



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WDAA
December 2023 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Embracing differences is what makes Western Dressage so refreshing. We offer riders the opportunity to use the equipment you like best and the type of horse you like best. You don't have to fit into a mold and our judges are trained to respect your decisions and to understand the nuances of your choices. You don't have to use a curb bit if you don't want to, but if you do, you have the choice to use one hand or two. Your competitor may make a different decision, which wouldn't work for you, but is perfect for them. That's ok. It doesn't matter if you ride a donkey, an Andalusian, a Foxtrotter, a Quarter Horse or any other equine; you have an equal opportunity to succeed in Western Dressage. Western Dressage allows us to ride as we believe and respect others.

I guess my point in bringing this up is that I see lots of statements made about Western Dressage on social media that are completely untrue. I know the people who make the statements don't look at the USEF Rulebook or the WDAA webpage or ride in Western Dressage shows because their statements give that away. It is disheartening when people make uneducated statements on social media instead of taking the initiative to research first.

I wish everyone could come to a Western Dressage show to see how our riders really are. Instead of tearing others down, I see our riders building each other up and cheering for everyone's successes at every show. I see new riders embraced and encouraged by veteran riders. I see riders who want to win based on their own success, not someone else's failure. I see judges respect and fairly reward all breeds of equine. I see horses improve through the process. I guess it's hard for outsiders to understand that all this really happens. So, thank you, Western Dressage riders! Thank you for being you! I am grateful to have found a culture where we support and accept each other as we each navigate our own journeys. It's kind of like a safe space in the World, for horses and people. You are more special than you know.

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



Judges' seminar registration is now open! Spaces are limited

The 2024 WDAA/USEF Western Dressage Judges Seminar will be held February 9-11

Auditors are welcome, anyone wanting to learn more about Western Dressage will want to attend this event. It has proven invaluable to those that have audited in the past. Typically, ¼ of attendees are auditors including trainers, amateurs, even horse show moms!

The seminar has been completely reformatted so if you have attended before this will be an entirely new approach.

Please visit this link to register; <https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/judges-education-information>

This clinic will start at 8 AM on Friday, February 9th and conclude at 3 PM on Sunday the 11th for ALL PARTICIPANTS.

Judge applicants and current judges are required to attend all 3 days.

- Location: Embassy Suites, Denver International Airport.
- Address: 7001 Yampa Street, Denver, Colorado.
- Use this link for the WDAA group rates. <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhoc=DENIAES&groupCode=CESWDA&arrivaldate=2024-02-06&departuredate=2024-02-14&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

WDAA is proud to announce the judges for the 2024 WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show

September 18-22, 2024, Guthrie, OK at the Lazy E Arena.

Cliff Swanson - PRESCOTT, AZ - USEF Western Dressage R judge - Rail Classes only

Sharron Sarchet - LONGMONT, CO - USEF Western Dressage R judge

Eleanor Stine-Masek - MARANA, AZ - USEF Western Dressage R judge

Stephanie Soule - CORVALLIS, MT - USEF Western Dressage R judge

Gail Matheus - TOWANDA, KS - USEF Western Dressage R judge

For all information please visit [WDAA World Championship Show \(wdaaworldshow.org\)](http://wdaaworldshow.org)





Dates for the 2024 WDAA Online International Challenge

- Phase 1 - Entries Accepted - May 20 - June 3, 2024
- Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted - (Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 18, 2024
- Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board - June 20 - July 3, 2024
- Online Awards Ceremony - July 7, 2024

Judges - TBA

For all information please visit,

[WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge](#)



Plan now to attend the US Equestrian Annual Meeting and Award Dinners

January 12-14, 2024 in Louisville, KY at the OMNI Louisville Hotel.

The Western Dressage contingent is always the loudest and most fun group at both the SmartPak/USEF Horse of the Year Awards and Pegasus Awards dinners, and this year will be a big one for us!

WDAA will host a year end wrap-up meeting on Saturday, January 13th, 8am-9am in the Clifton Room. All attendees must be registered for the USEF Annual Meeting. This casual gathering is very educational and a great time to catch up with fellow enthusiasts from across the country.

WDAA will be very well represented at the USEF Pegasus Awards held Sunday evening Jan 14th during the USEF Annual Meeting


WDAA is thrilled that WDAA youth member Kiley Hamilton has been named the 2023 USEF National Youth Sportsman of The Year! We cannot wait to celebrate with this amazing young woman at the awards banquet. For more on Kiley and her achievements please visit this link [Kiley Hamilton Wins 2023 USEF National Youth Sportsman's Award | US Equestrian](#)





Kiley Hamilton

Lynn Palm, a multi WDAA Western Dressage World Champion, long-time promoter and lifetime member of WDAA, a USEF Large R Western Dressage Judge, trainer and member of the WDAA International Committee will be presented with the prestigious Pegasus Medal of Honor, alongside William Shatner no less!



WDAA State Affiliate News
California Western Dressage Association

The Horse Human Connection Symposium is less than 10 weeks away! Join us for two exceptional days of education-focused exploration where you will gain scientific insights on how your horse thinks and processes information. Whether you ride dressage, jumping, reining, trail or any other discipline, this unique equine symposium will take you through ways to better communicate and understand what our horses tell us and what we tell them. Here you will find awe-inspiring ideas and concepts to enhance your relationship with your equine partner and further elevate your horse's well-being. See you on the journey!

Please visit this link for more information, <https://www.horse-human-connection.com/>

Join Us for an Extraordinary Learning Experience...

The
**Horse Human
Connection**

**March 2-3, 2024
Las Vegas, NV**

**A Symposium that Explores the Bond
between our Selves and our Horses**



WDAA is very proud to partner with ASPCA - Right Horse

The goal of the ASPCA Right Horse program is to massively increase horse adoption in the United States. The program elevates and advances the work of equine adoption organizations and supporters nationwide while simultaneously building the demand for adoptable horses. As a result, more horses are finding adoptive homes each year, allowing the rescue community to help more at-risk horses. A perfect fit with the WDAA mission and the Western Dressage discipline! For more information on this great program please visit - <https://www.aspcarighthorse.org/>



United States Pony Club (USPC) 2024 Convention JAN 24 - 28, 2024 in Las Vegas, NV.

USPC will for the first time, offer a Western Dressage workshop introducing Western Dressage Standards of Proficiency.

Explore the newly developed Western Dressage Standards of Proficiency for the D-2 through C-2 levels. Learn the progression through the levels for this exciting new USPC certification opportunity. For more information please visit <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/EVEEXYQCYOBEO/home>

 **Be a presenter for the USPC 2025 Convention!** USPC is currently accepting workshop applications for the 2025 Convention, the link to submit is on this page:

<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/EVEEXYQCYOBEO/workshops>

All WDAA Partners can be found at this link , <https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/our-wdaa-partners>



International Alliance News

WDAA is proud to welcome WDASweden as our newest international alliance. The members of WDASweden have been active in holding online western dressage shows in their country for several years and participating in the WDAA Western Dressage Online International Show annually. WDAA and WDASweden will exchange newsletters and will promote each other's events to grow interest, activity, and ability in western dressage outside the United States.

<https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/international-alliances>

🎄 ✨ Happy Holidays from WHLPAP ✨ 🎄

As we bask in the joyous spirit of the season, we invite you to cozy up with a cup of hot cocoa and read our latest holiday blog post, reflecting on a year filled with triumphs and the exciting new changes on the horizon for WHLPAP. Don't forget, it's also time to renew your WDAA membership and WHLPAP Annual Recording for 2024! Stay a part of our vibrant community and continue to make your mark in the world of Western Dressage. Here's to another year of shared passions and achievements. Read Our Holiday Message and Renew Today!



Wishing you all the warmth and cheer this holiday season! 🐾❤️

Jenny McBurnett

<https://wdaalifetimepoints.org/happy-holidays-from-whlpap/>

MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Trying to renew a lapsed membership?

Do not try to log in!
Click on the link below.
Complete the form and pay.

RENEW YOUR EXPIRED MEMBERSHIP

Quick Links

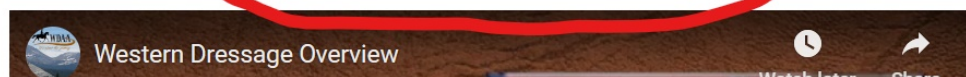
My WDAA Member Profile

Contact WDAA

Directories

WDAA World Show

2023 Judges Education Program



ATTENTION WDAA Members on Auto-Renew

IF you receive a message on January 1 that your payment failed because your credit card had aged out or was taken out of service, please do the following;

- Renew by going to the WDAA home page and following the directions directly under the header photo, as seen in the graphic below. You will be able to enter a new payment card on the form.
- If you still have problems or questions, please contact Kathy Newcomb - Kathy@westerndressageassociation.org.

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

