



September 2023 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

As I prepare for the WDAA World Championship Show, I am sad to think that I won't be able to share my experience with my dearly departed friend, our founding President, Ellen DiBella. However, Ellen wouldn't want us to be sad. Therefore, I choose to be grateful that she was my friend. I choose to be grateful that she took me under her wing and shared Western Dressage with me.

To honor Ellen's memory, we will share our favorite "Ellen Stories" at the World Show and we will ride tribute rides.

Ellen's vision for WDAA will not die with her. We will continue to work diligently to further develop programs and promote our Western horse training system to help horses and riders have long, happy journeys together. Ellen was one of a kind. She was the kind who made all the rest of us better people and the kind whose vision started WDAA. Her dedication and hard work made Western Dressage the fastest growing discipline in USEF history.

Maybe the most special thing about Ellen is that she did all of it for one reason and one reason only: so that horses would have better lives.

Maybe one of the best ways we could all honor Ellen is to follow the advice she gave in her 2019 USEF Lifetime Achievement Award Acceptance Speech, "Go hug a horse!"

I hope to see you all at the 2023 WDAA World Championship Show in a few short weeks.

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



World Show entries have closed, and we are having another record-breaking year!

We are happy to announce that we have added Fatima Pawlenko-Kranz to our judging panel. Adding an additional judge will ease the time burden on the judges and ensure you will have fresh judges for your World Champion rides!

Tribute Rides will be discussed at the Exhibitors meeting Monday night.

- The show will be running later than usual in the evenings, so party times listed in the prize list are tentative.
- Please make sure you attend the Welcome Party and Exhibitors Meeting on Monday night, we will be discussing critical show information, and with the show being so full everyone needs to be on their toes!

Good luck and safe travels to all of our 2023 exhibitors!



World Show Live Feed

If you can't make it to the show, or your friends and family want to watch you compete, don't forget the live feed of all 4 arenas every day, all day.

On our partner's site - Total Horse Channel (all 4 arenas)

<https://totalhorsechannel.com/home/wdaa/>

On USEF Network

[Programming Schedule](#) | [US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](https://usef.org)



SPONSORSHIP Opportunities

Please support the World Show and WDAA, we need sponsorships!

Class, division, breed high score, party, and special award sponsorships are critical to the success of the show. This year there will be no charge for the Friday night Fiesta Exhibitors Party, everyone is welcome, particularly sponsors! We strive to make the show an event of a lifetime, please help us achieve that goal. All sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.wdaaworldshow.org under "Support the Show".

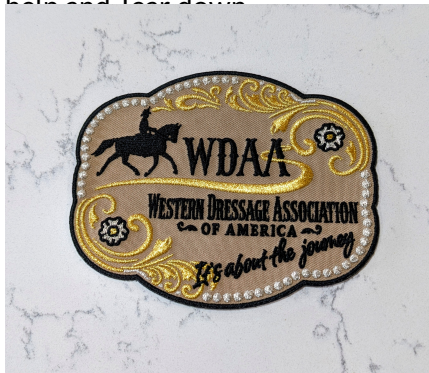
Learn More About Sponsoring the Show

VOLUNTEER
NOW

World Show Volunteers Wanted, Sign Up Now!

The 2023 Western Dressage World Championship Show will be here before we know it! We need your help starting Friday, September 22 through Sunday, October 1, 2023. Please sign up to volunteer via the signup genius link below. When you sign up, please be sure those dates and times will work for you.

The positions we are looking for are Set up, Runners, Hospitality and Party help, Scorers, Decorators, General Help and Tear down.



WDAA Youth Cell Phone Scavenger Hunt

Be a successful show without your help!

For Youth 17 and under, attending the WDAA World Show. Cost: \$5.00

Sign up with WDAA President Cindy Butler at the exhibitor's party
SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!!!
Monday night or any time before the end of the day on Wednesday.

When you sign-up, you will receive a WDAA patch and a list. You will be required to take a picture with your cell phone of each item on the list, at the Lazy E. The patch you received with your list must be visible in every picture.

Once you have all the photos of everything on the list, you will write the answer to this question on a piece of paper and take a picture of your written answer. The question is: What is one thing you learned from this scavenger hunt and what was your favorite part?

Awards for this activity are made possible through the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Recognized Affiliate Grant.

The 2023 WDAA Online International Challenge is a wrap!

WDAA recognized the accomplishments of exhibitors during a live Zoom Awards Celebration Sunday, July 9.

The show had 1082 rides with a total of 359 entries, including 200 amateurs, 42 juniors, and 117 open riders; represented 6 countries and 67 breeds of horses. More than 100 horse and rider combinations are on the way to winning the 3rd Annual WDAA Harmony award saddle by earning an 8.0 or above in harmony. For all Harmony Award information please visit [2023 Harmony Award webpage](#).



The WDAA is also happy to recognize the Overall High Score Champions:

Exceptional Rider – JENNINE BAGGOTT and FANCY SOUTHERN MOON - 73.250%

Junior 13 and under – ABIGAIL STECKBECK and TOO TERIFIC TO HOTROD - 80.556%

Junior 14 – 17 – SARAH MONKMAN and MOUNTAIN VIEW BAYLEE - 77.045%

Amateur 18 – 39 – SARA LOHBAUER and SHOULD A BEEN A COWBOY – 77.692%

Amateur 40 – 59 – ANNE STEPHENS and BLACK MERLOT - 78.00%

Amateur 60 and Up – ADA KEEN and SHEZA REAL DEAL – 78.250%

Open 39 and Under – LEANNA SMITH and CINCO – 79.500%

Open 40 and Up – ROBIN MCNABB and AMBERFIELDS CREST OF GOLD – 78.000%

You can find all results on www.ShowSecretary.com

To see the recording of the awards celebration, visit WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge page, [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge](#).

The WDAA appreciates everyone for supporting this great show.

Palm Equestrian Academy's Winning Ways with Western Dressage Hosts First Winning Weekend in Europe

Winning Ways with Western Dressage made history by hosting the first live Western Dressage Show in Europe. The show was approved by both the Western Dressage Association of America and the American Quarter Horse Association. Held the last weekend of June at Alba Quarter Horses 3.0 in Siena, Italy, the show was judged by AQHA and USEF R Western Dressage Judge, Lynn Palm, and managed by Palm Equestrian Academy's executive director, Marie-Frances Davis.

The combined show and educational weekend were a resounding success. With 19 horse and rider combinations in 3 Divisions and 3 Levels, Amateur, Youth and Open riders in Introductory and Basic Levels, along with Level 1, earned a total of 80 AQHA Western Dressage points. One horse in particular, AQHA stallion, Skeets Flamin, bred by Stanley and Susan Scott of Ocala, FL, owned by Seahorse SRL of Firenze, Italy, trained and shown by Paola Donarini, earned the Register of Merit in Western Dressage his first time showing. Italian horses and riders are listed on the 2023 AQHA Show Leaders List in Western Dressage for the first time ever.

In addition to the Western Dressage Show, the Italians showcased their versatility in a second day of competition with Ranch Trail and Ranch Riding in an AQHA Special Event. They earned additional AQHA points for their horses' permanent records in these events as well. To see the horses excel in the maneuvers

called for in these events knowing that their Western Dressage training contributed to that was incredible. The smooth transitions and turns done with ease and lightness were remarkable. It certainly displayed the similarities between Western Dressage and Ranch Horse Events.

Just as the competition was impressive, Lynn's educational presentations were second to none. In working with 24 riders over 2 days, she was able to encourage riders to study and practice Western Dressage. Some had little to no exposure to the new event and were able to complete Introductory Level tests at the walk and jog. Others were able to improve upon components of tests that they have already been working on. It was a diverse group who were very open to receiving the message of Western Dressage.

WDAA is pleased to have Lynn Palm as the International WDAA Ambassador within the WDAA International Committee



DRY Spindoll Inducted into the WDAA Hall of Champions

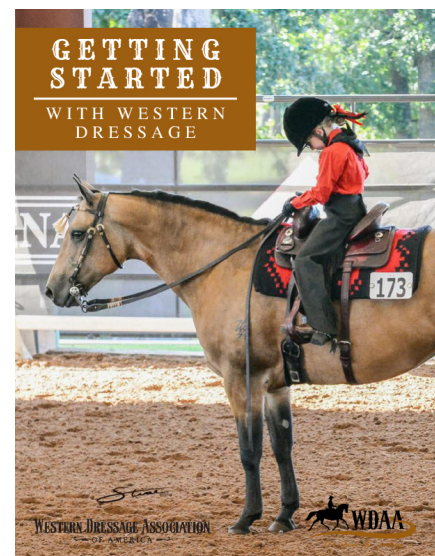
WDAA Hall of Champions - a horse who has passed but has won a Western Dressage World Championship or Reserve World Championship at the Western Dressage World Championship Show or an alliance partner's World or National Championship.

For the full story please visit our [WDAA Honors page](#).



WDAA is grateful to have received a USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Recognized Affiliate Grant.

In 2023 with the help of this grant WDAA has created a Guide to Western Dressage booklet for junior riders. This booklet can be downloaded for free off of the www.wdaa.org website under the Tests and resources menu button, or at <https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/getting-started-for-beginners>





New and Promoted Western Dressage Judges

WDAA is proud to welcome Emily Pethel from Maryland as a USEF-licensed western dressage judge. We also congratulate Kari McClain from Washington on her promotion to a large 'R' western dressage judging license.

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

- Level 1 Freestyle: 4/5/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 2 Test 2: 3/30/2022 Movement 15 clarification that the collect jog begins at V. Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 2: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Test 4: 2/15/2022 Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 4: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Freestyle: 1/7/2022 Movement 10 has had the verbiage "through the jog" removed. And now states only "Simple change of lead".
- Level 3 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 4 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Added L|R to movements 9 & 10. Removed L|R from box 11. Corrected total points on cover page.
- Level 5 Test 1: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- Level 5 Test 3: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- 2022 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 11/30/2022 Tests Retired.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 12/1/2022 Added using the new Walk-Jog, Intermediate, and Advanced categories.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Patterns: 02/22/2023 Changed the word "test" to "pattern".



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

