

wpda NewsBits

www.wpdadressage.org

May 2016

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Did you know that you can sponsor a class and advertise your business at the WPDA competitions?

For more information, visit:
www.wpdadressage.org



Submitted by: Kristin Hermann

Congratulations to Mandy Collier (Coventry rider) and Charlie Brown (Beau) on winning your Bronze Medal!

Cleaning Show Britches

A method by Barb Wozniak

Dissolve Cascade in hot water and rub on britches. For heavier stains, rub powder onto stained area and soak overnight. Squeeze out excess solution, then wash as usual.

DRESSAGE

An Informative Essay

Written By: Emma Teff

Dressage is a dance that horses and riders perform together. It is a challenging but rewarding sport. Dressage is its own special style of riding, involves many different movements, and has a unique showing environment and scoring system.

To begin with, dressage is a style of riding like no other. First, dressage riders ride in snaffle or double bridles, dressage saddle, as well as the normal saddle pad and girth. The snaffle and double bridles allow riders to communicate their hand aids via the reins and bit to the horse. Though the dressage saddle does not automatically give riders a good position, it aids this by helping slightly to put the rider's leg and seat in a balanced position designed for dressage. Also, dressage involves the horse and rider working together in harmony to produce certain movements in an arena in front of a judge. The goal is to show that you and your horse have a partnership and can work together harmoniously. Finally, dressage is presented in the form of a ridden test. Horse and rider pairs ride the memorized pattern in front of the judge. As you can see, dressage is a unique and interesting sport.

In addition, this sport includes a variety of movements that are part of the tests. First and foremost, the moves get harder as the levels go up. For example, at intro level, riders and horses have to ride their pattern at the walk, trot, and canter while being fairly harmonious, but at Grand Prix, riders and horse must ride their pattern of the most difficult movements in all of dressage while being very connected, round, and rhythmic. Also, lateral movements

are movements where a part of the horse's body moves sideways. For instance, a leg yield, where the horses shoulders and hindquarters move sideways while moving forward, is an example of a lateral movement. However, not all movements are lateral. Movements such as the flying lead change do not involve sideways motion. To sum it up, dressage involves a large variety of movements, and they are difficult to master.

Finally, dressage has a unique showing atmosphere and scoring system. To begin with, when you go to a dressage show, you sign up for classes ahead of time and are given ride times when you arrive. Your ride time is when you are scheduled to go in the ring, but you need to be out of the barn before then to warm up you and your horse. Also, at a dressage show you are responsible for caring for your horse. You must feed, water, muck his or her stall, keep him or her clean, and make sure they are comfortable and healthy at all times. In addition, dressage is scored in a different way. The judge scores each movement of the test from 1 to 10. At the end, your score is added up and turned into a percent. Above a 60 is considered good, above a 65 is very good, and above a 70 is amazing! In summary, the scoring and showing of dressage is very different but a joy for riders to participate in.

In conclusion, dressage is a special style of riding, includes a variety of movements for horse and rider to perform, and has a unique way of showing and scoring. Dressage competitors wouldn't rather do anything else.

WPDA MEMBERS

in the Spotlight

Rhianna Parkhurst

Interviewed by Kristin Hermann

Rhianna Parkhurst is new to the Western Pa. area. I decided to interview her for the WPDA newsletter as an introduction to our club members and area. Welcome Rhianna!



Q: Where are you from Originally?

A: Fairbanks, Alaska

Q: How did you get to move to the Western Pa?

A: I came to western pa when I was 20 yrs old to work for Mr. Robert Mayer

Q: You teach and train in Western Pa, what area of the “burgh” do you do this and which barns do you teach out of? You give clinics too?

A: I am located north of the city in Gibsonia. I am based out of Michael Bitley's barn, Hidden Oaks. I also teach out of Horse on Course in Saxonburg. I'm willing to teach anywhere within reasonable distance and clinics too! As well as teaching dressage riders, I also work with hunter riders on their flatwork. It's much easier to pilot a rideable, supple horse around a course.

Q: Your back ground in dressage includes training with who and where? Who is your favorite mentor and why...

A: As mentioned before, I grew up in Alaska, not exactly a dressage Mecca. I credit my very first instructor, Debbie Clymer, with inspiring my passion for dressage. There are so many people I have worked with over the years and to name them all would make this a very long paragraph. I would have to say the most influential has been Lendon Gray. I studied with her and also count two of her other pupils, Maria Lithander and Mica Mabragana (my current instructor) as some of the most important influences in my dressage journey.

Q: Last we spoke, you were in Florida for the winter, how lucky! Do you go there to train or show or both? Who do you train with in Florida?

A: Yes, I am indeed lucky to be able to spend my winters in Florida. I go mostly for the massive amount of education available all in the same place. The best judges, some of the best trainers and riders in the world spend time in Florida in the winter. It is also a great place to be as I pursue my education in judging. I train with Mica Mabragana while I am in Florida and also take advantage of clinic opportunities while I am there.

Continued on Page 4...

Q: You have just Graduated the USDF L Judges Program with distinction can you share some highlights of your personal experience?

A: I cannot say enough about the USDF L program. I encourage all riders and trainers to attend the program. Even if you have no interest in pursuing a career as a judge, the first three sessions are open to anyone (no qualifications required). It is a wonderful place to educate your eye and find out just what judges are looking for and how to ride the tests. I see so many points given away by riders because they just don't have the knowledge of how to ride the tests, and the basics required in the levels.

Q: Are you certificate through any other USDF programs at this time or in the future?

A: Right now I am just concentrating on completing the USDF 'r' program. It keeps you pretty busy. I would be interested in pursuing the USDF instructors program at some point in the future.

Q: I take it you are now available to judge schooling shows in the Tri-State area! How do show managers contact you?

A: Yes, I certainly am and love to do it. They may contact me by phone, 412-901-1827, email, seabreezeequestrian@outlook.com, or my Facebook page Seabreeze Equestrian.

Q: What do you love about dressage? Do you event or ride hunters too?

A: Dressage horses are beautiful, plus riding dressage gives you the most incredible feeling. There is nothing like getting everything right and feeling the horses back and withers come up and feeling all that controlled power underneath your seat. I also enjoy the relationship and bond correct training creates between you and your horse. I originally wanted to do jumpers when I first started riding. My first horse was a very young, basically wild, pony. I wanted to start jumping right away, but my instructor wisely insisted that we would spend a year on flatwork. After just a few months, I was hooked and the jumping dreams went out the window. I did do some eventing as a teenager, and I still have some aspirations of doing more of that. I need a horse for it though, I have 2 Iberian horses and they basically laugh at me when I try jumping with them. My other mare is a Danish Warmblood with some jumping bloodlines and when I first got her, I thought she would like to jump. I was wrong, so I'm waiting for the right horse to come along to try more eventing. I do school flatwork on hunters for people who don't want to do it themselves as well.

Q: What's your horses name, do you have a photo and are you showing one of your horses this year or do you mostly show your clients horses?



A: I have 3 horses at the moment. A 7 yr old PRE named CanCan, an 8 year old Lipizzaner, Tulsa, and a 13 yr old Danish mare, Asia. I plan on showing all of them this summer.

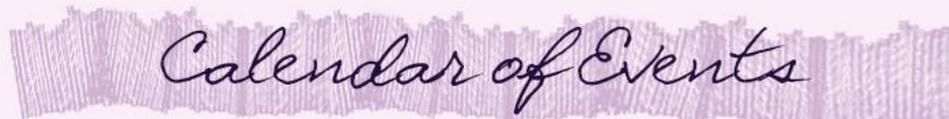
Q: Do you plan to stay in the Western Pa area?

A: At this time, I do plan on staying in Western Pa. for the spring/summer/fall and then traveling to Florida for the winter. I love the area and more people seem to be becoming interested in dressage, so hopefully I can help the area and community to grow even more!



Upcoming Opportunities

*Interested in volunteering at an upcoming WPDA event?
Visit page 12 and complete the WPDA volunteer form!*



Calendar of Events

June 2016

4	<i>Pure Gold Stables Schooling Show</i>
5	<i>Horse on Course Schooling Show</i>
6	<i>WPDA Meeting - Bella Frutteta in Wexford, PA</i>
11-12	<i>WPDA USEF/USDF Competition at Quentin Riding Club</i>
25-26	<i>Lake Erie College Dressage Derby of Ohio I & II</i>
26	<i>Coventry Equestrian Center Schooling Show</i>

July 2016

11	<i>WPDA Meeting - Karen Puchalsky's Office in Wexford, PA</i>
17	<i>Horse on Course Schooling Show</i>
30-31	<i>WPDA USEF/USDF Competition at Quentin Riding Club</i>

Parelli Natural Horsemanship Clinic
hosted by the Westmoreland 4-H Horse Club at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds
Greensburg PA // July 16 and 17

This Parelli Natural Horsemanship Clinic will be taught by Carol Goebel, a 2-Star Licensed Parelli instructor from Ohio! The clinic will be limited to SIX participants with their horses, with a limited number of auditors. Fee for the 2-day clinic is \$350 for participants and \$25 per day for auditors. Carol teaches all four Parelli levels in three Savvys - on-line, liberty and freestyle riding. If there are Level 3-4 Parelli students out there, they are welcome, and Carol is qualified to teach the higher levels.

For more information, please contact:
Barb McMillan at 724-309-5953 or whatzupmac@hotmail.com



SEABREEZE EQUESTRIAN AND HORSE ON COURSE
EQUESTRIAN CENTER
PRESENT

A Dressage clinic with International Grand Prix

Competitor

Mica Mabragana



Mica is an international Grand Prix Competitor, a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist, and a USDF Certified Instructor through 4th level. She has competed in the Pan American Games and qualified a horse for the 2014 World Equestrian Games representing her home county of Arentina.

Mica spent 5 years with Lendon Gray as a working student and assistant trainer. She has had the opportunity to train with Courtney King-Dye, Scott Hassler, Henk Van Bergen, Oded Shimoni, Ashley Holzer, Beth Baumert, Robert Dover, Steffen Peters, and Lilo Fore.

Mica's teaching style is positive and encouraging, while focusing on correct basics for both the horse and rider. She is happy to work with all levels of riders and types of horses.

Date: May 14th and 15th, 2016

Location: Horse on Course Equestrian Center in Gibsonia, PA

Cost: \$130/private lesson

Stabling is available and auditors are welcome. Clinic fees include lunch and beverages.

Please contact Rhianna Pankhurst for more information @ 412-901-1827 or Seabreeze-equestrian@outlook.com

May WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Shows:

- Pure Gold Stables ((May 22nd)
Judge: Kerri Matesich, L Graduate
- Coventry Equestrian Center ((May 29th))
Judge: Ingrid McNamera

DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted By: Kristin Hermann

DR116 The Impulsion, The Submission (Willing Cooperation)

1. Impulsion is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, propulsive energy generated from the hind quarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse's soft and swinging back guided by elastic contact with the rider's hand.

a) Speed, of itself, has little to do with impulsion; the result is more often a flattening of the gaits. A visible characteristic is a more pronounced articulation of the hind leg, in a continuous rather than staccato action. The hock, as the hind foot leaves the ground, should move forward rather than being pulled upwards, but certainly not backwards. A prime ingredient of impulsion is the time the horse spends in the air rather than on the ground. Impulsion is, therefore, seen only in those gaits that have a period of suspension.

b) Impulsion is a precondition for a good collection in trot and canter. If there is no impulsion, then there is nothing to collect.

2. The Submission (Willing Cooperation) does not mean subordination, but an obedience revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behavior of the horse as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease it is displaying in the execution of the different movements. The degree of the submission (Willing Cooperation) is also

demonstrated by the way the horse accepts the bit, with an elastic contact and a supple poll. Resistance to or evasion of the rider's hand, being either "above the bit" or "behind the bit" demonstrate lack of submission (Willing Cooperation). The main contact with the horse's mouth must be through the snaffle bit.

a) Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth or agitation of the tail, are mostly signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for every movement concerned, as well as in the collective mark for "submission (Willing Cooperation)".

b) Submission (Willing Cooperation) requires that the horse understands what is being asked of it and is content enough in the rider to react to the aids without fear or tension.

c) The horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it to stay in front of the rider's legs and go forward into an accepting and self-carrying contact with the bit. This is what really produces the picture of harmony and lightness. Fulfillment of the main requirements/movements of a Dressage test is the primary criterion for submission (Willing Cooperation).

Effective 2/1/16 BOD 1/16/16

This is how to score a test. If you are showing and you think there has been an error on your test, you need to first check your score and then go to show management before the show is over. If you find the error after you get home it is too late! Want to learn how to score hands on? Go to any schooling show in the area and volunteer!

Scoring

- Scorer: Check to make sure test is signed by the judge.
 - Note errors and coefficients (x2)
 - Add up total score & collective marks (watch for the USDF Walk Trot tests some are x's 3 coefficient)
 - If a score is missing, send the test back to the judge.
 - Add and check 2 times.
 - Deduct errors.
 - Turn score into a percentage by dividing points earned into possible points (see maximum points on each test sheet)
- Example:** 154 total points divided by 280(maximum points a rider could accumulate) = 55%
- If two competitors are tied, go to the higher collective marks to break the tie. If still tied, go back to the judge to break the tie.
 - Post scores AFTER class is complete.
 - High Score Award : is usually done as the highest percentage of the day (not averaged)

Note is nice to staple calculator tape on the test for riders to check and for scorers to make placement notation on it.

- Provided by: Kristin Hermann -

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HORSES

Free to Good Home:

Preferably a pleasure rider or low level dressage. Nice thoroughbred mare, sweet sound it's just time to retire. Will not live in a field, as she likes the comforts of a dry stall and a blanket in the winter. She is uncomplicated but prefers a seasoned rider.

Contact Kristin:
(724)-206-9902
or blythedale@comcast.net

SADDLES

County Perfection Dressage Saddle

17" N 3.5" Gusset
Keyhole Tree
New Billets
Retail for \$5,199.00,
will sell for \$2,000.

Contact Joann at:
jmaier@earthlink.net

Pictured Below:



SERVICES

"Gary Gatts Farrier Service has a few openings for some new Dressage Horse Clients. My main focus is on the Performing Dressage Horse. I enjoy working with owners who put the horse first and are working towards a goal. Contact me for a copy of my current fees and list of my respective responsibilities."



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

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

Renee Shiska
aretefarm@zoominternet.net

Barb Wozniak
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Barbara@wozniaks.net

Jerri Anesetti
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janesetti17@gmail.com

WPDA BOARD MEMBERS

President:
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Secretary:
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Treasurer:
Karen Puchalsky
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Past President:
Kristin Hermann
(724)-206-9902
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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:

Kim Reynolds
kim@kidsonhorses.org

Canter Cash:

Kim Baierl
kbaierl@zoominternet.net
(724)-933-0129

Junior/Young Riders:

Pam McCready
(412)-952-1755
pgm1208@aol.com

Membership:

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

Newsletter:

Gwen Wojewodka
NewsBits.WPDA@yahoo.com

Recognized Shows:

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(412)-968-0528
KPuchalsky@aol.com

Region 1 Representative:

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

Sanctioned Shows:

Jerri Anesetti
(878)-218-2096
janesetti17@gmail.com

Scholarships

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

Volunteer Coordinator:

Needs a Chair!

Website:

Lindsey Saad
lindseysaad@gmail.com

WPDA Volunteer Form

Volunteer Name:

Is Volunteer a Young Rider? **Yes** **No**

Volunteer Phone Number:

Volunteer E-Mail:

Which volunteer Position do you want?

You may select more than one job. Not all of the jobs listed are offered at every event, contact the organizer for more information. The Organizer's information will be listed on the WPDA web site.

- Scorer (Calculate and record test scores)
- Scribe (Write the judge's comments on the tests – need at least ½ day commitment)
- Ring Steward (Get the riders in the ring on time and in order based on the show schedule)
- Warm-up Ring Steward (Alert riders their time/ring to ensure they get to the correct ring/ and at the correct time)
- Test Runner (Pick up tests from judges and deliver them to the show office)
- Ring Setup (Friday evening for Recognized shows)
- Ring Take-Down (Sunday after the show for Recognized shows)
- Show Volunteer Organizer (Help to recruit and organize the volunteers for the show/event)

Which event would you like to work?

- Schooling Show (Please check Calendar for the schooling show you would like to work)
- Schooling Show Name: Schooling Show Date:
- WPDA Summer Dressage Classic (June 11, 2016)
- WPDA Dressage (June 12, 2016)
- WPDA Summer Sizzler (July 30, 2016)
- WPDA Summer Sizzler Encore (July 31, 2016)
- WPDA Adult Clinic (Sept. 16-18, 2016)

What is your availability? **AM** **PM** **All Day**

Are you planning to ride and volunteer at the same event? **Yes** **No**

Please email form to:

kpuchalsky@aol.com or janesetti17@gmail.com