



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April/May 2022 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I am writing to you from Adult Dressage Camp at William Woods University in Fulton, MO. I am having a great time connecting with my horse as well as hanging out with new and old friends on similar journeys. Sometimes, a designated, structured time period assigned only to focus on our relationships with our horses is just the gift we need. I hope all of you can find times to put yourselves and your goals first in your lives if only for a little while at a time. It really helps your mental well-being to remember who you are, what you're made of and what you want to be doing with your life. Thank you to Stacey Bates and Colombia Dressage and Combined Training Association for arranging this awesome four day experience and for welcoming Western Dressage riders as well as English Dressage riders.

I hope you are all enjoying the new 2022 tests!

We had a misunderstanding at our judges' clinic in February regarding the sidepass in Level 2 tests. The question was regarding number of strides versus number of steps. Do we want four steps or four strides of sidepass? After the seminar, tests were revised to clarify that four strides of sidepass are to be ridden. So, completion of a stride means all four feet move once. Four strides include 16 steps. Please share this information with all your friends who ride Level 2.

I wish you all good health and good rides as you prepare for the 2022 WDAA Online International Challenge.

Enjoy the Journey,
Cindy Butler, Your President
Western Dressage Association of America

Count down to the Online International Challenge

[Click Here to see all information regarding the Online International.](#)



Entries open May 23rd!! As soon as your entries are accepted, and you have received your prefilled sign for the start of your ride video you can start recording. This gives you over 20 days to get the perfect rides recorded!

- There are so many unique opportunities offered in this show, high score award designations for breeds, international entries, military, plus versatility and century rides, don't miss out!
- A large list of Overall Champions will receive an embroidered saddle pad from Circle Y Saddlery and don't forget the beautiful Division award buckles! All entries who receive an 8 or above for their Harmony score will automatically be eligible for the beautiful Harmony Award Saddle drawing at the World Show!
[For information visit the 2022 Harmony Award Page.](#)
- Last year the Team Competition was hotly contested all over the World, for information visit [Online International Challenge Team Competition Page.](#)



WDAA World Show Prize list is now available.

We need your support for the 2022 World Championship show!

Please consider sponsoring a class, division, breed high score or party! Your sponsorship will be acknowledged in the collectable and online show program and be announced during the show. But don't wait, the deadline to have your sponsorship recognized publicly will be just a few weeks before the show begins. For all sponsorship information please visit WDAA World Championship Show website (wdaaworldshow.org), or contact our very hard-working Sponsorship Chair Kim Mackey - kim@westerndressageassociation.org.

As always, we are looking for Silent Auction items, with the added bonus that this ever-popular auction will also be held online this year! Certificates are a great choice!

[Visit the WDAA World Show Website](#)

Welcome Jen Sigety!

The WDAA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Jen Sigety as a new board member. Jen was the 2020 WDAA Top Hand Award winner for her hard work on the WDAA Member Education committee. Jen and her beautiful Arabian HS PINERO participate in the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program and have achieved his Register of

Achievement. She will now chair the WDAA State Affiliate round table and is working on forming a new Exceptional Rider Program Committee. Jen has always been ready to jump in and volunteer where ever she is needed, welcome to the board Jen!!!!

WDAA is proud to announce our new alliance with the American Warmblood Society and Sporthorse Registry.

AWSSR began accepting western dressage as a discipline in 2017. Since then, we have awarded dozens of year end winners with special belt buckles since 2019.

Sharon Booth, the AWSSR Western Dressage coordinator, will be heading up our alliance with WDAA. Sharon goes back to the 1980s with the American Warmblood Society. She joined the society in 1985 when her first mare was approved for breeding. She was a member of the Board of Directors and served until the late 1990s – also being named the Texas State Director for AWS.

Sharon finds herself in the center of an emerging discipline once more – western dressage. “The people are wonderful,” Sharon said of the competitors at the WDAA World Championships. “You go into every barn, and you see all different breeds of horses. Everyone is helpful and so excited. It’s a competitive, laid-back attitude.” She was especially happy to find that the WDAA supports physically challenged riders in the World Show.

Sharon stressed that western dressage is all about the horse. “It’s all about our relationships with our horses,” she said. “It’s a wonderful way to truly school your horse up the levels and gain that control the right way.”

It's all about the journey couldn't be truer for Bonnie Gorichan and her horse Zamara and for Kaitlyn Keegan and her horse Intimidating LJSR Jim. Bonnie and Zamara were not an immediate match made in heaven. A former Amish horse, Zamara had sustained injuries in an accident. She was distrustful and reactive. Bonnie and her trainer began working with her in eventing and classical dressage. She went on to win multiple awards in classical dressage through AWSSR until Zamara was hurt while eventing. Her jumping career over, Bonnie discovered western dressage in 2019.

"It celebrates the partnership between horse and rider and the overall harmony. All breeds are welcome; you do not need to ride a six figure horse to be successful. The tests are just as challenging as Classical



Bonnie and Zamara



Kaitlyn and Jim

Dressage and sometimes require more difficult movements at lower levels," Bonnie said. In 2021, she competed in the WDAA Online International Challenge and had her sights set on the WDAA World Show when Zamara went lame. Bonnie hopes that 2022 will be their year to get to the World Show!

Kaitlyn and Intimidating LJSR Jim began their partnership four years ago. Kaitlyn had been a bit lost in her equestrian journey, unsure of what goals she had. With her former horse she had begun western dressage and had joined AWSSR. As she nurtured her new partnership with Jim, she found she enjoyed the harmonious riding that came from western dressage. Hitting the movements just so brought a smile onto her face.

"There's just something about hitting that salute at the beginning of your test," Kaitlyn said. "It's like everything else in the world erases and it's just you and your horse. Jim knows when we enter a ring for a test; he just loves to show off!" Kaitlyn and Jim competed in the 2020 WDAA Online World Show and the 2021 Online International Challenge. She hopes one day to make it out to Oklahoma for the World Show!

There are many benefits for our AWSSR Western Dressage riders and horses in this partnership. Some of the benefits will be the showcasing the AWSSR organization on their website, sharing mutual programs, articles, press releases and announcements, along with photographs of AWSSR horses and owners/riders participating in the sport.

We invite all members to log on to the WDAA website/home page: westerndressageassociation.org. You will be pleased to find the many benefits and educational opportunities for our discipline as well as information on the WDAA World Championship Show, WDAA International Online Challenge and other virtual and live rated shows for 2022.

AQHA Youth Seminar

AQHA's youth board would like to invite WDAA youth members to attend the AQHA Youth Excellence Seminar in Amarillo, Texas, July 12 - 14, 2022. This leadership-focused youth conference will include inspiring keynote speakers, workshops, new friends, and plenty of fun. The conference is inclusive of all breeds and youth ages 10 to 18, along with their adult leaders. For all information [visit the Youth Excellence Seminar Page](#).



New items available on the "Buy Stuff" page!

Dressage - Part 2 - Techniques of Harmonic Dressage and The Training Pyramid - By Gail Hoff PhD (Use image of part 2 cover)

This book presents, with great clarity, the logical basis of the Training Pyramid (also known as the Training Scale or Training Wheel) and how it is used to train horses - not just dressage horses, but horses used in any equestrian discipline. It discusses the necessary hierarchy represented in the concise guide to the German Training Pyramid with definitions, examples, photos, diagrams and exercises which provide guidelines for flatwork. Trainers can use it as a teaching tool - a book for their students to purchase and read and have discussions about. It can also serve as a tool to bridge the gap between competitors and judges of dressage and western dressage.

2022 Dressage Illustrated caller audios are now available for iPhones and iPods. (Use Caller audio image)

Dressage Audios (MP3 files) are a dressage test learning-aid for riders competing at all levels. They match the timing of a ridden test like a live caller. Riders who learn their test with Audios store the test movements in their sub-conscious, ready for effortless retrieval. When the rider instinctively knows the test, they can focus their complete concentration on riding their horse which leads to improved performance.

The Novice and Instructors app are up on the Google Play Store.

This Android Phone/Tablet app is designed to help WDAA western dressage riders learn a test and improve their show scores. It is also a useful, easy to carry, reference for judges, trainers, and spectators.

[Click to See All Items Available for Purchase](#)

Harmonic Dressage

PART 2

Techniques of Harmonic Dressage
and the Training Pyramid



Gail Hoff, PhD

DRESSAGE ILLUSTRATED
AUDIO

DRESSAGE ILLUSTRATED



News concerning USEF

Find all USEF rule change proposals here [Rule Changes | US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](https://www.usef.org/rule-changes)

Find all USEF Presidential Rule Modifications here [Presidential Modifications | US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](https://www.usef.org/presidential-modifications)



WDAA Test Revisions to Date

- **2022 Level 2 Test 2 revised 03/30/2022** - Movement 15 clarification that the collect jog begins at V. Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- **2022 Level 2 Test 4 revised 02/15/2022** - Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- **2022 Level 5 Test 1 revised 12/10/2021** - Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- **2022 Level 5 Test 3 revised 12/10/2021** - Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- **2022 Freestyle Level 1 revised 04/05/2022** - Total points correction on cover page only

- **2022 Freestyle Level 2 revised 1/7/2022** - Movement 10 has had the verbiage "through the jog" removed. And now states only "Simple change of lead".
- **2022 Freestyle Level 3 revised 04/26/2022** - Total points correction on cover page only.
- **2022 Freestyle Level 4 revised 04/26/2022** - Added L|R to movements 9 & 10. Removed L|R from box 11. Corrected total points on cover page.



Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[Join WDAA](#)



WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



The LMS is a great way to learn more about Western Dressage. Only available to members.

[Visit the LMS](#)

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

