

Alpha Dressage Association News



A Word From the President...

Well, it looks like summer has arrived in all its glory! Heat, Humidity, Rain, they have all made their grand entrance. The pastures have grass again, and the bugs (although they never really left us) have returned with a vengeance. So please remember to keep you and your 4 legged beasties hydrated, sunscreensed and bug sprayed! Hang in there, only 5 more months to go!

I am sad to announce that our club will be losing long-time member Sue Slaubaugh. Sue has been with the club for many years and has been a vital part of the board as our club secretary for approximately the last 5 years. She is moving on to what will be greener pastures for her and her husband and we wish her all the best! She will definitely be missed!

With that in mind, we are looking for a new club Secretary. Someone who can take the minutes at meetings, be part of the board and maybe even be involved with helping to get the newsletter out in a timely manner. This is an area I am clearly lacking skills in!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with helping to move our club forward, please let us know, or I may have to resort to making phone calls and begging, and no one wants that!

Humor aside, we do need to have a secretary on the board. Please give it some thought and let us know if you would like to help us to keep this club going.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 13 at 2 PM at Martha Koehnlein's home. More details will be emailed at a later date.

In the meantime, try to stay cool and safe and always remember to Embrace the Journey!

Donna

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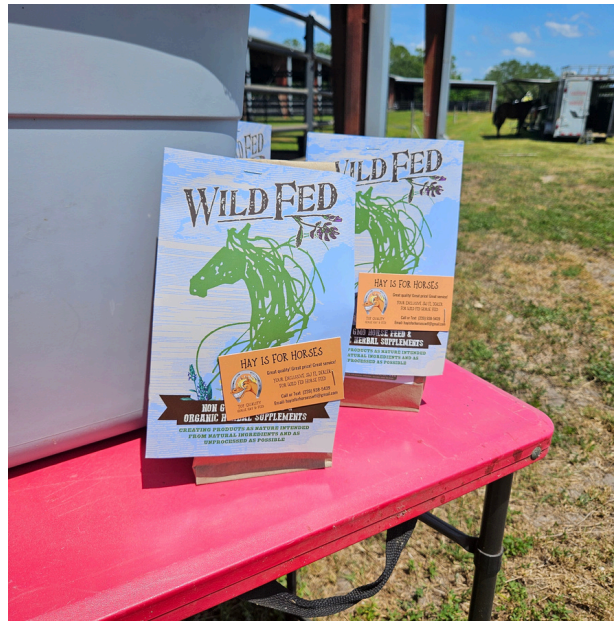
We're on the Web!
www.alphadressage.org

April 27th ADA Schooling Show

Here are some images from the April 27 Schooling Show at Triple J. Please note the happily air conditioned volunteers and the new arena surface, thanks to Triple J!



April 27th ADA Schooling Show



Check out ADA Schooling Show Results from 2025!

<https://alphadressage.org/scores>

Upcoming Events

- **July 13 at 2pm:** ADA Meeting at Martha's.
Please RSVP to
alphadressage@gmail.com.
- **August 9th & 10th :** Fall Dressage
Concours 1+ 2 @ Fox Lea Farms.
- **August 21 at 6:30pm:** ADA Meeting on
Hurricane Preparedness for Horses
- **October 26th :** ADA Triple J Show, judge,
Lesley Ziegler (9/27 Entry Deadline).



Member Spotlight

Martha Koehnlein

If volunteers are the lifeblood of any group member association, then Martha Koehnlein is easily part of ADA's heart. A member for nearly 30 years, she has worked in just about every position from behind the scenes at shows and clinics to assisting in the running of our group. She started as a scribe and helped set up the arena before shows in addition to anything else that needed to be done. At that time, working for ADA made sense as she was working part-time and her son was in school, so she had the extra hours to spend helping. A few years later, she branched out into administration and is now our Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

Martha came relatively late to horse ownership, buying her first, a Quarter Horse, in her mid-twenties when she lived in upstate New York. A husband horse followed soon after, and the Koehnleins were active trail riders until the harsh winters convinced them to move down to Sarasota in 1983. Sarasota was a different place then, and Martha remembers being able to ride off her property directly into acres and acres of undeveloped land, the trails right outside her door.

A friend introduced her to dressage, and she found Baron, a Thoroughbred, to practice her new passion. They competed up to Second Level, but show nerves took the fun out of it, and she decided that she was happy enough improving her skills without the prospect of ribbons.

Member Spotlight

Martha Koehnlein

Fortunately for us, the end of her show career didn't mean the end of her involvement with ADA. She continued spending hours and hours keeping membership growing and helping to run shows. She has stayed with ADA because she likes the people and sincerely enjoys the work. Baron has passed, but a Quarter Horse mare and a pony keep her busy enough, and she plans to see them to the end of their very comfortable lives.

If she has a wish or vision for the Alpha Dressage Association, it is to see more volunteers. Few people have devoted as much as she has, and she is definitely an example to follow.



Martha, Dallas (the pony) and Echo

Attention Para Dressage and Western Dressage Riders! We want to profile you! Please contact Susan Greer (greer602@gmail.com) if you'd like to be featured in our next newsletter!

Bit By Bit!

Bit By Bit is a gathering of interesting and often little known equine information. We're looking forward to many future submissions!

Birth of ADA

Did you know that your club, ADA (Alpha Dressage Association) is over 50 years old? ADA has spent all these years educating and supporting participants in the art of classical horsemanship via clinics, films, guest speakers, schooling shows. etc. The word 'Alpha' was added because ADA put on the first recognized dressage show in Florida! So the next time you are showing at whatever level imagining the hundreds of equestrians who came before you doing the very same thing!

Mandy Peterson



Member News...

My 2025 Dressage Clinic Journey: Progress, Challenges, and Canter Breakthroughs

By: Ronnie DeWitt

This year, I attended four dressage clinics, each advancing my goal of achieving a collected canter with my horses, Quizaro and Nova. My hearing difficulties posed communication challenges at times, but the clinicians' expertise and regular lessons with Suzi Jennings drove significant progress. The first clinic, hosted by the Alpha Dressage Association (ADA) at TerraNova's covered arena, featured clinician Lauren Spreiser. Her focus on harmony between rider and horse was inspiring. I brought both Quizaro and Nova for the two-day event, enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and reconnecting with ADA friends. TerraNova's facility added to the experience, but Lauren's lack of a headset made it hard to hear her feedback at times, which was frustrating. Still, her cheerful approach set a positive tone for the year's first clinic.

Months later, I attended a one-day clinic at Tarawin Farm with Paul Belasik, riding only Quizaro. Paul targeted my goal: developing Q's collected canter. He praised Q's trot but offered exercises for our struggling canter. Unfortunately, without a microphone, I missed some instructions due to my hearing challenges. Despite this, Paul's insights clarified the need to engage my core, though the clinic underscored my need for clinicians using headsets.

The third clinic, hosted by Black Moon Equestrian at Nadia Yahraus's farm, was a highlight. Clinician Laura Ashley used a headset (yay!), enabling me to absorb her guidance. Riding both horses, I had one lesson on each horse. Laura's exercises for hot PREs led to clear progress with Quizaro and Nova. Finally, a one-day clinic at Suzi Jennings's farm with Cheryl Quinn, an FEI competitor and bronze/silver/gold medalist, was transformative. Her biomechanics-based method—shifting my horses' flat canter to an upward, forward and more elevated gait—felt like common sense. Though I rode only one horse, Cheryl's focus on core and seat, built on prior clinics and Suzi's coaching, elevated my canter work to a new level.

Multi-day clinics yield the best results, as clinicians learn your horse's needs. One session is good, two is great, three is fabulous! With these experiences, I'm hopeful for a true collected canter with both horses this summer—achieved by my seat, not reins.