



Contact

From the President

January 2004

Happy New Year! I hope this first issue of the 2004 *Contact* finds NDA members looking forward to a year of straight center lines and square halts, and their equine partners looking forward to riders with soft hands, patience, and pockets full of treats.

I'd like to thank those who attended the NDA annual meeting in November for their vote of confidence in electing me NDA president for the coming year. I hope that I'm able to continue where Felice left off and build on the enthusiasm demonstrated by the folks who have already shown themselves anxious to pitch in and help.

As we start this new year, let me say the first of what is likely to be an ongoing litany of heartfelt thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to help with the important work of the NDA committees.

Starting this month, we welcome three new members to the NDA board: Heidi Basler of Gretna, Jane Shanahan of Davey, and Jane Fucinaro, a junior member from Omaha, will join Beth Wood, Loye Jaeger, Karen Stricklett, Mike Smith, Monica Fitzwater and myself in guiding the association during 2004. I'm sure that I speak for all board members when I say that we welcome ideas and suggestions from all NDA members. And if you have a yen to volunteer, just call or e-mail any of us!

It's an exciting time for NDA. I say that having watched the association from its earliest days some 30 years ago. At that time, the grandest goal of most members was to advance past Training Level. Today, we have a dedicated and growing contingent

of members, both adult and junior, who are working up through the levels and having a good deal of success in the process.

Just look at the record for 2004: Two NDA members received USDF bronze medals; two members and three horses earned USDF year-end awards (you'll find a story about this elsewhere in this issue); one junior member represented Region IV at the Dressage Seat Equitation finals in New England, and two juniors qualified to go to the 2004 finals; two of our professional members traveled with their horses to California last winter to spend extended periods of time training with U.S. equestrian team members. And at the Region IV/Midwest Championships in September, NDA members claimed championships or reserve championships in eight classes.

A pretty impressive year! With your help and support, we can make 2004 even better.

—Cynthia

NDA Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2003
6:45 p.m.
(Come early if you want dinner.)
Gear Jammers Restaurant
Ashland, Nebraska

Board members who cannot attend should notify Cynthia Johnson at 402/471-0078 (work) or cindyj@inetnebr.com, as soon as possible.

Members welcome to attend.

2004 Jan Ebeling Clinics

Jan Ebeling will be returning for five clinics in 2004 at Reinbow Dressage Center in Springfield, NE. Jan was born in Germany and trained under Herbert Rehbein, during which time he achieved his bereiter, a German license to train horses. In 1984, Jan moved to the United States, and in 1998 he received U.S. citizenship. Most recently, Jan was a member of the gold medal dressage team at the 2003 Pan American Games; he was the highest scoring American, finishing fifth individually. If you are interested in riding or auditing any of the clinics, please call Sharon Teply at (402) 253-2891.

Tentative Dates:

January 24-25

March 20-21

June 5-6

September 11-12

December 4-5

THE LESSON

“YOU HAVE TO FEEL IT TO UNDERSTAND IT; YOU
HAVE TO UNDERSTAND TO FEEL IT.”

FELICE ROSE

THAT LOOKS GOOD, NOW SIT UP TALL
LIKE THE QUEEN OF HUNGARY UP THERE!

PICK UP A RISING TROT,
A LITTLE MORE FORWARD.

TURN RIGHT AT E
AND BEND HER 'ROUND YOUR LEG,
INSIDE LEG TO OUTSIDE REIN,
A LITTLE MORE FORWARD.

GO BACK TO THE WALK—AND HALT.
SIT DOWN, SQUEEZE, AND KEEP HER
ROUND. GOOD! NOW, TROT...
A LITTLE MORE FORWARD.

DON'T THROW HER AWAY!
KEEP HER ROUND. MAKE THAT
THE ONLY PLACE SHE CAN STAY,
A LITTLE MORE FORWARD.

NOW, SIT BACK, BREATHE AND
ASK FOR THE CANTER. LEAN BACK,
GOOD! AND TROT.
A LITTLE MORE FORWARD.

THAT'S NICE RIGHT THERE!
YOU HAD A MOMENT OR TWO TOGETHER,
DIDN'T YOU? TROT ON..
BUT A LITTLE MORE FORWARD.

VICKI LUTHER

Contact — January 2004

Calendar of Events

January 13	NDA Board Meeting
February 10	NDA Board Meeting
March 9	NDA Board Meeting
April 13	NDA Board Meeting
May 11	NDA Board Meeting
June 8 June 18-20	NDA Board Meeting Cornhusker Classic I & II
July 13	NDA Board Meeting
August 10 August 27-29	NDA Board Meeting Fall Festival I & II
September 14	NDA Board Meeting
October 12	NDA Board Meeting
November 9	NDA Board Meeting
December 14	NDA Board Meeting

Kudos to Awards Committee Members

Thanks to the following members for lending their talent to the awards committee:

Jane Shanahan
Laureen VanNorman
Laura Vonk and
Heidi Basler.

Watch for changes and updates each month in the *Contact!*

Looking forward to a great year!

Sandie McConnell
Awards Chairman

Three NDA Members Attend USDF National Convention

NDA members Felice Rose, Jane Shanahan, and Clay Teske were among those attending the USDF National Convention in Dallas, TX, December 1-5. Felice was NDA's delegate to the convention.

The difficulty of keeping a burgeoning organization like USDF oriented towards "grassroots" Group Member Organizations (GMOs) like NDA was highlighted in a number of discussions that took place during the convention. "People were more vocal about the grassroots being left behind by USDF, which tends to focus on the 'big guns,'" Felice said.

"USDF is getting so huge," she continued, noting the great disparity in the size of GMOs. Of the 126 GMOs in the country, 46 have 75 or fewer members, while 40 claim memberships ranging from 76 to 175 (Nebraska is in this group). At the other end of the spectrum are the 28 GMOs that have 176 to 500 members and the 12 that have more than 500.

One of the issues that brought this disparity to the surface was a suggestion that scores from rides at USDF/USAE-recognized shows be weighted based on how many judges there were for the class, Felice said. "If there were two judges, they wanted to add 1% to the scores; if there were three, 2%; and for five, 3%." The goal of such a system would be to level the playing field for people who ride in large shows with multiple judges. Having multiple judges arguably tends to lower scores overall because there are more eyes on the test.

Shows in larger states such as California commonly have more than one judge per class, Felice said. However, the weighting suggestion was not adopted and, as a result of the discussion, people from areas where there are many close-by shows "now know that there are regions where we have to travel 250 miles to a show."

Another issue debated at the convention was whether to raise the percentage scores required for earning USDF bronze, silver, and gold medals. At present, riders must achieve six scores of 60% or above at First, Second, and Third Levels to earn a

bronze medal; four scores of 60% or above at Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges to earn a silver medal; and four scores of 60% or above at Intermediare I/II and Grand Prix to earn a gold medal.

The suggested change was to raise the required percentages from 60% to 63% at all levels. "There was lots of arguing about that," Felice said. However, the suggestion was not adopted and the requirements remain the same.

One change that was adopted was to make the Vintage Cup Award (for riders 50 and older) available only to amateur riders.

Following the convention, the two-day annual USDF Symposium was held at Stargate farm, a sporthorse breeding facility near Dallas. The featured presenters were American international dressage medalist, Lisa Wilcox, and her Spanish-Riding-School-educated trainer, Ernst Hoyos.

The symposium was "wonderful" and the Stargate facility "gorgeous," according to Felice. Wilcox and Hoyos worked with horses from Training Level through FEI, and their presentation was entitled "A Study of the Trainer's Seat—How the Correct Technique of the Seat Influences the Horse's Development Through the Levels."

During one day of the symposium, there were more than 900 people in attendance, Felice said. Spectators watched Wilcox ride under Hoyos' tutelage (she translated his German for the audience), as well as observing the two instructors work with demonstration riders from as far away as New England.

Hoyos also demonstrated work in-hand for the audience.

Another highlight of the convention for Felice was attending a lecture by well-known veterinarian and biomechanics expert, Dr. Hillary Clayton. Clayton holds the Mary Anne McPhail Dressage Chair in Equine Sports Medicine at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She presented a lecture demonstrating how to discern correctness at the various gaits. During the lecture, Dr. Clayton showed how horses' movement is measured in the MSU laboratory.

Nebraska Dressage Association November 11, 2003 Board Minutes

Present: Felice Rose, Loye Jaeger, Mike Smith, Heidi Basler, Karen Stricklett, Monica Fitzwater, Deb Sedlacek, Beth Wood, Cynthia Johnson, Jane Shanahan.

Felice Rose, President, called the meeting to order. The upcoming Nebraska Dressage Banquet was discussed. Heidi Basler presented the new membership form and stated it would be available at the banquet for members to renew their 2004 membership. Heidi further stated that members who do not renew in the beginning of the year might miss the closing date for their name to be listed in the 2004 Member Handbook.

A suggestion was made to purchase an additional 25 Omnibuses for new members who join late in the year. Mike Smith made a motion to purchase 25 extra Omnibuses, Cynthia Johnson seconded. Motion was carried.

Jane Shanahan reviewed the award program for the Annual Meeting. Schooling Show Series scores were calculated by Laura Vonk. Awards and ribbons were ready for the banquet.

Mike Smith made a motion to give the David Funk Volunteer Award to Vicki Luther for her outstanding work in the development, organization, and promotion of this year's educational program. Loye Jaeger seconded the motion, which carried.

The Junior Young Rider opening was discussed.

A review of the 2004 show season was presented by Monica Fitzwater. The spring show is set for June 18, 19 and 20 at Christensen Field in Fremont. Judges will be Trip Harting and Maj. Gen. John Burton. The Technical Delegate position will be filled shortly. Included in this show will be a breed show. The Board decided that prior to the show, a clinic on how to show in a breed show would be presented.

The fall show will be August 27, 28, and 29 at Christensen Field. Judges are Maryal Barnett and Alexandra Howard. Technical Delegate is Nena Denman.

Scott Biehle will remain the editor of the *Contact*. The Board continues to look for reporters for the Omaha and Grand Island areas.

Under New Business, the Board discussed the USDF basket, which will be presented by Felice Rose, our representative for this year's USDF annual meeting.

Karen Stricklett presented the Treasurer's Report. NDA's general operation balance is \$6,524.22. The show account balance is \$272.96. The Board decided that Mike Smith would present the 2004 NDA operation budget to the general membership at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

"[I]t is not the horse's nose which is especially important in steering—the nose is merely incidental—**it is the base of the horse's neck.** The nose and head can be completely divorced from the rest of the mechanism, like a weathervane. The same is not true of the base of the neck, which is connected by muscles to the haunches, which **alone determine direction.**

"Accordingly, it is principally the base of the neck which the rider must think about; this is the part he must place or hold on the curve of the turn.

"That is why we say, 'If you want to go to the right, prevent the horse from going to the left.'

"For it is the actions of the left rein and the left leg, forming a barrier to the left and preventing the horse from deviating to that side, which exert the most decisive effect in the turn to the right and oblige the horse to obey the command of the right hand, whose action is then restricted to a simple indication of direction."

From *Start Riding Right*
By Commandant Jean Licart
Arco Publishing Co., Inc.

Correction

In the last month's issue of the *Contact*, the NDA year-end awards listing incorrectly stated that NDA member Laureen Van Norman earned a White Rosette at Training Level when she actually earned a Red Rosette at First Level.

Our apologies, Laureen.

Sale Barn

For Sale

Barnsby Dressage Saddle. USDF approved model. Black. 17.5 seat. Medium-narrow tree, designed to fit horses with high withers. Excellent condition. Asking \$1300, or best offer. Becky, 402-861-1838.

For Sale

1999 Logan 2-horse Slant, white, bumper pull trailer. Dressing room with saddle racks, bridle hooks, boot box. Spare tire & mats included. Shedded, in excellent condition. \$5000. Call Ruth at 402-757-3308 or email at hilltop@hamilton.net.

For Sale

22 year-young 15.2 Holsteiner/Amer-Standardbred cross. Chevy is a solid second-level school master who has several more years of teaching to provide. He is quiet, gentle, and very sound of body and mind. Chevy possesses correct basics and has a strong work ethic. He has been successfully been ridden by a young rider for the last three years, earning scores of 70.40 at Training 4, 67.5 at First 1 and Training Level Reserve Champion at the 2001 Region 4 Jr./Young Rider Team Championship. Ideal prospect for a young rider or amateur rider. Need to find a good home. \$5000 negotiable. Call Mike or Patti Tenney, 402-423-7883.

For Sale

County Competitor dressage saddle, size 16.5" in great condition. Reflocked last year by County's master saddler. Includes girth, fairly new leathers, and irons. \$1200. (New, this saddle is now \$2250.) If you have questions or would like to see it, contact Lauren Van Norman at vanhanson@neb.rr.com or call 402-486-4346.

For Sale

KK Aurigan 5 1/2" 21mm Training Bit, originally \$80.95 now \$40.00; Dover's Training Surcingle, full size, never used, originally \$39.95 now \$25.00; Dressage Extension Lunging Caveson, never used, originally \$79.95 now \$50.00; Thermatex Navy Blue 72" Blanket/Cooler, Made in England, used only once, Originally \$164.00 now \$85.00; Mountain Horse Dark Green 34" Full Seat Breeches, like new \$40.00. Please contact Karen Davisson evenings at 712/527-9341.

For Lease or Sale

Canadian TB 16.1 Gelding 17 years old. Former Eventer. Great Personality. Excellent on Trails & First Level Dressage - Could do more. Great Amateur horse. Looking for a home. I have a new Eventer arriving in the Spring '04. Contact suzanneross33@hotmail.com or 402 733-3873 (HM) 402 679-2579 (CELL).

For Lease/Sale

Triggs is a 5 year old, registered Appendix QH, 16 hands, grey gelding. Sire is Nutty Jove, Great Grand Sire is Dr. Fager. He has not been worked for several months due to recently adding a baby to our family and working full-time. Triggs is easy going, very willing, and a fun horse to ride. He has no vices, and is schooling in training level. I have done some trail riding with him. I am willing to lease him with the option to buy, asking price is \$2,500. Contact Kerri McGrury at 402-228-2414 or at cm32226@alltel.net.



Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Your membership in NDA entitles you to the monthly *Contact* newsletter, discounts on NDA educational events, eligibility for NDA year-end awards, and a Group Membership in USDF. The handbook and member directory will be compiled in early February--you must renew by February 1st in order to be included in the handbook and continue receiving the *Contact*. In response to USDF's dues increase, NDA has also increased dues for 2004. Please use the new membership form included in this newsletter issue, or the renewal form you received at the Awards Banquet or in the mail last month. If you have any questions, contact the Membership Chair, Heidi Basler, at (402) 304-5918 or heidi.basler@kenexa.com.

Join the Nebraska Dressage Association Today...



Your annual dues entitle you to benefits including a subscription to the *Contact*, eligibility for NDA year-end awards, and reduced fees for club events. NDA is a Charter Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation and NDA members are automatically USDF Group Members. \$17.00 per member of your dues is paid to USDF on your behalf. If this is a Family Membership, the first two names listed will be the voting NDA members and automatically receive USDF Group Memberships. Group Membership in USDF entitles you to compete for USDF Rider Awards and includes a subscription to *Connection*, the official USDF publication. If additional USDF Group memberships and non-voting NDA Membership privileges are desired, also provide the names and (for Juniors) birthdates of the additional members and add \$17.00 for each to the Family Membership dues.

Membership Type: New _____ Renewal _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Individual Membership \$42.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$57.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership \$32.00
<i>Must be under the age of 21 as of January 1, 2004</i> | <i>Must be members of the immediate family, residing in the same household. First 2 names listed will be voting NDA members and receive USDF Group Memberships.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NDA Newsletter (<i>Contact</i>) subscription only
– no membership privileges \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional USDF Group and Non-voting
NDA memberships \$17.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to receive the NDA Newsletter (<i>Contact</i>) by email only and save \$3 off my dues. | <i>Must be members of the immediate family, residing in the same household as the Primary Family Memberships.</i> |

Name

Birth date (Juniors Only)

Phone: (h) _____
(w) _____

Email: _____

Address

Send completed form and check made payable to NDA to:
Heidi Basler
20194 Glenmore Dr #70
Gretna, NE 68028

Horse Registration

Lifetime horse Registration: \$15.00 (Required for eligibility for NDA Year-end Horse Awards - not required for Rider Awards). Registration is valid for the lifetime of the horse and may be transferred to new owner without additional fee. Horse must be owned or leased by an NDA Member.

Member's Name: _____
Horse's Name: _____
Breed of Horse: _____
Year of Foaling: _____
Color: _____
Sex (Mare/Gelding/Stallion): _____

Owner's Name and Address (if different from member's name)

NDA Officers & Board Members

President: Cynthia Johnson
P.O. Box 22036
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(402) 471-0078 (w)
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards: Sandie McConnell
Competitions: Monica Fitzwater
Education: Vicki Luther
Membership: Heidi Basler

Contact: Scott Biehle
(402) 202-3303
scott.biehle@heartlandcenter.info

From the Editor

Deadline for articles is the 20th of each month for the following monthly issue. The Sales Barn is free to NDA members and will run ads for 3 months. Rates for non-members are \$5 per month. For other advertisements the rates are:

Full Page(7.5 x10)	\$50
Half Page(7.5 x5)	\$25
¼ Page (3.7x5)	\$10
Business Card	\$5

Show entry forms or flyers are free to NDA members and non-members will be charged regular ad rates. The NDA Website does not accept advertising. NDA makes no endorsements or representations regarding advertising.

Materials should be sent to: Scott.Biehle@heartlandcenter.info Checks are payable to NDA and should be sent to the Treasurer, Karen Stricklett.





"If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse."

—Naomi, 15 Advice from Kids

Heidi Basler
20194 Glenmore Dr #70
Gretna, NE 68028

For Sale

Blueberry Blue Roan

2002 Warmblood Filly Percheron X Quarter Horse

\$1000.00

Contact: Janelle Stelk 402-886-2354 or email Hilltop@Hamilton.net



2003 NDA Schooling Show Medals Awarded

In 2003, the Nebraska Dressage Association instituted a new awards program, known as the Schooling Show Medal Series. The goals of the series are to "encourage and reward participation in the educational opportunities provided by NDA-recognized schooling shows" and "to recognize achievement in horsemanship as demonstrated through competition in an educational environment."

Any NDA member can participate. Points towards medals are based on the number of schooling-show classes in which a rider competes and his or her placings in those classes.

Bronze, Silver and Gold medals are awarded to the top three horse/rider teams at Introductory through Second Level in Adult Amateur and Junior/Young Rider Divisions.

Medals for winners of the new schooling show series were awarded at the NDA Annual Meeting in November. The medals, which were designed by Laura Vonk, featured an image of NDA and USDF founder, Lowell Boomer, riding his mare, Lulu.

2003 medal winners, along with their scores were:

Adult Amateur Division

Introductory Level

Gold	Karen Stricklett on Calique Lobo	53.0 points
Silver	Jane Shanahan on Silver Dollar	39.5 points
Bronze	Vicki Schreiner on Kool to Invest	37.0 points

Training Level

Gold	Michelle Epstein on Fancy Me Too SV	70.0 points
Silver	Robin Wright on Ectar	68.0 points
Bronze	Cindy Ehman on Dakotah	44.5 points

First Level

Gold	Laureen Van Norman on In Perfect Pitch	26.0 points
Silver	Kim Shafer on Amadeus	19.0 points
Bronze	Michelle Epstein on Fancy Me Too SV	16.0 points

Second Level

Gold	Virginia Mattson on Tariatana	8.0 points
Silver	Virginia Mattson on I Betta Go Getcha	7.5 points

Junior Division

Introductory Level

Gold	Dallas Van Stratten on Fancy Twist	63.0 points
Silver	Katrina Quick on Snickers	62.0 points
Bronze	Jacie Schreiner on Mieko	61.0 points

Training Level

Gold	Jane Fucinaro on Misty Green Jeremy	97.0 points
Silver	Danielle Tarnick on Jungle Flyer	68.0 points
Bronze	Gabrielle Tarnick on Geggie	63.0 points

First Level

Gold	Salome Viljoen on Nugget	49.0 points
Silver	Melissa Lundy on Chic's Good Fortune	48.5 points
Bronze	Jamil Kassum on Out Of The Blue	39.0 points

Second Level

Gold	Makenzie Rath on Sweet Lil Loni	24.0 points
Silver	Jamil Kassum on Out Of The Blue	8.0 points
Bronze	Elizabeth Wier on Aristocrat	7.5 points