

# The *Contact*



Nebraska Dressage Association

*Keeping Members Informed*

January/February 2012

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## 2011 NDA Board

### *President:*

Heidi Helmer ('13)  
hjhelmer@gmail.com

### *Vice President:*

Briana Beckworth ('14)  
brianab724@hotmail.com

### *Secretary:*

Amy Blum ('12)  
amy@neb.rr.com

### *Treasurer:*

Trish Jones ('14)  
tgadejones@nebraska.edu

### *Jr/Yr:*

Casey Blum ('11)  
casey.blum@yahoo.com

### *Directors At-Large*

Brian Duran ('12)  
kerduran@aol.com

Donna Michelson ('13)  
dresagfan@aol.com

Felice Rose ('13)  
felicerose2900@gmail.com

Lisa Van Stratten ('12)  
dalevanstratten@huntel.net

## AQHA DRESSAGE

By Mala Erickson

Are you looking to try something new with your American Quarter Horse? Are you trying to earn AQHA points, qualify for Incentive Fund earnings, and compete for AQHA Year-end Awards? Why not try dressage?

Dressage became an AQHA Special Event in January 2010. Scores at Training Level Test 3 and higher from AQHA-approved, USDF/USEF licensed dressage shows are eligible. Exhibitors must be current members of AQHA and the horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse with a Dressage competition license (fee of \$85; good for the lifetime of the horse). To become AQHA-approved, dressage shows must apply to AQHA at least 120 days before the show and pay a competition approval fee of \$50.

Although this is a relatively new program, interest is growing. According to Jada Buchanan, Manager of Marketing for AQHA, there are approximately 100 American Quarter Horses that currently have a Dressage Competition license and, by the middle of 2011, there were 54 AQHA-approved Dressage shows. "American Quarter Horse exhibitors really appreciate being able to earn rewards in these classes. This is still a new program for AQHA, but we are excited to see the direction it is moving towards and we will continue to work with

USDF, show managers, and members to make it better."

Can an American Quarter Horse really be competitive against all those warmbloods you see at Dressage shows? You bet, and the proof is in the show results. Teena Middleton, from Willow Springs, NC, began competing in Dressage in 2010 with her 9 year old mare Mysterious Detail (aka 'Paris Hilton'). Although new to Dressage, Teena is a seasoned AQHA competitor with more than 30 years of experience. She has competed mainly in hunt seat equitation in the past, and that experience allowed a fairly smooth transition to dressage due to similarities between dressage tests and equitation or horsemanship

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## SAVE THE DATE!!

### *Western Dressage Ride-a-Test*

Sill Waters Ranch  
March 3

### *Shaggy Show I & II*

Lancaster Event Center  
March 30 - April 1

### *Sarah Martin Symposium*

Pleasant View Farms  
May 5-6

### *Cornhusker Classic*

Lancaster Event Center  
May 19-21

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year!!!

I hope the holiday season was a blessed one for each and every one of you. Now it's 2012!!

THANK YOU for your membership and support! I am excited about the opportunities and potential for growth in 2012 for the Nebraska Dressage Association.

In 2011, we had the "Getting Ready to Show" workshop, the Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show and recognized shows, the Schooling Show Championships, the Lilo Fore Region IV Clinic, and Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. Suzanne Eggert continues to organize and publish "The Contact", and the Competition Committee is getting into "full swing" preparing for the 2012 show season. Somehow I think the Cornhusker Classic will be here before we know it!!

I am excited about the prospect of a new year. I have all kinds of ideas swirling around in my brain, and I think you do, too! Please share your ideas!! We are the Nebraska Dressage Association, a collective group of dressage lovers, passionate about the furtherance of dressage in Nebraska!!

With that said, I know there have been questions about Western Dressage. I have contacted several other Group Member Organizations (GMOs) in the US, and they have had some good input. Felice Rose has been working on some guidelines for judges and competitors here in Nebraska. It's definitely a work in progress, and from what I have heard from other GMO's, the same can be said in many areas of the US. If you have thoughts about this discipline, feel free to contact me. I appreciate the input.

The Awards Committee has put forth some suggestions for change and clarification for the 2012 award year. By the way, a HUGE thank you to the Awards Committee!! You did a great job in 2011!!

Improvements will continue for the website in 2012. Tish Jones has done some research about on-line membership. What do you think of that?? I think it's a great idea! The sooner we get memberships in, the sooner we can publish the Handbook.

We are hoping to hold a "Seat Symposium" in May. We will keep you posted. The details are still being worked out.

Thanks for your patience, your support! It's appreciated more than you know!

Heidi Helmer  
hjhelmer@gmail.com



## NDA Board Meetings (6:30 p.m.)

*January 9 - Parker's Smokehouse, Ashland*

*February 20 - Bredeaux, Ashland*

*March 12 - Parker's Smokehouse, Ashland*

*April 9 - Bredeaux, Ashland*

*May 14 - Parker's Smokehouse, Ashland*

Please submit ads via email in plain text (.txt) or Word (.doc). display ads may be submitted as pdfs.

All ads must be submitted to the Contact editor with a check to NDA.

Contact Advertising:

Suzanne Eggert

5508 Hunts Dr.

Lincoln, NE 68512

halfhalt2006@yahoo.com

The *Contact* **deadline** is the **10th** of the month prior to the month of publication.

**SUBMISSIONS ARE  
ENCOURAGED FROM ALL NDA  
MEMBERS.**

Contact the Editor at:  
halfhalt2006@yahoo.com

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# Thanks for the Great Ending to the Year

By Lisa Van Stratten

I wanted to say thank you for the all hard work to the volunteers and sponsors of the two events I had the privilege of coordinating this past November. At the time I agreed to be the on-site coordinator for the 2011 USDF Lilo Fore Adult Clinic Series, I had no idea that I would have to schedule our NDA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet for the following week!

I needed the help of many volunteers to pull both events off so I'd like to say thanks to Providence Farm for hosting the clinic, all their work to help with lunches and offering their home so we all had a warm place to enjoy our lunches. A special thanks to Amy Blum, Casey Blum, Dallas Van Stratten, Karin Nilsson, who helped me continuously throughout the weekend with everything I needed. It would not have been the success it was without your hours of volunteering and special attention to details.

I'd also like to thank The Dressage Foundation for their support of the clinic through the Violet M. Hopkins Fund. This fund offers USDF GMO's financial support for educational clinics and seminars for dressage riders at all levels. We were fortunate to have Jenny Johnson from The Dressage Foundation attend the clinic and bring lots of great information about funds and grants that are available to help all levels of riders. She also

brought along with her a copy of "The View from C" for each participant. Thanks again for all your support!

Next was our fabulous annual meeting and awards banquet. After speaking to many members about the venue, I decided to forgo the typical up-scaled and fancy style banquet for a more laid back and practical banquet. I opted for a less formal buffet style dinner at Parker's Smokehouse and the results were spectacular. Everyone loved the change of pace and had a great time. Again, the hours of fund-raising and coordinating made our banquet a wonderful event. Thanks to all the board and committee members who volunteered many hours getting the awards ready, finding and gathering donations for the silent auction, and getting the banquet room set up in time. A special thanks to Dale Van Stratten for being the Emcee for the evening, and to John Wayne for the photo opportunities. Hope to see everyone at the banquet again next year!



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# NDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2011

President Sydney Ash called the December meeting to order at Bredeaux Pizza at 6:40pm.

**Board Members Present:** Lisa VanStratten, Amy Blum, Diana Spaulding, Felice Rose, Heidi Helmer, Sydney Ash, Casey Blum, Donna Michelson.

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**NDA Members Present:** Brian Duran, Tish Jones.

The October meeting minutes were not available at this time. They will be recorded as soon as possible. The November general meeting minutes were not available. They will be recorded as soon as possible.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

**President:** No report.

**Vice President:** The Annual Awards Banquet and meeting were held November 12 at Parker's Smokehouse in Ashland, NE. The membership had only positive feedback about the event and location.

**Treasurer:** Diana presented the Treasurer's Report. The Main Account Balance as of December 12 was \$13,580.72. The Show Account Balance was \$3,877.19. Heidi moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Casey seconded. Motion carried.

**Secretary:** Will record October and November meeting minutes.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

**Membership:** Sydney Ash reported that the membership roster was submitted to the USDF. As of the meeting date, there were 31 members.

Incentives were discussed as to encouraging people to renew their membership at an earlier date. This would facilitate Handbook publication. Sydney stated that she would e-mail reminders to the 2011 members.

**Competitions:** Amy Blum reported that the Cornhusker Classic 2012 prize list is almost completed, as the deadline for submission is December 15. The Cornhusker Classic is scheduled for May 19 and 20, 2012.

The refund policy for the Cornhusker Classic will be different this year, in accordance with other recognized shows in Region 4. Prior to the closing date, the entry fee minus the office fees will be refunded if a competitor withdraws their entry. After the closing date, there will be no refund.

Para-equestrian and Opportunity Classes will be held at the 2012 Cornhusker Classic. The Opportunity Classes will be offered for Training Tests 1 and 2.

**Awards:** The chair of the Awards Committee has brought some concerns to the attention of the board. These concerns

were discussed, and the Awards Committee will be asked to meet with the board for discussion. This will occur in early 2012.

**Communications:** No report.

**Publicity:** There will be no 2012 Horse Expo. It was reported that there is discussion as to a "Horse Fair" occurring in March 2012 at the Lancaster Event Center. Possible date of the Horse Fair is March 9-10, 2012. One of the organizers was hoping to hold a Dressage clinic during the Horse Fair and was seeking riders for each day. No specific details were available at this time, but as details come to light, the board wishes to have NDA represented.

**Fund Raising:** The Silent Auction at the November Awards Banquet and meeting raised \$1885.

**Equipment Management:** Donna is in the process of obtaining price quotes for a sound system.

**JR/YR:** No report.

**Education:** The Region 4 Lilo Fore clinic was a huge success.

The May Seat Symposium was discussed. Karen Stricklett had e-mailed a proposal for the Symposium to the board. Concern was expressed as to cost of the event. Felice suggested an optional location. Amy and Heidi will look at this possible venue and speak with the owners.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sydney gave a short synopsis about the USDF Convention. The USDF has had decreased membership, and is seeking ways to increase membership. There was discussion as to the best representation from NDA at the USDF Convention.

The next board meeting will be held January 9, 2012, at Parker's Rib Ranch at 6:30pm in Ashland, NE.

The 2012 board meeting schedule is:

February 13, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, 6:30pm

March 12, Parker's Rib Ranch, Ashland, 6:30pm

April 9, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, 6:30pm

May 14, Parker's Rib Ranch, Ashland, 6:30pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Lisa moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Diana seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heidi Helmer  
NDA Secretary 2011



## AQHA Dressage *cont'd*



high 60s and 70s in Training Level and hopes to be as successful at First Level in 2011. Check out more about Middleton and Mysterious Detail in the February 2011 issue of Dressage Today and in the April 2011 Digital Edition of the American Quarter Horse Journal.

For American Quarter Horse breeders Don and Lori Darks of Corfu, NY, competing in dressage has opened up new opportunities for marketing their stallion, Quatro Clabber (AQHA ID# 3609354), who is a grandson of Doc Bar. As former AQHA hunter-jumper competitors, they began dressage training about 4 years ago and have been 'moving up the levels'. Quatro Clabber has been very successful at Training Level with many accomplishments including a USDF Reserve Champion All Breeds Award, USDF Zone 3 Awards, as well as many other champion, reserve champion, and high score awards in 2010. The Darks have seen a benefit to their business by competing in dressage. "Due to the economy, the horse market has really taken a hit. Our decision to show Quatro Clabber in dressage was the smartest thing we have done. Our foals have brought top dollar and are all sold by weaning time. For the first time, we have a 2011 foal sold before it even hits the ground." The Darks feel that American Quarter Horses have three important traits that will lead to success in dressage: Versatility, athleticism and temperament.

**REMINDER:**  
**RENEW YOUR NDA MEMBERSHIP**

visit [www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org) for the 2012 form



## **Western Dressage Ride-a-Test!!**

Are you interested in showing in Western Dressage classes this show season?? Wondering about Western Dressage?

The Nebraska Dressage Association is offering a Western Dressage Ride-a-Test at Still Waters Ranch on March 3, 2012.

Entrants will have an opportunity to ride a test in front of a local dressage trainer, receiving scores and feedback as to how to best maximize scores and presentation for success in Western Dressage.

**Auditing is free!! Come on out and watch!!**

Entries may be found at <http://www.nebraskadressage.org/>

Food and beverage available for purchase on site.

A Bake Sale will be held at Still Waters Ranch, proceeds for NDA.



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# NDA NEWS

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## Western Dressage Ride-a-Test

March 3, 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Test #1: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10

Test #2: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10

Office Fee: \$10

Total Fees: \_\_\_\_\_

Each rider is allowed to ride two tests of their choice. You may choose to ride **USDF Intro A or B and/or Training Level 1 or 2**. Please identify which test(s) you wish to ride.

10 minutes will be allotted for each test, allowing time to ride the test and then receive feedback from the judge, Felice Rose.

This event is VERY informal, and intended to provide direction to riders who wish to show in Western Dressage classes. Information will be provided as to dressage movements and criteria utilized in judging dressage movements.

Still Waters Ranch is located at 18221 S. 68<sup>th</sup> St., Hickman, NE. The day starts at **8:30am** with a lecture session, and then the rides will begin.

There is limited stall space available. Please contact Heidi Helmer ([hjhelmer@gmail.com](mailto:hjhelmer@gmail.com)) as soon as possible if you wish to reserve a stall. Jump outs are allowed, and there is ample space to park trucks and trailers. Lunch will be available for purchase, and check out the **Bake Sale!**

Please return this form **by February 28** to: Heidi Helmer, 5251 Stockwell St., Lincoln, NE, 68506. Payment will be collected on site.

**Helmets are required at all times while mounted.**

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# NDA NEWS

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## **DEVELOP YOUR FEEL** **...Let GOOD Riding Become AUTOMATIC!**

So that you will progress with any trainer **in any discipline**  
**Presented by Sarah Martin**

*Sponsored by the Nebraska Dressage Association and hosted by Gordon and Joni Alwardt*

*Special thanks to The Dressage Foundation and the Violet Hopkins Fund  
for their generous support of this event*

During this workshop, you will learn:

- How to relate the quadrants of the horse's body to your own body for maximum effectiveness of the aids
- How to feel the timing of the horse's footfalls and how to put that knowledge to work in your riding
- How to read your horse's responses to your questions to progress your relationship

**Auditing \$30.00 per day - \$60.00 for the weekend**

**Fees include Notebooks, Pens, Continental Breakfast and Beverages  
Private and Semi-Private Lessons also available at an additional cost**

**Registration Deadline is April 20, 2012**

**Contact Person: Karen Stricklett – [kstricklett@stricklett.com](mailto:kstricklett@stricklett.com) or 402-493-8686 Ext. 213**

**May 5 & 6, 2012**

Pleasant View Farms  
14200 N W 112<sup>th</sup> Street  
Malcolm, NE 68402

This workshop is especially for dressage and western dressage riders who are leading up to competition or are ready to develop a deeper relationship with their horses. This event is most appropriate for riders and serious students of the horse who have a dedication to their passion.

This clinic is designed with the auditor in mind! Be ready to take notes, ask questions and take your riding to the next level. Lunch available for purchase each day.

**See [www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org) for more information  
Open to NDA members and non-members alike**

**Learn more about Sarah Martin at [www.SarahMartinDressage.com](http://www.SarahMartinDressage.com)**



# NDA NEWS



## Sarah Martin Weekend Symposium Teaching the Rider to Feel

May 5 and 6, 2012

Sponsored by the Nebraska Dressage Association

Hosted by Gordon and Joni Alwardt

Pleasant View Farms, Malcolm, Nebraska

### REGISTRATION FORM

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

Option A-1	Audit 1 day	\$30.00
Option B-1	Audit 2 days	\$60.00
Option A-2	Audit 1 day plus a private lesson	\$120.00
Option B-2	Audit 2 days plus a private lesson	\$150.00
Option A-3	Audit 1 day plus a semi-private lesson – please indicate your preferred partner	\$90.00
Option B-3	Audit 2 days plus a semi-private lesson – please indicate your preferred partner	\$120.00

Note: Space is limited, so please submit your request for lessons as soon as possible. We will do our best to honor your lesson request.

I am requesting Option \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of partner if semi-private lesson request  
\_\_\_\_\_

I need stabling @ \$30.00 per day for \_\_\_\_\_ days \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: Nebraska Dressage Association**

Mail check and registration form to: Karen Stricklett, 15809 Burdette Street, Omaha, NE 68116

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Stricklett at 402-493-8686, Ext. 213  
Or e-mail Karen at [kstricklett@stricklett.com](mailto:kstricklett@stricklett.com)

**Registration confirmation will be sent via e-mail upon receipt**



[www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org)

Suzanne Eggert  
5508 Hunts Dr.  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68512

## NDA SALE BARN

Hawk 2-Horse trailer, warmblood-oversized, aluminum, straightload ramp, dressing room, excellent condition, \$9995, contact [denmanne@gmail.com](mailto:denmanne@gmail.com) or 515-834-2839.

Wintec Pro Dressage CAIR 17.5" saddle w/ 48" Girth, grab strap, easy change Gullet system (X-large and medium) and saddle cover. Like new condition. Call Brian @ 402 499-2330.



## CLINICS

- \* Michael Beining Clinic  
February 17-19  
Elkhorn Equestrian Clinic  
Contact: Dan Urban  
[durbansmail@gmail.com](mailto:durbansmail@gmail.com)

