

The Contact

Keeping members informed.



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REMINDER

Renew your 2015 Membership Online!

Calendar of Events

Sarah Martin Clinic	11/7-11/9	Still Waters Ranch
Rider Test Clinic with Ulla Rasumussen	11/8	Lancaster Event Center, Amy's Arena
Western Dressage Clinic with Dara Liss	11/9	Lancaster Event Center, Amy's Arena
Nebraska Horse Expo featuring Betsy Steiner	11/14-11/16	Lancaster Event Center
NDA Holiday Party	12/6	Tish and Tillie Jones' House
NDA Board Meeting	12/8	TBD (Ashland, NE)

A New Look!

NDA's Newsletter is getting a facelift! Look forward to new features such as Sponsor Spotlights, Barn News section, Get to Know Your NDA Board Bios, and so much more. If you have news, suggestions, or articles you would like to share with your fellow dressage enthusiasts, please send an email to Jane Fucinaro at newsletter@nebraskadressage.org.

Thanks so much, and Happy Holidays!

Jane

President's Note and Annual Banquet Report

Parker's Smokehouse, November 1, 2014

Dear NDA Members,

Thank you for attending our 2014 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. It was great to gather the NDA community and celebrate everyone's success from this season, while enjoying some great food and conversation! I particularly want to thank Briana Bartlett, our outgoing vice president, for organizing the event and putting together such a fun theme for this year. In addition, it goes without saying that Lisa Van Stratten played a huge role organizing the silent auction – with her help, we were able to raise more than \$2,000 for NDA! Both Briana and Lisa have put in countless hours to make sure that our annual banquets are a success, and this year was no exception.

Besides celebrating everyone's accomplishments this year, we also elected our new board members: Jane Fucinaro, Heidi Helmer, Gracia Huenefeld, Emily Johnson, and Laureen Van Norman. Jenae Tilford was also elected as our new Junior/Young Rider representative. They will join current board members Kathy Hanford, Dara Liss, and Melissa Ward to serve on the board for 2015. Following the vote to elect the board members, the NDA membership appointed new officers for 2015: Melissa Ward (President), Jane Fucinaro (Vice President), Kathy Hanford (Treasurer), and Heidi Helmer (Secretary). These officers, along with the rest of the board, are a fantastic group, and I have no doubt that they will be bringing some great ideas to NDA!

Finally, I want to thank everyone in NDA for their support and involvement this year – NDA certainly would not be possible without you. Have a great rest of the year – and see you in the show ring in 2015!

Katie Miller
2014 NDA President

Special Awards

Sedlacek-Rose Swedish Warmblood Award

Natalie Truman, The Roan Ranger (75.417%)

Peter Rose Memorial Trophy

Casey Blum, Eschaton (69.018%)

David Funk Memorial Trophy

Jami Kment, Vainqueur E, (72.394%)

Western Dressage High Point Trophy

Emily Johnson, Mountain Rose Charisma
At Western First 1 (75.0%)

NDA High Score of the Year

Casey Blum, Eschaton at Training 1 (77.083%)

Qualified Rider Certificates

Katie Fink
Jenae Tilford
Melissa Ward
Sierra Wilson

Horse of the Year Awards Champion

Montagny von der Heide, Laureen Van Norman (73.143%)

Reserve

Fraulein Holle, Katie Strack (72.4%)

Freestyle Horse of the Year

Chivalry, Jami Kment (72.61%)

Schooling Show Medal Series

Intro Level: 14 and Under

Gold: Rebecca Barry, Wild Rumpus (68.1875%)

Silver: Lexi Kment, Hoppy (67.344%)

Intro Level: 15-21

Gold: Alexis Acton, Bold N Nu (61.156%)

Intro Level: Adult Amateur

Gold: Melissa Soukup, Snickers (67.813%)

Silver: Katie Fink, Varcity Moves (66.275%)

Training Level: 14 and Under

Gold: Jenae Tilford, Coolamity Jane (68.1245%)

Silver: Kylee Kment, Hoppy (66.493%)

Bronze: Sierra Wilson, Last Call (62.3065%)

Training Level: 15-21

Gold: Chloe Brinson, Sundown Dream (67.30%)

Training Level: Adult Amateur

Gold: Natalie Truman, The Roan Ranger (71.9645%)

Silver: Melissa Ward, Wintessa (67.65%)

First Level: 14 and Under

Gold: Abby Galitzky, BBA Kings Supercharged (62.7705%)

First Level: Adult Amateur

Gold: Karin Nilsson, Winselo (66.7745%)

Silver: Carla Rogowsky, Wakema (66.2095%)

Western Intro: Adult Amateur

Gold: Kathy Lewis, Simon Says I'm Solo (69.241%)

Western Intro: Open

Gold: Sheila Purdum, S+L Stella (62.9055%)

Western First: Open

Gold: Emily Johnson, Mountain Rose Charisma 65.5405%

Horse Awards by Level

Training Level

Champion: Fraulein Holle, Katie Strack (72.4%)
Reserve: The Roan Ranger, Natalie Truman (69.4465%)
3rd: Eschaton, Casey Blum (69.018%)
4th: Brementown, Karen Stricklet (68.7035%)

First Level

Champion: Montagny von der Heide, Laureen Van Norman (72.419%)
Reserve: Winselo, Karin Nilsson (67.258%)
3rd: Pikko del Rio, H.U., Cynthia Olson (67.233%)
4th: Wakema, Carla Rogowsky (64.9195%)

Second Level

Champion: Pikko del Rio, H.U., Cynthia Olson (65.595%)

Third Level

Champion: Boegelys Mauricio, Tillie Jones (62.1795%)

FEI

Champion: Vanqueur E, Jami Kment
Prix St. George (72.39435%)
Reserve: Chivalry, Jami Kment
Intermediate I (71.06187%)

Rider Awards (ribbons only)

Training Level: Adult Amateur

Champion: Natalie Truman, The Roan Ranger (69.4465%)
Reserve: Karen Stricklett, Brementown (68.7035%)
3rd: Melissa Ward, Wintessa (67.2000%)

Training Level: Jr. 15 to 21

Champion: Casey Blum, Eschaton (69.018%)
Reserve: Chloe Brinson, Sundown Dream (62.679%)

Training Level: Open

Champion: Katie Strack, Fraulein Holle (72.4%)

First Level: Adult Amateur

Champion: Laureen Van Norman, Montagny von der Heide (72.419%)
Reserve: Karin Nilsson, Winselo (67.258%)
3rd: Cynthia Olson, Pikko del Rio, H.U. (67.233%)
4th: Carla Rogowsky, Wakema (64.9195%)

Second Level: Adult Amateur

Champion: Cynthia Olson, Pikko del Rio, H.U. (65.595%)

Third Level: Jr. 14 and Under

Champion: Tillie Jones, Boegely's Mauricio (62.1795%)

Third Level Freestyle: Open

Champion: Jami Kment, Chivalry (68.5%)

FEI PSG: Open

Champion: Jami Kment, Vainqueur E (68.947%)

FEI Intermediate I: Open

Champion: Jami Kment, Chivalry (67.0395%)

Blue Rider Rosettes

Intro Level

Katie Fink, Varcity Moves
Lexi Kment, Hoppy
Emma Soukup, Snickers
Melissa Soukup, Snickers

Training Level

Casey Blum, Eschaton
Klee Kment, Hoppy
Natalie Truman, The Roan Ranger
Melissa Ward, Wintessa

First Level

Karin Nilsson, Winselo
Cynthia Olson, Pikko del Rio, H.U.
Carla Rogowsky, Wakema

Second Level

Laureen Van Norman, Montagny von der Heide
Cynthia Olson, Pikko del Rio, H.U.

Western Intro

Sheila Purdum, S&L Stella

Western First

Emily Johnson, Mountain Rose Charisma

Red Rider Rosettes

Intro Level

Alexis Acton, Bold N Nu

Training Level

Kristen Loudon, The Unknown Woman
Sierra Wilson, Last Call

First Level

Abby Galitzky, BBA Kings Supercharged
Jenae Tilford, Coolamity Jane

Fourth Level

Tillie Jones, Boegely's Mauricio

Western Intro

Kathy Lewis, Simon Says I'm Solo

Western Basic

Kathy Lewis, Simon Says I'm Solo

White Rider Rosettes

Training Level

Alexis Acton, Bold N Nu

First Level

Chloe Brinson, Sundown Dream
Kristen Loudon, The Unknown Woman

***Congratulations,
NDA All-Stars!***

Board Member Bio

Melissa Ward, 2015 President



Let's meet Board Member and President, Melissa Ward!

I took my first horseback-riding lesson when I was twelve years old, after a friend of mine invited me to watch her lesson. I fell in love with horses immediately and began taking basic hunter/jumper lessons at a local barn. It didn't take long for me to switch my focus to dressage, since I admired everything about the discipline. Over the next several years, I took a lot of lessons and catch-rode a lot of horses. In high school, I half-leased an OTTB named Sophie, but never owned my own horse until after college. In college, I was a member of the UConn Equestrian Team and a working student for Melanie Tenney. Since then, I trained locally with Sally Queal, Dara Liss, and Jennifer Mosier, and am currently studying with Sarah Martin.

In 2011, I bought an unbroke 2.5-year-old RPSI mare named Wintessa. Tess has been my first completely solo backing and

training project, and she just enjoyed a very successful 2014 show season at Training Level, making it to Regional Championships, winning the Schooling Show Championship, and taking Reserve Champion nationally for the USDF All Breed Awards (RPSI).

What is the strangest talent you have, Melissa?

I can move my eyes independently from one another. In related news, I can give myself a headache in less than 30 seconds.

What do you and Tess do together when you aren't working on refining your mad dressage skills?

We are just learning to jump under saddle with some kind of organized effort, but to build Tess's confidence over fences, I like to take her out on the cross-country course on a very long lunge line and let her hop over the fences and explore obstacles without me getting in her way. It's so much fun to watch her make decisions about what's in front of her and just allow her to have fun with it without worrying about making it perfect or having to balance a rider. Her only job is to go forward...how she does it is up to her.

You have unlimited funds and are in your favorite tack shop. What three things do you buy?

2014 was my last year showing in the custom dress boots I've had since high school (yikes!) since I literally rode them to pieces after more than 15 years. Since I'm in the market for new boots, I'd definitely snag a pair of custom Dehners, Konig's or Petrie's for the show ring. Then I'd get a second pair in a beautiful chocolate brown or toffee color. Finally, I'd get a deep brown double-bridle with contoured ears and a U-shaped browband. Tess isn't ready for a double yet, but someday...

Your favorite movie, Tess' favorite movie?

I can't choose between *Shaun of the Dead* and *Moulin Rouge*. They're so similar, after all. Tess' favorite would be *Aristocats*. She's a little bit of a snob and has a weird affection for cats.

Dancing Under the Stars

An event report by Laureen Van Norman

Can you imagine 250 people showing up to watch dressage in Nebraska? That is exactly what happened on June 28 at Providence Farm. The event was Dancing under the Stars, a fundraiser for Jami Kment who aspires to international competition with her KWPN mare, Zania.

After several days of rain, we were treated to a beautiful Nebraska evening. Guests experienced toe-tapping music provided by the Lightning Bugs, a band from Lincoln specializing in the music of the Swing Era, decadent desserts, phenomenal emcees, and an amazing auction.

Five riders performed musical freestyles through the evening. Between riders, guests were treated to a new dessert while listening to the "Bugs". Refreshments were served throughout the evening making for a festive atmosphere. A silent auction, including luxury items such as spa packages and designer clothing as well as lessons with acclaimed instructors, Debbie McDonald and Kathy Connelly, was a huge success. A live auction also featured amazing items including Husker football tickets, frequent flyer miles, a trip to Trinidad/Tobago, concert tickets and cabin getaways.



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Jami Kment

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2013 I-1 Festival of Champions
FEI Developing Horse Prix St. Georges, 2012*

*Student accomplishments:
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2013 Dressage Seat Medal Finals Champion*



Back to the important part, the horses! It was an opportunity for dressage fans and those who have never heard the word alike to enjoy some beautiful riding. No matter how little might have been known about the art form of dressage before that evening, the audience was enthusiastic in its response to the horses. Each extended gait received cheers and applause. It was a great opportunity for those of us who ride this sport to share the joy we get to experience.



Several of the riders were from neighboring states. The first rider of the evening was Lisa Rush of South Dakota on General BC or “Gucci” who showed the audience a. Intermediare 1 Freestyle. Lisa was attired in a medieval gown for her ride! Jami rode both Chivalry and Zania to fun and sassy FEI level freestyles. Stacey Porter of Iowa rode Will, her 17+hh KWPN gelding in a 4th level freestyle. Mickayla Fredrickson, also of Iowa, rode Wranier Q, the gelding she has ridden to a National Championship in Dressage Seat competition in a 2-3rd level freestyle. And for the grand finale after darkness fell, Samantha Kenik of Omaha performed with glow lights flowing from Flavio’s tail, mane, and legs accompanied by glow paint drumming!

One of the goals of the evening was to make the event fun for everyone, young or old, equestrian or not. Mission accomplished! A number of my acquaintances that are non-horse people were just thrilled with what they saw. I have invitations to show videos and “educate” them about dressage!
Now how often does that happen?

Recently attend a dressage event? Tell us about it! Email us at newsletter@nebraskadressage.org

Sponsor Spotlight/Barn Update

Lincoln Equestrian Center: An Update from Margo Hamilton

Superstition tells us that if it should happen to rain on the occasion of your wedding your marriage will be blessed with wealth and fertility. The day Zack and I moved into Lincoln Equestrian Center there was a tornado. I'm not quite sure what kind of conclusions, if any, can be drawn from the weather upon the happy occasion of our move. Although our boarders who have stuck with us through the renovation process might quip, in fact, we are the tornado.

And it has been a whirlwind of bulldozers, semi-trailers, pallets of wood, pallets of rubber mats, dump trucks full of crushed concrete, backhoes, paint and wood finish. We had a vision for the facility when we moved in, and now the first phase of renovations is complete, our vision is reality. Residents of LEC now walk across a brand new rubber floor, which was laid upon a foundation of packed crushed concrete. The interior walls have been finished with new insulation beneath new steel siding. The barn aisles are brightly lit with new light fixtures. And of course, there are the new stalls, complete with gossip doors that open so the equines can hang their heads into the aisle and discuss, more fully, the issues of the day. We have re-done the tack room, added a new tack room, refinished the lockers and added several amenities for our boarders.

It's been busy to say the least. A new house, and a new business, remodeling and the new routine which includes taking care of our boarders horses as well as our own animals (3 cows, 3 dogs, 2 horses, 2 alpacas, 1 cat and 1 llama). We have nailed down our full-care regiment of 4 times daily feeding, turn out, daily stall cleaning, fresh water and night checks. Here and there we have worked horses for owners who are out of town, held horses for the vet or farrier, erected and measured hunter/jumper courses for riders preparing for big shows. If we had any lofty visions for the day-to-day lifestyle of owning and operating an equestrian facility we've probably debunked them.

Zack and I are both lifelong horse people, moving to LEC from a smaller farm out in Saunders County. Well versed in the 24 hour a day, 365 days a year responsibility that comes with animal care. Zack and I are "animal people." We have both ridden horses for most of our lives. Zack is an AFA Certified farrier, and I spent so much time in stables I married a farrier. Horses brought the two of us together (specifically, my horse Dobby). Horses have always been our common ground, our shared language. While working with other animals on our farm in Saunders County we'd often say to each other "boy, this would be a whole lot easier if these pigs/goats/cows were horses." It's safe to say, this lifestyle is in our blood, and LEC is literally the foundation of our marriage. We met each other at LEC, very near where the matchmaker gelding now resides.

Though we are not entirely moved in; yet this place feels like home. LEC has brought some wonderful people back into our lives. Some folks, like Kristin Feese and Alyssa Storey whom I have known since I was a kid. Cosette Benton who lives just 5 minutes away returned to our lives and to riding about a month after we moved. Rebecca Parker teaches lessons at LEC every other weekend. My father and Zack's little brother, and several of our friends have all lent a hand in construction. These renovations have been carried out as a labor of love and an expression of friendship. And so we are creating something new, but we have not lost sight of the people, and lessons we have learned from the horse community. We have met great new boarders/friends through LEC and we look forward to the future here whirlwind though it may be.

We are open. If you are looking for a place your horse can call home, please consider the new LEC. You can see more photos and keep up with us by liking us on Facebook. Please contact Zack and Margo to set up a tour.



Transitioning Through The Levels Symposium with David Marcus

October 18-19, 2014
HETRA

Thanks to our Riders:
Samantha Holechek
Katie Strack
Natalie Truman
Rachael Boone
Shan Lawton
Sarah Thayer
Theresa Wagner

Ideas for 2015?

Contact our education committee:
jfucinaro@gmail.com

NDA Education

A Note from the 2014 Education Committee

NDA offered an awesome symposium this fall with David Marcus. David began his riding career in Lincoln and went on to represent Canada in the 2012 Olympics and 2014 WEG. We watched David teach eight riders on a variety of horses spanning all levels. The one thing that really resonated in all the rides was the same work that helps an Intro Level horse become balanced and round, improves the shoulder in for the Second Level horse and goes on to help the horse working toward Grand Prix create a better passage.

HETRA was a great help and many of their instructors and volunteers attended both days of the symposium. We want to thank the riders, the education committee, the NDA members that did attend and bring friends and HETRA for their help in making this event possible.

-Sandie McConnell,
2014 Education Committee Chair

2014 was a great year for NDA Educational Events:

- Prepare for Show Season Seminar
- Volunteer Training for Shows
- Trailering Clinic with Jamie Carman
- Transitioning through the Levels Symposium with David Marcus, special thanks to HETRA
- USEF Rider's Test Clinic with Ulla Rasmussen
- Western Dressage Clinic with Dara Liss

Thank you to all who helped to make these events a success! We look forward to another year of learning and growing in our fantastic Nebraska dressage community!



“Totally 80’s” Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet



Your 2015 Board:

- Melissa Ward, President
- Jane Fucinaro, Vice President
- Heidi Helmer, Secretary
- Kathy Hanford, Treasurer
- Jenae Tilford, Junior/Young Rider Representative
- Dara Liss
- Gracia Huenefeld
- Emily Johnson
- Lauren Van Norman

We Need YOUR Help!

Fundraising Chair

NDA is still searching for someone to fill in Lisa Van Stratten’s shoes as Fundraising Chair. Fortunately, Lisa has created a solid layout of how to fulfill this position. Your board is more than happy to help you be the best fundraising chair you can be.

Thank You

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Karen L. Stricklett, MS, CRC, ABVE-D
President

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