



The Centerline

SEPTEMBER 2009

President's Passage

Here we are at the end of another successful dressage show season in Alaska. It was great to see many new faces and all the returning dressage horse and rider teams in the show ring this year. I personally was elated to have my partner Dunny back in the show ring on a regular basis after some extended layoffs. Huge THANK YOUs to all the volunteers that make the dressage shows possible in Alaska.

The ADA Board and Dressage Show Committee are already working on next year's slate of dressage shows. Three of the dressage shows already have confirmed dates: ADA Spring Festival will be held June 5-6, 2010; WCCEC Dressage Show will be held June 26-27, 2010; and ADA Biggest Event Ever will be held August 7-8, 2010. Other dressage show plans by other organizations are still in the works and ADA is coordinating with these organizations to ensure that four recognized dressage shows will take place in Alaska for the 2010 dressage show season.

Also, look for another round of dressage schooling shows next year. 2009 saw five dressage schooling shows held in Anchorage (organized by ADA's Susie Merritt) and the valley Nothin' But Fun Schooling Shows. A schooling show awards circuit was created this year to encourage participation in the schooling shows. Look for results in the next ADA newsletter and on the ADA website.

Enjoy watching the leaves turn gold and the fireweed turn red on your Fall riding adventures. And mark your calendars for the ADA Awards banquet on October 24th - see you then.

Happy Hoof Beats -
Linda Kelley

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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.

Check your dressage scores

It's important to check the scores you earn at this summer's dressage shows. Show managers report all dressage scores to USDF for publishing in its official online data base. ADA uses USDF's data base in computing our own year-end awards, and of course USDF itself relies on its posted scores for its many award categories. But mistakes can happen: a score might be omitted, or a stellar 75.357% might get entered as 57.357%. To ensure against errors, check your reported scores (they'll be on USDF's website four to six weeks

after each show). Compare them to your test sheets, which you should keep in a safe place—nobody else has a copy! If you find a mistake, contact USDF immediately to get it corrected. USDF warns, "The owner is responsible for contacting the rider (if different from the owner) and checking and verifying all information presented on this score check. All corrections MUST be received at the USDF office by 5:00 pm, EST on October 15. No changes to year end awards will be made after that date."

Call for board nominations

Later this fall, ADA members will vote to fill three senior board positions currently held by Raena Schraer, Marti Miller, and Peggy Bowker, as well as both junior seats held by Aimee Ritter and Shelbie Fredenhagen. The senior seats will have a two-year term from 2010 through 2011, whereas junior positions last one year. ADA's nominating committee of Victoria Fredenhagen, August Axtell, and Kerri Geppert is now seeking nominations for the new slate. If you are willing to serve on the board or know someone who is ready to volunteer, Victoria, August, and Kerri want to hear from you.

The only qualification is that nominees be ADA members at the time they are nominated. Nominations must be

accompanied by a written biography of 300 words or less and must be received no later than September 23rd.

If you have any nominations, questions or suggestions, call Victoria (243-5214), August (830-7250), or Kerri (688-4483), or contact Victoria by e-mail at takecare@alaska.com. Also, please e-mail the biographies to Victoria so that they do not have to be retyped for the newsletter.

A ballot for the election will be sent out 30 days before the annual meeting this fall, which will be held in conjunction with the ADA awards banquet on October 24. At the meeting, the new board members and any recipient of the Kathryn Brooks Award will be announced.

Wanted: Nominations for Kathryn Brooks Lifetime Achievement Perpetual Award

The Kathryn Brooks Perpetual Award is named in honor of one of our co-founders, Kathy Brooks. Kathy, with her husband

Steve and her third-level horse Sunny, moved to Alaska in 1979 where the only dressage classes she found were held in

open shows with unrecognized judges. Often the score sheets from these classes listed only the score with no comments. The need for a dressage association was obvious to her and by January of 1980 ADA had been incorporated. Qualified judges were retained, and USEF- and USDF-recognized dressage shows began in Alaska. The first ADA show was held in the summer of 1980.

Kathy was an example of excellence in dressage in Alaska at the time. Her horse, tack and attire were exemplary, as well as her attitude and enthusiasm. There was no end to the time that she spent in creating

the Alaska Dressage Association and welcoming members to be a part of this group dedicated to promoting excellence in dressage.

Kathy continued being active in ADA until her return to Alexandria, Virginia, in 1987 with her husband Steve, her two young children, and of course, Sunny. She returned to be near the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where she was being treated for melanoma. She continued being a member of ADA and to keep in touch with her usual enthusiasm until her death in 1993 at the age of 47.

Qualifications for Nominees:

Each nominee must:

- be an ADA member.
- have worked to promote interest in dressage in Alaska, exemplifying high standards through his or her own efforts.
- have contributed time and talent to ADA activities.
- have set an example in exhibiting good sportsmanship.



Procedures for the Award:

1. Nominations will be accepted from ADA members. A form available on the ADA website at www.alaskadressage.org/awards.html addressing the four qualifications above must be completed for the nomination and submitted to the nominating committee (see above) by September 23rd.
2. The board of directors will review all nominees and select a maximum of three nominees who meet award specifications. If no nominees adequately fulfill the required specifications, the board may choose not to present the award for that year.
3. Nominees will be voted upon by the membership at the same time as the annual election of board members.

It's not too late to shop for this year's silent auction!

ADA's biggest fundraiser each year is our silent auction at the annual awards banquet, which will take place Saturday, October 24 at O'Malley's on the Green. Our auction coordinators Nancy Farris and

Ardene Eaton challenge each trainer and/or barn to put together a basket



of goodies for the auction. If anyone has items you would like to donate, whether baskets or individual objects/services, please let Nancy (345-5409) or Ardene (345-0281) know no later than about October 10. The ADA silent auction is a great excuse to go shopping, and don't forget it's tax-deductible!

Another great show season wraps up by ADA senior board member and show manager Susan Ritter

The Alaska Dressage Association's Biggest Dressage Event Ever show took place over the weekend of Aug. 8-9. With a mixture of rain and sun to ride under, everyone had an enjoyable time. We were excited to see our Homer dressage friends participate in this event. A broad range of ages was represented in the show: our youngest competitor was 10 and our oldest 65.

The main arena was used for the dressage warm up area. Once again the volunteers who set up the dressage practice arena and the individuals who took the jumps out of the arena are to be commended. It is important to remember that all of the labor involved comes from our individual members stepping up to help out. I look forward next year to seeing new faces joining the seasoned volunteers hauling the jumps out of arenas or building the warm up arena or replacing the letter markers around our main dressage arena.

The ADA's Biggest Dressage Event Ever was judged by Charlotte Trentelman (S) and our Technical Delegate was Debbie Moloznik. There were 61 rides on Saturday and 55 rides on Sunday. In addition to the regular rides on Sunday, we held our Championship classes, with seven competitors riding in the Training Level

Championship and three in the First Level Championship.

Four competitors have also been vying for the ASH Dressage Medal this summer. Along with riding their own horse in at least two dressage shows, the rider had to ride a second horse in two shows at a different level. The competitors for the ASH Dressage Medal this year are Ceri Banet, Erin Downey, Emily Geppert, and Aimee Ritter.

The number of young riders competing in this dressage show was great to see. Twelve riders under the age of 21 competed in this show, in classes ranging from training level to second level. Hats off to them all and it is hoped they all continue to ride dressage.

Both Ms. Trentelman and Ms. Moloznik made it a point to say how impressed they were with the level of quality in our young riders. Ms. Trentelman also urged ADA to look into the USEF Dressage Equitation program. She was one of the three judges at this year's USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals for junior riders and said some of our own riders would have done extremely well had they competed. Riders must first

earn a qualifying score in a dressage equitation class offered at a licensed competition, then be one of the top two riders in a Semi-Finals class at a regional championship. The semi-final and final competitions divide riders into two groups,

age 13 and under and 14 through 18. Next year's finals (July 2010) will again be held at the Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.



What it's all about (above): Ceri Benet thanks partner Shirazz for a job well done. Photo courtesy of Anna Tileston.

Classified ads

ADA is trying out a new service: classified ads that can be run in the ADA *Centerline* newsletter and on the ADA website. Non-commercial ads will be free to members. ADA President Linda Kelley (746-5994) will serve as coordinator. Let her know if you are seeking or selling anything horse-related.

Wanted: ADA is seeking the donation of a portable microphone or karaoke rig that is compatible with ADA's sound system. This is needed for announcements during horse shows and would also be handy during dressage clinics at the William Clark

Chamberlin Equestrian Center. If you have a microphone you're no longer using, please call Linda Kelley at 746-5994.

Wanted: ADA is seeking a new show secretary to replace retiring Brit Kaiser. We are looking for at least a two-summer commitment. We offer training, the country's best dressage show management software, and we PAY. Please contact Raena Schraer, 830-9882, if you are interested in the job for 2010 and beyond.