



The Centerline

MAY 2009

President's Passage

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ADA is a USDF GMO and all ADA members are automatically USDF Group Members. For a USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.

Here we are poised to plunge into another Alaskan dressage show and clinic season. To get things started we will be setting up the dressage ring and doing a little spring rock-picking at the Chamberlin Center on Saturday morning the 16th of May from 9 am to 11 am. Equifest is also occurring this day and Diane Sullivan has graciously made arrangements with the Equifest folks working the gates to let ADA's volunteers enter without charge. But if you plan to stay and enjoy the Equifest events, please support the event and pay your entrance fee.

The first dressage schooling show of the season will take place on Saturday the 23rd of May. The judge will be Eleanor Thibodeau from Washington state. Following the schooling show there will be up to four days of rider clinics and two

free lectures with Eleanor. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at 746-5994.

Speaking of the schooling shows, they will have a new awards program this year sponsored by Silver Legacy Stables and ADA. Riders may earn scores toward these awards at any of the FIVE schooling shows with dressage classes that will be taking place in Anchorage and Palmer this summer. This is a great opportunity for many (new and old) to participate in dressage. Check the ADA website for schooling show dates and schooling show award requirements.

The ADA Spring Festival dressage show (June 6th & 7th) is the first recognized dressage show of the season. Natalie Lamping (S) will judge and conduct clinics the two days

following the show. If you can scribe, score, bit check, or volunteer in any other way please contact any ADA board member for more information. Thanks!

Wow, busy already and we are just beginning. As we all enjoy the shows and clinics this year, please do not forget that all of these events are run by volunteers.

Without volunteers there would be no dressage in our great state. So please help in any way you can and please remember to use your good sportsmanship skills.

Happy Hoof Beats -
Linda Kelley



View from the FEI World Cup by ADA Junior Board Member Aimee Ritter

In April I was able to attend the FEI World Cup Finals in Las Vegas with my friend Amelia Haddad and her parents Geoff and Carolyn. We weren't the only ADA members there—we ran into Deana Johnson, Nicole Ringler with her mother Sue Mues, and Sigrun Robertson.

We saw the most amazing show ever. I had never been to a show in the Lower 48, nor had I ever seen a show at that level of skill. We watched both the dressage and the jumping finals. We were lucky enough to see Steffen Peters and his horse Ravel bring it home by winning both the Grand Prix and the Kur (musical freestyle): the first time in the history of World Cup that an American has won on American soil. Not only did we see some amazing riders but we saw some spectacular horses. Among my favorites was a stallion from Australia named Regardez Moi ("look at me" in French) and ridden by Heath Ryan. Of course my other favorites were Ravel (Steffen Peters) and Briar (Jan Brink).

One of my favorite rides was the Pas de Deux with Guenter Seidel and Elizabeth Ball who rode to the Phantom of the Opera music. I was fortunate enough to get a video of it. It was amazing! Another of my favorite rides was Hans Peter Minderhoud on Nadine. He is very happy with her so he rode to "So Happy Together" by the Carpenters. His ride was really fun to watch because his artistic impression was awesome and his horse was very elastic and relaxed throughout the ride.

During the dressage finals a judge provided live commentary via headsets that could be rented for the whole event. The judge gave background information on the horses and pointed out the good and bad points of each ride. It helped me to better understand what the judges are looking for and that we all make the same mistakes no matter what level we ride at.



Amelia and I got autographs from Guenter Seidel, Debbie McDonald [shown at right with Aimee], Steffen Peters, and Ashley Holzer. I was smart to pack my ADA dressage shirt and to wear it the whole time. It was very funny when the people who signed it stopped, looked and exclaimed, "You're from Alaska?!" We talked to Steffen Peters and Debbie McDonald and invited them to come up to Alaska to give a clinic. We have an informal "Yes" from Steffen, whose email address we were able to obtain, and a "Gosh, yeah!" from Debbie. Hopefully I will be able to get some help with getting them up here. I plan on sending them an ADA shirt as a thank-you gift.

2008 ADA Year-End Scores

Training Level

JUNIOR			OPEN		
73.160	Emily Geppert	Mahadi	73.160	Emily Geppert	Mahadi
69.825	Aimee Ritter	Winchester	72.372	Marti Miller	Z Syzygy
66.969	Rachel Gantt	Mandero	69.825	Aimee Ritter	Winchester
66.168	Hannah Gottstein	Atheena	66.969	Rachel Gantt	Mandero
60.851	Allison Capps	Lily of the Valley	66.168	Hannah Gottstein	Atheena
58.018	Sabrina Stratton	Whispering Pines Silverado	62.171	Ruth K Spees	Iron Monarch
			61.821	Karol Kolehmainen	Al Ahmar
			60.851	Allison Capps	Lily of the Valley
ADULT AMATEUR			60.600	Sabrieta Holland	Polarprism
72.372	Marti Miller	Z Syzygy	59.954	Jo Gottstein	Atheena
62.171	Ruth K Spees	Iron Monarch	58.316	Rebecca Carrington	Takoda
61.821	Karol Kolehmainen	Al Ahmar	58.018	Sabrina Stratton	Whispering Pines
60.600	Sabrieta Holland	Polarprism	54.569	August Axtell	Silverado Takoda
59.954	Jo Gottstein	Atheena			
58.316	Rebecca Carrington	Takoda			
54.569	August Axtell	Takoda			

First Level

JUNIOR			OPEN		
66.804	Emily Carr	Galileo	68.962	Nicole Ringler	H.S. Wistful
64.583	Rachel Gantt	Prides Will			Elegance
			66.804	Emily Carr	Galileo
ADULT AMATEUR			64.583	Rachel Gantt	Prides Will
68.962	Nicole Ringler	H.S. Wistful	64.516	Raena Schraer	Jazzy Prospect
		Elegance	59.877	Ardene Eaton	Ruby
59.877	Ardene Eaton	Ruby	55.504	Mary Kaye Hession	Natural Law
55.504	Mary Kaye Hession	Natural Law			

Second Level

JUNIOR			OPEN		
60.323	Emily Carr	Galileo	60.907	Peggy Bowker	Miss Boston Wonder
60.907			60.323	Emily Carr	Galileo
ADULT AM.					
	Peggy Bowker	Miss Boston Wonder			

Third Level and Above

OPEN		
62.327	Lisa O'Dell	Pirata da Pura

Musical—Pas de Deux

69.500	Linda Kelley	on TVR Dunny Chip	and Marti Miller	on Z Syzygy
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Horse of the Year (adjusted median)		Rider of the Year (adjusted median)	
68.929	Mahadi	67.658	Nicole Ringler
67.658	H.S. Wistful Elegance	67.600	Emily Geppert
66.590	Pirata da Pura	65.722	Lisa O'Dell
65.600	Winchester	65.600	Aimee Ritter
64.826	Z Syzygy	65.031	Hannah Gottstein
64.383	Galileo	64.383	Emily Carr
64.019	Jazzy Prospect	64.019	Raena Schraer
63.211	Prides Will	63.043	Marti Miller
60.837	Miss Boston Wonder	62.087	Rachel Gantt
60.714	Atheena	60.837	Peggy Bowker
58.800	Al Ahmar	59.290	Ardene Eaton
58.800	CinaMar's Jumanji	59.200	Sabrieta Holland
58.800	Iron Monarch	58.800	Jo Gottstein
56.800	Lily of the Valley	58.800	Karol Kolehmainen
53.478	Takoda	58.800	Ruth Spees
		56.800	Allison Capps
		56.800	Sabrina Stratton
		56.071	Rebecca Carrington
		55.211	Mary Kaye Hession
		51.670	August Axtell



Our condolences

ADA members would like to express our sorrow for the loss of Carolyn Haddad's beautiful Selle Francais mare Promesse. Promesse had been with the Haddads since foalhood, traveling with them from France to Texas and then up to Alaska last year. She was only six years old at her death in January. Carolyn, our condolences.

New rules

Be aware of a few new USEF rules for the 2009 show season: the maximum length for a dressage whip has been increased to 47.2" (including the lash); your horse's cavesson noseband must be loose enough that a finger can fit under it; through First Level, riders can now wear plain half-chaps that match their boot color; to enter a freestyle class, you must first achieve a 60% score at the highest test of the level you're entering.

ASH (Alaska State Horseshows) has also made some rule changes that affect dressage and recording for year-end awards. Brush up on the new rules for computing dressage awards on

page 22 of the ASH rulebook, available at <http://www.alaskastatehorseshows.com/page.php?6>. To qualify for ASH awards, you'll need at least six scores from three different judges, with at least two scores from the highest test of the level, each at least 55%. Only the top two scores from each judge will count, and the median must be at least 55%. The horse must be recorded in the specific division in which the scores were earned (for example, First Level, Junior/Young Riders). Go to the ASH website <http://www.alaskastatehorseshows.com/page.php?12> for all the necessary ASH forms.

Learn about longlining

Former ADA board member Kari Garber, who now lives in sunny Florida, will be in Anchorage June 3-5 to conduct clinics on longlining, riding, or both at the participant's option. Kari has trained extensively with master horseman Bo Jena, who directs the dressage program at Flyinge, the Swedish national stud, and is now the Swedish dressage team coach. Clinic sessions will be about \$100. As an extra benefit for those clinic participants who are entered in

the ADA Spring Festival on June 6-7, Kari has offered to school them at the show. For more information or to reserve a slot at the clinic, contact Lisa O'Dell at 344-4280.

Not sure what can be done with longlining? Watch this stop-motion sequence showing Bo Jena in action:

http://www.equisearch.com/horses_riding_training/english/dressage/pirouette_long_lines_052208/

Kudos

According to USDF's 2008 yearbook (the February 2009 issue of USDF Connection, which everyone should have received who renewed their ADA membership in November or December 2008), our own Emily Geppert placed first nationwide in the USDF All-Breed Awards for the American Hanoverian Society at Training

Level, Junior/Young Rider on Mahadi. And Marti Miller took third place in the All-Breed Awards for the Arabian Horse Association's Half-Arab registry at Training Level, Adult Amateur, while her horse Z Syzygy took fifth place in Training Open. Congratulations!

Beyond dressage

Dressage tests aren't the only way to have fun with a well-schooled horse in the competition arena. Watch this gorgeous Lusitano horse show

a "working equitation speed test" in Portugal: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5895K-Xjupk>

2009 sponsorship opportunities

ADA is testing a new donation program that will let people sponsor specific show awards at our 2009 schooling shows. A donation of \$30 will cover ribbons at Introductory Level, Training Level, or First Level and above at either the May 23 schooling show or the July 25 schooling show. For \$50 you can donate the high-point awards at either show. Sponsors' names will be announced during the show awards presentation to thank them for their generosity. Anyone

wishing to sponsor one of these categories can call ADA Treasurer Raena Schraer at 830-9882, or e-mail her at rschraer@gmail.com.

Too shy to have your name announced at an awards ceremony? It's still possible to participate as a traditional sponsor. See ADA's 2009 sponsorship request letter on the next page. You can also help by printing copies of the letter and giving them to friends or business associates who might be interested in a tax-deductible sponsorship opportunity.





Alaska Dressage Association
P.O Box 112067
Anchorage, Alaska 99511-2067

Dear 2009 Potential Sponsor:

Alaska Dressage Association (ADA) is a Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation's Region 6. The word "dressage" comes from a French term meaning training. It is not only a method of training, but also a competitive equestrian sport. Dressage has been described as a combination of sport and art. Fluid artistic motion of the horse is achieved through unspoken communication between horse and rider. ADA is a non-profit association whose mission is to promote and encourage a high standard of dressage throughout the state of Alaska, primarily through education programs, publications, and events. ADA holds at least two licensed dressage shows in Anchorage each summer, as well as schooling shows, clinics, and related events.

As a member of the Board of Directors and an active participant in the shows, I am asking you to please consider a donation to ADA. ADA's largest expense is the show. Some of these expenses are airfare, lodging, and fees for the judges and technical delegates, arena rental, insurance, and of course, the awards. ADA's year end awards and printing of the ADA Omnibus (ADA's yearly show publication) are some of our other expenses.

A great way to promote your business and help dressage succeed in this great state of Alaska is to make a donation to ADA. With a donation, you would be recognized by having your name announced at our horse shows, printed in the ADA Omnibus, and printed in each of our three yearly newsletters. If your business has a website, ADA can include a link to it on our website. Since ADA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donation would be tax deductible. Please send your donation to the above address. For more information about ADA, please visit our website at www.alaskadressage.org. If you have any questions, please call me (907) 373-2330, or any of the other Board members.

Sincerely,

Peggy L. Bowker
Promotions/Fundraising Chair