

Centerline

Feb 2009

When I put your halter on you, attach one end of a lead rope to the halter and tie the other end of the lead rope to a post or rail or whatever, I am indicating a desire for you to remain in that locale .. I would also like the halter, lead rope, post, etc., to remain intact.. While I admit that things like sudden loud noises can be startling, I do not consider them to be acceptable excuses for repeatedly snapping expensive new lead ropes (or halters or posts) so that you can run madly around the barn area creating havoc in your wake. Such behavior is not conducive to achieving that important goal that I know we both share --- decreasing the number of times the veterinarian comes out to visit you.

By the same token, the barn aisle was not designed for the running of the Kentucky Derby and is not meant to serve as a racetrack. Dragging me down the aisle in leaps and bounds is not how "leading" is supposed to work, even if someone happens to drop a saddle on the floor as we're passing. Pulling loose and running off is also discouraged (although I admit it does allow you to run faster).

I assure you that blowing pieces of paper do not eat horses. While I realize you are very athletic, I do not need a demonstration of your ability to jump 25 feet sideways from a standing start while swapping ends in midair nor am I interested in your ability to emulate both a racehorse and a bucking bronco while escaping said piece of paper. Also, if the paper were truly a danger, it would be the height of unkindness to dump me on the ground in front of it as a sacrificial offering to expedite your escape.

When I ask you to cross a small stream, you may safely assume that said stream does not contain crocodiles, sharks, or piranhas, nor will it be likely to drown you. (I have actually seen horses swimming, so I know it can be done.) I expect you to be prepared to comply with the occasional request to wade across some small body of water. Since I would like to be dry when we reach the other side of the stream, deciding to roll when we're halfway across is not encouraged behavior.

I give you my solemn oath that the trailer is nothing but an alternate means of transportation for distances too long for walking. It is not a lion's den or a dragon's maw, nor will it magically transform into such. It is made for horses, and I promise you that you will indeed fit into your assigned space. Please also bear in mind that I generally operate on a schedule, and wherever we're going, I would really like to get there today. For the last time, I do not intend to abandon you to a barren, friendless existence. If I put you in a turn-out pen, I promise that no predators will eat you, and I will come back in due time to return you to your stall. It is not necessary to run in circles, whinny pathetically, threaten to jump the fence, or paw at the gate. Neither your stall mates nor I will have left the premises. The other horses standing peacefully in adjacent pens amply demonstrate that it is possible to enjoy being turned out for exercise.

In order to reassure you, my dear horse, I have posted the following message on your stall door: *"Notice to People Who Complain About My Horse"*

1. I like my horse a lot better than I like people who complain about him.
2. To you, he's an animal; to me, he's a big, hairy, four-legged son--- and you know what they say about coming between a mother and her children.
3. This stall is his castle, and you are expected to treat him as the king he thinks he is.
4. If you don't want him to steal your carrots, don't walk by him with carrots sticking out of your pockets.

5.

Horses are better than husbands or kids. They eat grass, don't smoke or drink, don't expect an allowance, don't voluntarily get their body parts pierced, don't hog the remote, don't waste the whole weekend watching football with their friends, don't talk back to you, don't compare you unfavorably with their friends' owners, don't keep you awake with their snoring --- and no horse ever left the toilet seat up after going to the bathroom.

Finally, in closing, my strong and gentle companion, I would like to point out that, whatever might happen between horses and their people, we humans will always love you. In fact, our bonds with you help create new bonds among ourselves, even with total strangers. Wherever there are horses, there will be "horse people", and for the blessings you bestow upon us, we thank you.

Most sincerely yours,
Your Owner



Birthday Corner

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to the following

February babies: 1st - Vivienne Wiederhold

2nd - Tori Polonitza

4th - Marrilee Tyrrell

11th - Kathryn Tout

13th - Katie McClain

15th - Constance Wilson

18th - Bob Braren

22nd - Paula Rigoni

27th - Holly Chernoff and Nicole Levy

A_D __ L X I, __ G_C
7hB Csntsr .ans
..!In 7hB l'IBWS

Cool, But No Frost This Year

SWFDA's Annual Frostbite Frolic started out a little chilly, but it warmed up into a lovely show day.

The new trailer from Orange Clover made the judge's stand look very professional, and stand-in announcer, Phil Stark, did a very good job letting us all know who was in the ring. He didn't do it alone, however. Katie McClain was there to help. Yes, it took two people to fill in for SO'B!

As usual, the rest of the show ran smoothly with the help of our reliable ring stewards, scorekeepers, and runners. It's hard to believe that we only have two shows left ... see you all there in March.

Frostbite Frolic 2009 Results

Class #1 Introductory Test A			
Be Engler	Cataplan	147	73.500%
Jessica Reynolds	Toby	102	51.000%
Class #2 Introductory Test B			
Be Engler	Cataplan	149	74.500%
Jessie Reynolds	Toby	105	52.500%
Class #3 Training Level Test 1			
Verna Saxer-Gibson	Tarantella	139	60.434%
Marrilee Tyrrell	Ted	124	53.913%
Robin Heroth	Romeo	116	50.0434%
Class #4 Training Level Test 1 JrfYR			
Evelyn Drysdale	A Dream Come True	133	57.826%
Class #5 Training Level Test 2			
Deb Dufresne-Coll	Zeus	176	62.857%
Andrea Bivens	Fuerte Cen	175	62.500%
Marrilee Tyrrell	Ted	152	54.285%
Class #6 Training Level Test 2 Adult Amateur			
HoUy Chernoff	Sandjour Hit	174	62.142%
Robin Heroth	Romeo	147	52.500%

Class #7 Training Level Test 3			
Sandra Meador	Vicariously	154	61.600%
Evelyn Drysdale	A Dream Come True	136	54.400%
Class #8 Training Level Test 4			
Sandra Meador	Vicariously	152	60.800%
Deb Dufresne-Coll	Zeus	149	59.600%
Andrea Bivens	Fuerte Cen	147	58.800%
Verna Saxer-Gibson	Tarantella	147	58.800%
Holly Chernoff	Sandjour Hit	132	52.800%
Evelyn Drysdale	A Dream Come True	130	52.000%
Class #9 First Level Test 1			
Rachel Stroemer	Sandokan	193	64.333%
Melanie Werst	Cash Dazzler	176	58.666%
Class #11 First Level Test 2			
Barb Stark	Wise Guy	215	59.722%
Melanie Werst	Cash Dazzler	199	55.277%
Class #12 First Level Test 3			
Doris Suenkel	Lujean	191	54.571%
Class #13 First Level Test 3 Adult Amateur			
Nadine Kothe	Zarina	217	62.000%
Class #14 First Level Test 4			
Michelle Vastola	Spiderman	257	67.631%
Rachel Stroemer	S and okan	225	59.210%
Barb Stark	Wise Guy	222	58.421%
Agneta Lilliehook	Texas	186	48.947%
Class #17 Second Level Test 2			
Hanna Stroemer	Teake	249	67.297%
Michelle Vastola	Spiderman	218	58.419%
Class #19 Second Level Test 4			
Hanna Stroemer	Teake	275	65.476%
Class #20 Third Level Test 1			
Linda Emery	Filibuster	249	63.842%
Taryn Whittenhall	Gitano	240	61.538%
Mary Jane Tenwick	Topper	237	60.769%
Anne Ross	Toblerone	210	53.846%

Class #21 Third Level Test 2

Linda Emery	Filibuster	243	62.307%
Rbeta Hasselbach	Draven	226	57.949%
Taryn Whittenhall	Gitano	221	56.667%

Class #22 Third Level Test 3

Rbeta Hasselbach	Draven	257	59.767%
Anne Ross	Toblerone	242	56.279%

Class #26 FEI Test of Choice

Vema Saxer-Gibson	Blessed	60.526% (pSG)
-------------------	---------	---------------

Class #27 Freestyle

Cathy Cottrill	Estrella	166.5	69.375% (2 nd)
Doris Suenkel	Lujean	142.5	59.375% (1 st Level)

High Point Awards

Training Level	Deb Dufresne-Coll	62.857%
First Level	Michelle Vastola	67.631%
Second Level	Hanna Stroemer	67.297%
Third Level	Linda Emery	63.836%



Remember

SWFDA Dressage Eggstra-ordinaire

March 21:

Important Dates to

2nd Thursday of each month: SWFDA meeting

ZOth of each month: Newsletter submission deadline

Reflections on Life in the Scribe's Seat

It has been my privilege to be your afternoon scribe at SWFDA shows for the first three shows of this season. To say this has been an insightful experience would be an understatement.

It's been a learning fest I've longed to undertake for years, and one I'd highly encourage all riders to pursue (most judges are incredibly generous about letting apprentices sit in during shows).

Without discussing specific rides, good or bad, I'd like to share some - insights from the first part of the season spent in the judge's box.

1. The most important thing I've learned, almost across the boards, is that judges are not big scary monsters. They truly *want* competitors to do well and they are in your court unless you do something to force them to feel otherwise. I can't tell you how many times I've heard a judge - especially the ones we all think of as tough - say "Make it an 8," or "That could be a 9 if you ride it well." They don't want to give you 5s; they want to give you high marks. You just have to earn them. And when a judge gives that rare 9 or 10 (I've seen one 10 given all season), she's absolutely elated!

2. No matter what disaster or meltdown you're experiencing in the ring, the judge has probably been there as well. All judges are concerned for your safety and they are on the edge of their seats when shenanigans begin. If a judge rings the bell to excuse you for unruly horse behavior, it's because she seriously fears for your life.

3. No one, absolutely no one, does the @#\$%% stretchy circle very well. Seriously, folks. It's like a broken record in the judge's box: "Show more stretch," "give the reins," "not enough," and on and on. This is a "gimmee" movement that judges would like to give 8s to, but they're never able. Work on those stretchy circles, OK?

4. Ditto for the free walk. Again, common comments are "give the reins," "let him go," and "don't restrict him." In other words, show waaaaay more free walk than you think you should.

5. Judges behave professionally. I've sometimes been asked "what did the judge REALL Y say about me? The truth is (well, almost across the boards), judges do not indulge in gossip or make snarky, off the record comments about riders. And they shouldn't. There are standards of professionalism and good behavior that are simply expected of them, and I've been continually impressed by their decorum and good grace. Especially with a small club like ours, the wise and savvy judges know that everyone

6.



SWFDA minutes, Jan. 9. 2009

President Barb Stark called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Treasurer Michelle Vastola reported that the club has \$2,832.47 in its coffers. She just filed our annual report online and has submitted the club's 501(c)3 application. Michelle passed around the profit and loss statement for members' perusal. Barb mentioned that MichelJe has offered to do the club's taxes. Karen McCulley moved to have Michelle perform this job, Fran Spears seconded and the motion passed.

President's Address: Barb said she appreciates everyone pitching in and volunteering at our shows, especially the last one, when she was too sick to attend. Vice President Lea Haven thanked Patricia Klees for opening up her farm to club members on Dec. 26 for some post-Christmas fun and freestyles.

Barb reported that Elaine Sherer is having a Lisa Wilcox clinic Jan. 27 and 28 and auditors are welcome. There will be a five-star CDI in Wellington Jan. 28-31 as well as a show at Fox Lea in Venice that many club members will be attending.

Patricia Klees will be having a Schleese saddle fitting and lecture Jan. 22 and 23. Patricia and Bill Towler will soon be offering samples of video coaching. Bill is also involved in a children's home in Cape Coral called TLC and hope to put on some sort of fundraising event. Barb asked for information on tills to be emailed to her so it can be put on the club's web site.

Volunteer Committee: Karen McCulley said our Volunteer of the Month is Martha Hall, who has been helping set up our shows for the past two years. "She's another example of a non-competing volunteer," said Karen. She's always helpful and does a wonderful job.

Karen said volunteers are in place for our Jan., 24 show. Doris Suenkel will pick up the new flatbed at Orange Clover Farm and bring it to the show grounds.

Old Business: Karen and Laura still need to check towel prices if we are to use these as prizes.

Lungeing: We revisited the till issue to address ongoing safety concerns with the new lungeing area. Barb said the civic center has ruled that we cannot install "permanent structures," so she suggested using step-in posts and electrical fence tape as a barrier. Mary Jane Tenwick offered to buy the posts and tape. She has also offered to install a new gate at the entrance of the lungeing area. Barb said we could put the gate up using zip ties to close it. The posts and tape can be stored in the club trailer. Mary Jane has volunteered to supervise the lungeing area on the Friday before the show and take down the posts and tape after the show.

Morale: Lea Haven reminded members that we all attend shows to have a good time and asked that whining be kept at a minimum.

New Business: Barb discussed tentative show dates of Oct. 24, Nov. 21, Dec. 12, Jan. 23, March 13 and April 17 for next season. These dates will need to be confirmed with the civic center. Prize lists will be out two weeks in advance of the closing date.

Mary Jane suggested one mail-out for the entire show season, with entries available online. Barb said we'll discuss this again once the show dates are set.

Barb mentioned that our March show will include the drawing for the Missy Johnson memorial trophy. All volunteers are eligible to put their names in for the drawing.

Lesley Pryce asked that cones be put up at the turnoff to the show grounds to deter people from pulling rigs in while the show is under way. It was noted that loading and unloading in front of the barns is prohibited when the show is going on.

Karen McCulley said she is planning a ride-a-test with Sue Madden-Mandas on Jan. 25. Several barns offered to host this event; one will be chosen and an e-mail will be sent out about this clinic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

knows everyone and they smartly resist the temptation to make personal remarks about riders or horses. Judges who do otherwise will probably not be invited back.

6. The good judges always find the silver lining and discover some way to make encouraging comments. Even if your test is a complete and total disaster, a good judge will see some good somewhere (maybe you made a nice recovery after nearly being dumped into the judge's lap) and focus on that. And you can bet that she'll agonize over her comments to ensure that you receive a positive message and don't feel demoralized.

7. Judges give each one of you their full and complete attention, no matter what. It's pretty tiring to sit and scribe for four hours. The chairs are hard and the sun is often scorching. Imagine, instead, sitting and focusing intently on rider after rider, for hour after hour. Top that off with a class full of intro rides and you can surely empathize with the physical and mental strain that judges must feel. But I've yet to see a judge be anything but 100 percent focused on each and every rider, no matter what the test or the time of day. Impressive? Unbelievably! And judges agree that the complete concentration they give each rider is indeed the most tiring part of the job. It's also one they take incredibly seriously.

8. Judges want to help you and they agonize over their comments in order to do so. When you get your test back, instead of just grouching or whooping over your score, read those comments carefully and take them to heart. Next to you and your trainer (and probably your mom), no one wants you to do well as much as the judge.

So next time you trot by the judge's box, take a peek inside at the person under the tent, and smile. You're sure to get a smile back.

Submitted by:
Cathy Cottrill

Memory Lane

Reading SO'B 's article was a walk down memory lane for me. I remember the horses she mentioned: Hariel, Chaz, Fematta, and Crystal. I also remember the ladies Chris Olsen, BJ Gerald, Jennifer Grover, and Jan Bass.

It caused me to think about many past members in SWFDA. Having been a member for 25 years, I've seen a lot of people come and go. And a few of us are still around! While Rowdy and I have retired from dressage (but not from riding!), I still like to keep up with the club. It was in the remembering of past members that reminded me how all of them played a part in what our club has become. For instance, we've gone from the days when our shows were held at Jan Bass's farm (she had mirrors), or someone's pasture to renting an actual show facility.

So, for some of our vintage members like myself, here are a few names from the past (keep in mind, they might also be member of the present!): Elaine Hollis, Doreen Adler, Kim and Rick Altemyer, Mike and Dale Barnhardt, Carol Casal, Vickie Coyman,

Sally Davenport, Janice Farmer, Lorilea Beard, Jan Bass, Jennifer Grover, Brenda Morrow, Vickie Maksim, Holly Keller, Cindy and Fawn Sandstedt, and many more. Plus, it's nice to have those like Vema Saxer-Gibson, Mary Jane Tenwick, Kelly Jorgensen, Cathy Cottrill, and Rheta Hasselbach still playing an active roll. I hope I haven't offended anyone by accidentally not mentioning their name. There have been so many fun and talented people along the way. Everyone has always been helpful to each other, and it makes me proud to be a part of this group. I hope the next 25 years are the same, because our current membership certainly has the personalities, talent, and abilities to do so.

Submitted by:
Jayne Gayle

. Orlando Winter Dressage

After a very cold, wet weekend in Orlando, we are back home. All in all we had a lot offun.

The rubber ring at the show grounds was over watered every day; so, unfortunately, the footing could not be considered good. The stalls were OK; but they have seen better times; and then, on the drive home, the traffic jam on 1- 4 made this a showground we might think hard about attending again.

Kathryn's horse got hurt on the way up to Orlando, and that news was definitely the worst of the trip. She had started her first "rated show PSG" with all 7s; and then in the canter, she had to excuse herself. Sue Springer rode her horse Nectar to four blue ribbons in 3rd level and finished her Bronze Medal. Elaine, as always, was a star in the 12. She won one class and placed 2nd right behind Ann Gribbons in the other. Katrin Dagge earned the remaining scores for her Bronze Freestyle Bar with fun Christmas music; plus, she competed Intermediare 1 with Ladinor, who she trained herself, for the first time. Not only did the pair have the fantastic score of 66% which was the high score for FEI that day, but she also won that class against all professionals. She received a 62% in her next II, and now lacks a mere two scores at Grand Prix to complete her Gold Medal. Birgitt Dagge won the 3rd level test 3 on the stallion Dream of Love with a 70 +% and received High Points awards. With Rubi, it was the pair's first time out at 12. After performing the most beautiful ones in the warm up, they messed up those same one tempis in the test; but the judge's had good enough eyes and were able to discern their piaffe and passage.

This was the last show for us in '08, and we had a great season. Kati placing 3rd of all Juniors, then Ladi getting hurt right before driving to the North American Junior Championships, but recovering the week we departed, and still being able to compete. Ladi and Rubi being qualified for Devon. Kati earning her Silver and Bronze Freestyle Bars, winning 4th level Junior and 4th level Freestyle Championships. Lover winning 2nd level Adult Amateur Championships and 2nd Level Freestyle Championships plus many year end awards with the USDF.

Submitted by:
Birgitt Dagge