



New Year Kick Off newsletter



Dear Friends,

My New Year's Resolution this year was to have more fun and find more joy in life. So far, I have been doing just that and I hope you are too. A new year can be a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future, a time to be grateful for blessings and for all we have achieved. It's a chance to begin anew or rejuvenate any missions that got lost in all the busyness of life last year.

Some of my perpetual missions include riding my horse more, playing pickleball more, sharing Western Dressage with a wider audience, being attentive, kind, and appreciative to all humans and horses I meet and of course, cleaning out my basement.... Well, some missions rank higher in importance than others. The basement is on the perpetual list and the bottom of the priority list because I just don't want to tackle all that...

The thing I try to remember is that I don't have to do it all at once. If I clean out a corner of my basement, I feel better, of course not as good as I feel if I spent the same amount of time riding my horse, but still there is a sense of accomplishment.

Sometimes, something happens that shakes up the priority list and the top goes to the bottom and the bottom goes to the top. This week, that something was a cold front, not just a regular cold front, but the kind that brings the arctic to Midwest USA with such a vengeance we don't want to leave our houses. So, no riding horses, no people to talk to, there's only me and the basement....

First of all, I tried to get out of cleaning the basement by watching football. Eventually, there was no more football on and I had to find something else to do. So, I walked down the stairs and started to look for low-hanging fruit. I found some expired cold medicine, an old t.v., and some mail from the 1900s... I threw out some old lights and a few other things I'll never use and had enough room to put a piece of tape on the wall, horizontally, the height of a pickleball net. Now, I have a perfect place to hit the pickleball against the wall to increase my hand speed and avoid cleaning more of the basement... All of a sudden, I am achieving two goals!

I guess the point of this story is that the only way you get closer to achieving your goals is to just get started. Just take one tiny step in the direction of your goal. Then, you're closer to it than you were before. If you can take one tiny step every day, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish over a month or two. If you don't take the steps, time will pass anyway and you won't be closer to your goal. So, it's ok if you can't do it all at once. As long as you're moving forward, you are succeeding.

When you have riding goals, but it's so stormy that you can't ride, you can:

- Watch the WDAA online judges' seminar, or
- Read the WD chapter of the USEF rulebook, or
- Watch videos on the WDAA Learning Management System or
- Read articles about becoming a better rider, or
- Learn exercises you can try with your horse when it's warm enough to ride again.

Whatever your goals are, I hope you're enjoying the journey and having fun moving forward one step at a time just like the Western Dressage training system moves you and your horse forward one step at a time. Ready to welcome spring!

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

Don't leave FREE POINTS behind!



If you are not a WDAA member you are missing out!

The WDAA Year End High Point program is active, the **ONLY** thing you need to do is get your WDAA Horse #.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/member-landing-page". The page content includes a large banner with a "HELLO my name is" message, identifying the user as a member of the Western Dressage Association of America. It lists the member number and expiration date (12/31/2090). Below the banner are links for "View My Full Profile", "Member Benefits", and "WDAA Results Search Early Access". A "Welcome to the Members Only Area!" section follows, with a paragraph explaining the member area. A grid of buttons provides access to various features: Event Calendar, Social Corral, WDAA Horse Number Registration (highlighted with a green circle), Learning Management System (LMS), Youth Ride A Test, and Member Directory. A link to "Renew Your Membership" is also present. On the right side, a vertical menu lists various programs and resources, including "My WDAA Member Profile", "Contact WDAA", "Directories", "Judges Education Program", "World Championship Show", "Online International Challenge", "Show Recognition", "WDAA Horse Lifetime Points & Awards Program (WHLAP)", "Year End High Point Program (YEHP & IYEHP)", "Social Corral (Facebook)", "Learning Management System (LMS)", "Links & Resources", "Getting Started in Western Dressage", "Newsletter Signup", "USEF Partnership", "Horse & Human Athlete Welfare/SafeSport", "AQHA Partnership", and "WDAA State Affiliates". At the bottom right, a "News & Blog Articles" section lists "All Articles", "News & Events", "The Journey", "The Show Pen", and "Affiliate News".

WDAA Year-End High Point Program (YEHP):

Celebrate your horse's achievements with this FREE program for WDAA members. Points are automatically tracked at WDAA Recognized Shows and are based on class placings, the number of entries in each class, and the type of show. The top 10 horses in each eligible division will be showcased on the YEHP Leaderboard throughout the year and the final top 10 horses will receive certificates to recognize their national ranking. Learn everything you need to know by visiting: [Welcome to WDAA Points & Show Recognition * WDAA Points](#)

Congratulations to Joanne Lanzisera and Cromodo Dragon who are currently leading in the Intro Amateur Division!

'yehp-leaderboards/?level=2

WDAA Show Recognition and Results > WDAA Horse Lifetime Points & Awards Program WDAA Year End High Point Program – National & International

YEHP LEADERBOARDS

Select Level: BASIC

BASIC LEVEL - JUNIOR DIVISION STANDINGS

| Place | YEHP Points | Horse Name | Owner |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 6.00 | TDR Brilliant in Brass | Jocelyn Brattain |
| 2 | 3.00 | A Sudden Dipped Chip | Melissa Johnson |
| 3 | 2.00 | Remington | Lynn Miholics |
| 4 | 1.00 | Millstreet Mitch | Dana Fitch |
| 5 | 1.00 | Nevada's Wild Heart | Brooke Adamo |
| 6 | 1.00 | Calcetines | Wendy Sweeney |
| 5 | 9.00 | Sheez Got Legs | |



Entries open May 19 - June 2, 2025
Worldwide competition

A WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards 1 ½ Point Show (WHLPAP). The only WDAA Recognized online show that can offer 1.5 points!

Buckles to all Division winners and a jacket to all entries who place 1-10 in a class.

[WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge](#)

WDAA Year End Wrap Up meeting

Jan 25th 2025 WDAA held their Year End Wrap Up gathering at the USEF Annual Meeting

Many WDAA members attended the 2-hour meeting where the past year's WDAA business was discussed. Followed by a very productive question and answer session that closed the meeting. The PowerPoint presentation of the information covered is in your member Learning Management System.



Following the meeting everyone got spiffed up for the SmartPac USEF Horse of the Year Awards Gala which is always well attended by WDAA members, and this year was no exception. Every Western Dressage Horse of the Year Award winner was photographed with the new Ellen DiBella Memorial HOTY Award. It was such an honor to have the beautiful bronze as a backdrop.



ATTENTION WDAA YOUTH! Scholarship application deadline APRIL 15th

The Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) is proud to present a scholarship opportunity funded by a youth grant provided by the US Equestrian Federation.

Three (3) scholarships of \$500 each are available to youth riders who are looking to enhance their Western Dressage education. Scholarships must be used for Western Dressage educational experiences to include clinics, camps, and/or non-show events. The applicant must be under the age of 18 at the time of application, an active member of WDAA, and a member of USEF.

To access the application form go to, [WDAA Youth](#)

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER JUDGE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

NEW for WDAA International members, the International Judge Certificate program provides basic training and information regarding Western Dressage Association of America's principles, rules, and judging criteria.

International groups can build award programs utilizing International Judge certificate holders, so exhibitors know they are being evaluated appropriately and fairly.

Upon successful completion of these courses, the participant will receive a WDAA International Judging Certificate. For more information please visit [International Judging Certificate Program](#)



The 2025 WDAA/USEF Judges Seminar was held in Denver, CO February 7-9

29 Licensed judges, 13 auditors and 14 judge applicants attended this year's seminar.



We are inspired by the dedication and enthusiasm of the group that participated and look forward to seeing the positive impact of this learning experience on the future of Western Dressage.

From attendee Silja Knoll, "Thank you to WDAA and your incredible, never-ending dedication to improving this discipline. This seminar was so well organized and presented. I so appreciate the opportunity to learn from these experiences."



From attendee Cynthia Ganem, "This is such a super program. I met attendees from all over the US. Fun and informative weekend. Thank you to all the wonderful WDAA staff, board and clinicians for putting on another great seminar."

Plan for next year, February 6-8, 2026 in Denver CO. For all Judges Education information please visit; [Western Dressage Judges Education](#)



New USEF Western Dressage judges and promotions

Congratulations to Barbara Wood (MO); Corinne Bridgeman (OK); Glenda Warner (MI); Sara Justice (OH), and Wayne Quarles (KY) on their recent promotion to Registered (large R) western dressage judge. We also congratulate new Recorded (small r) western dressage judges Jessica Callier (WA) and Teresa Wysong (OH).



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".
- 2024 Western Dressage Equitation patterns: 01/18/2024 Movement #4 Lope to Halt movement changed to "Halt through the Jog."



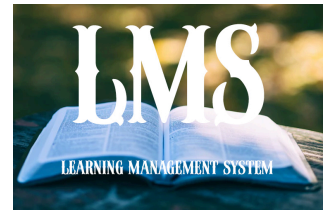
Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[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

