WDAA Intro

Adult Amateur Champions – Cassie Stowe on VR The Love Bug

Member Spotlight on

Rodney Van Wyk

My interest in and love for horses began at an early age in the 1950s, sitting in front of a flickering black-and-white TV on Saturday mornings.

My favorite shows were the Lone Ranger and Roy Rogers. Not necessarily the actors, but their horses, Silver and Trigger. Later, it was Zorro and his horse Tornado.



First Show ever

In 1961, my dad bought a small farm south of the small town of Leighton, Iowa. My uncle raised horses on a small farm near us, and it was always a treat to visit the horses, I mean, my uncle and aunt. My dad bought some horses from my uncle. Daily, I could observe horses, collecting knowledge through a sequence involving stumbles, hesitations, and falls. I discovered the Appaloosa breed, and I favored our Appaloosa stallion, Navajo Flame. My view was that Appaloosas would be ideal if I owned horses. Over the years, my life revolved around horses until I left for college at the age of 18.



I was unaware then, yet it would be 50 years before horses reappeared in my life. Between college and a 35-year career in law enforcement, having a family, managing a dragway, and a small driver education company, there were multiple serious health issues. After recovering, I decided to choose one of my three favorite things for my future: horses, cars, or guns. I chose horses. In retrospect, I should have collected guns or Cars. It would have been cheaper.

Gertie , Emmy

In the mid-1990s, I discovered the Friesian breed while watching the 1985 film "Lady Hawke," starring Rutger Hauer, Michelle Pfeiffer, and a young Mathew Broderick. Hauer was riding a black horse. He was big. He had a flowing mane and tail and fetlocks. He was regal. He was majestic. He was commanding. He had an otherworldly presence. I was in awe. Did this type of horse exist, or was it just movie magic? It was real! It was a native breed from the Netherlands, bred in the Province of Friesland. Wait, a minute...Why did I not know about this horse? I'm full Dutch and Frisian, and a 5th-generation American. My mother was a full Frisian. My dad was half Frisian. Both my grandmothers spoke fluent Dutch and Frisian. I started researching this remarkable horse breed.

Almost all the good information was written in Dutch, so it took a while. I think I nearly wore out Google Translate. I knew if I were to own horses again, they would be Friesians. Years passed. After surviving two careers, a heart attack, a stroke, and cancer at the age of 68, I decided to take the plunge. Yes, I'm nuts. Luck or providence. I think of it as, "Even a blind hog finds an ear of corn once in a while."

One day, I was talking with my Canadian sister-in-law, and casually mentioned my interest in Friesians. She said that her brother raises Friesians. I looked at her and said, "I meant the horses, not the cows."

Well, he raised horses. In October 2019, I took delivery of two purebred Friesian mares. Emmy KCF and Geertsje DV. (Gercha). Emmy, born in 2017, was a two-year-old, and Geertsje, born in 2018, was a yearling. I worked with them 5 to 6 days a week, training them to have good, stable manners and stand for the farrier. Then COVID-19 reared its head. After two years of delays, in July 2022, I hauled them to Kansas to complete their kuering (inspection) training. They did very well, receiving their status as studbook mares. I moved them to their new home in October of that year. It was here that I was introduced to the person who would become both girls' trainer and later dressage rider, Mallory Huggins. I'd like to tell you that I researched all the trainers in the area and, after careful consideration, I chose Mallory. That would be a lie. (Remember the blind hog) I met this young, petite lady, who was fairly new to the area. She said I could watch and ask questions, and I liked that. She exuded confidence and, after speaking for a few minutes, excused herself because she did not want to be late for a training session. I liked that too. So, I hired her to start Geertsje. I was very impressed, so I asked her to train Emmy a month later. I want to be involved with my horses, so I became their groom, preparing them for their lessons. One day, Mallory walked into the barn and very enthusiastically said that she thought Geertsje (now Gertie) was a good dressage prospect. I knew what dressage was, but you could write what I know about it on my thumbnail with a magic marker. Of course, I said OK.

The day Mallory got on the saddle was a non-event. Gertie turned her head, looked at Mallory, and seemed to say, "What are you doing up there?" The rest is history. I think we did a fantasy show, I'm not sure, but I signed both horses up in the USDF and USEF, and I became a member. Gertie's first year at the training level went very well; she and Mallory received high point score at MLEC and high point Friesian, as well as qualifying for the Regionals. We held Emmy out that year because she was in foal. At the Regionals, held at MLEC that year, she ended up being first or second alternate to the Nationals. I was hooked. 2024 also went very well, but not as well as her first year. We did quality for the Regional at the NEC in Lake St. Louis. We did not do as well as we had hoped, but nevertheless were undeterred. This year, in 4 shows at MLEC, she qualified for regionals and received high point Friesian at 2 of the shows. We are signed up and heading for Regionals 2025 in Lake St. Louis. Emmy, in her first year of dressage, did well enough to win second in All Breeds at the Training level. This year, she has not been progressing as well, so she has been retired from dressage. I plan to breed her next spring. I plan to breed Gertie in the future. Most people have difficulty telling them apart, but after you get to know them, it's easy. Emmy is a sport horse with a long body and a high neck. She is friendly but standoffish. She is my Victoria's Secret model. She is very regal and elegant, stubborn, and wants her own way. She is a good trail horse. Gertie is a baroque-style traditional Friesian. She has a short body but is one inch taller than Emmy. There is no way around it, Gertie has a big butt, a broad back, a powerful neck, and a feminine head and face. Gertie is like the girl next door, sweet and loving. I call her my Vargus Girl. If the term is unfamiliar, Google it. Everyone loves Gertie. I made the right decision and plan to own a Friesian breeding (and dressage?) farm. I think the world would be a lot dimmer and less happy place without horses.



PC Framed Equestrian



Mallory on Gertie, Emmy



Rodney on Emmy



Behind the Bridle: A Conversation with Felicia Sackett on Tack Fitting and Equine Wellness

By Katherine Wilson (Oak Stone Farm)

Earlier this season, we had the pleasure of hosting a bit and bridle fitting clinic with Felicia Sackett, a certified fitter with a deep understanding of equine biomechanics and rider-horse harmony. Felicia's journey into tack fitting is as thoughtful and intentional as her approach to each horse she works with. We caught up with her after the clinic to learn more about her background, philosophy, and what riders should know about the importance of proper tack fitting.

From Grooming Aspirations to Tack Expertise

Felicia's path into bit and bridle fitting began at The Pennsylvania State University, where she majored in Animal Science and Equine Science. Her passion for working in the equine industry led her to Memphis, TN, where she met international dressage rider Kim Gentry. Although Felicia initially hoped to groom for Kim, fate had other plans. Kim invited her to assist with customer service for Bits N' Such, and soon after, Felicia began training as a fitter under Kim's mentorship. "I ended up working with Kim as a bit fitter a little bit by accident," Felicia shares with a smile.

A Thoughtful, Horse-Centered Approach

Felicia's fitting sessions begin with a careful evaluation of both horse and rider during warm-up. "The level of the rider and horse are important to understand," she explains. Years of training have honed her eye for subtle cues that indicate discomfort or inefficiency. As the session progresses, adjustments are made to improve the overall picture. "The goal is to make the combination look better," she says.

Debunking Myths and Spotting Discomfort

Felicia is quick to challenge common misconceptions. One of the most persistent myths? That single-jointed bits are always harsher than double-jointed ones. "A lot of horses prefer a well-made single joint bit," she notes. Another misconception is that looser bridles are more comfortable. "A well-fit bridle applies pressure in the right places as comfortably as possible. If pieces are moving around, the bridle isn't working effectively."

Signs of poor tack fit can include horses that feel heavy or overly light in the hand, or those that are inconsistent in the contact. "Any horse could benefit—even if you're just looking for a few more points in the show ring."

Routine Fittings and Rider Awareness

Felicia recommends fittings every 6 to 12 months, depending on the horse's age and training progression. "I would especially consider a recheck if your horse has changed," she advises.

She also emphasizes the importance of rider education. "Bit and bridle fitters exist!" she says. "And this sounds simple, but knowing which way your bit goes on your bridle—I've seen a lot of upside-down bits."

Innovation and the Future of Tack Fitting

Technology is beginning to reshape the tack industry. Felicia is excited about tools that measure pressure exerted by tack, helping manufacturers design more horse-friendly equipment. As the field grows, she anticipates more fitters entering the profession. "There will be more fads and trends, but the brands we work with now will keep doing the work and thinking about the welfare of the horse."

Bit Fitting con't...

Clinic Reflections

Felicia had high praise for the riders who attended the clinic. “We had a great clinic with riders eager to learn and do the best by their horse!” she says. Her enthusiasm and expertise made a lasting impression, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to learn from her.

Participant Reflections: Felicia Sackett Bit & Bridle Fitting Clinic

Michelle King

GMO Memberships: EIDEA, IaDCTA

Horse: Bragi

Biggest “A-ha!” Moment:

Feeling the different reactions to the different bits.

Shift in Thinking:

Made me think more about the individual mouth anatomy of each horse and how the bit sits.

Changes in the Horse:

Yes—during the clinic. I’m waiting on the new bit to arrive.

Advice to Others:

I found this to be a valuable experience for myself and my gelding. It was a great opportunity to try a multitude of bits without having to individually purchase them.

Katherine Wilson

GMO Memberships: CSDEA, EIDEA, IaDCTA, IDCTA

Horse: Stark

Biggest “A-ha!” Moment:

That Stark does have a half-halt while tracking left.

Shift in Thinking:

It was awesome to try so many different bits successively and get a feel for how they changed my ability to influence my horse's movement.

Changes in the Horse:

Yes. Half-halts to the left were much easier. He also got better about seeking the contact when we found a bit he liked. His poll became the highest point and he seemed to lift his wither more.

Advice to Others:

Do it. We saved so much money and time being able to try bits so quickly in succession. It was well worth the fitting fee—especially with a young horse.



Reminder... hunting season is upon us so be sure to wear something **orange** as many of our parks are open to public hunting.

Bit Fitting con't...

Donna Hammond

GMO Memberships: EIDEA, IDCTA
Horse: Galatea

Biggest “A-ha!” Moment:
Impact of bits on horse's manner of going.

Shift in Thinking:
Learned a lot about curbs.

Changes in the Horse:
Reinforced how sensitive she is to tongue pressure.

Advice to Others:

You cannot know the benefit until you work with an experienced fitter. The investment is small compared to the improvement in how the horse goes.



Felecia changing out the bit on Lu's bridle

Derith

GMO Memberships: IaDCTA
Horse: Lucina

Biggest “A-ha!” Moment:
That horses have clear preferences—1 piece/no joint, 2 piece/single joint, 3 piece/2 joint bits. After figuring out what shape works, having photos to compare loose ring version with egg butt version. Coming from an eventing background, I have always favored the stability of egg butt/ full cheek/ D ring/ Bouchers in that you cannot pull them through the horses mouth. It was a very hot day and we tried 6 or so bits. After getting warmed up the a ha moment was when Lu got to work with out sucking behind the vertical... you know that weird feeling of no body is there. It's scary so it was pretty cool when she felt up and wanting to move forward in spite of the heat. Shift in Thinking:
Yes.

Advice to Others:

Having someone who is knowledgeable, who has examined the mouths of many different breeds of horses, and has a large variety of bits to try is invaluable.



Katherine on Max



Derith on Lucina



The Comeback Kid

By: Jenna Janecek (Lovett)



The 2025 show season certainly did not go like I wanted it to. The Spring Tamarack show was a huge success for Easton and I; I could not wait for the rest of the season. My goal was to ride first level by the end of the year and I knew that there were some kinks that we needed to work out before we could get there. The June show at Greenbriar Riding Academy was going to be the next step for us. It felt like we were really heading in the right direction when everything came to a halt.

On June 22 I received a text message from the barn manager that Easton had a nasty wound on his hind end. From the pictures she sent me it was hard to see the extent of the damage but I knew that it at least needed to be deep cleaned. Once I got out to the barn and had the wound rinsed off, I knew this was a whole new ballgame. Now Easton is no stranger to injuries; in fact sometimes I swear that he seeks them out. In 2023 he had a puncture wound on his left knee. In 2024 he managed to get not one, but TWO nails in his hind feet over the course of two months. In October of 2024 he had another puncture wound on his left knee. In March of 2025 he had a large bite wound on his jugular. At this point it almost seemed like he wanted to be on permanent stall rest.

I can honestly say that if it weren't for the quick and detailed veterinary care that Easton received from Coohey Equine Veterinary Service, I don't think we would be where we are today. The nature of the injury is hard to describe without showing a picture of it. The wound was at least three inches deep and about six inches around. I could have fit my fist into it when it first happened. The nature of how he received such an injury remains a mystery but the assumption is that it was from a kick.

Figuring out a way to keep the wound clean proved to be rather difficult. Because of where it was located it was not able to be stitched up, and with it being so deep it had an increased risk of infection. The biggest concern that I had were the flies. The last thing I wanted was for flies to get into the wound and lay eggs. The solution that myself and Karen Bright (my wonderful barn mate) came up with was using a fly sheet, a doggy pad, safety pins, and painters tape. Once a day it would have to be deep cleaned, which involved cleaning inside the three inch deep c have been neut. Most horses would have had to have been sedated but not Easton, he handled it like a champ. It's almost like he knew that he was being taken care of. Once that was done I would spray Silver Honey on his wound then attach the doggy pad to the fly sheet with safety pins and painters tape. This would allow the injury to have the medicine it needed on it but also protected it from outside elements. This process continued for five weeks. Once the five weeks were up Dr. Isaac Coohey was happy with the healing process (the hole had finally closed up) and said that Easton could start going out for a few hours a day to start encouraging him to use the muscle again. We wanted to make sure that he did not ripe open the wound again so he had to be monitored very closely. One would think that a thoroughbred who had just been on stall rest for five weeks would be itching to run around. All he wanted was to eat grass and roll around.



I have been truly amazed and nearly obsessed with the progress that Easton has made under Jenna's care. I did see the initial wound and you will have to trust me, it was a very large hole in his haunch!"

Derith



Two weeks in on July7, July 27, and freshly debrided August 2nd

At this point we were given the go ahead to start doing some very light work. Rehabbing a muscle and teaching him to want to use it properly again was a little bit challenging. I had Andrea Postolka (Postolka Equine Therapeutics) put EquiTape on his hind end to encourage proper use of the muscle while it was growing back together. I had noticed stiffness on his left side and we were hoping that the tape would help overcome that. The tape really helped to encourage him to bring his left hind up under himself especially at the trot. Another concern was whether or not he would really struggle to get his left lead since the right hind is what they strike off with. Easton has always struggled with his left lead so I did not have much expectation for him. It's almost like he looked at me and said, "Mom watch this." He got his left lead on the first try, then the second try, then the third. It was almost like he was coming back stronger than before.

Our first show back was at Black Spur Equestrian Center in Milan, Illinois. I went into the weekend with zero expectations. I really just wanted to go and have fun and see how Easton would react and handle a show environment again. He was a rockstar the whole time. We rode two different tests that we were familiar with and ended up getting scores and feedback that I did not expect! Due to the timeline of his injury I had only been able to ride him four times before the show. To him this was just another ride in an arena but to me it meant the world. All of the early mornings treating his injury before I had to go to work had truly paid off.

I can honestly say that this injury has allowed both of us to grow in ways that I didn't imagine. Easton seems to be coming back stronger than before and I have come to appreciate how willing and honest this horse truly is. He is so happy to be back to work and is progressing in his training so well. In September we were able to participate in the IaDCTA and Tamarack Championship show which went incredibly well. We received the highest scores we have ever gotten which gives me so much encouragement for moving up the levels. In some ways I think that he is proud of himself too.

The hardest part about the whole injury wasn't the time, the money, or the break in riding; it was the worry of whether Easton would be able to recover from such a severe injury. During the whole process retirement for him was always in the back of my mind. An injury to a large muscle group like that comes with a lot of unknowns; the risk of infection makes it even higher. Easton is truly an amazing horse. His willingness to learn and please me is somewhat baffling. I have never met a horse that tries so hard for me. I cannot wait for what the future holds for us. Now I just have to figure out a way to wrap him entirely in bubble wrap for extra protection.



At Black Spur in August



At Iowa Equestrian Center in September



The Road to Bronze

By Carolyn Woodring

This summer was an unforgettable one for me-I earned my bronze medal. I qualified for my first and second level scores in the summer of 2024. This summer it was my goal to receive qualifying scores at third level to receive my bronze medal.



Trainer Hannah Owens with Carolyn and Pool Boy



All the long training days, setbacks and moments of frustration finally felt worth it. During my tests, I focused on staying calm and connected with Pool Boy. Trusting all the work we had put in together. When the scores came in, I was so proud of Pool Boy and everyone who has helped me along the way.

Earning my bronze means more than just a medal. Dressage has taught me patience and to appreciate the quiet communication and training with my horse.



I am incredibly thankful to Quandahl Farms for giving me the opportunity to take this guy into the show ring. Thankful to my trainer, Hannah Owens for always looking out for what is best for my horse and my barn family at Northern Lights. Lastly to my parents for supporting this horse dream.

This winter I look forward to more intense training and showing in Wellington, Florida with Hannah and Anne Cizadlo. Hopefully this bronze medal is a stepping stone to silver in the future.



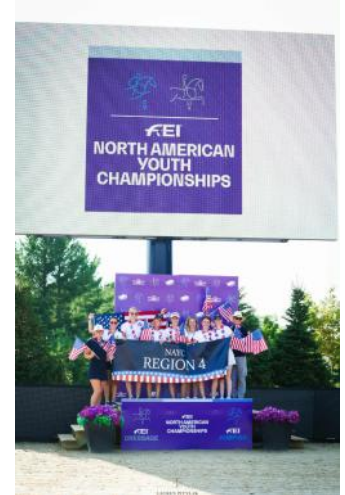
PC Framed Equestrian

My Experience at the North American Youth Championships

By Adalynn Nelson

Competing at the 2025 North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, Michigan was truly an experience I will never forget. Representing Region 4 in the FEI Junior division with my horse Custom was a dream come true and something I had been working toward for a long time.

The qualifying process was both exciting and challenging. Region 4 only has a few qualifying shows, so I had to stay focused and consistent throughout the season. Custom and I had to earn qualifying scores in the FEI Team, Individual, and Freestyle tests, which took a lot of preparation and dedication. Every week, I traveled from my home in Marion, Iowa, to Lincoln, Nebraska, to train with my coach, Tillie Jones, at Serenity Rose Equestrian Center. The hard work and learning paid off when I officially qualified to represent our region.



When I arrived at Flintfields Horse Park for NAYC, I was amazed by how beautiful and professional everything was. It was my first international show, and the atmosphere was unlike anything I had ever experienced. Custom handled everything like a champion and was with me every step of the way. I was so proud of how we performed together and how much we had grown as a team.

Area IV team, with Adalynn on the "A"

Before the competition began, all riders were required to complete a veterinary inspection, also known as the jog, to ensure every horse was sound and fit to compete. Horses are presented again for inspection after the Team and Individual tests before moving on to the Freestyle. Only the top 14 riders from the Individual test advanced to the Freestyle, so it was very exciting that Custom and I placed high enough to move on! It felt like such an accomplishment and a great way to finish out an incredible week of competition.

Custom and Adalynn during the first inspection jog where she was also voted the Best Dressed



NAYC con't...

One of the most memorable parts of the week was the Opening Ceremony/Parade of Nations and Golf Cart Parade. During the ceremony, each region walked into the main arena together carrying their region banner and was introduced. Everyone's favorite event, though, was the golf cart parade! Each region decorated a golf cart and paraded through the main competition ring. It was such a fun and

My Experience at the North American Youth Championships

creative way to show team spirit, and friendly competition as everyone tried to win "Best Decorated Golf Cart." Region 4's theme was "Barbie and Ken," and we went all out with pink decorations, costumes, and creative



Adalynn and Custom



Region IV Junior Team



Reserve champion in Dressage Seat Equitation Semi Finals and will be competing at festival for finals in Dressage seat next year!

It was truly an honor to compete with the top riders from across North America which included the best young dressage athletes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Being surrounded by so much talent and dedication was inspiring, and it motivated me to keep working hard toward my goals.

Another highlight was being part of the Region 4 team. Everyone supported one another, and it truly felt like we were part of something special. We celebrated each other's rides, shared laughs, and made memories I'll never forget. The experience taught me the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and staying positive no matter what.

I'm so grateful to my coach, my parents, and everyone who helped me get there. It took a lot of dedication, but it was absolutely worth it. Competing at NAYC inspired me to keep setting big goals and to continue working hard toward the next level.

As I look ahead, I hope to keep growing through the FEI Junior and Young Rider divisions and continue learning, improving, and giving back to the dressage community that has supported me.

DYING WITH YOUR BOOTS ON IS OVERRATED!

By Leslie Ross MacBride

I am Leslie Ross MacBride, a retired Psychologist with two large dressage ponies who is stubbornly determined to survive or die with my boots on. I have a Haflinger gelding, Fritz NHH, and my new mare, a half Arabian, Sharaz II. I personally ride and train my ponies, with the guidance and support of a local trainer, Mindy Price.

My dressage career started after a break from riding due to a catastrophic fox hunting accident, where I fractured my lumbar spine. I had traveled to Virginia to fulfill the bucket list activity of fox hunting after being diagnosed with cancer in 2007. Fox hunting was fun while it lasted.

After recovering from the field accident for five years, I looked for a different breed of horse that I thought would be very sure-footed and smaller than the cross-bred sport horses I raised for twenty-five years. In earlier years, I rode my own breeding stallions, all of which were raised and trained on my farm. Age changes how you manage your life in many ways, but I was determined to bring horses back into my life.

I was drawn to [Haflingers](#) because they are mountain horses, as well as closer to the ground. I also favored Welsh Cobs, but I couldn't find any nearby. After some searching, I bought my very first gelding at a Haflinger sale somewhat impulsively. At first, I could only mount twice and ride for about ten minutes at the walk due to my injuries, and the weakness we all experience when coming back into work after a period of time.

Challenges during riding persisted due to neuropathy and an added second accident that fractured my thoracic spine. I am happy to add that dressage has actually contributed to the return of my body function in a very positive way. I am seventy-two, and without daily riding, I doubt if I would ever be active or functional at all. Here, I was training Fritz, a barely three-year-old, with audacious determination. I entered my first schooling show at Ray Helmuth's in Iowa as soon as I was able to complete a test, and we actually won the high point halter with a kindergarten dressage test. I was ecstatic and surprised at our success! This was the first dressage test since my pony club days 55 years ago.

I bought Sharaz two years ago because I felt that I was riding Fritz too much. I saw her and bought her as a birthday gift for myself, never actually having met her in person. I just get a feeling about horses, and I always have.

We have challenges, and she is nearly telepathic. Her reactivity makes it difficult, so her progress has been slower than that of my other horses. I wanted a second horse that was exactly like this, because riding one horse all the time means loss of adaptive training techniques and probably developing bad habits. Haflingers require a demand on core muscles that I truly didn't have for a second mount, so I purposefully looked for a blood horse. A half-Arabian is a wonderful type in contrast to my athletic-type Haflinger. So far, this works because my trainer, Mindy Price, has expertise with Arabians. I have been with Mindy Price at Mon Cheval in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, for about two years, currently taking two lessons a week.

I have never considered myself a naturally talented rider, but I bring to the table considerable discipline. The level of coaching expertise and my communication with Mindy have been so very valuable, because when I ride, I have an automatic lesson plan and goal due to my previous profession and my disposition. This helps me stay on task with my daily riding plans.

I still struggle with deficits, and I can only mount a horse three times in a day before I have problems and weakness in my legs. Mindy's coaching is exactly what a rider like me needs because she knows how to correct my position when I cannot feel my feet, or when my legs aren't functioning due to nerve problems. Riders of my age face physical challenges and very real problems maintaining muscle mass and strength.

I try to share some of my experience with other riders who are frustrated with their weakness or anxiety and fear, because these problems are often related to age and loss of hormones, muscle mass, and general functioning, which they simply never understood. My colleague and dear friend, Tammy Lisi, has a project called "[Recovering Your Brave](#)," which addresses the challenges I and others face due to multiple factors. We are developing interventions to help other mature riders.

I experienced my second major medical emergency during my last horse show in September. After my fox hunting accident, I never imagined that I would have a second situation as serious as being crushed under a horse in the hunt field. I was riding to get two final scores to qualify for the Master's Challenge Awards at Training Level and Second Level. During this show, I experienced severe anemia from a gastrointestinal bleed without knowing it. I managed to compete with both Sharaz and Fritz (each twice in one day), but absolutely couldn't cope on the second day. I have never shied away from competition. After I pay those fees, by golly, I am in it!

Miraculously, some new friends from Mon Cheval arrived and hauled water as I couldn't carry buckets, and they even brought me food, considering I was too tired to walk to the food stand. The inspector stopped the pony measuring after I had to sit and rest between trotting my ponies, and she returned after my rides to get official measurements. My dear friends appeared and helped lead Sharaz the length of the barn to the level surface, because I could not walk that far.

Monday morning after this show, I had a major emergency from blood loss and found myself in the emergency room with an overnight hospital stay for blood transfusions.

I truly could not have made up this story, but I sincerely appreciate what my dear ponies have achieved in our first year in the USDF competition. No one is more surprised and pleased than I am.

Rider Performance Awards

- Second Level with Fritz NHH
- Training Level with Sharaz II

Master's Challenge Awards

- Second Level with Fritz NHH
- Training Level with Sharaz II

Don't let your age or breed of horse stop you. Who are my heroes? My new friends, Mindy Price and Jody Ely, for their encouragement during my very first clinic on Fritz, and a nod to Amelia Newcomb for her videos that were essential in learning dressage tests after my traumatic brain injury from foxhunting. Last but not least, my dear friend Tammy Lisi, who is a credit to the dressage community in Iowa with her Tamarack shows.





IN OTHER NEWS

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT THIS SUMMER AND FALL



Black Spur Equestrian Center Show Series



Alex Novotny Pasker judging



Jenna Lovett and Easton



Karen Bright on Chapiro

Otter Creek Farm Fall Horse Trial



*Meaghan Marinovich –Burdick
on Julie Kuhle's Griff*



*Alex Novotny Pasker on Bob's
Your Uncle*



Lizzie Sauter McClain on Iris



*Meaghan Marinovich –Burdick
on Julie Kuhle's Griff*



*Alex Novotny Pasker on
Bob's Your Uncle*



Lizzie Sauter McClain on Iris

MLEC Fantasy Show



*Alex and Julie and Amanda
Stover*



Lillian Nelson and Shane



Mallory Huggins on Gracie



IaDCTA and Tamarack Championships



Tom Koehler and Short Round



Sydney Burlingham and Sharaz II



Katie Hall and Hot Rod Lincoln



Jaimie Westrum and Kayla



Carolyn Woodring



Terry Erickson



Sophia Erickson on Hocus Pocus



Sophia Erickson



Leslie MacBride on Sharaz II



*Sydney Burlingham on Bliss Oak
Spyder*



PJ Koehler



PJ Koehler on This Magic Moment



Nena Denman and Rhea Allen



Tammy and Tom Lisi



Kaili Soot



Jaimie Westrum on Mishka



...also Jaimie Westrum on Mishka



Sydney Burlingham with Kerwin



Kaili Soot and Scout



David Law on Jake



Leslie MacBride on Sharaz II'



Amber And Adalynn Nelson



Leslie MacBride on Fritz NNH



Carolyn Woodring on Pool Boy



Grace Stodola on Toro



Jenna Lovett on Easton



Katie Hall and Hot Rod Lincoln



Lizzie Sauter McClain on Iris



Cassie Stowe on VR The Love Bug



PJ Koehler on This Magic Moment



Michelle King on Jasmine



Lizzie Sauter McClain on Iris



Karen Bright on Tali

IaDCTA and Tamarack Championships con't...



Makenzie O'Brien on Linus



Avery Harre on Derby



Karen Bright and Chapiro



Michelle King on Jasmine



Grace Stodola on Toro



Jenna Lovette on Easton



**IaDCTA Autumn Antics
at Tallin Farm**



*Josie Denman signs her very
first show entry!*



*Deb Clinch in hand with
Hillcreek Lillian*



*Kristen Johansen on PVA
Light 'Nthe Storm*



*Jaimie, Jasper on Egg, and
Nena Denman*



Mallory Higgins on Hillcreek Grace O'Connor



Nena, Josie, and Jasper Denman



Jasper Denman on Egg



Deb Clinch on Wildwyck's O'Farrell



Savannah Brown



Mallory Huggins on Lincoln



Lisa Etzel and Larry Weid



Natasha Arritt relocates the huntress Hunter



Savannah Brown on Egg



Rod VanWyk, ring steward
extrordinaire



Josie Denman on Egg, Nena leading



Mallory overseeing rides



PJ Koehler, our Judge



Kaeln Schildmier on William



Adalynn Nelson on Custom



Katie Hall on Soxxy at Burwell
PC Campbell Sunderlannd

Other goings on....



Lisa Etzel's new mare Aliza



Connie & Charlie Conis

Sundance Horse Trial



Lizzie Sauter- McClain on Iris
PC: Claire Mulder



Melinda Antisdell with Harley Hott on Memphis
HX at Two Rivers Summer Festival I winning
the Maffitt Lake Hunter Derby



Meaghan Marinovich Burdick on
Autograph



Mallory with Egg, Gracie, and
Lincoln

ANOTHER WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN HORSES

How Does Syndication Work ?

By Derith Vogt

What is it? A horse syndicate is a group of individuals who collectively purchase shares in a horse. Each member owns a portion of the horse and shares in the costs, responsibilities, and potential rewards. Syndication is common in racehorse ownership, but it's also used in eventing, show jumping, and breeding. In the late 1980's my husband, Gary, and I bought in to a breeding syndication with Dr. Pat Smith DVM. They had acquired the TB stallion, Sharp Reason, who was done with his racing career and we had some mares. It was an inexpensive way to have access to one or two breedings a year for our share of his upkeep. Given that he stood at the clinic in Cedar Rapids, the annual amount was, what now seems, trivial. There are multiple reasons that someone might consider a syndication and many questions you might have. Here is a link to the pros and cons:

[Fairway Stables on Forming a Syndication](#)

Meaghan's Journey to Syndication

By Meaghan Marinovich



Meaghan Burdick with her newly syndicated horse, Murphy, and Huey



Cooley Mr. Murphy is a 2013 16.1 Irish sport horse who is a winner at the CCI3* Long level. He was purchased with the intention of helping me return to the advanced level and start producing more competitive international results. Our goal for 2026 is a I compete at the Maryland 5* in the CCI3*L division.

I have also been intrigued by syndicates but never thought I had the right horse for it. Once I met Murphy, the Leprechaun Group was created. The idea is that it allows the average horse owner, eventing/horse enthusiast and friends to be apart of a world class horse at a fraction of the cost.

Shares are available at 1% increments. The one time buy in cost is \$1,000 for each percent. An incentive that I am doing now is if you purchase now you won't have to pay the annual fee until January. The annual operating cost is \$600 for each percent sold.

I wanted to make it as affordable as possible and get a great group of people together to help support Murphy and some lofty goals that we have.

The Future is Bright

By Connie Conis

If you read my last article, you know that I breed dressage horses. The history of my breeding program has focused primarily on Warmbloods and Warmblood foals with a strong Thoroughbred influence. It's been a long-standing passion of mine to preserve the American Thoroughbred within the Warmblood industry and to prove that a high percentage of Thoroughbred blood can still produce a very competitive horse capable of excelling up the levels of dressage.

To “put the proof in the pudding,” I've retained a few of my foals to develop myself—one of which is my current mount, Smoky Wrose OHW, whom you've likely seen around the IaDCTA show ring, and my 2024 chestnut colt, Versace OHW - by Velantis and out of Chickboxer (Thoroughbred) — who I'm thrilled to be personally developing.

A few years ago, I decided to expand this passion project even further. Around that time, I was chatting with a fellow breeder in Canada who sent me a video of a Lusitano stallion she was vetting in Europe, hoping to import him and stand him publicly in North America. I was immediately in awe. It's no secret that Iberian horses can and do excel in the dressage world—but the way this stallion moved was unlike any Iberian I had ever seen before. I knew instantly that I would be his first North American customer. And I was.

In 2023, I bred my first Warmblood/Lusitano cross—coincidentally, the mare I bred to the stallion was Wrose. Unfortunately, in 2024, Wrose foaled at just 310 days of gestation, at least 10 days before a foal is considered developed enough to be compatible with life. To our surprise, the foal, later named Knight, was born alive. We were shocked. The entire team at Iowa State University became involved immediately, and although everyone tried their best, we only got 10 days with Knight before we had to let him go.

But in those 10 days, something ignited within me. Knight was born a Labrador. He was the sweetest foal I've ever had—fearless, mighty, and desperate to be near people. His temperament was indescribable. I was hooked. So hooked, in fact, that I bred another mare to the same Lusitano stallion within weeks.



*Andalusian colt with Alaska OHW
What will his name be?*



That cross resulted in my 2025 Lusitano x Thoroughbred filly, Alaska OHW. Like her fearless brother Knight, she was born ready to take on the world—another shining example of the incredible mind these horses possess. I am so excited for her future in dressage and cannot wait to bring her along.

And the cherry on top of it all? Just three nights ago, I welcomed a beautiful cremello Andalusian colt to the barn—the final addition to my lineup of youngsters you'll be seeing in the IaDCTA show ring as they grow up. Although not bred by myself, I saw something in my new guy (name TBD) that I saw in Knight and that I see in Ice (Alaska OHW) that I just couldn't live without, and so he will travel with the OHW like he was bred as one of our own.



This breeding adventure can be ruthless, daunting, and raw (as you've read above), but it can also be pure bliss—full of joy, purpose, and hope. I have never been more hopeful for the future of Oak Hill Farm!



*Chase, Charlie, and Connie and her
new Iberian colt yet to be named*

Book Review for “A School For Young Riders”

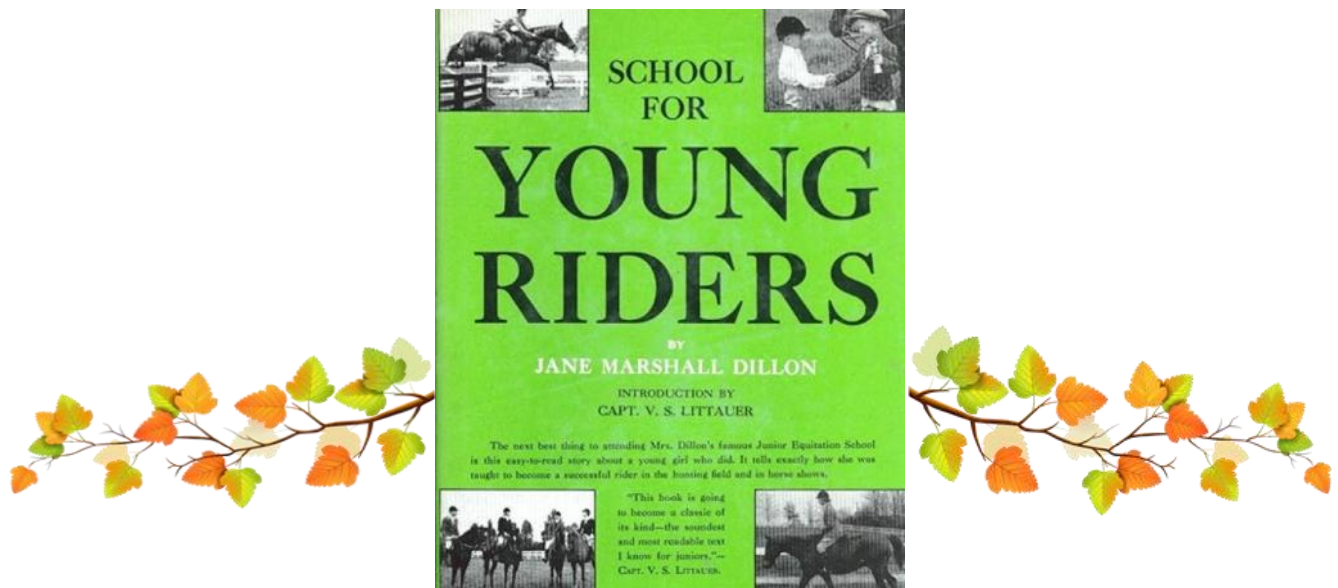
Reviewed by Derith Vogt

“Jane M. Dillon is an author and equestrian educator known for her instructional books on riding, particularly focused on young riders and junior equitation.”

“The next best thing to attending Mrs. Dillon's famous Junior Equitation School is this easy-to-read story about a young girl who did. It tells exactly how she was taught to become a successful rider in the hunting field and in horse shows.”

The above quotes are what comes up when you search the author. She began riding at three in Virginia riding around the countryside. Active in the riding club at George Washington University, she learned to “stage” horse shows. Having a horse tolerant husband, she continued riding after marriage and began teaching her niece and nephew and their friends to ride. This ultimately grew to be a riding school with 42 horses and ponies.

I received this book as a gift for Christmas in 1969. It was \$7.95 and the money was well spent. Its pages are well worn and loved. Each chapter had a quiz at the end with the final two pages of the book instructing you on how to score your quizzes. You were supposed to write in this hardcover book! Being the daughter of a librarian, it was intoxicating. Some things have changed since this book was written in 1958, but it remains one of the best “how too” books for young riders. Back then helmets were velvet covered caps with elastic to go under your chin, saddles were very close contact, saddle pads were wool numnahs, and riders did not always wear their helmets. The basics are as valid now as they were then. It would make a wonderful find for a holiday gift... if you can find one!



- Publisher : D. Van Nostrand CO
- Library of Congress Catalog Card 58-14439
- Copyright 1958



Ask the Judge Questions about Dressage With Amy McElroy

Amy McElroy is an FEI competitor, and a USEF S judge. She is qualified to officiate at any USEF recognized national show at all dressage levels. She rides, trains and teaches at Fair Lane Farm in Aiken and judges between 15 and 20 dressage and eventing shows each year.

Dear Amy,

I am competing in dressage at Third Level. I have been riding Third Level Test One and Third Level Test Three, and I am excited to be qualified for the Regionals. In my most recent show, I decided to ride my tests by memory (my first time without a caller) in practice for the championships, where readers are not permitted. I rode Test One first, and then I rode Test Three. I thought I had nice rides on both tests, but when I got back my Test Three sheet, I was surprised to see that I had an error in my flying change, with the comment that I was riding on the wrong line, and two points were deducted from my score. I realized afterwards that I must have accidentally ridden the flying change the way it is called for in Test One, instead of the way it is called for in Test Three, so I did deserve an error. However, I was very confused because I thought that when you got an error, the judge had to ring the bell, and she never did. What's even more confusing is that I made the same mistake in the other direction and did not receive an error that time, although I did earn a low score. Can you explain why this might have happened?

There was another thing that surprised me. The judge made a comment that warned me that my bridle numbers were too small – I have my own decorative bridle numbers, and I have been using them for years with no problem. Is there a new ruling on this, or something else I should know?

Third Level

Dear Third Level,

Congratulations on being qualified for the Regionals, especially at Third Level! What a good idea to practice showing your test without a reader. As you can see, it is very important to know your patterns. Practicing riding without a whip is also a good idea if you normally carry one, as that is also forbidden at the Regionals.

First, let's talk about errors. An error is when you make a mistake in your test, either by riding the wrong pattern, or by performing the wrong gait or movement. When you have an error, the judge may ring the bell, stop you, explain what is wrong, and then send you back to finish your test correctly. Errors may be divided into two general groups: errors of test and errors of course. An error of course would throw off the entire pattern – say you turn left when you should have turned right, or forget to make a turn to go across the diagonal, or just get lost. An error of test would be an error that does not disrupt the pattern – say, you canter instead of trot, or ride a diagonal all the way across the ring to one of the letters near the corner, when the test calls for a diagonal line to one of the letters between the middle and the corner.

When there is an error of course, the judge will sound the bell and stop your test because otherwise, you would not be able to proceed correctly. When there is an error of test, your judge may, at his or her discretion, elect not to sound the bell so as not to disrupt the flow of your ride, but will still penalize you with an error. It is important to know, however, that if the judge does not ring the bell to stop you, if you make the same mistake going the other direction, the judge may not count that as an error against you, but is free to mark down your score for inaccuracy. In National tests, your first error will incur two points off your final score; your second error will cost you four more points, and if you have a third error, you will be eliminated.

Third Level is when the flying change is introduced, and it is required in both Test One and Test Three, in a pattern that is similar but not the same. In both tests, the changes are asked for in both directions, and they happen on a diagonal line; however, they are not asked for on the same line. In Test One, the first flying change happens directly after a 10-meter circle on a right lead canter at V, which is halfway between the first letter after the corner (K) and the middle letter (E) on the long side of the arena. After the circle, you take a half diagonal towards R, which is the letter between the middle on the opposite side (B) and the corner (M). You ask for a flying change between the centerline and R. The second flying change is a mirror image: you make a 10-meter circle on the left lead at P (the letter between the first letter after the corner, F, and the middle, B), and then head toward S (halfway between E in the middle and H near the corner) and perform your flying change between the centerline and S. This movement and scoring box has a coefficient of 2.

In Test Three (your championship test) for your first flying change, you come from a half circle of 10 meters to the left from I to S (I is opposite S on the center line) and then head on a diagonal line toward F, which is the letter on the long side right before the corner. You ask for your flying change at, or around, the center line. Again, going the other way, the flying change is a mirror image. You make your half circle on the right lead from I to R (opposite S and halfway between the middle (B) and the last letter, M), and make your flying change at or near the center line while riding across the diagonal to K, the last letter before the corner. In this test, the movement also has a coefficient of two.

You might be surprised how many competitors make errors even with a reader. Third Level Test One and Three can be particularly confusing, especially if you are riding them both at the same show: it is easy to ride the diagonal to the wrong letter. I am sure your judge had your best interest in mind when she did not sound the bell, and probably hoped that you would recognize your mistake for your second flying change going the other direction. Since the judge did not ring the bell when you made your first error, she was not allowed to give you an error for the same mistake in the other direction, but marked you down for inaccuracy instead. I hope this answers your concerns about errors – I am sure you won't want to make the same mistakes again, so it is a great idea to keep practicing without a reader and continue to familiarize yourself with the championship test so you will be confident and prepared by the time you go to the Regionals.

As far as bridle numbers go, yes, there is a new rule that was passed recently and will go into effect on December 1, 2025. (DR.121.19) According to this new rule, each digit of a number must be a minimum of 1.5 inches tall and 3/8ths of an inch wide. The numbers cannot be obscured by the encasement or holder. Before this rule goes into effect, please confirm the size and legibility of your numbers and replace them if they do not comply with the updated regulations. Remember, it is always appropriate and appreciated to check in with your steward in your warm-up, and when you are going around the apron of the arena to present yourself to the judge and state your number.

Good luck at the Regionals!

Amy McElroy

It's a BOY!



Lincoln James Severn



Molly, Lincoln, and Alex Severn

Treasurer's Report

September 2025

Beginning Checking Acct.Bal. \$21,495.37

<u>CREDITS:</u>	This period:	Prior period	Total To Date
Horse Nominations -Cash	\$15.00	\$270.00	\$285.00
Membership Dues - Cash	\$0.00	\$935.00	\$935.00
Horse Nomination - PayPal	\$0.00	\$509.66	\$509.66
Membership - PayPal	\$0.00	\$1,665	\$1,664.82
Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$172	\$172.29
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$1,113.33	\$1,113.33
Award Fund - Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Banquet	\$0.00	\$2,013.32	\$2,013.32
Show	\$0.00	\$962.08	\$962.08
Clinic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. Advertising/Arena Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. interest CDs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL CREDITS	\$15.00	\$7,640.50	\$7,655.50

<u>DEBITS:</u>			
Operations: Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Banquet DMGCC	\$0.00	-\$2,981.83	-\$2,981.83
Website Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Banquet Misc.	\$0.00	-\$212.59	-\$212.59
Awards/Ribbons	-\$304.40	-\$1,207.56	-\$1,511.96
Education - Clinic	\$0.00	-\$450.00	-\$450.00
Shows	-\$252.00	-\$470.14	-\$722.14
Insurance	\$0.00	-\$150.00	-\$150.00
Membership dues-USDF	-\$50.00	-\$3,676.00	-\$3,726.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. - office supplies/License/CD	-\$25.00	-\$32.27	-\$57.27
TOTAL DEBITS	-\$631.40	-\$9,180.39	-\$9,811.79

NET INCOME **-\$616.40** **-\$1,539.89** **-\$2,156.29**

Treasurer's Report con't

RESERVE S/DESIGNATIONS:				
Betsy Coester Grant	\$0.00		\$574.80	\$574.80
Clinic/Educ/Con/Trophies	\$0.00		\$132.08	\$132.08
TOTAL RESERVES/DESIGNATIONS				\$706.88
SAVINGS	\$0.03		\$704.84	\$704.87

Checking Acct Balance- current	\$20,878.97			
Total Reserves/Designations	\$706.88			
Outstanding Debits	\$230.61			
Daily Operating Balance	\$0.00			
Checking				\$20,878.97
Certificate of Deposit	\$38.39		\$13,203.50	\$13,241.89
Savings	\$0.03		704.84	\$704.87
Total Bank Balances				\$34,825.73

Executive Board 2025

Alex Novotny-Pasker President : AlexNPEquestrian@gmail.com

Kaelin Schildmeir VP : kaelin.schildmier@gmail.com

Nena Denman: Treasurer: nkdenaman@gmail.com

To submit ideas for articles , member photos , or corrections if we got something wrong, please contact us!

OUR MEMBERS SERVICES



Steffen Veterinary Services (SVS) Chiropractic Care offers veterinary chiropractic care to both large and small animals throughout the state of Iowa. Contact Dr. Amanda Steffen at 515-729-0271 or dvmsteffen@gmail.com for additional information or to schedule an



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