

WDAAZ NEWSLETTER

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA



Quick Calendar:

- December 3rd (Saturday) 2022; WDAAZ tack sale!!
- January 14, 2023: Celebration of Life for Kirsten Kuzmanic
- January 20th, 2023: Heart My Horse Virtual Show opens.
- April 7th, 2023: Follow Your Heart Virtual Show opens
- May 20th, 2023; Ride-a-Test show/clinic (rated WDAA).
- June 3rd, 2023; NAC of ADA training show.
- Sept. 15th, 2023: Heart of the Horse Virtual Show opens.
- Sept. 16th, 2023: combined WDAAZ/NAC dressage show, rated WDAA.
- Oct 21, 2023, Clinic TBD at Oak Meadows Ranch, Prescott.



December 2022, Happy Holidays

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE, CLIFF SWANSON

DEAR ALL,

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to a well-known and beloved horsewoman, Kirsten Kuzmanic. She has been a pillar to the local horse community in the Prescott area for many years. She brought a calm but strong presence in her knowledge to all her students and proteges. She will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to our newest board member, Danielle Miller of Chandler. We are grateful to have more people from around the state. She will be a wonderful asset to our great team.

I also would like to wish all of you warm and cozy holidays and a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year. Keep your friends close and your family closer, which includes our 4-legged family members.

Your WDAAZ President,

Cliff Swanson

Tack and related items sale, December 3rd in Prescott

Want to sell your Tack and related horse items for our pre-Christmas WDAAZ TACK SALE? Or just come by and shop. SADDLES, BRIDLES, BLANKETS and MUCH MORE. 10 % of your sale proceeds go to WDAAZ to help support our club to continue our FABULOUS shows, clinics & Educational Events.

LOCATION: Oak Meadows Ranch, 3745 West Chipmunk Lane.

TIMES: 10am to 3pm. Please bring a table to set-up in the indoor arena by 10am or just come by to shop. Cash or checks only please.

Volunteers needed to help with tagging, tables, and other areas.

Call: Syndy Cunningham (928-830-9329).

WDAAZ and WDAA membership renewal: It's that time of year again to renew our memberships. **WDAAZ dues** will be due by the end of December. General membership is \$25 and Youth membership is \$10. Go to www.wdaaz.org to the Join Us! page and click on the "HERE" to download and print the 2023 membership application form. You also can print the final page of this email and send it in. Please mail the application and payment to Syndy Cunningham at **WDAAZ, PO Box 1646, Chino Valley, AZ 86323**. As a reminder, to be a full member of WDAAZ, you must also be a member of the national association, WDAA. For questions and to renew or join WDAA,

login to your member portal from the WDAA website from www.westerndressageassociation.org

Heart My Horse-Winter Virtual Horse Show entries open 1/20/23.

Although it doesn't compare to a live horse show, Virtual Horse shows are and relatively easy and less expensive compared to hauling your horse to a live show.

Heart My Horse-Winter Horse Show opens 1/20/23 for entries and closes 2/12/23. Go to WDAAZ website or: <https://www.spotlighthorseshow.com> for more information and registering or call Gail at 734-679-5019.

This show is open to **Western, Classical, and Eventing Dressage and now, even Driven Dressage.** If you are in the Prescott area and need a full size (20x60 meter) dressage court to ride in, contact Carol Stearns, 480-540-6947 for use of her arena at no cost. If you are in the Prescott area, Lyn and Eric Kazan are willing to video for you. Contact Lyn at ljkazan@gmail.com or cell 928-301-3136.

May 20th, 2023, Ride-a-Test show/clinic:

Don't miss out on our SPECTACULAR one-of-a-kind event on May 20th, 2023, with Joyce Swanson and Cliff Swanson. You will get to ride (or audit) with two of the first creators of the sport of Western Dressage and the most experienced clinicians! It will be held at American Ranch in Prescott. Ride your test with Joyce as judge, then go to the next arena to work on improving your weaknesses with Cliff. Then return to the dressage arena to re-ride your test with Joyce and see your improvement. What an opportunity to work with two FABULOUS trainers. This show also will qualify you for our Local and State Championships, plus the award program through WDAA. You must be a member of both WDAAZ and WDAA to qualify. This show also will offer a Highpoint Award along with ribbons.

However, THIS SHOW IS VERY LIMITED for riders (lots of room for auditors). Call Syndy today to reserve your spot to ride or audit. As always, we will be providing a fun day with lunch and hopefully an exhibition.



Introducing Joyce Swanson pictured here riding

CEDAR CREEK QUARTERMASTER winning one of six World Titles

The Beginning.

Joyce Swanson has enjoyed a varied, lifelong career with horses. Under the tutelage of outstanding mentors in many disciplines she turned a passionate childhood dream into a serious pursuit to engage horses at the highest level. Career highlights include World and Grand National titles in Western Pleasure, Western Dressage, Park Saddle, Hunter Pleasure, English Pleasure, Dressage, Driven Dressage and Carriage Driving. Joyce credits the principles of Dressage with all these successes.

Joyce grew up in Connecticut and attended Boston University for two years. She then went on a camping trip with friends to Aspen, Co, and decided she clearly had to move there so she transferred to

CU Boulder, in 1971. There, she started riding with Haze Kennedy to fulfill a physical-ed requirement and she got "absolutely crazy" about horses again. Joyce began her competition career when Haze encouraged her to compete in three-day eventing, and Joyce quickly became most interested with the dressage division. Joyce, later transferred to CSU to take pre-vet courses (they didn't have an Equine Science program at the time) and continued with competition. In 1978, Joyce met Kathy Knill at Table Mountain ranch in Golden, CO, and started taking dressage lessons from her in trade for grooming. Joyce followed her to Foss Arabians (also in Golden) and began training horses there. She embraced Kathy's technique of utilizing Dressage principles to train horses in every division which included English Pleasure, Park Saddle,

Western Pleasure and Hunter Pleasure, with great success. The versatility of horsemanship fascinated her, and she began to distill what she was learning about training a wide variety of horses down to the learning aptitudes they all shared. This became **Principled Horsemanship** which is at the foundation of her clinic work. From Foss Arabians, Joyce sold a horse to a family in Kansas, and they hired her for her first head trainer job.

In 1986, Joyce met Cliff Swanson, who introduced her to the Morgan breed. She immediately favored that breed for their generous tractability and athleticism. In 1993 she met a very special horse who embraced the variety of Dressage movements Joyce introduced him to. As a result, **Cedar Creek Quartermaster** became a super athlete with impeccable balance softly on the aids. In 1995, he was Western Pleasure 3-year-old World Champion winning both the qualifying stallion class and the futurity championship. He won again in 1996 as a four-year-old and became the judge's school standard of perfection. Later as he advanced in his training and confidence, he carried a 12-year-old rider to a Western Pleasure World Championship.

Cliffhanger! What happened after that?? Look for the January 2023 WDAAZ Newsletter to find out.

Congratulations to our newest board member, Danielle Miller from Chandler! Danielle Miller has over 30 years of experience training, coaching and instructing in various disciplines. She has competed on a local and national level and is the trainer and riding instructor at Celebrity Ranch in Chandler, AZ. Danielle began her horsemanship journey in Northeastern Ohio riding miles of trails and competing in speed events, hunt seat and western classes at 4H and open horse shows. Danielle is a Cowboy Dressage Recommended Level 2 Clinician and has earned national high point titles as well as individual and team championships. She currently is in her first year showing in WDAA and Danielle is eager to learn more about this addicting discipline! Danielle also owns and manages Hearts of Gold Home Care, an adult non-medical in-home care agency since 2003, and enjoys raising chickens, gardening, live music, food and wine.

Additional General Board Members Wanted! WDAAZ needs new general board members to better support the state and help us with ideas for events, clinics and shows. We especially would like people in other parts of the state, such as Phoenix

(area), Tucson (area), Flagstaff or more rural areas to contribute their input. All meetings now are on Zoom so if you aren't sure you want



to take this opportunity, you can try us out first, as anyone can join the zoom meetings to listen in and give us their thoughts and ideas. Just send a text or email to Carol Stearns 480-540-6947 or cstearns27450@gmail.com and ask to have a Zoom invite sent to your email address. If you're not sure about using Zoom, call **Carol**.

Our next board meeting via Zoom is Monday, December 20th, at 2:00 pm. It is open to anyone who is interested.

Other things:

October 21, 2023 WDAAZ clinic: By Syndy Cunningham. We are looking for suggestions for our clinic at Oak Meadows Ranch in Prescott. Some of the suggestions so far are a Ned Leigh clinic or Working Equitation (schooling) or pure Western Dressage clinic. Please call or text Syndy Cunningham (928-830-9329) for any suggestions that you might have.

The **WDAAZ trail course** is set up on Carol Stearns' RatDog Ranch in Paulden. A drone photo of the course will be included in next month's newsletter. It is free to practice on for anyone in the club. There also are miles of dirt roads and state and federal land nearby for trail riding. Just call, text or email Carol a couple days in advance to make sure she's there. Cstearns27450@gmail.com, or 480-540-6947.

“It's all about the Journey.” What does this mean to you?

This phrase is on the WDAAZ website but ***what does it mean to you?*** Email me to give your story and thoughts on what, “It's all about the Journey.”, means to **you** and I'll add it in to the next WDAAZ Newsletter. Cstearns27450@gmail.com.

Dear friends of Kirsten Kuzmanic, we are saddened to share the news, Kirsten succumbed to a hard-fought battle against cancer on November 25, 2022.

Kirsten may perhaps be best remembered for her love, passion, learning and teaching of all things equestrian and especially dressage. She was a friend, trainer, coach and sounding board for her students and friends. She loved to share her knowledge. She was very patient, even with beginner dressage students and horses. She loved to have fun. She loved her many horses and other “4 legged pets” especially Lakota, her German Shepard.



While largely known in the Prescott Area as a dressage instructor, Kirsten was an accomplished dressage rider showing at the upper levels in both California and in Europe. Kirsten worked tirelessly to promote the sport of dressage through her involvement in the Northern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Dressage Association. Kirsten most recently held the position of Board President for the last several years. Her knowledge, support and enthusiasm for dressage will be greatly missed. No matter what was happening in her life, she always wanted to know, “How was your ride, what are you working on, you need to read this article, this is what you need to do.”

Kirsten is survived by two sisters, one brother, two nieces, a nephew and many friends. She is originally from Denmark, where most of her family resides.

There will be a gathering to celebrate Kirsten on Saturday, January 14, 12:00 to 3:00 at the home of Cliff and Cathy Swanson, who have generously donated their residence. Food will be catered. Bring a dish if you like. The address is 18950 N. Silverado Dr., Prescott, AZ 86305. Please RSVP to Syndy Cunningham at 928-830-9329. Donations will be collected for one of Kirsten's favorite charities, ***Salt River Wild Horse Management Group***, whose mission is: Ensure Their Long-Term Protection and Humane Management. Traci Zenner will chair this effort. Make checks payable to Traci Zenner and bring them to the luncheon or mail to **1421 Stratford Place, Chino Valley, AZ. 86323**.

Kirsten was loved and will be remembered and missed by many.

Please contact us for information.

WDAAZ P.O. Box 1646
Chino Valley, AZ 86323, 928-830-9329

President: Cliff Swanson, 303-503-5938, swanmorgan@aol.com

Vice President: Syndy Cunningham, 928-830-9329, or syndycunningham2@gmail.com.

Treasurer: Cynthia Soucie, 928-910-0948 or cynthiasoucie2@gmail.com.

General Board Member (Phoenix Valley): Sue Cardel, 480-266-1333 or mcard01@gmail.com.

Secretary: Carol Stearns, 480-540-6947 or cstearns27450@gmail.com.

