



April Newsletter - Online International Challenge



Dear Friends,

With the warmer weather the number of shows is increasing and many of you are out there riding in shows and clinics or preparing to do so. I have seen more questions on social media lately from newbies asking for show advice. I have also continued to see people answering these questions incorrectly, but with a great sense of authority. Therefore, I would like to point out that we have great resources you can refer to or refer others to on the WDAA website.

There is a "Western Dressage Rules and Guidelines" page at:

<https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-rules-guidelines>

Included on this page are links to:

- USEF Western Dressage Rules
- Guidelines for the Gaited Horse
- WDAA Equipment Guide (complete with pictures)
- WDAA Equipment Check Process
- WDAA Equipment Check Video Guide
- Western Dressage Glossary of Terms
- USEF/WDAA Competition Comparison Chart
- WDAA Online Show Rules and Guidelines

Additionally, if you explore the WDAA website, you will find detailed information about all our programs. WDAA membership includes access to the Learning Management System (LMS) which houses helpful Western Dressage videos including examples of maneuvers and scores.

WDAA staff and volunteers have gone to great effort to provide fabulous resources. So, I hope you will peruse them at your leisure and refer to them as needed. Please share these links with others so they can look up facts themselves and even learn how to find additional information.

Good Luck to all of you who are showing and preparing to do so. I wish you all the best!

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

WDAA Membership News

Please Renew Your Membership

The image shows a digital membership card and a navigation menu. The membership card is dark-themed with a brown header. The header contains the text "HELLO my name is" in white. Below the header, the card displays "Your Name Here" in bold, followed by the WDAA logo (WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA) and the text "General Member with Auto Renew". The card also shows "Member Number: 1234" and "Exp. Date: 12/31/2026". At the bottom left of the card, there is a dark button with the text "See something wrong? Update your profile!". A red arrow points from this button to the "Print Your Membership Card" link in the navigation menu below. The navigation menu is a light gray bar with several links: "View My Full Profile", "Member Benefits", "WDAA Results Search Early Access", and "Print Your Membership Card". The "Print Your Membership Card" link is circled in red.

See something wrong? [Update your profile!](#)

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

In order to keep costs down, WDAA has gone to a paperless membership card. Your membership card and number can be found on your WDAA Membership Profile. To access your card at any time:

- Log in to your member profile.
- On the Member Landing Page, click “Print Your Membership Card” located beneath your ID badge.
- You may print the card or save it as a PDF on your computer or phone.

If you need help to log in to your profile, please contact Kathy Newcomb at

Kathy@westerndressageassociation.org to reset your password.

Make Your Commitment to Western Dressage a Lasting One



A **WDAA Lifetime Membership** is a meaningful way to become a permanent part of the Western Dressage community and support the future of the mission for years to come. **Lifetime Membership is \$1,000** and includes a commemorative lapel pin.

For those who have served, WDAA is also proud to offer a **Military Veteran Lifetime Membership for \$500**, which includes a buckle.

No matter which membership applies, becoming a lifetime member is a lasting investment in the association, our mission, and the continued growth of Western Dressage. Benefits are listed on our website, and we would be honored to welcome you into the lifetime member family. It's about the journey.

Celebrating Our Judges



We're excited to recognize and celebrate members of our community who have recently reached important judging milestones. Their commitment to learning, growth, and supporting the sport is what keeps our organization strong.

Please join us in congratulating our new Small "r" Judges:

Kelly Burns
Amanda Delgado
Tabitha Hopp
Grace Owsley
Barbara Richardson-Lewis
Anne Stephens

And our Judges promoted to Large "R":

Heather Boyer
Kristine Hamilton
Amy Lanier
Marilyn Weber

Online International Challenge - Entries Open May 18th

We are incredibly grateful for your dedication, time, and passion. Thank you for all that you do to support and grow the sport!



WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 2026 ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

SHOW FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD ★ ALL BREEDS ARE WELCOMED

1ST-10TH PLACE IN EVERY CLASS
WINS A JACKET



- ★ Division Champion Buckles
- ★ International & USA Awards
- ★ Jackets for 1st-10th Place
- ★ International Patch for ALL Participants
- ★ Special Award for Overall High Score Age Groups



Show Secretary

Prize List

OIC Information



Calling All Past WDAA World Champions!

westerndressageassociation.org/wdaa-online-international

Entries for the 2026 WDAA Online International Challenge **open May 18**. Open to riders around the globe and all breeds of horses, this online competition offers the opportunity to compete internationally under WDAA R Judges—without ever leaving your barn.

▶ Phase 1 - Entries Accepted

May 18 - June 1, 2026

▶ Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted

(Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 16, 2026 - **TEAM ENTRY DEADLINE JUNE 16th**

▶ Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board

June 18 - July 1, 2026

▶ Online Awards Ceremony
July 5, 2026, via Zoom 5

e of judging)



The Western Dressage Association of America would love to celebrate our past champions by featuring you on our social media pages! As we count down to the upcoming WDAA Online International Challenge and the WDAA World Show, we are looking for riders who have helped shape Western Dressage.

Next WDAA Youth Scholarship Deadline is July 15th

Congratulations to Keira Farmer of Wallowa, OR for winning the 2025 WDAA Youth Scholarship. She is planning on using it to attend a camp; we hope you can help her learn more about Western Dressage!

- High quality photos of you and your horse
- A short bio about you and your horse
- Your horse's breed

The Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) proudly presents [Scholarship Opportunity](#) funded by a youth grant provided by the US Equestrian Federation.



We can't wait to highlight the amazing champions in our WDAA youth riders who are looking to enhance their Western Dressage education.

Applications will be accepted year-round.

Grants will be awarded 3 times per year: April, August, and December. Funds must be used within 12 months of receipt. **Deadlines for submission are July 15th and November 15th.**

Western Dressage is taking over Breyerfest!



This year's demo brings an incredible lineup of horse-and-rider pairs to showcase WD.

Featuring:

- Truly Unsurpassed with Lily Beth Sheriff
- Jackzipisverycool with Lisa Hewitt
- Good Hot N Krymsun with Nancy Conley
- RR Freckles Badger with Olivia Tierce
- Wicked Wolf with Tami Steinbrecher
- Ole's Maisey with Marley Hartman



Want to learn more about the horse and rider combos?

Check out the article here:

<https://www.breyerhorses.com/blogs/breyerfest-blog/western-dressage-at-breyerfest>

July 10-12, 2026 at The Kentucky Horse Park
Demo time coming soon!



**BANNER
SPONSORSHIPS**

Sponsorship Options:

Outdoor Arena Placement: \$500

Main Arena Placement: \$750

Put Your Brand on the Map at the 2026 World Show!

As we count down to the WDAA World Championship Show this September in Guthrie, we want to offer a unique opportunity for our members who are also business owners. You don't have to be a major corporation to gain global visibility—you can represent your own brand or local company right in the heart of the action!

We are currently offering Banner Sponsorships for the duration of the show. It's a simple, effective way to support the association while getting your name in front of a massive audience.

Why Hang a Banner?

Global Visibility: Your brand will be captured during our 5-day live broadcast, viewed by Western Dressage fans all over the world.

Direct Access: Every banner sponsorship includes the opportunity to place your marketing materials or "swag" directly into the competitor's bags given to every rider as well.

Tax-Deductible: Because WDAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, your sponsorship is a tax-deductible contribution.

Sponsorship Options:

Outdoor Arena Placement: \$500

Main Arena Placement: \$750

Know someone who should be there?

If you have a friend, a local vet, a farrier, or a small business owner who would love to support our sport, please forward this to them! It's a fantastic way to support the WDAA mission while growing a business.

Want to talk more about how banner placement might work for your business? Reach out to Candy at candy@westerndressageassociation.org.

New Content Added to the WDAA Member Learning Management System (LMS)



We have an exciting new tool for you! We've partnered with Ride iQ to create Western Dressage Test Playbooks and they have generously shared some bonus content with all of you. [Check out it out on the Learning Management System.](#)

And that's just the bonus content from these Playbooks. Each Playbook is an audio walkthrough where a judge explains what they're evaluating, movement by movement.

The bonus audios come from these two "R" judges, who have each created their own set of Playbooks:

👉 [Jodi Ely's Playbooks](#) – witty and to-the-point (~15 min each); available for Intro through Level 3

👉 [Ida Norris' Playbooks](#) – in-depth and detailed (~60 min each); available for Intro through Level 1

Whether you're just starting out or working toward higher scores, these playbooks will provide wonderful clarity and confidence the next time you enter the ring.

Gaited Committee Webinar on LMS



FREE WEBINAR ON GAITED HORSES AND MULES IN WESTERN DRESSAGE
presented by the Western Dressage Association of America Gaited Horse Committee

FIND OUT HOW WESTERN DRESSAGE BENEFITS THE GAITED HORSE AND RIDER AND HOW TO GET STARTED

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 @ 7PM EST

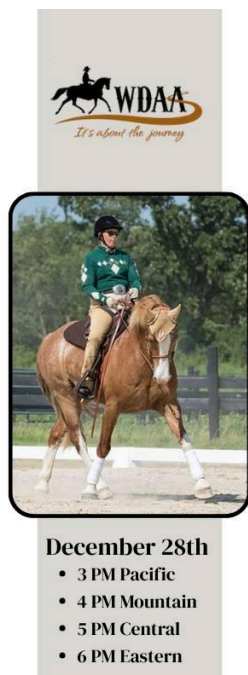
Register by **Sun, April 19th**

WDA
It's about the journey


On April 21st, the WDAA Gaited Horse and Mule Committee hosted a webinar focusing on how Western Dressage can benefit the gaited horse and rider and how to start your journey in this exciting discipline.

Speakers, professional horse trainer Lauren Merchant, USEF licensed WD "R" judge Barbara Wood and experienced amateur rider Tami Steinbrecher answered several questions and inspired many to try Western Dressage. The full recording can be found on the WDAA member LMS!

Youth Webinar on LMS



WDA
It's about the journey



December 28th

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

Junior Member Webinar

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 Gallod 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

In December R judge Joann Williams spoke to several WDAA Youth members during a webinar hosted by the WDAA Honors and Awards Committee. They covered several topics including what to do when something goes

wrong during a test and how to prepare mentally for a show. The full recording can be found on the WDAA member LMS!



YEHP Scorecard Updates and Buckle Badges!

Big thank you to everyone who purchased a YEHP Fundraiser buckle! To celebrate, we've implemented **YEHP Buckle Badge icons** on the scorecards of every horse that had a buckle purchased, along with their placing, level and division underneath! These badges will be visible on your horse's scorecard for the rest of their YEHP career, and each year will have a unique icon that reflects the buckle design for that year.



CHAMPION



RESERVE



TOP 10

Along with the buckle icons, we've made it easier to navigate between the [YEHP Leaderboards](#) and individual scorecards by adding links to each level. You can also now see your current placing on your scorecard if your horse currently has a Top 10 placing for that division and level!

[YEHP Scorecard Search](#)

All the YEHP Buckle orders have been sent off to Skyline Vaquero for manufacturing and processing. Keep an eye out over the next couple of months- your YEHP buckles should arrive 8-12 weeks after March 31st.

Best of luck and Happy Showing!

-The WDAA Points Team

WDAAPoints.org

[WHL PAP vs YEHP](#)

[USEF News](#)



✨ Youth Opportunity! ✨

Did you know that US Equestrian's Interscholastic Athlete Program gives riders in grades 5–12 a way to earn varsity-style letters for their commitment to riding and competition? Whether you're logging riding hours or showing in your favorite discipline (including Western Dressage!), this program helps recognize your dedication and growth as a young equestrian athlete.

How it works:

- ✓ Log your riding/training hours or competition experience
- ✓ Meet the program requirements to earn an Interscholastic Athlete letter or pin
- ✓ Highlight your achievements on your resume or college applications

👉 Learn more through USEF's Youth Programs and see how your journey in Western Dressage can count toward something big!

[Learn More Here](#)

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](#)



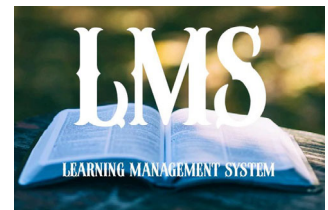
WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



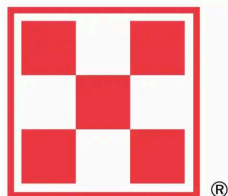
Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



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

[Visit the LMS](#)



Purina Mills



100 X EQUINE



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