



KDEA Newsletter

April 2019

KDEA Officers and Board – 2019

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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.

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First KDEA Schooling Show for 2019 – May 4th at Eagle View. Entry form available on website www.kdea.org or by clicking [HERE](#). Entries due by April 24th.

Educational Event: After we set the dressage arena on Friday (come on out at 5:30 to help), we will have a Geometry of Dressage class at 6:30 or 6:45. Bring your dressage test of choice and your tennis shoes, and we will walk the test and learn exactly where those circles go, and how to ride corners and centerlines. Even if you aren't riding in the show, come out and learn about ring geometry! Sample tests will be provided if you don't have a particular one in mind that you want to learn.

2019 KDEA Schooling Shows – Meet your Judges

May 4, 2019 Dressage Schooling Show at Eagle View – Rebecca O'Bea

Rebecca OBea is a USDF Bronze and Silver medalist, an L graduate with distinction and a licensed small "r" in Western Dressage. She is the owner and operator of Arbor Ridge Farm a small boarding and training facility in Leavenworth, KS. Becky has judged at our KDEA schooling shows in the past, and looks forward to seeing everyone again.

June 1, 2019 Jump For Joy at Meadowcreek (Towanda, KS): Gail Matheus

Gail Matheus is an L* Graduate (judge) (with distinction), nationally-ranked competitor, and clinician. She rides and trains her own horses and has successfully competed through Fourth Level. In addition to dressage, Gail is also a "r" Western Dressage judge with the US Equestrian. She also hosts and organizes the annual Wichita freestyle clinic. Gail owns and operates Stonegate Equestrian Center, a private facility, near Andover & Augusta, KS where limited boarding opportunities are available. See you at X!

July 20, 2019 Show at Windermere (Kechi, KS) – Roberta "Bert" Clark

Born with the "horse" gene, Roberta has owned a horse since high school. Growing up in Indiana, she came to dressage through the backdoor of eventing. After earning a BS degree from Indiana University in Elementary Education and Math and working as an elementary teacher, Roberta married and moved to Oklahoma. In the early 80s she discovered ODS and immediately became an active member while teaching, working on her master's degree, and then becoming a principal at Jenks. She worked hard to convince her two daughters the joy of riding, only to have them pick indoor hobbies. She began her riding career with the sweetest Saddlebred mix that she showed through third level to her current mounts showing Intermediate 2 with the goal of earning her Gold medal hopefully in the not too distant future. She has earned her Silver and Bronze medals on horses that she has exclusively trained and is a graduate of the "L" judging program. Roberta has shown in the regional championships and has received an invitation to the National finals in Kentucky at levels 4th – I1. Roberta has her farm in Tulsa where she boards, teaches and trains.

August 10, 2019 Jump for Joy at Eagle View– Marie Maloney

Note: This show will feature our Junior riders, and anyone age 12 or under must fill out an entry form, but your class entry fees are waived! Area trainers are encouraged to bring all their Youth to this special show. Seniors can also enter as usual....but entry fees apply.

Marie Maloney grew up riding in 4-H and when she was 9 years old, she won an AQHA colt in a 4-H sponsored essay contest and rode him for 27 years, showing him in all of the 4-H events. When Marie was 30 and Blaze was 20 they started their English careers and competed up to Novice level in Eventing. She then bought an Appendix Quarter horse off the track and competed him up to Preliminary Level and showed at Events throughout the Mid West as well as Regional Championships. Marie currently owns and operates Capall Baile Stables, a boarding facility in Wichita, Kansas, and now focuses on dressage. Marie earned her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals on her late Trakhner, Lazulite, who she trained herself. Marie is a US Equestrian "R" Western Dressage judge as well as a USDF "L-Graduate, with Distinction, and is currently in the US Equestrian "r" judge training program. Marie has a passion for encouraging youth to participate in dressage and further their knowledge and understanding of the sport.

September 14, 2019 Show at Eagle View: Laurie Hedlund

A 30 yr Professional in the Equine Industry, Laurie is an FEI Trainer/Competitor, a USDF 4TH Level Certified Instructor/ Trainer and an "L" Graduate with Distinction. She has studied for 30 yrs under Dressage Master Alf Athenstaedt, distinguished Student of Willi Schultheis and Chief Rider Hans Irbinger of the Spanish Riding School. Laurie is also highly involved in the fastest growing sport of Western Dressage. She's a WDAA Train the Trainers Graduate, a WDAA Judge candidate and sits on the advisory board of the Oklahoma Chapter of WDAA. Laurie and her students hold several World Titles. She has studied the methods of Buck Brannaman. Laurie's positive and encouraging teaching approach makes her a popular clinician. Classical Dressage is her passion and the welfare of the horse always come first!

Start Thinking About it..

- Plans are underway to hold a "Spa Barn" which will include health and wellness for both horse and rider. Possible topics and Yoga and Pilates for Equestrians, Braiding and Clipping, Equine Chiropractic, Equine Acupuncture. If you have any other topics to suggest, please contact Kim Miller, Education Chair. We are looking at a June or July date for this clinic.
- Tack Sale. It is time to bring back the KDEA Tack Sale, and we are thinking about having it the same day as Spa Barn. So – start cleaning out those closets, barns, tack trunks (under the bed?), do an inventory, put on price tags, and prepare to earn yourself a little cash!
- Geometry Session. If the May 3rd Geometry Session is well attended, we may do a repeat at the July schooling show. We are also planning another evening get together to do more ring geometry and learn what insights can be gleaned from just reading over the requirements in a dressage test.

The Five Stages of Mud – By Elaine Cornell of Benediction Farm

Watching the water rush by as I looked out the window this morning inspired me to write as a means of therapy and postponing my inevitable trip to the barn. All I could think about was the coming joy of dealing with all this mud for weeks. Again.

Underwater Mud

You forgot that you left your mud boots in the barn when you changed to riding boots. After all, it had finally dried enough that you could go places without them. Now you have to figure out how to get to the barn in non-mud boots to get to the mud boots. Dangers include muddy water not only soaking your leather boots and going over the tops of them, but also being swept away by the current in the driveway. And it's impossible to tell just how deep puddles are. You pray that your mud boots remain without leaks.

Sloppy Mud

The next stage where the water has mostly run off, but mud is like thick soup. You walk carefully to avoid splashing mud all over yourself, but the horse you are leading doesn't and he carelessly slops along beside you splashing mud all the way to the top of your full seat riding pants. Or higher.

Slick mud

It's dried just enough that when you step down your foot slides, and you never know which direction it will go. This is the stage where you find yourself doing the splits, sliding down every slight slope, and praying that if you start to fall there is something nearby to grab. Hanging on your horse's lead rope is acceptable in an emergency and fence posts work well. Electric fences do not. Ask me how I know.

Sticky mud

Ah, my favorite! This lovely stage is where each step requires huge muscular effort just to extract your foot from the mud. Your legs are sore at the end of the day. You sometimes have to lean over and try to pull your boot out of the mud with your hands. Sometimes your foot takes a step and your boot refuses to follow, leading to a cold wet foot and a sock covered in thick mud. You are taking your life in your hands being out in this mud around horses, because if Miss Cranky Mare decides to go after Mr. Obnoxious Gelding there is no way you can get out of the way in time. On top of all that, huge globs of mud stick to your boots and are tracked everywhere, and it takes longer to clean a horse up enough to ride it than it does to ride. This is, by the way, a horse's favorite mud to roll in. When large globs of this mud get in the mane and dry we call them pottery. I could go on and on about this stage, but I won't because I'm getting depressed thinking about it.

Spotty mud

Things are finally beginning to dry up, and being overly optimistic you venture

out to retrieve a horse in non-mud boots. Of course you discover that it's drying except for a spot where you absolutely have to step, like that low spot right at the gate. Your good boots end up in mud anyway, so you still have to wear mud boots for days just for those special spots.

Each stage can last for days, even weeks in the winter when it never dries. I know every one of my friends knows exactly what I'm talking about! I'll see you all at the liquor store.

Insights from Buck Brannaman

Written by Cassie Black

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I attended the Buck Brannaman clinic in Pawhuska, OK on Feb 23rd. Buck is a fantastic clinician who has vast experience with horses and riders of all types. He has traveled around the world sharing and expanding on the Ray Hunt philosophy of horsemanship with anyone open to learning. He is a very classical rider with insight applicable to all riding styles. I have ridden with him and audited his clinics for several years and always come away with a new understanding of my horses and their abilities.

Buck's main goal for any horse and rider is to allow learning, he wants riders to support their horses and teach them while expecting the right answers and allowing mistakes to be corrected, not punished. This type of riding has changed my personal Dressage journey and I hope that some of these little insights give you some ideas next time that you ride. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about any of the information that I have shared. Theme he repeated several times was **Just Dance** with your horse - You are the choreographer when you get on your horse.

- Make sure that you have all of the previous boxes checked before you ask for the next thing (make sure that your horse is prepared to move to the more advanced movement, ex: Can we trot quietly before we canter?)
- Check all of the boxes of lateral movements before you pick up on two reins (soft feel) (Can my horse make a proper circle without me pulling on the reins, before I ask him to do it with contact?)
- Don't work on just one thing, have ½ dozen movements working at a time.

- Whatever movement you are working on, try not to change his expression.
- Leave the movement when you are succeeding, then come back to it later.
- Don't avoid where you have trouble.
- Rectangle
 - The horse needs to be centered in a rectangle around them
 - If they push on the front of the rectangle stop and back so they understand where the front of the rectangle is.
 - If they are leaning on the back of the rectangle then move them through the front.
 - If they lean on the sides then either leg yield away from the draw (if they have learned to leg yield correctly) or circle away from the draw until they are able to go straight on a loose rein.
- Tense horse
 - Don't keep asking something from an anxious horse. He is not learning.
 - Use the short serpentine (small, slow ½ circles) be sure you are getting the neck AND the feet, wait for him to relax and then you can go back to what you were doing.
 - Don't pull on two reins on a troubled horse
- A downward transition (trot to walk) has NOTHING to do with stopping, it is still a forward movement.
- Soft feel is never used to contain, it is to educate
- In lateral movements one rein is responsible for the lateral flexion and the other rein is responsible for the vertical flexion. (leg yield left, right rein is lateral, left rein is vertical. Ask when the right hind leg leaves the ground)

Western Dressage Judge's Education Seminar – February 5-7, 2019

Three KDEA members, Gail Matheus, Susan Lang and Marie Maloney, all USEF Western dressage judges, attended a continuing education program in Denver, CO. In attendance were approximately 60 judges, apprentice judges and auditors, all looking to better understand the principles of Western dressage training and judging. There were a few other "notables" present, including Ann Judge, a carded judge as well as the rider of Thunder, the Denver Bronco's mascot, as well as Stacy Westfall who is an all around horseman, competitive reiner, and perhaps best known for her bridleless, bareback reining

championship (Google it..you'll find it) and her exhibitions at Equine Affair, World Equestrian Games and Dressage at Devon. Both were very eager to learn more about Western Dressage to apply to their own training programs.

The instructors were Dolly Hannon and Debbie Riehl Rodriguez, (both "S" dressage judges and "R" Western dressage judges), as well as Cliff Swanson, Joyce Swanson, Joanne Coy and Julie Haugen (all Western Dressage judges). Also providing their input was Cindy Butler, Western Dressage Association President, and Ellen DiBella, founder of WDAA.

The educational sessions over the 3 days included discussions of judging methodology, video judging of freestyles, discussions of criteria of the gaits and paces, and further practice judging (using videos). At one point all carded judges were called to the front row and we provided oral judging commentary to the group. As Western dressage also has specific classes for gaited horses, we had a 2 hour presentation about the "saddle gait" (which is what gaited horses do instead of jog). One evening we had a hands-on review of allowed and prohibited tack and bits, and another evening we had a field trip to Boot Barn to learn about cowboy hat and boot styles.

Some take homes from the seminar:

1. As of 12/1/19, you will not be able to compete in Australian saddles, or sidepulls. Bitless bridles (like the Dr Cook's) that are leather or leather like will continue to be permitted.
2. In the new Level 4, flying changes are required, and if the horse is "late behind," the suggested score is 4.0 to 4.5, and if the horse does not show a clear attempt at a flying changes (single trot stride, or lope walk lope) the suggested score is a 1.0.
3. The jog in all "rail classes" must be ridden seated (but in group Suitability Class you can post). The jog can be ridden seated or posting in all individual tests through Level 1. Collected jog in Level 2 must be ridden seated, but in all cases (even Level 2 to Level 4) lengthened jog can be ridden posting.
4. The Western horse "cooperates" with gravity, while the traditional dressage horse "defies" it.
5. The jog should not be ridden in too fast a tempo (or too slow) or it will be penalized. The jog should be something you would want to sit on all day while working on a ranch.

6. The Working Walk should be a "headed home to the barn" walk with 4 clear beats.
7. The Lope must be 3 beat, smooth, comfortable, and with uphill tendency.
8. In Turn on the Forehand, the horse should show a clear walk, no backward steps and the hind legs should cross. If hind feet come together but no crossing, then no better than a 5.0 score.

If you are interested in Western Dressage, you can contact KDEA's three Western Dressage judges for more information.

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