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**[Draft] Re: Happy Holidays: WDAA December Newsletter**

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### Happy Holidays: WDAA December Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you from the USEF Affiliate Meeting in Hebron, KY. The Presidents and Executive Officers from USEF's National breeds and disciplines are here along with the managers and officers of USEF. As representatives of a diverse group of equine organizations, we have much more in common than we have differences. We learn from each other and bounce ideas off each other. We contemplate ways we can improve our services and value to our memberships. We are fortunate to have USEF to bring us together for the good of all horse sports.

When you think of USEF, remember to be grateful that your children have safe places to show because we are committed to Safe Sport and watching out for abuse and victimization.

When you think of USEF, be happy that you have safe places to show your horses because we enforce standards for safe premises and footing, we vaccinate our horses and have procedures in place for outbreaks.

When you think of USEF, be excited that you have shows with level playing fields, clear rules and consistent judging.

When you think of USEF, be delighted by the policies and procedures in place for horse welfare so that horses will be protected even when they're not at shows.

When you think of USEF, be glad that you have the opportunity to compete for Horse of the Year awards.

WDAA is the official Western Dressage affiliate of USEF and we are proud to work together with horsemen from every discipline for the good of all horses and horse people. We are blessed to have horses in our lives and working to preserve our industry for the next generation of horsemen is one of my greatest pleasures.

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

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## Registration is open for the 2026 WDAA/USEF Judges Education Seminar - Auditors Welcome

**The next WDAA/USEF Western Dressage Judges Seminar will be held February 6-8, 2026.**

**Location:** Embassy Suites by Hilton 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/?ctyhocn=DENIAES&groupCode=CESWDA&arrivaldate=2026-02-05&departuredate=2026-02-08&cid=OM,W,W,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

**This clinic will start at 8 AM on Friday and conclude at 3 PM on Sunday for ALL PARTICIPANTS.**

Applicants and current judges are **required to attend all 3 days.**

Silent auditors are welcome!

## What Participants Are Saying...

*"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."*

- Silja Knoll

*"Great Education! Great Friends! Can't wait until next time!"*

-Charlotte Trentelman

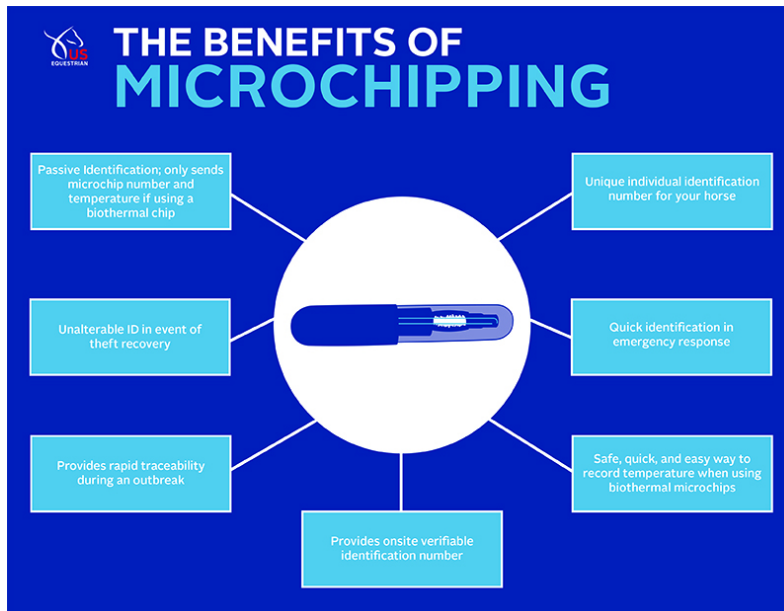
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## USEF News



### NEW USEF GUIDELINES AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2025!

**As of December 1, 2025**, all horses competing in USEF-licensed or endorsed competitions must be microchipped with a 15-digit ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip. Microchipping ensures accurate identification, improves equine safety, and supports effective biosecurity measures at competitions. Riders and owners should verify that their horse's microchip information is recorded in their USEF Member Dashboard before the start of the 2025–2026 competition year. To learn more about the process, requirements, and benefits of microchipping, visit [usef.org/microchipping](https://usef.org/microchipping).



## USEF Annual Meeting & WDAA Year End Wrap-Up Meeting



### Mark Your Calendars!

📅 January 15-17th, 2026

📍 Lexington, Kentucky

The [2026 US Equestrian Annual Meeting](#) is just around the corner!

### Don't Miss Out on this Event!

- **Pegasus Awards Dinner**
  - Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 PM
- **Western Dressage Association of America Meeting**
  - Saturday, January 17 at 9:00 AM
- **SmartPak/Horse of the Year Awards Dinner**
  - Saturday, January 17 at 6:00 PM

## WDAA Points

**Accommodations:** \$185 per night (plus tax)



## Staffing Update

### Congratulations to Alex McBurnett!

Alex has been promoted to **WHL PAP Points Administrator** and now supports:

- Horse enrollments and updates
- Show results uploaded to YEHP & Smart Point
- Member inquiries for Points Program participation

We are excited for her continued contribution to the program and the membership community.

Jenny continues to lead **system architecture, data governance, software oversight, and long-range strategy** for the Points Program.

Her work this year included the design and launch of:

- **Smart Points System**
- YEHP scoring and leaderboards
- Show Results processing and public search

These systems automated roughly **20** hours per week of manual work, allowing WDAA to scale our programs sustainably.

## 2025 Year-End High Point Program Update

This free program launched without sponsorship or funding, and we're proud to offer digital certificates to all winners as outlined in the rules.

**To support future enhancements, optional award buckles will be available for purchase at \$239 (includes shipping).**

A portion of the proceeds benefit the program. Buckles are offered for Champion, Reserve Champion, and Top 10.

Ties will be broken for Champion and Reserve. Ordering details will follow in the February YEHP Awards Newsletter.

**All 2025 results must be received by WDAA no later than January 15, 2026.**

Processing *begins* **January 20, 2026**. Results submitted **after** January 15 **cannot** be included.

If results are missing from your scorecard, it may mean we have not yet received the official report from the show secretary.



## WDAA Horse Lifetime Points & Awards Program



This has been an outstanding year - membership grew significantly, and our WHLPAP participants (that's you!) earned so many Lifetime Points that we placed not just one, but *two* awards orders (June and August) to ensure timely delivery for everyone!

## WDAA Youth

Our **FREE** Video Ride a Test Program is open to all current WDAA Junior Members!

Submit a video of your ridden test and receive personalized feedback from a USEF Western Dressage Judge — completely free.

### **How it works:**

1. Choose your test from the drop-down menu
2. Upload your video to your YouTube channel
3. Submit your link through the form
4. Get your evaluated test straight to your email!

Ready to submit? [wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-online-ride-a-test-program](https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-online-ride-a-test-program)

Congratulations to the WDAA Nominee for the USEF Youth Sportsmans Award, Stacey Johnson of Hernando, Florida!

The winner of the award will be announced at the 2026 USEF Pegasus Awards during the USEF Annual Meeting. Best of luck Stacey, we are rooting for you!



As a bonus Junior member perk we are inviting all of you to attend a Junior Member only webinar on December 28th at 3:00PM Pacific, 4:00PM Mountain, 5:00PM Central and 6:00PM Eastern.

Joann Williams, USEF Western Dressage R judge and many time World Champion plus the rider/owner of the first WDAA Super Horse Gallo Fantastic will answer any questions you may have about Western Dressage.

Make sure to join us for this rare opportunity. An invitation will be sent to all current WDAA Junior Members the week of Christmas.




**December 28th**

- 3 PM Pacific
- 4 PM Mountain
- 5 PM Central
- 6 PM Eastern

## Junior Member Webinar

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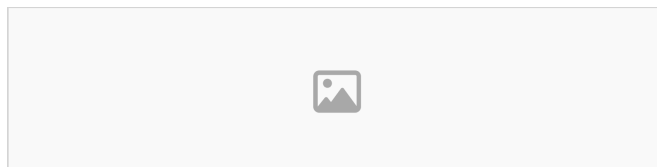
*Joann Williams - Q&A*

Join Joann Williams - USEF Western Dressage R Judge, multi-time World Champion, and rider/owner of the first WDAA Super Horse Gallo Fantastic, for an open Q&A on all things Western Dressage.

 An official invitation will be emailed to all current WDAA Junior Members during Christmas week.

**WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION**  
OF AMERICA

The winner of the WDAA Youth Scholarship for December is Avery Aswad of Katy, TX! Avery will be using her scholarship to attend a clinic with Kristen Whittaker. The next deadline for this scholarship is March 15, please visit [WDAA Youth Educational Scholarship Program](#) for all information.



## Fueling the Programs You Love

Every rider who loves Western Dressage knows the value of our key events. The incredible experience of competing at the WDAA World Show, the accessibility of the Online International Challenge, and the critical Judges Education Program—these programs are what define WDAA's leadership in the sport. However, running these high-level initiatives requires significant resources that corporate partners provide.

# CALLING ALL SPONSORS



This is where your unique network comes in! As current or past members, you understand our values better than anyone. We believe there are businesses looking to donate to or sponsor organizations that promote horse welfare, quality competition, and continuous education.

Please help us find the connections that will fuel our growth. If you know a corporate contact looking for sponsorship allocations in 2026, **please send their information to Candy Hill at [candy@westerndressageassociation.org](mailto:candy@westerndressageassociation.org)!**

## State Affiliates



Did you know WDAA has state affiliates across the country? Check to see if your state has one — or start your own! The Western Dressage Association of America welcomes anyone interested in forming a local affiliate.

Learn more or reach out to Affiliate Committee Chair, Tami Steinbrecher, at [rockinglazyt@gmail.com](mailto:rockinglazyt@gmail.com).

**Arizona** Western Dressage Association of Arizona – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**California** California Western Dressage Association – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Colorado** Western Dressage Association of Colorado – [Website](#)  
**Florida** Western Dressage Association of Florida – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Georgia** Western Dressage Association of Georgia – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Illinois** Western Dressage Association of Illinois – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Massachusetts** Western Dressage Association of Massachusetts – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Michigan** Western Dressage Association of Michigan – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Nevada** Nevada Western Dressage Association - [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**North Carolina** North Carolina Western Dressage Association - [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Ohio** Ohio Western Dressage Association - [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Pennsylvania** Pennsylvania Western Dressage Association - [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Virginia** Western Dressage Association of Virginia - [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Wisconsin** Western Dressage Association of Wisconsin – [Website/Facebook page](#)  
**Pacific Northwest** Pacific Northwest Western Dressage Association - [Website/Facebook page](#)

## State Affiliates

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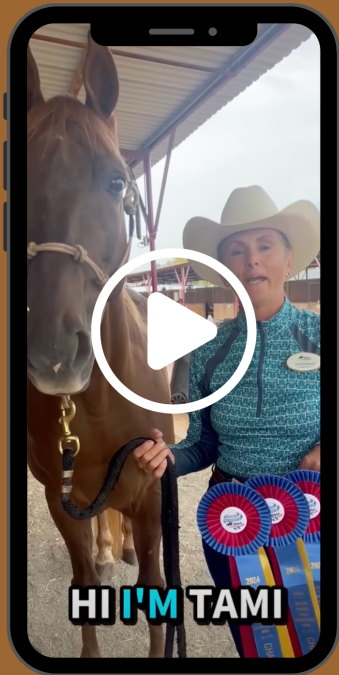
## Discover How Gaited Horses Shine in Western Dressage

Curious how gaited horses fit into Western Dressage? WDAA's latest article by USEF "r" Judge Barbara Wood breaks it all down; from how the saddle gait replaces the jog, to why more success and harmony in the

**Read  
The Full  
Article  
Here**

The piece highlights real examples from the 2020 World Show, explains what judges look for, and offers

## GAITED HORSES IN WD



### Creating a Milestone Moment for Gaited Horses in Western Dressage

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#### WDAA Membership News

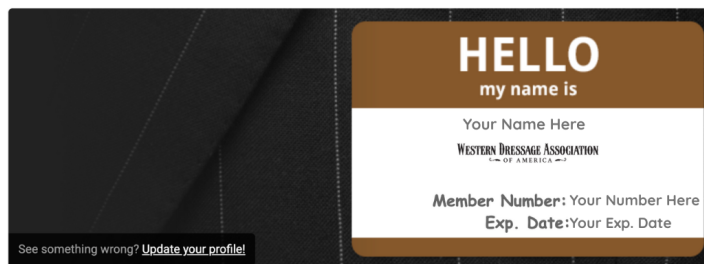
Meet The Wicked Wolf (aka Timber) — the first Tennessee Walking Horse to be honored as a USEF Horse of the Year and a WDAA Supreme Champion!

WDAA Board Member, Tami Steinbrecher, shares how all gaited horses have a place in Western Dressage.

This year, 20 Tennessee Walking Horses joined us at the 2025 WDAA World Show — and the gaited community keeps growing!

[Check Out Tami's Interview Here](#)

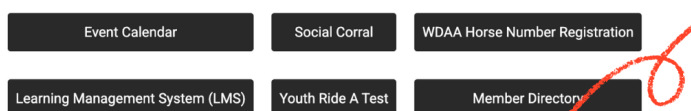
# DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARD



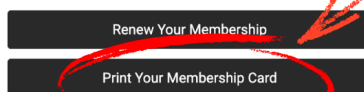
[Admin Portal](#) | [View My Full Profile](#) | [Member Benefits](#) | [WDAA Results Search Early Access](#)  
[Print Your Membership Card](#)

## Welcome to the Members Only Area!

We appreciate having you as a member. This is the area you will utilize to view and maintain your WDAA membership and account information.



[Please review this document to learn how to navigate our new Member Portal and to learn about your new Member Benefits.](#)



WDAA Membership Cards - You can now download your membership card directly from your profile.

- If you forgot your username or password, or have trouble downloading, contact Kathy Newcomb at [Kathy@westerndressageassociation.org](mailto:Kathy@westerndressageassociation.org).
- Cards are available to download anytime during the membership year.
- Remember to renew by January 1st to be ready for the FREE 2026 Year End High Point (YEHP) awards!

## WDAA Test Revisions to Date

UPDATE

- 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](#)



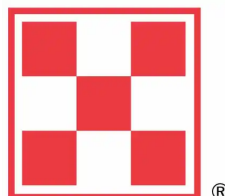
Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



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

[Visit the LMS](#)



Purina Mills



WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA

