

KDEA E Newsletter - December 2018

KDEA Mission Statement



**KDEA serves the South Central
Kansas dressage and eventing
community by providing
educational, social, and**



**competitive opportunities that promote a
harmonious partnership between horse and rider**

KDEA Officers and Board – 2019

President: Susan Lang smlang2@cox.net 316-461-1374

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Board: Sherry Engel, Natalie McTaggart, Anne Stephens, Jessica Harrison, Bekki Moore, Erin Keith, Taylor Wagstaff, Liz Mitsch (jr)

Committees for 2019:

Competitions: Susan Lang, Maribeth Willard, Anne Stephens, Haley Barrett

Volunteer: Sherry Engel

Awards: Natalie McTaggart, Kim Miller, Lauren Trace

Education: Haley Barrett, Kim Miller, Natalie McTaggart

Website: Susan Lang, Tricia Lynch (Facebook), Kim Miller

Membership: Maribeth Willard

If you want to join a committee – we welcome you! Contact any of the officers

KDEA Awards Meeting – to be held on 1/12/18 at the Rose Room in Rose Hill, KS. If you are interested in helping with the festivities, contact Natalie McTaggart at ridethebrand3747@gmail.com. Put the date on your calendar, and watch for more info!

KDEA Membership - Attention all KDEA members and friends! It is that time of the year - time to renew your 2019 KDEA membership. The membership fee is only \$20.00, and that entitles you to participation at all KDEA shows and educational activities this year. Other benefits include "Group Membership" in United States Dressage Federation, and USDF Connection magazine. Sign up now....so you don't miss out!

KDEA Show Dates for 2019: All dates are not yet finalized, but here are the ones we have in place so far:

May 4th – KDEA Dressage Schooling Show at Eagle View – judge TBA

June 1st - KDEA Jump For Joy at Meadowcreek (Towanda) – judge TBA

Sept 14th – KDEA Dressage Schooling Show at Eagle View – judge TBA

Other dates to be set: one more Jump For Joy, 1 Dressage/Combined test dressage schooling.

KDEA Hutchinson Show. The decision was made earlier in the year that the Kansas State Fairgrounds footing is no longer suitable for a recognized dressage show. With greater scrutiny of footing by competitors (and by national organizations such as USDF/USEF), we will look for facilities in future years that meet our needs with respect to footing for both the competition arena and the warmup ring, stabling, trailer parking/accessibility, and office amenities. Attendance at our show had declined in the last few years, some of which was attributed to the footing in Hutchinson. In addition, there are more shows in Oklahoma, and we have lost many of our previous OK competitors (who prefer to travel 1 hour to a show, not 4). A KDEA-sponsored recognized show may return in future years but judges and Tds must be booked well over a year in advance. When a facility meeting our needs is available, we will then determine whether a recognized show is in our future, and develop a timeline for re-establishing a show. Meanwhile, we will support and grow our schooling shows, which many of our members and local folks attend.

KDEA Education Activities: If you have any ideas for a KDEA educational activity, please contact Haley Barrett, Kim Miller or Natalie McTaggart. Ideas that have been tossed around include a Spa Barn (various horse/human practitioners), trailer safety, and a Ride A Test (for the new dressage tests).

2019 USEF/USDF Dressage Tests. If you haven't already seen them, the dressage tests which became effective 12/1/18 (and will be used for 4 years) are available on the USDF website. Western Dressage tests have NOT changed this year, nor have the Eventing dressage tests. Link to the new tests: <https://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/2019.asp>

KDEA Website. Although the KDEA website was down for awhile in November, we are now back up and running. Please let Kim Miller know if there is anything missing on the website, or something you would like to have on it (or placed somewhere where it is easier to find).

KDEA Facebook Page. If you have anything you think needs to be posted to the KDEA Facebook page, please contact Patricia Lynch, who is helping with our KDEA FB posts. She can be reached at dalepe13@gmail.com.

Member Activities At the last KDEA meeting, we discussed member accomplishments and happenings these last few months. Included were:

- Marilyn Lee's Century Ride back in June (see this link...<http://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/century-club/new-members/marilyn-lee-and-silver-passport.html>)
- Members who went to Regionals- Natalie McTaggart and Joanna Bartlett to Region 9 Champs and Gail Matheus to Region 4 Champs (see write up from Gail later in newsletter)
- Sarah Pryor went to Arabian Sport Horse Nationals (19 hours away!) (write up later in NL)
- Haley Barrett went to the American Royal and showed Dr. Passman's horses (write up later in NL)
- Dr. Passman had a young stallion place second in the Hanoverian approvals in Germany.
- Cassie Black showed at Morgan Grand Nationals, and Susan Lang judged Western Dressage at Grand Nationals.
- Tricia Lynch scribed at Morgan Nationals.

- Susan Lang and Anne Stephens helped at Western Dressage Association Championships and both Sarah and Deana Pryor showed at the competition.
- Susan Lang and Marie Maloney went to California to the USEF Judge's Forum with Hilda Gurney, "S" (write up in October newsletter)
- Susan Lang, Marie Maloney and Liz Dudley went to Stillwater, OK to the "New Test Symposium" with Janet Foy, "O."
- Marie Maloney attended her first "r" dressage judge session and subsequently her first apprenticeship.
- Jackie Schwartz, Rhi Rasmussen and the Millers went to Kentucky to compete in the Retired Race Horse Project.
- Anna Howell won the Amateur Novice division at the American Eventing Championships. See write up later in NL.
- Marie Maloney, Susan Lang and Gail Matheus have been judging schooling shows and Western Dressage shows in/around the Midwest, and Susan went to Tampa FL to judge a Western Dressage show.

If you have something to highlight...something that you did, or somewhere you went, please contact Susan at smlang2@cox.net to be included in the next newsletter. We welcome your information and news items for the newsletters!

My American Royal Experience – by Haley Barrett

I've gone to the American Royal the past 4 years in a row, and this one was the best to date! The 2018 American Royal Hunter/Jumper show was start-studded with big time riders like Christian Heineking and Hunter Holloway. I had the honor of meeting both of them this year. It's amazing that the riders we look up to and have accomplished so much in their careers really are "just like us".

I took three Meadowcreek horses to the Royal this year, Congo, Locomotion and Cascorie. My superstar of the American Royal was Locomotion MCF. He was in a very competitive class with 25+ riders and he finished in the top 5 every day. I'm so excited for this horses' future in the jumper ring, he's so athletic, careful and super ride-able in the jump offs, the only reason why we weren't faster is because he spends too much time in the air! Cascorie MCF made his official debut in the hunter ring earning 2nd place in his division, we also did a couple jumper classes where he jumped double clear every round! This show made me realize Corie's real calling is to be a hunter and we will spend our winter gearing up for more hunter classes next year. Finally, Congo MCF was shown in the 1.15m. I was a bit concerned the first day of the show because he seemed to be off his game mentally, which isn't like him, so I scratched him and let him settle in another day. The next day he was a different horse, forward and confident with that "lets go!" attitude. It was something I hadn't felt on him before and it was amazing. Some of you are aware of the struggles Congo and I have had over the years and the biggest obstacle for us has been trusting each other over higher courses. We finished our 2018 season with 2 double clear rounds and placing 6th in a huge class. Congo has made huge progress this year mentally and our partnership has grown exponentially, he's a quirky horse, but we make a good team.

If I've learned anything during this busy year of showing in Dressage, Eventing and Hunter/Jumpers, I've learned you can't measure success based on the ribbons and trophies you bring home. I've changed my mentality of showing a lot over the last few years, I go to competitions with the mindset that I'm competing against myself. I make sure that every show, every ride and every interaction I have with these amazing animals is progress forward in their training and mentality. All of the horses at Meadowcreek have made tremendous progress in 2018 and I couldn't be happier with where they are in

their training and where I've improved as a rider. The BIGGEST thing I love about our unique sport, is you can NEVER stop learning new things. Looking forward to the 2019 season!

Attending Sport Horse Nationals – by Sarah Pryor

I recently attended the 16 th annual Sport Horse National Championship for Arabian and Half Arabian horses. Classes offered at the National Championship include, Sport Horse In-Hand (conformation), Sport Horse Under Saddle (Suitability,) Dressage training level through Grand Prix, Hunter over fences, Jumper classes, and carriage driving. This year Sport Horse Nationals (SHN) was held in Nampa, ID. I do not have a count of total number of horses entered, but over 5 days there were 550 dressage tests ridden. I am blessed that I have been able to qualify for the National Championship almost every year, but due to work and other commitments this was only my second time exhibiting at the show. I took three horses on the two day trip, DS Prairie Fire (Aroco), IMA Prairie Rose DS +++/ (Kate), and Al-Marah Lead Telal (Telal.) I entered in 10 classes and was lucky enough to come home with 8 National Top Tens and a Reserve National Championship. I showed in a range of classes from traditional dressage, western dressage, sport horse under saddle, and sport horse in hand. This was the second year that SHN included western dressage as an official class. The basic western dressage had 40 entries and I was blessed to win 3 of the coveted top ten spots. These three horses are amazing. Aroco my mom and I raised, Kate is a rescue, and Telal we were lucky enough to buy from a well-known breeding and show facility when she was a green broke 3 year old.

My story wouldn't be complete if I didn't tell you about my sweet mare IMA Prairie Rose DS +++/ (Kate.) Kate came into my life when she was a very thin yearling that was living in a tiny dirt lot with an orphaned mustang. Her breeder had become ill and in the last months of his life realized that he was no longer able to take care of his horses. Kate has been such a blessing. In 2007 she was diagnosed with EPM. When Kansas State diagnosed her with EPM I remember asking them if I could continue to ride her. They told me to continue and so Kate and I have gone on to win many regional titles and now 6 National Top Tens and our Reserve National Championship. Our reserve National Championship was won in Sport Horse In Hand, Amateur to Handle, Hunter Type for Half Arabian and Anglo Arabian Mares 3 years and older. Now to set the stage you have to understand that Kate is 17 years old this year. She has had two foals, one is a 4 year old, but she weaned the second foal in Feb of this year. We had 3 shows to get enough points to qualify for SHN. I could not attend one of the shows, but I was able to find someone to show her in-hand for me. I ended up with just enough points for one class in one division for the Sport Horse in Hand at Nationals, so I chose the Amateur Hunter Type. This class was on Saturday, the last day of Nationals. Kate was tired. Her morning started with a Top Ten earning effort in her traditional dressage. I didn't have time to rebraid her mane from the bigger dressage braids to tiny hunter braids, we had to just make the hike over to the in hand ring for our scheduled time to present to the judges. Kate is normally happy go lucky, but she was being a grump. We got to the holding area for the in hand and my mom and I started second guessing why we decided to enter our 17 year old mare in the in hand. All of the Half Arabian mares were stunning. Many were Half warmblood or beautiful tall Anglo- Arabians professionally braided as hunters and they were just beautiful. Kate is only about 15 hands and is Half Arabian Half Paint. During our time to present to the judges Kate wouldn't put any effort into anything and she was standing around with her ears not pinned, but back and I was just happy that she finally decided to trot the triangle. Since I was one of the last hunter mares to present my mom and I decided to go ahead and hang around after our go to make sure we didn't sneak into the Top Ten. We had already decided our chances were slim. Finally they started calling numbers for who needed to return for the presentation of the Top Ten awards. Disappointed people started taking horses back to their stalls, thrilled people were running to the stalls to bring horses back for awards, and we were on the top ten list. I was crying and Kate was irritated that she was not headed back to the stall. At SHN the Top Ten horses are all presented with the same

color of ribbon and all get announced as a Top Ten winner, Top Ten pictures are taken etc and then after everyone has their ribbon they announce the Reserve Champion and then Champion out of those Top Ten. After Kate and I had our pictures taken I was just out in the arena thinking about how lucky I am to own Kate, wondering which of the huge beautiful bay mares around me was going to win the Top honors. They announced the past few years Reserve Champion and then next thing I remember they were about half way through announcing “Rose DS and Sarah Pryor owner and handler.” How I missed our number being read and the first part of her name I have no idea. But we were Reserve National Champions. It was a special day. Kate did finally get to go back to her stall, after another round of pictures. She did have one more final that night in the Sport Horse Under Saddle, which she earned another Top Ten. Kate is truly a blessing.

USDF Region 4 Championship Results

Gail Matheus finished in the top 10 at the USDF Regionals held in Mason City, IA this year. They competed in the Open 3rd Level finals as well as the 3rd Level Freestyle finals. They ended up in the top 10 in both classes.

“After substantial rainfall, with more rain predicted throughout the weekend, the storms drifted South and the competition grounds had optimal footing and blue skies. Reatta was very willing, but we fluffed 2 critical movements which kept us out of the ribbons”, said Gail Matheus.

Gail also commented that “It was an absolute pleasure to be at the regional championships. It is one of the few times we get to see (and hopefully emulate!) some of the top riders. We had the opportunity to sit with some of the judges who provided commentary and a Q&A session on two of the competition days.”

“I also decided to debut Reatta in a 4th level class, which she won. So, we came home with at least 1 ribbon!” joked Gail.

The pair continues to train and hopes to represent Kansas at the 4th Level Regionals next year. Pictures on next page.