



Alpha Dressage News

April 2022

Suzi's Scoop

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary we've already had two amazing shows and a wonderful clinic and a great meeting since my last note to you all.

The February show was incredible – we had so many entries we actually had to close the show waaay before the closing date, and what a show it was. Huge thanks to the board and the volunteers for helping us make it happen. All the riders got a commemorative glass to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. We had special anniversary ribbons, cake and champagne and a special expo freestyle from yours truly to really make it a party. There are lots of photos in this newsletter, so please read on and take a look.

The March show was well attended, though not quite as frantic which was great as we had newbies doing the scoring, and didn't they do well!

I'm thrilled with the number of volunteers that are coming forward to help at the shows, it's so great to see everyone work as a team to make these shows really work, so thank you one and all.

We have more activities to come, check out the calendar and see what's coming up.

Polo matches, chair yoga, clinics, shows these are all upcoming events., what fun!

For more information check out our Facebook page, the website, and your inbox so you can be sure not to miss out on anything!

See you soon,

Suzi

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Danielle Monroe
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.alphadressage.org

Upcoming Events...

April 3, 2022: Tailgate at the Polo Club (details below)

May 1, 2022: Schooling Show at Triple J – Judy Downer (S & WDAA R)

June 26, 2022: Schooling Show at Triple J – Heather Stalker (R & WDAA R)

Fall, 2022: Schooling Show at Triple J – Judge & final date TBD



Event Roundup

Our next member meeting is going to be April 3rd. We will be attending the Sarasota Women's Challenge polo match at Sarasota Polo. The match is from 1pm- 3:30pm but come early to tailgate with us! Alpha will be buying a few tailgating spots, tickets are \$17. Come join the fun! Fill out the RSVP if you are interested. More details will be sent to those who RSVP. <https://forms.gle/uFgKBiiBbB1YWFep9>

April 3rd: Alpha Dressage has purchased two tailgating spots along the Polo field for a fun social event. Come out, bring a chair, a cooler of drinks and meet other members and watch a polo match the Sarasota Polo Grounds. Match is from 1pm-3:30pm. RSVP info has been sent out to all members but contact dammeson@gmail.com if you have any questions.

We want to thank everyone who came out to our March schooling show! Paulette Stoudt loved seeing how many junior riders the club hosted at the show. Paulette also noticed that there were multiple people who forgot to salute in the first or final halt. She recommended practicing the halt and salute when you practice at home! Some judges will take two points off since it can be considered an error of test.

Our next show is May 1, 2022 at Triple J. This show will be WDAA recognized as Judy Downer USEF S, WDAA R will be our judge! Entries will open online April 1st and this show will fill up fast! Do not wait to get your entries in depending on amount of interest we might be closing the show early!

50th Anniversary Show

By Danielle Ammeson

On February 20th, 2022 was a very special show for Alpha Dressage! 2022 is our 50th year as an established USDF. Bill Woods judged for us. He has consistently judged and held clinics for ADA for many years so we were so pleased to include him in our festivities.

During the lunch break we served cupcakes and champagne. Suzi Jennings, our President, entertained us with a fabulous freestyle.



Reminder About Our Tribute Partners Program

By Donna Sloben

Alpha Dressage has partnered with Tribute Feed. The Tribute Partners Program allows Alpha Dressage to earn money for future events. Every proof of purchase tag (found at the bottom of the feedbag) is worth \$.25. Invoices for bulk feed are also eligible for this program.

Clarissa Cupolo has donated a bag full of Proofs of Purchase to the club to get us started. After spending several nights on my couch counting and bundling, the final count is 1,690. At \$.25 per proof of purchase tag, the total amount we will be credited is \$422.50! Thank You Clarissa!

Do you currently feed your equine partner a Tribute feed product? If so, please consider saving your proof of purchase tags for Alpha Dressage. Bring them to a meeting, a show, a clinic or just hand them off to a board member.

The money can be used for anything the club chooses and will benefit our members by helping to keep your fees down!

My journey from professional dancer to amateur adult dressage rider

By: Patricia Strauss

The story my mother told was when I was a little girl barely walking, we lived in Germany where my dad was stationed in the Army. One evening we went out to a restaurant with a typical German band playing. I got up, walked to the center of the dance floor and began swirling around to the music. At the end everyone applauded and I did a curtsy. I guess I really liked the applause because I have never stopped dancing. My formal ballet training began when I was six years old in my hometown of Miami. My life became dance and this was my destiny. My other passion was horses. I am not sure why because no one in my family had anything to do with these magnificent creatures. I was the little girl who collected porcelain horse statues and I was the little girl who looked out of my window every Christmas morning to see if Santa brought me the horse I asked for. Fast forward and my dance career took off. I can proudly say I have had a very successful career dancing and performing in the United States, Europe and Canada.

My passion and love for horses always remained. I was forever watching videos of Dressage. This was the most beautiful thing of all, ballet on horseback. After my stage days were over, I then became a very successful ballet teacher having taught in well-known and prestigious ballet schools around the country. Whenever possible I would find a way to stay connected to my beloved horses. While working with the Boston Ballet I found a riding school. It was there I began more formal lessons riding on my days off. While working with Chicago Ballet I made friends with the stable manager of an equestrian dinner theater. In return for grooming, he let me ride now and then. Fast forward again, I was offered a contract to teach in the professional division of Sarasota Ballet. This is how I ended up in this area seven years ago.

To get my horse fix I found an amazing rescue called Sixteen Hands Horse Sanctuary. I began volunteering there five years ago on my day off. One of the volunteers there knew of my love of Dressage and the hopes of one day training in this. She said to get in touch with Alpha Dressage. And so, I did which in turn led me to Suzi Jennings. I will never forget my first day with her. As I am 5'11' she said "I have a perfect horse for you, a Clydesdale!" So, I rode this giant horse around in a real dressage arena! "Oh" she said in her British accent, "You need to learn the letters of the arena!". The letters made no sense to me but memorized them as told. All of this happened almost two years ago.

Presently I am no longer working with Sarasota Ballet. I have branched out teaching in various ballet schools in the area as well as private coaching and training. This is allowing me to live my dream of riding more. My real dream came true when I entered into my first horse show. I have just recently completed my fourth show and am now riding Training level. Words cannot express how thrilled and excited I am by all this. Thank you so very much to Alpha Dressage and Suzi Jennings for making my dream come true. I think back to that little girl looking out of the window waiting for her horse from Santa. Dreams do come true after all!



Scenes from the March Show



Product Review: Schockemoehle Durasoft Rein

By Susan Smith

I have learned a lot about being an equestrian in Florida since I moved my horse here last October. Most recently: Florida sunshine will eat through your absolute favorite pair of rubber lined dressage reins leaving thick black goo all over your hands.

Introducing my newest acquisition: the Schockemoehle Durasoft rein. 55" of light, buttery soft leather, with luxurious incorporated hand stops in a lovely 16mm (approximately 5/8 of an inch) width. Nickel buckle bit ends make for easy cleaning and leather martingale stops come standard (top rein in photo).



My former beloved, now permanently retired, leather rubber lined reins (lower rein in photo), are the traditional 54" x 5/8 inch rein with hand stops sewn around the rein every 3 1/2 inches.

The second notable feature of this rein is the distance between the hand stops. While traditional hand stop reins have a 3-4" distance between stops, the Schockemoehle Durasoft hand stops are roughly 2 1/4-2 1/2 inches apart. This smaller distance could be a benefit for riders with small hands, riders who want the security of holding two stops in their hand or riders seeking to make smaller adjustments to rein length.



Though the reins took a bit of getting used to, there was no break-in period and I am totally sold on their softness. I don't know if I will return to reins with non-integrated hand stops. After 12 lovely rides, I feel comfortable recommending them.

For riders unconcerned about the life span of rubber or for northern riders that navigate riding with frozen fingers, frost coated reins and chafing hand stops, Schockemoehle makes this rein in a rubber lined version called the Durasoft Grip.

Have a question or want to share a product that you love?

Please email me: Susan Smith g53012@yahoo.com

Happy Riding!

Alpha Dressage Classifieds

They're back! Any member may submit a brief classified ad for free each month. Send your text ad (no photos to save space) to info@alphadressage.org. Submission deadline is the 25th of the month to be placed in the next month's edition of the newsletter.

We will also be updating our resource directory on the website this spring. For \$50 you can advertise your business for one calendar year. Look for details on that program shortly.

Member Ads

Cute, Appy/ Draft mix 14.3 hands 9 year old mare for 1/2 lease. She is mellow, smooth. She isn't too forward, but not lazy. Not spooky. Loves to please. She has been to small local shows and loves to jump. \$400/ month. Needs intermediate to advance rider because she is still a bit green. Must take at least one lesson a week and be approved by trainer. Barn local in Sarasota, only 5 minutes from highway. If interested please contact Sally Boeras at sallyboeras@gmail.com

Volunteer Form

**** 6 hours minimum required annually to qualify for Year-End Award ****

Thank You for Volunteering – We Appreciate Your Time!

**Please check in with the Office when arriving for your volunteer time.
You must sign in to start your time and sign out when you are finished.**

Please print all requested information below.

Name of ADA Member: _____

Name of Volunteer: _____

(if different from ADA Member)

NOTE: If you are donating your time, you must specify the ADA member name and then provide your name.

Name of show/event attended: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Total hours worked: _____ Job(s): _____

**Return this form to the volunteer coordinator or office on the day of the show/event
or mail it to: Donna Sloben./ 5317 Fruitville Rd./ Box 60 / Sarasota, FL 34232**

Signature of the Volunteer Coordinator: _____

Suggested activities to complete the ADA requirement of 6 volunteer hours:

- Scribe
- Scorer
- Gatekeeper
- Runner
- Floater
- Arena Set-up
- Arena Change-over
- Arena Take-Down
- Volunteer on a Committee

*Note: This form is also available on our website



Alpha Dressage Association

Membership application for 2022

Membership runs from Dec. 1, 2021– Nov. 30, 2022

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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