



Alpha Dressage News

July/August 2019

Editor's Note

How is everyone doing with the heat and humidity this year? Hopefully, those of you lucky enough to keep your horse at home or board nearby can ride in early in the morning before the sun gets too intense. I figure that I am finally a Floridian after moving here 5 years ago. The first year I had about a 6-week period where I just wasn't up to a lesson. Now, I'm riding mid-mornings on the weekend and surviving!

Looking ahead, our club has some challenges, or as we say in the corporate world "an opportunity for improvement". You'll read in the minutes that last year's schooling shows were lightly attended. We also had trouble getting enough riders for the Janet Foy clinic due to cancellations. The board wants to understand what activities or educational opportunities (and at what price point) interest our members. Look for a survey soon to solicit your feedback.

The board needs replace several board positions. If you are interested in running for a board position and/or would just like to learn more, please contact Robin Segó. Her contact info is in the newsletter. Elections will be held at our annual meeting.

Of note, this year we will combine the annual meeting/awards banquet with our traditional Christmas party at Robin's home on December 7th. The costs for other venues increased dramatically, hence our decision to combine events. The club will pick up the main entrée and the remainder will be a potluck. Last year's Christmas party was at Robin's home and everyone had a really great time. Keep your eye out on the newsletter for details.

August 13th Meeting Announcement

Our meeting will be held at the Fruitville Library once again from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

We will be discussing new options for accepting payment for show entry fees and membership dues. We are also considering the feasibility of using an on-line entry system / software. Many recognized shows already offer or require this method of enrollment. We will always accept mailed in entries and membership forms, but our hope is to encourage participation by making entry and payment processes easier.

Your opinions and thoughts are valued. Please join us for this exploratory discussion. If you have favorite providers or entry methods, we would love to hear from you. Hope to see you there!

*"The rider must listen into the horse, in order to judge when the moment for an aid has come, which aid is needed and how intense it must be. He must know how to create or wait for the right circumstances, to prepare the horse."
~ Gustav von Dreyhausen*

"It is important in training to always start with easy exercises and also to end with easy exercises that the rider and horse understand. This helps build confidence in both horse and rider." - Klaus Balkenhol

Dan Mohl Receives USDF Para-Equestrian Grant

Our member, Dan Mohl, was awarded the first ever USDF Para-Equestrian Grant. Dan chose to ride at Carlisle Academy Integrative Equine Therapy & Sports LLC, in Lyman, Maine. Their website is: <http://carlisleacademymaine.com/para-dressage-education-training/> The photo below is of Dan during one of his rides this summer.



Dan stated "I had a great time riding in Maine. I was able to do a grade two test for the first time. It has trot work which I need to do to compete. I use a rein bar on the reins. That is what you see. It helps turn the horse with one arm. Pretty cool."

June 11, ADA meeting minutes, Fruitville library

Board members present: Robin, Martha, Roy, Linda and Ulrike

Clinic Kelly Layne, we will get a bio together, look for a facility which will host the clinic and find a date in November

Further discussion about clinics ensued. We do need an action plan for next year! We discussed what the goals of the members could be. We have around 80 to 90 members. The action plan needs to have 3 steps; 1. Survey. 2. Reaching out to clubs around us and 3. calendar of events. Deb Herbert, Suzy Jennings and Linda Roberts offered to gather the questions for a membership survey.

Other ideas were discussed. Do our members really want traditional clinics or something very different like Baroque? There was also the suggestion to do a one-day symposium. This symposium would start at the bottom and should be very educational. For example, three riders in the morning to show specific aspects and then rides in the afternoon. Another idea was a cavaletti clinic. Also, trainers should ask their students what type of show they want as our ride counts were significantly down this past year.

Tentative dates for the upcoming year are: November 16th Awards banquet at Geckos, December 14th Christmas party at Robin Segó's house

We need to find out how to get more responses for the shows. The only good show lately was in December. The other ones had not enough rides. Maybe we should do only 3 shows next season?

Suzy Jennings will inquire for dates at Triple J and Roy and Jaymie will help. We are still thinking about connecting them with the Featherstone HJ shows in order to make combined shows available...

New show locations were brainstormed. There is a new eventing barn in Myakka which will have a nice sand arena. Maybe it is a future show location??

The county is considering turning (rezoning) open land into land which can be developed...it's right on Fruitville and Verna roads.

Mandy Peterson introduced us to her plans to start a program for older new riders. A standardized beginner program for Seniors new to riding

July 9th Meeting Minutes

Board members present Robin, Roy, Linda, Ulrike

Awards Dinner discussion: Robin reported that Geckos will charge an additional \$500 for us to have the dinner there. That will up the costs for all of us. She recommended Stonewood on University and offered also her own house for a combined Awards Dinner/Christmas Party. Thank you very much for that and we decided to accept her offer. This way it will be much more personal and we can decide on the food!! The date will be **Saturday Dec 7th, 2019. *Note the date change from last month's minutes!***

The dressage clinic with Kelly Layne is cancelled

We discussed our next activity the symposium about basic dressage. Deb Herbert, Suzy Jennings, and Karen Abbattista are going to be the Symposium committee. Karen Abbattista will be the clinician and we will probably have it at Robin's or Deb's place. Both are very suitable. It will be very cost-efficient, and we hope for a lot of interest from our members and potential new members. The purpose is to introduce new riders to dressage. It will consist of an Intro B session and a Training level session in the ring and a class session afterwards. We plan 2 basic symposiums, and if there is enough interest, a third one which might be more advanced. The dates will probably be in October, November and December.

Suzy Jennings stated, that we do need more media presence! Deb will look into Instagram for us and we should make our FB page more active!

We discussed how to acquire more riders for our shows... We used to have more western dressage riders and Deb suggested to upgrade our schooling shows to rated shows for Western dressage riders. We would need a higher qualified judge and pay more fees. Overall, we were not able to decide how far we wanted to go for Western dressage.

Possible show schedule: We contacted Triple J and right now there are several openings. We decided to schedule shows on Sunday, October 6th, Sunday, November 17th, Sunday, January 26th, and Sunday, March 15th potentially another one in May. ***These dates are tentative, pending confirmation by Triple J.***

Henry will tell SWFDA about our show schedule and Robin will confirm it with Triple J. Suzy will talk to Featherstone about the possibility to combine our shows.

Roy announced that Buff Betz died. She always was a great supporter of our shows! We discussed possible ideas to honor her. Robin suggested a memorial class at our show and we will donate to a possible go fund me fund, if one is established.

Linda suggested to consider changing the cost for our sponsorship ads now that we are halfway through the year. For now, we will leave them and discuss the issue at the annual meeting.

The election for the board members will be announced in the next newsletter. All the positions are open every year. **We need new board members and fresh ideas!**

USDF News and Announcements: Freestyle Changes

USDF Governance Representatives:

During the July USEF Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting the Extraordinary Rule Change Proposal (Tracking ID #042-19) submitted by the US Equestrian Dressage Sport Committee, was discussed. In doing so, the feedback provided by USDF via the USDF Governance Survey along with feedback submitted directly to USEF was considered. The USEF BOD has approved the rule change to DR 129.9, *which will go into effect December 1, 2019.*

The rule change is as follows:

DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride. Changes to read:

9. Except for USEF/USDF Championship classes and for FEI Pony Riders, FEI Junior, FEI Young Rider and FEI Para-Equestrian Freestyles, in order to enter a freestyle class at any level, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 63% **for Training through Fourth levels and 60% for FEI levels** in the highest test of the declared freestyle level or any test of a higher level at a **USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competition**, Federation Licensed or FEI recognized Dressage Competition, or "open" Dressage class (i.e. open to all breeds) at a Federation Licensed Competition held prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination is entered to ride a freestyle class. A photocopy of the test verifying eligibility, or copy of the USDF score verification, must be submitted with the entry for a freestyle class.

To see a complete and up to date list of all Extraordinary and Rule Clarifications that were approved, visit the [USEF website](#).

ADA Resource Directory Online

ADA would like to announce our new online resource directory on our website www.alphadressage.org. This is a great opportunity to advertise your business and support ADA. For just \$50 per year we will share an image of your business card on the web. Please share blank forms with your suppliers (feed, vet, farrier, tack, etc.) and encourage them to participate. Let's create a comprehensive directory of services that will help everyone. A blank form is at the end of the newsletter for your convenience.

Alpha Dressage Officers

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Website / Newsletter Secretary

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.alphadressage.org

Upcoming Events...

Aug 24-25th, 2019: Fox Lea Dressage Show

Sep 21: SWFDA schooling and GMO show (Schooling show scores count toward our current year ADA awards)

Oct 6: ADA Schooling Show at Triple J

Oct 11-13: USDF Regionals in Conyers, GA

Nov 9-10: WDAA Finals

Nov 17: ADA Schooling Show at Triple J

Dec 7: ADA Banquet/Holiday Dinner at Robin Segó's home

Jan 26: ADA Schooling Show at Triple J

Feb 23: ADA Schooling Show at Triple J

Mar 31: ADA Schooling Show at Triple J

Apr 11: Easter





Alpha Dressage Association
Membership application for 2019
Membership runs from Dec. 1, 2018 – Nov. 30, 2019

NAME: _____
Adult _____ Junior (18 & under) _____ Date of birth for juniors _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PREFERRED PHONE: _____

ANNUAL DUES

Adult: \$40.00 \$ _____

Junior \$30.00 \$ _____

Please enclose \$10.00 for a group subscription to HORSE & PONY \$ _____

(If wanted) TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Alpha Dressage Association*.

Alpha Dressage Association is a USDF Group Member Organization; its members are automatically USDF Group Members.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE OF JUNIOR APPLICANT _____

Mail to:

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ALPHA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION RESOURCE DIRECTORY PROGRAM

ADA WILL POST YOUR BUSINESS CARD ON OUR WEBSITE FOR \$50 PER CALENDAR YEAR.

THE BUSINESS CARDS WILL BE GROUPED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. **Barns/Boarding**
2. **Lessons/Trainers**
3. **Retail:** Tack stores, Feed stores, Equipment, etc.
4. **Equine Professional Services:** Veterinarians, Farriers, Chiropractor or Massage, Clipping, Hauling, Property Maintenance, etc.
5. **Other Professional Services/Businesses:** Insurance, Entertainment, etc.
6. **Miscellaneous:**

ADA SPONSORSHIP FORM

NAME OF BUSINESS: _____

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: _____

PHONE NUMBER OF CONTACT PERSON: _____

E-MAIL OF CONTACT PERSON: _____

SPONSORSHIP DATES: _____ **TO DECEMBER 31, 2019.**

Please submit this form, a business card, and a check made out to Alpha Dressage Association for \$50. Mail to Linda Roberts at 7526 Trillium Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34241. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@alphadressage.org or call Linda at 941-773-4936.