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*It's time to renew your
WPDA Membership!*

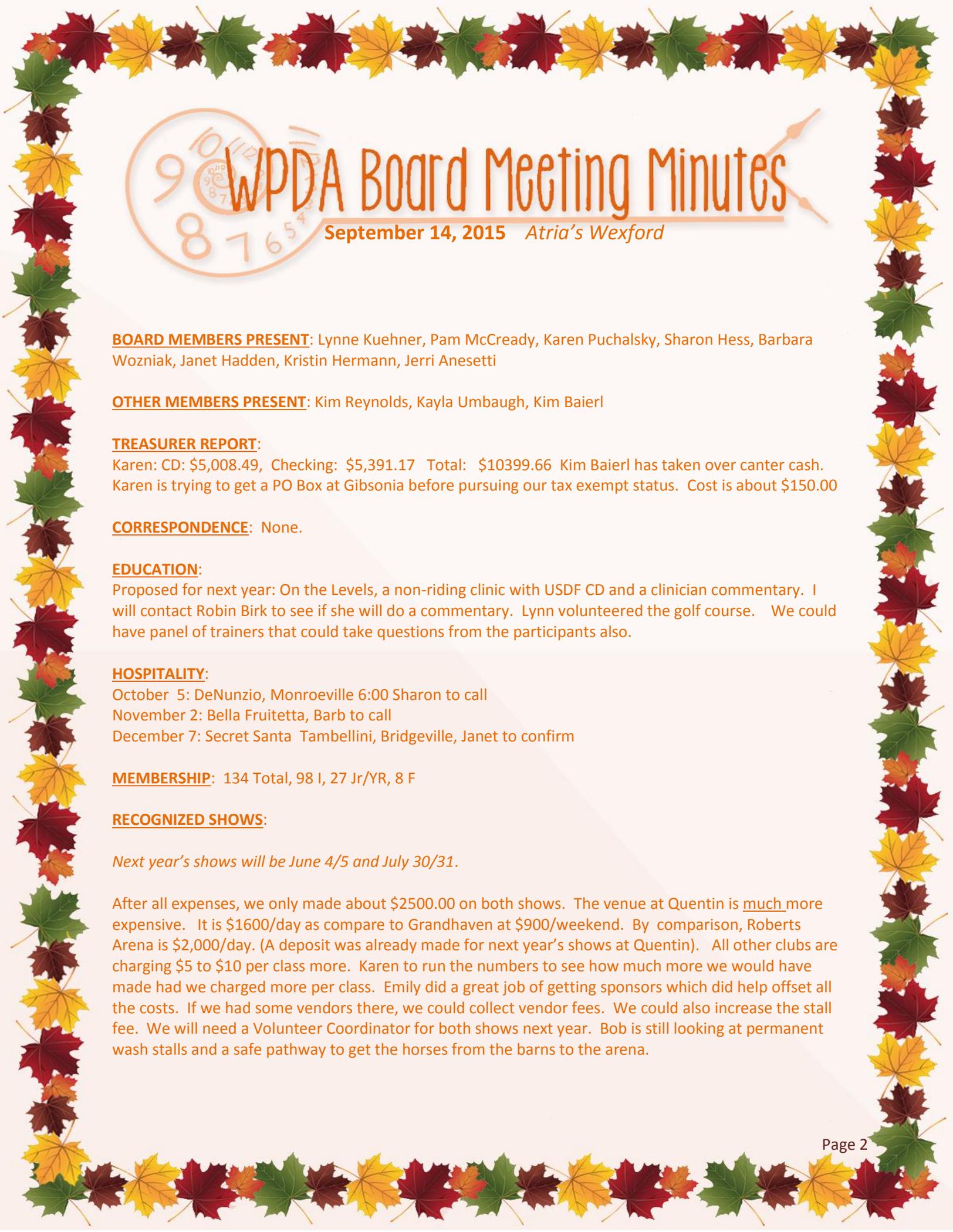
Membership includes the following:

- Participation in WPDA shows & clinics
- Educational membership meetings and clinics
- Individual Membership in the USDF
- Eligible for WPDA year-end Awards
- Eligible for WPDA scholarship awards
- Voting & office holding privileges
- WPDA Team competitions for Juniors and Adults
- Social events
- Annual banquet
- WPDA Handbook
- Membership Directory
- Monthly newsletter
- Free Classified Ads for WPDA members

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.wpdadmessage.org/homepage/membershipinformation.html>



See Page 4 for information regarding WPDA
Year-End Awards and the 2015 Banquet!



WPDA Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2015 *Atria's Wexford*

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynne Kuehner, Pam McCready, Karen Puchalsky, Sharon Hess, Barbara Wozniak, Janet Hadden, Kristin Hermann, Jerri Anesetti

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Reynolds, Kayla Umbaugh, Kim Baierl

TREASURER REPORT:

Karen: CD: \$5,008.49, Checking: \$5,391.17 Total: \$10399.66 Kim Baierl has taken over canter cash. Karen is trying to get a PO Box at Gibsonia before pursuing our tax exempt status. Cost is about \$150.00

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

EDUCATION:

Proposed for next year: On the Levels, a non-riding clinic with USDF CD and a clinician commentary. I will contact Robin Birk to see if she will do a commentary. Lynn volunteered the golf course. We could have panel of trainers that could take questions from the participants also.

HOSPITALITY:

October 5: DeNunzio, Monroeville 6:00 Sharon to call
November 2: Bella Fruitetta, Barb to call
December 7: Secret Santa Tambellini, Bridgeville, Janet to confirm

MEMBERSHIP: 134 Total, 98 I, 27 Jr/YR, 8 F

RECOGNIZED SHOWS:

Next year's shows will be June 4/5 and July 30/31.

After all expenses, we only made about \$2500.00 on both shows. The venue at Quentin is much more expensive. It is \$1600/day as compare to Grandhaven at \$900/weekend. By comparison, Roberts Arena is \$2,000/day. (A deposit was already made for next year's shows at Quentin). All other clubs are charging \$5 to \$10 per class more. Karen to run the numbers to see how much more we would have made had we charged more per class. Emily did a great job of getting sponsors which did help offset all the costs. If we had some vendors there, we could collect vendor fees. We could also increase the stall fee. We will need a Volunteer Coordinator for both shows next year. Bob is still looking at permanent wash stalls and a safe pathway to get the horses from the barns to the arena.

Board Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

SANCTIONED SHOWS:

Jerri reported that there are only 2 shows left: Brush Run Pony Club Sept 26 at Cox Arena with Judge Robin Birk and Coventry Sept 27 with Ingrid MacNamara. Giving competitors an evaluation form was discussed as part of their packet. USDF may have a downloadable evaluation form. Jerri will send a questionnaire to each potential WPDA judge to determine their interest and qualifications.

WEBSITE:

Canter cash was updated. Janet to update the award application form and Karen will make a fillable pdf to post on the website. 4 canter cash will be required per horse and rider for a year end award. Janet will update Kim on used canter cash so she can update the website.

NEWSLETTER:

Gwen We need to remind everyone to send their award applications in soon so a newsletter needs to go out before the end of this month.

ADULT TEAM: Emily no report

ADULT CAMP:

Barb Kostic reported that it was huge success. The dressage Foundation form needs to be completed as soon as the updated budget information is available.

BANQUET:

November 21 Kim Reynolds reported that the banquet will be at Antonelli Event Center in North Huntingdon (formerly Pluma). 29.90 per person plus tax and gratuity. She was looking at getting a DJ. We currently do not have a tax exempt status.

AWARDS:

Janet is looking at stall plaques. They would be printed with Horse and Rider or Horse, owner, rider if the rider is not the owner.

JR/YR:

Pam: Even though Saugerties is a 9 hour haul, it was a fantastic educational experience for the kids who did really well. We had to leave two horses home though, because we didn't have enough trailers to transport them all. Next year, arrangements for transportation will be a requirement of the team members. The Elizabeth Pikvance grant and sponsorships were approved. Pam made a motion that the kids could use their scores from D4K as a sanctioned show score for year-end awards next year. Karen second it. All were in favor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Emily Morris: No report Ballots will need to go out with the invitations to prevent double postage. Everyone must be a current member to run. Emily should get the Bio's to me so I can make up the ballot.

At 9:00 Motion to adjourn made by Pam, Second by Karen

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Hess

2015 WPDA Awards Banquet

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

REGONIZED DRESSAGE SHOW DIVISION

SANCTIONED DRESSAGE SHOW DIVISION

VINTAGE RIDER AWARD

FREESTYLE CHALLENGE AWARD

JOE LANE CHALLENGE TROPHY

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

SERVICE AWARDS:

JOE LANE MOST VALUABLE MEMBER AWARD
& KEYSTONE MERIT AWARD

VIVIANO AWARD

In order to be considered for 2015 Year End Performance Awards, you must follow the requirements listed below:

GENERAL RULES FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

1. You must be a WPDA member in good standing at the time the scores were earned.
2. The scores must be the same horse and rider combination.
3. Minimum of 58% score per test. The average for the highest three scores submitted will be calculated.
4. Complete and submit the Year End Individual Competitor's report with four (4) Canter Cash attached. (Form is on our web site).
5. Submit either a copy of the test showing the judge's signature and the score earned or a USDF computerized score sheet. (This is the preferred method for USDF shows—please highlight the scores you are submitting on the print out.)

Applications must be post-marked by October 15th of the awards year. Mail your completed form, copy of the tests and/or USDF score sheets, and Canter Cash to the Awards Chairperson. Your entry will not be considered for an award without the completed Year End Individual Competitor's Report, test verification and Canter Cash.

If Applicant is applying for multiple awards, at least one application must have their Canter Cash attached.

The banquet will be held at the Antonelli Event Center in Irwin, from 6:00-10:30 PM, on November 21.

As the 2015 the show season winds down many of you will be getting your scores ready to send in for year end awards. Here are some reminders and updates:

New address to send awards: JANET HADDEN
RUSSELL'S LANDING FARM
1039 OLD RIDGE ROAD
AVELLA, PA. 15312
724-356-7856
COWGIRL436@MSN.COM

Please have your entries post marked by October 15, 2015. You may send your USDF/USEF scores from the USDF print out. Please highlight the scores that you want to you use. Remember that although you need to have a score or a scratch sheet from a WPDA show, you do not have to use that score for your average.

For WPDA sanctioned shows send a copy of the front of the test which shows the show name, date of show, score and judges signature. Please include an email or text contact so that you can be notified when I receive your awards application.

If you are coming to the banquet and would like to share something special about you or your horse's show season please email a short paragraph to me to be included in the awards presentation.

If you have any questions just ask and I will get the information you are seeking.

Thanks for your participation in the WPDA!
We will look forward to seeing you at the banquet,
- Janet Hadden

"No Foot, No Horse"

Last article I talked about the effects that the excessive wet weather has had on horses hooves this year. Problems like chronic thrush, hoof wall separations and even abscess's are all too common in this type of weather. Now I would like to discuss the problems individually and how to you might be able to address them.

I'll start with thrush. If you have owned a horse for even a short amount of time, you have had to deal with thrush or at the very least have an understanding of what it is. If you google "thrush in a horses hoof" you will get some interesting definitions. But what it comes down to is it's a bacterial infection in the frog. It's identifiable by the black pasty discharge and sometimes by the foul odor. All horses have it to an extent. Most are minor cases and treated easily or even cut out when the feet are trimmed by your farrier. What I want to focus on is chronic thrush. It is more aggressive and can cause lameness, which means it takes a much more aggressive approach to treat and heal.

Most people believe that thrush only happens to the horses that live in unclean conditions. That can contribute to the problem, but not the only reasons horses can get thrush. I've spoken to farriers that

have shod horses that work in feed lots out west. Now you want to talk about nasty conditions! They are very seldom on dry ground and not only is it muddy, but full of cow manure. These farriers said that chronic thrush never seemed to be a problem. How could that be? They said it was common practice to clean the horse's feet out before and after work and they believed that since the horse

was working in soft footing they always had good "ground to frog contact", which helps keep the frog strong, healthy and more resistant to infection.

The bacteria that causes the infection is anaerobic, so letting oxygen in is the first step to prevent chronic thrush, but if it's too bad, topical treatment may be necessary. There are many over the counter products available to treat thrush, some are more effective than others. I've used "Thrush Buster" for years and it has worked well for minor infections and for preventive maintenance. I like it because as long as you can see the deep purple color, then you know it's



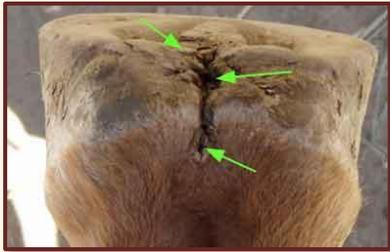
(sheared heel with thrush infection)

active. When the color begins to fade, then it's time to reapply. Now, for the deep persistent infections I used to use strong iodine (12%), however due to the illegal drug makers using it to make, well illegal drugs, it's not easily obtained. There are companies you can buy it from, but you must send them a copy of your driver's license, fill out forms and hand over your first born each time you need to purchase some. I've tried betadine, but it was never really as effective. It worked in some cases, but took 3-4 times as long to work. I began using a product called "Durasole" with good success, but only on the superficial infections. The most effective product that I have seen work this year is a product called "Tomorrow". It's amazing stuff. It is actually marketed for cattle mastitis treatment and can be found at Tractor Supply and other farm stores. I've seen it clear up bad thrush problems in a short period of time.

The most difficult thrush infections to get rid of are the ones in the central sulcus of the frog. These infections will eat right down between the bulbs of the heels and if unattended will cause lameness. I have been called by new clients that



(serious thrush problem)



(thrush infection in the central sulcus)

say that their horse has a subtle lameness that they have not been able to identify, and have found that these infections was causing the lameness. Sometimes this type of infection can be associated with sheared heels that can complicate the issue and cause your horse to be unwilling to perform properly. Treating the thrush is necessary,

but the sheared heel issue needs to be addressed also to help heal the infections. Sheared heel with thrush infection

If you feel that your horse has chronic thrush, especially in the central sulcus, speak to your farrier about it and see if together you can come up with a game plan for addressing it. But unless you're willing to pay your farrier to come to your barn every day to treat the problem it's up to you. These issues will not go away on its own. Some people feel a little thrush is "not a big deal". But that little problem, if unattended can turn into a big deal and that might make the difference in your horse performing to the best of its potential, which in turn might mean the difference in your score at a show.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. You can email mail me at jnggatts@gmail.com or text me at 724-263-5356. Gary Gatts, APF American Accssociation of Professional Farriers. <http://www.professionalfarriers.com/GaryGatts>

WPDA MEMBERS

in the Spotlight

Thank you Jerri Anesetti for being Volunteer Chair coordinator for both WPDA 2015 recognized shows at Quentin, PA. Congratulations too on your awesome rides with your new Morgan horse, Casey. Plus, on winning the Morgan Breed award at Quentin, in August!



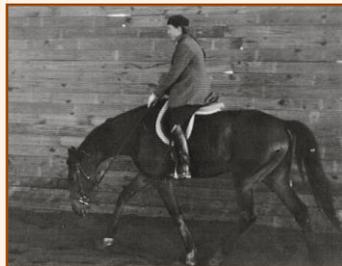
Photo & Text Provided By: Kristin Hermann

The Double Stuff

Written by: Kristin Hermann

***The Double Stuff in the middle of your dressage test.
And you thought I was going to write about Oreo cookies!
Or, A local Schooling Show Judge rants about the Stretchy Circle and Free walk.***

I have judged several schooling dressage shows this season and here is my soap box. Do riders read the tests before they show? Do trainers train riders the requirements of the tests? All the test have movements that are double points and the stretchy circle and free walk are always double points. Riders and trainers should know which movements are double points in the tests and show those movements to the best of their ability to raise the score or make up for some mistake in the test.



The author stretching her horse in the early eighties before stretching was even introduced into dressage tests.

Even though the free walk and stretchy circle are double points in every lower level test, they are rarely performed or ridden. As a rider, trainer, and instructor who loves to stretch horses and wrote a published article about stretching in Dressage & CT before stretching was even introduced into dressage tests, I must comment.*

The free walk and stretchy circle is an opportunity for the horse to have a rest in the middle of a test. However, they also show the judge that the horse is using its back and is not ridden in a headset. Riding a horse in a headset is way easier to hold together than keeping a horse in a frame and riding correctly from back to front. Riding a horse correctly on the aids or on the bit allows the horse to use its body unconstrained. The horse takes a full stride under or through the rider's seat resulting in it seeking the contact with the rider's hands. This is called the



This horse is starting to stretch down. The judge wants to see the horse's nose at least at the level of the horse's knees.

And why not when it is double points and the bases of correct training! Look at your test months before you ride it and say "To raise my score I need to be able to do these double point movements." Or, how about, "for my horse to be supple and elastic it needs to be able to stretch." Don't wait for your trainer to tell you, it is your responsibility to know your tests and what the judge expects! I think any trainer would value the student who approached them and said, "how can we do this better, I see this movement in the test is double points!" Of course, the trainer could be thinking to themselves, "Silly we have done this in every lesson, where have you been!"

Stretching your horse's top line is the beginning of all basic training! Stretching the horse lifts the back, lengthens the stride, develops the top line, trains the correct muscles, releases tension, frees the gaits, and trains elasticity to name a few of the benefits! Elastic, supple, free, and unconstrained are the words we want our horse to display in the show. Certainly we don't want to hear these words from the judge "tense," "tight," and "restricted!"

"ring of aids." Stretching is the best way to train the horse to use its whole body or "ring of muscles" and stretch into the contact. And, did I mention it was double points?

The problem I see as a local schooling show judge is that riders are not stretching their horses for the free walk or the trot stretch circle.



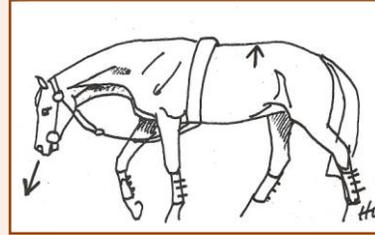
This is a great stretch. The horse's nose is down by the knees, it still has a slight contact and the horse is taking a full stride!

Showing is displaying your horse's three natural gaits to the judge and paying for their opinion on how well you have done your job training your horse. Essentially competitors are paying the judge for their opinion on how well we have trained our horse in both directions to be supple, obedient, unconstrained and fluid at all three gaits. Certainly

some horses have this naturally, three beautiful gaits, as Janet Foy said in our recent WPDA clinic, "If you cannot buy gaits, you better be able to train them!"

The free walk and stretchy circle are challenging to ride. To ride both correctly does not mean just letting the reins get longer, and the horse stretches down, ha this would be too easy! Stretching the horse is supposed to be ridden on contact! Yikes, like it wasn't hard enough just establishing a Training Level frame with contact, now we have to do it with a longer rein! Yes, that is right! A phrase I often use teaching is "maintaining a frame with a longer rein." Keeping a contact or connection is hard enough with a two-foot rein, now the reins need to be four foot long to allow the horse to stretch.

Allowing the horse to stretch "down and out" and then also being able to ride the horse "under and up" is one of the challenges of dressage training. We spend most of our riding lessons learning basic riding position so we can communicate to the horse with our aids, then we learn how to get the horse on the bit unconstrained and then we have to allow the horse to stretch down while being on the bit! I read a quote years ago from Reiner Klimke, and I will never forget it, he said, "Never teach your students how to stretch." When my students have difficulty learning how to stretch, I quote Reiner Klimke. It makes them feel better. Then I get the question why? My answer is, and I believe this to be true, "Because he thinks it is too hard for the average rider to do." (I need to find this article.)



The ideal stretch will have the horse's nose in front of the vertical. If we could ride and show with a chambone, such as this horse has on, this would make it way easier!

me at the end of the ride, and I say, "Did you know stretching your horse in the free walk is double points?" They look at me like a deer in headlights! However, after they see their score and realize that stretching is double points and they never even



Nice stretch at the free walk. And a bonus that horse is straight! Oh you mean now I have to stretch and ride a straight line?

attempted a stretch, the next time into the arena they make an effort to stretch the horse down. As a result, the score often goes up in the next test and my obsession with stretching has been fulfilled. Another benefit is a horse's back is made happier and more supple because the rider allowed it to stretch.

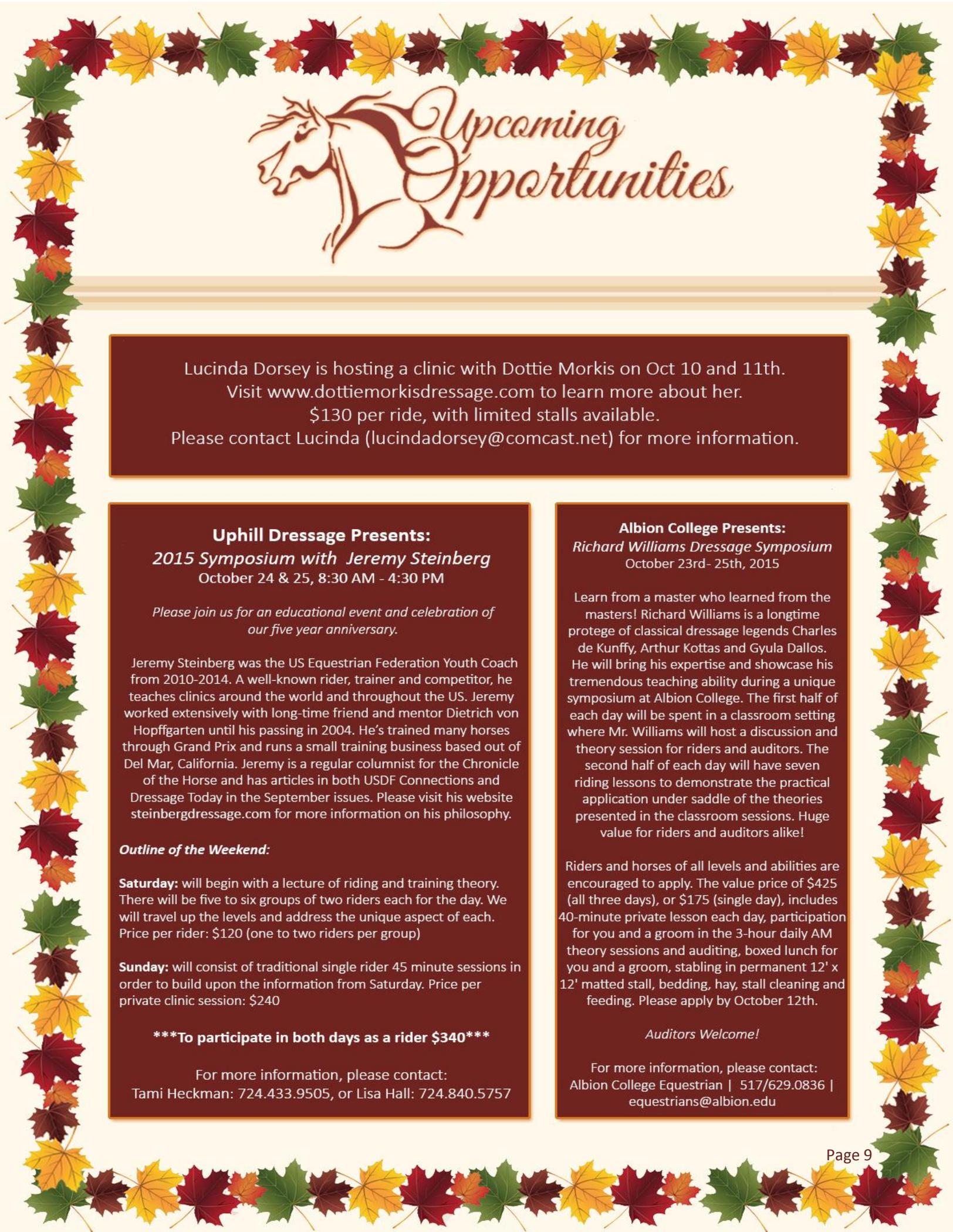
Certainly, stretching your horse's top line unconstrained through your aids is not only valuable for your horse's gymnastic training, but it will raise your score and develop the riding finesse. To learn how to train your horse to stretch, ask your trainer, ask me, read books, look at youtube videos. Double stuff with double points in the middle of each test, here we come! And you thought you just had to ride a few twenty-meter circles and a couple of straight lines!

Learning how to stretch your horse at the free walk and trot may be difficult but it should still be learned, despite what Reiner Klimke said! Remember stretching is double points!!! When I judge, and the competitor comes up to

me at the end of the ride, and I say, "Did you know stretching your horse in the free walk is double points?" They look at me like a deer in headlights! However, after they see their score and realize that stretching is double points and they never even

Author Kristin Hermann has been teaching and training basic dressage for several decades. Her passion is teaching and training horses and riders. She teaches stretching not only under saddle, but also on the lunge and even at the halt which is called "chewing the reins out of the hands." If you need assistance in training your horse how to stretch or are interested in developing your horses gymnastic training utilizing simple dressage principles call or email: blythdale@comcast.net ~ 724-206-9902. Kristin travels throughout Western Pa. for lessons and/or gives lessons at her farm Coventry Equestrian Center.

* Article by Kristin published in Dressage & CT in 1986 before stretching was introduced to the tests in 1991: <http://blythdale.tripod.com/coventryequestriancenter/id40.html>



Upcoming Opportunities

Lucinda Dorsey is hosting a clinic with Dottie Morkis on Oct 10 and 11th.
Visit www.dottiemorkisdressage.com to learn more about her.
\$130 per ride, with limited stalls available.
Please contact Lucinda (lucindadorsey@comcast.net) for more information.

Uphill Dressage Presents: 2015 Symposium with Jeremy Steinberg October 24 & 25, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Please join us for an educational event and celebration of our five year anniversary.

Jeremy Steinberg was the US Equestrian Federation Youth Coach from 2010-2014. A well-known rider, trainer and competitor, he teaches clinics around the world and throughout the US. Jeremy worked extensively with long-time friend and mentor Dietrich von Hopffgarten until his passing in 2004. He's trained many horses through Grand Prix and runs a small training business based out of Del Mar, California. Jeremy is a regular columnist for the Chronicle of the Horse and has articles in both USDF Connections and Dressage Today in the September issues. Please visit his website steinbergdressage.com for more information on his philosophy.

Outline of the Weekend:

Saturday: will begin with a lecture of riding and training theory. There will be five to six groups of two riders each for the day. We will travel up the levels and address the unique aspect of each. Price per rider: \$120 (one to two riders per group)

Sunday: will consist of traditional single rider 45 minute sessions in order to build upon the information from Saturday. Price per private clinic session: \$240

*****To participate in both days as a rider \$340*****

For more information, please contact:
Tami Heckman: 724.433.9505, or Lisa Hall: 724.840.5757

Albion College Presents:

Richard Williams Dressage Symposium
October 23rd- 25th, 2015

Learn from a master who learned from the masters! Richard Williams is a longtime protege of classical dressage legends Charles de Kunffy, Arthur Kottas and Gyula Dallos. He will bring his expertise and showcase his tremendous teaching ability during a unique symposium at Albion College. The first half of each day will be spent in a classroom setting where Mr. Williams will host a discussion and theory session for riders and auditors. The second half of each day will have seven riding lessons to demonstrate the practical application under saddle of the theories presented in the classroom sessions. Huge value for riders and auditors alike!

Riders and horses of all levels and abilities are encouraged to apply. The value price of \$425 (all three days), or \$175 (single day), includes 40-minute private lesson each day, participation for you and a groom in the 3-hour daily AM theory sessions and auditing, boxed lunch for you and a groom, stabling in permanent 12' x 12' matted stall, bedding, hay, stall cleaning and feeding. Please apply by October 12th.

Auditors Welcome!

For more information, please contact:
Albion College Equestrian | 517/629.0836 |
equestrians@albion.edu

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 BLM Championships Allentown, NJ	10 BLM Championships Allentown, NJ
11 BLM Championships Allentown, NJ	12	13	14	15	16 USDF Region 1 Championships Lexington, VA	17
18 USDF Region 1 Championships Lexington, VA	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



CLASSIFIEDS

HORSES

Coventry Equestrian Center has two horses for lease ~ one is an easy First Level horse (gelding), the other is a Training Level horse (mare). Both are well mannered and do all lateral work and would easily move up the levels with a component rider. Both jump, the gelding was a three foot A show circuit hunter and could be leased for jumping as well. I would consider an off site lease for both. Photos and videos available. Both are thoroughbreds. Leases at Coventry are available and can include dressage lessons and/ or jumping lessons with our trainers. Contact Kristin: blythedale@comcast.net

MISC.

Stubben Genesis Dressage Saddle

D 32 (wide) used 1 year
17.5 inch seat, black, long billets,
retails for \$3,400.00, will sell for \$1800.00.
This saddle is extremely comfortable,
but my horse takes an extra wide.
Call Kristin at: (724)-206-9902
or email blythedale@comcast.net

Pictured Below:



Women's Pikeur Diana Dressage Coat

Black, US Size 12.
Great Condition - \$100
If interested, please contact
Kim at: kbaierl@zoominternet.net,
or (724)-933-0129

Pictured Below:



WPDA NewsBits Advertising

Classified Ads (30 word Maximum)

Members: **FREE!**

Non-Members: **\$5.00/month**

Business Card Ad

Members: **\$10.00/month**

Non-Members: **\$15.00/month**

Quarter Page Ad

Members: **\$15.00**

Non-Members: **\$20.00**

Half Page Ad

Members: **\$25.00**

Non-Members: **\$30.00**

Full Page Ad

Members: **\$40.00**

Non-Members: **\$50.00**

Buy three months or more of any size ad and take 10% off the purchase price. If NewsBits publishes a two month edition your ad will count for one month.

Date: _____ Number of issues to be placed: _____

Amount endorsed: _____ Ad Size: _____ Title of ad:

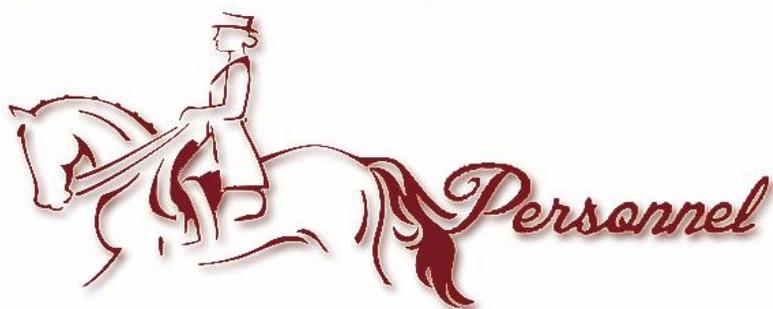
Name/ Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone:

_____ E-Mail: _____

Send all advertising for the NewsBits to **Kristin Hermann**
(blythedale@comcast.net), with WPDA AD in the subject line.
If you have any questions, please call **(724)-206-9902**.



DIRECTORS

Krista Tycho Noone
(412)-508-0714
krista.noone@gmail.com

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cowgirl436@msn.com

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Barbara@wozniaks.net

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(724)-579-0768
janesetti17@gmail.com

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Sharon Hess
(724)-858-0431
vatsnurse@hotmail.com

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Karen Puchalsky
(412)-953-0752
KPuchalsky@aol.com

Past President:
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(724)-206-9902
blythedale@comcast.net

COMMITTEES

Adult Team Chair
Lynne Kuehner
(412)-889-1806

Adult Team Co-Chair
Emily Hadden Morris
(412)-370-2323

Awards
Janet Hadden
(412)-343-3577

COMMITTEES CONTINUED...

Banquet:
Needs a Chair!

Junior/Young Riders:
Pam McCreedy
(412)-952-1755
pgm1208@aol.com

Membership:
Jackie Norris
(724)-468-4859
Jnorris131@aol.com

Newsletter:
Gwen Wojewodka
(724)-941-1749
NewsBits.WPDA@yahoo.com

Recognized Shows:
Karen Puchalsky
(412)-968-0528
KPuchalsky@aol.com

Region 1 Representative:
Lynne Kuehner
(412)-889-1806
shenandoah96@gmail.com

Sanctioned Shows:
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(724)-579-0768
janeseiti17@gmail.com

Scholarships
Lynne Kuehner
(412)-889-1806
shenandoah96@comcast.net

Volunteer Coordinator:
Megan Sartore
(412)-980-1002
mesartore@hotmail.com

New Member Welcome:
Amy Barbarino
(412)-612-5225
abarbarino@srcare.org

Website:
Lindsey Saad
lindseysaad@gmail.com

