

A. D L X~ I G C

The Center J:ine

May/June 2009

Time to Gather and Celebrate

Inside:

FDA's annual Awards Party starts at 6 p.m. on July 11 at Holly Chernoff's house in Naples. All members are encouraged to attend to join a night of merriment and camaraderie.

Charity Show
Scores

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Aside from the award presentations, there will be a wonderful buffet style meal and our biggest fundraiser of the year ... the Chinese Auction.

Awards Party
Info/Directions

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Once again, the club will buy a tack trunk from Home Depot for club members to fill with donated items. The full trunk will require a special \$5 ticket to win, so bring your cash! There will be plenty of other donated gifts to win as well. A reminder to members: You get work credit points for each donation.

Freestyle Fun

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To ensure a variety of contributions for the trunk, donation type will be divided amongst the various geographical areas and should be brought directly to the party on the July 11:

Two Special
Volunteers

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Naples/Bonita Springs: Tack cleaning Fort

Myers: Treats

Double the
Pleasure

Cape CorallNorth Fort Myers: First Aid

Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte: Grooming

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Regular Chinese Auction gifts are also welcome, and may include gift certificates for services and/or merchandise.

April and May
Meeting Minutes

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The club is planning on providing the main course plus soda and water. Please bring a covered dish to share ... we are all looking forward to a taste of everyone's specialties!

SWFDA Page

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Directions: From Fort Myers: 1-75 to exit 107, Pine Ridge Road. Take a right off the exit which is Pine Ridge Road. Make a right on Livingston Road (about a mile). At the first light, Sable Ridge Lane, make a right and then an immediate left to Old Livingston. Make the next right on Sandalwood.

Classifieds

SW

Holly's house is number is 6681, a two-story close to the road, about 2/3 of the way down the street on the left.

What a Pleasant Surprise!

I must admit that I expected the SWFDA Charity Show to be a bit of a let down. I expected to have both a light amount of rides and a small contribution to Animal Refuge Center (ARC). Although I was right regarding the number of competitors, we were done by 2:30, our faithful sponsors and members really came through in the donation department. Each class and High Point Award had a sponsor, and our lovely baskets raised enough money so that we could, in the end, donate \$1300 to ARC!

The 2nd annual BBQ dinner in honor of the volunteers was held the night before the show, and it was very entertaining. Karen McCulley did a wonderful job of coordinating our volunteers throughout the year and organizing the dinner for the evening. She commented that her job as Volunteer Chairperson was extremely easy because our members are so willing to donate their time to SWFDA. According to her calculations, out of our 80 plus members, we have approximately 35 members that regularly give their time. What a phenomenal percentage for a volunteer based club!

On the subject of volunteers, I would like to thank the following for the time and effort they put in to the Charity show. Our show managers, Lea Haven and Fran Spears got things started with hiring the judge and running the show. Beth Yurkovac and Michelle Vastola got the prize list printed and ride times ready. Set up crew consisted of Martha Hall, Marrilee Tyrrell, Doris Suenkel, Fran Spears, Rheta Hasselbach, Karen McCulley and Agneta Lilliehook. Susan O'Bryan manned the mike all day, and Doris Suenkel set up the sound system. Scorekeeper extraordinaire was Verna Saxer-Gibson. She not only kept score all day but quickly posted them on the board while keeping an eye on prizes. Many thanks go to Carla De Yorgi for volunteering to do the job in the PM as well. Holly Chernoff and Cathy Cottrill scribed for our judge, Heidi Erickson, while Mary Whalen-Carrick and Sandy Meador did the running. Linda Emery and Carol Heron kept the warm up ring running smoothly and on time. At the end of the day, it was expected to have a light turn out for tear down; but again, I was surprised. Elaine Hollis, Evelyn and Evelyn Drysdale, Karen McCulley, Dan and Jessica Reynolds, Karen Reynolds, Linda Emery, and Michelle Vastola all tore down the ring while Katie McClain packed it all away in a tidy manner. Barb Stark got to drive the pick up in the A/C with the radio blaring.

Susan O'Bryan and Phil Stark took care of cleaning up the announcers' booth, and Phil drove the judges' trailer back to Orange Clover Farm. With all those hands, by 3:30 we were all on our way home. The only one that didn't care to go home was the lovely Briosche. With the gentle insistence of Elaine Hollis, she finally decided to load into Agneta's trailer.

Now that our 2008/2009 season is over, it's time to think about elections, Year End Awards, and our annual party. October is the Regional Championships right here in

our homew state, and our Education Committee will put together a Ride-A-Test again. Our long, hot, humid summer will soon be over, (hopefully); and we will be starting our 2009/2010 show season. Don't forget to come to the meetings at Uno's Chicago Grill on Daniels Parkway so that you can have a voice in our club and to join in the laughter.

Submitted by:
Barb Stark

Annual Charity Show Results 2009

Class 1 Introductory Test A

Sponsored by A. Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Doris Suenkel	Panama	118'	59.000%
2. Jessica Reynolds	Toby	112	56.000%

Class 2 Introductory Test B

Sponsored by Arctic Air Conditioning, Inc

1. Doris Suenkel	Panama	133	66.500%
2. Jessica Reynolds	Toby	123	61.500%
3. Agneta Lilliehook	Briosche	— 118	59.000%

Class 3 Training Level Test 1

Sponsored by Carol Herron wi Coldwell Banker

1. Be Engler	Cataplan	150	65.217%
2. Elise Merrill	Rill No Doubt	138	60.000%
3. Susan Henderson	Mr. Inquisitive	133	57.826%
4. Robin Heroth	Romeo	130	56.522%

Class 4 Training Level Test 1 JrlYR

Sponsored by Da Vinci Farms

1. Evelyn Drysdale	A Dream Come True	147	63.913%
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Class 5 Training Level Test 2

Sponsored by Susan O'Bryan wi Realty World

1. Elise Merrill	RffiNo Doubt	188	67.143%
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Class 6 Training Level Test 2 Adult Amateur

Sponsored by A. Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Beth Y urkovac	Mesecina DuSan	165	58.929%
2. Susan Henderson	Mr. Inquisitive	162	57.857%

Class 7 Training Level Test 3

Sponsored by A. Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Beth Y urkovac	Mesrcina DuSan	145	58.000%
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Class 8 Training Level Test 4

Sponsored by Arctic Air Conditioning, Inc

1. Be Engler	Cataplan	164	65.600%
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2. Evelyn Drysdale	A Dream Come True	147	58.800%
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Class 9 First Level Test 1

Sponsored by A Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Melanie Werst	Cash Dazzler	186	62.000%
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Class 11 First Level Test 2

Sponsored by A. Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Melanie Werst	Cash Dazzler	221	61.389%
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Class 14 First Level Test 4

Sponsored by Susan O'Bryan wi Realty World

1. Michelle Vastola	Spiderman	240	63.158%
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2. Doris Suenkel	Lujean	221	58.158%
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Class 15 Second Level Test 1

Sponsored by A. Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Martha Dodd	Ain't Ms. Behavin	237	62.369%
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Class 17 Second Level Test 2

Sponsored by A. Kagen Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

1. Martha Dodd	Ain't Ms. Behavin	237	64.054%
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Class 18 Second Level Test 3

Sponsored by Da Vinci Farms

1. Michelle Vastola	Spiderman	266	61.861%
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Class 23 Forth Level Test 1

Sponsored by Da Vinci Farms

1. Vivienne Wiederhold	Donatella HW	286	66.512%
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2. Holly Chernoff	Vladimir	269	62.558%
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Back to My Roots

In the beginning ... I grew up in Southwest Florida when it was still "Old Florida." We were fortunate to live only a few miles from the "horse pastures;" and it was there I ran to every chance I got. My sister and I enjoyed statewide success showing Arabians. I recall riding on the turnpike when it was being constructed. Oops ... maybe I shouldn't have said that! Let's just say that it was a long time ago.

Soon after all of that, a friend had a couple of racehorses which we starting galloping with her to get them back to the races. My sister went on to be a jockey (I learned I didn't like being on fast horses!), and I became an assistant trainer to a leading trainer in Boston for five years. This time taught me that I didn't want to be a trainer as I found it difficult to depend upon horses to make a living for it is usually the horse that pays the biggest price.

I then worked in marketing at the track for the next 5 years. It was during this time that a good friend and veterinarian, Martin Simenson, suggested I would enjoy dressage. For the next 6 months, I had the pleasure of riding 5 days a week under Frank Daigle who had lived and competed in Germany prior to returning to the States. Frank passed away shortly thereafter. I will always remember him as having a great love and respect for horses and constantly instilling such love and respect in his students ... not to mention a wealth of knowledge which always produced the desired result when applied correctly. I wish he was still around ...

My Arab gelding took to Frank's teachings as well; but unfortunately, a sesamoid injury cut our riding short. I was able to find a great home for Santaj with a wonderful family on the Cape where he lived out his life in their backyard serving as the son's newspaper delivery mount and as the daughter's show horse.

I was offered an apprenticeship with an Andalusian farm but decided to pursue my other passion instead, music. Never much caring for the cold and snow I moved back to Florida. Upon returning to the sunny south, I received a full scholarship to study voice and left horses behind for twenty years. I never expected my hiatus to be so long but life has a way of running away with you.

When my husband Wayne and I decided to move from the congested east coast, I was pleased to find a pleasant boarding facility in Cape Coral owned by Karen Autrey. I had just turned fifty and decided it was time to return to my first love. To get back to riding as quickly as possible, I made the mistake of offering to take a racehorse off of the track sight unseen. You'd think I would have known better! Certin Victory aka "Vie"

● arrived emaciated and lame. The gelding had just turned three, and his knee was fractured. We joke that Vie never won a race but he won the biggest prize of all.. .he found us; and we will keep him for life.

Unfortunately, I suffered a broken hip due to a fall from Vie when he reacted to knee pain with a major rear and leap which sent me flying. Of course, the fact that I was no longer as athletic and fit as I was in my previous riding years didn't help my cause. Two weeks after returning to the saddle, Hurricane Charlie struck; and riding was put on hold for another year as I worked to put back together the condominiums under my charge.

Starting back was difficult without a horse. Friend Lesley Price offered to share her lovely mare Tres Belle with me. Everyone who knows Belle knows she can be aggressive with other horses; but she seems to thoroughly enjoy human interaction. Well ... except for the time she bucked me off when we had a disagreement about the whip used to encourage her forward at the canter. I still recall the fear on the faces of Mary Jane Tenwick and Lesley as I was picking myself up of the ground.

Undaunted by my most recent experiences, I set off on a weekend journey with Sary Crowshaw to look at horses. Notice I said look, not buy. Enter Vinnie. What was I thinking? Guess it was those big, beautiful, brown eyes. I was back in business with a green, solid colored Appaloosa. Again, what was I thinking? Fortunately, Vinnie has proven to be a delight. He is the most honest, sane, and willing horse I have ever known. He tolerates my imbalances and bouncing as I strive to regain a seat long lost by spending too much time in the seat of a car or the chair in an office. He has helped me to regain confidence shaken by bad choices and bad timing. His show name, Legato, is a musical term meaning "smooth and connected" which we hope to be one day.

While we are striving to attain this level of competence, I am grateful for the ongoing support my "dressage sisters" offer. Who would have thought that Ft. Myers would possess such a terrific and well run GMO as SWFDA? I will display the sticker proudly and look forward to many more years volunteering!

Submitted by:
Carla De Y
orgi



A Life Blessed with Special Horses

Like most of you, I've loved horses' ever since I knew they existed. And like so many of you, I've been lucky to share my life with some special ones.

Oddly, almost all have been grays - and all except a couple have been mares. That was through no intent, however, just my horsey destiny.

My first horse, a green-broke 3-year-old Arab gelding, set the bar high for his successors. A saint in a horse suit, Red Holly Cain couldn't have been a better babysitter for a lonely teenager who had just moved to Florida. The first day I rode him, we went on a trail ride and cantered - his first time with a rider on his back. Through five wonderful years, Cain carried me wherever I asked, safely and carefully, as he did his subsequent owners.

Next came Sadaza (aka Sadie), delivered into my arms in 1977. My favorite photo of all time shows a still-damp Sadie touching me with her fuzzy little muzzle. It was the beginning of a special relationship that spanned nearly three decades. My once-in-a-lifetime horse had been horn.

Every day with Sadie was a pleasure, every moment a gift. I did all her training myself, and she was 8 years old before anyone else ever even sat upon her back. We discovered dressage in the mid-1980s after competing successfully at Lee County Horsemen's Association open shows in everything from showmanship to open English pleasure. Back then, folks like Jan Bass and Elaine Cannon (now Hollis) worked to add a dressage division to those open shows, and not long after that, a group of gals got together and formed the Southwest Florida Dressage and Combined Training Association.

My first glimpse of upper level dressage came in the late 1980s when a group of us - Elaine included - traveled to the Tampa Invitational. While watching Bent Jensen perform a Grand Prix Freestyle, I whispered to my friend, "I want to do that."

Twenty years later, I'm still inching my way toward FEI; and what a fun ride it's been, thanks to the camaraderie of SWFDA! When Sadie had to be retired due to a tendon injury, I enjoyed a series of lease horses, learning something from each and every one. Then came Baroque, my fourth-level schoolmaster, purchased in 1997. With Bart, I rode my first freestyle, earned my bronze medal, and won a Regional Championship. Though sometimes a challenge, he taught me volumes about riding precisely and being confident.

When the time came for Bart to help someone else along the dressage journey, I started horse shopping for a 6-7-year-old bay or chestnut warmblood gelding. In one of

●
life's funny little twists, I got my second once-in-a-lifetime horse instead - a gray mare, of course.

I tried so hard not to buy Stella. A 3-year-old, barely started gray mare was not what I was seeking. Yet I kept coming back to her video from breeder Paul Belasik in Pennsylvania. It was the craziest thing, but this rather homely greenie looked so steady and consistent that I just had to go look at her. And even when I couldn't get her to canter that first time, it was obvious she had a good mind and a super temperament. But even then, I begged the vet to find something wrong during her pre-purchase so I wouldn't have to buy a green-broke 3-year-old. Not a chance; he said she had the cleanest legs he'd ever seen.

Stella and I have now been together for nearly six years. In that time, she's grown from a gawky, narrow steel gray into a full-figured white beauty. But more important, she's become my partner and my friend.

When I lost Sadie in 2004, I wondered how I'd ever survive the loss. Stella was there for me every moment and there were many times when my tears fell upon her neck. As she's matured, I understand why she was sent to me to begin with: to bless me (hopefully) with another three decades of gray mare bliss.

To each of you, I wish the same magical relationship with a special horse.

Submitted by:
Cathy Cottrill



11Csmbr Contributions

My First Season of Musical Freestyles

It all started with a funny idea and the love of music. Of course, I had no clue whether any on my horses might like the music I picked either! Working alone, I just walked, trotted, and cantered with any kind of music in an effort to find what beat and type of music matched my horse. This can be a really challenging task - especially for my neighbors who had to listen to "Jingle Bells" and "Winter Wonder Land" in the middle of September, when the barn thermometer showed 96 degrees! I tried to picture the white screenings of my arena as snow, and that helped just a little ...

Next, I had to figure out how to pack the required movements into the music. In the beginning, I concentrated on the existing tests from my level and reorganized the movements; but that made my freestyles "too test like" according to the judges. You need to get creative, and that is easier said than done! It is both unusual and difficult to perform a 15 meter circle without any boundaries or touching points on the track.

Once I had the rough pattern of my freestyle in mind, I worked on putting the music together. Finding a song or melody for walk, trot and canter that matches your horse's temperament and gaits sounds pretty easy, doesn't it? Most people choose music they like; and that is a good way to do it, because you have to listen to that sound track so often. So, I listened and rode to ABBA, classical, musicals, and even to the Beatles.

The hardest thing for me is putting all the pieces together...so every transition within your test looks and sounds smooth. It took a huge number of CDs, many of which ended up in the garbage can, because the editing is somehow incorrect. The greatest requirement, however, is patience from the editor to create a sound track that fits.

I must thank my son, Philipp, who helped with the computer work and my neighbor who volunteers with the sound operations in a big church. Despite both being teenagers, they tolerated my musical themes and helped me get started.

To anyone who wants to do a freestyle, I have one simple piece of advice: go ahead and get started! You can learn from your mistakes; and if you never start doing it, you will never proceed! The feeling of that "Jingle Bell" canter will pay you back the time and effort you have to invest in your freestyle!

If your pockets are deep enough, you can hire a professional to create a personal freestyle for you. I decided to do it by myself, and I will continue to learn, edit, and throw away another enormous number of "bad" CDs

So - let the music play !!

Submitted by:
Doris Suenkel

Double Delight ... Twice the Fun? You Betcha!

There was an extensive representation of SWFDA at the 2009 ADA Double Delight, and everyone did their best to make us proud! Taryn Whittenhall, Cheryl Quinn, Sue Springer, Michelle Vastola, Mary Jane Tenwick, and Nadine Kothe were all there with their respective horses. Combined with my group of students, SWFDA counted for approximately 50 rides.

Hanna Stroemer, Rachel Stroemer and Cathy Cottrill gathered the remaining scores necessary to qualify for the Region III Championships. So now, this fall, Hanna and Teake will be competing at both first and second levels in the Jr/YR division, Rachel and Sandokan will ride in the JrNR division of first level, while Cathy and Stella will be strutting their stuff in a second level freestyle.

Vivienne Wiederhold will join Katie McClain, Karen McCulley, and Kelly Jorgensen on the list of Bronze Medalists for this year. Aboard her lovely mare, Donatella HW, Vivienne collected both of her third level scores in one weekend!

Andrea Bivens and Fuerte Cen put in a rather good performance earning a solid 70% at Training level. She even made them re-calculate the scores as she thought there must have been a mistake. Turns out, the only problem was her lack of faith in her own good riding ... not to mention a great effort on Fuerte's part!

The remaining 4 pairs LeeAnn Harrington and Bobby, Kelly Jorgensen and Lukas, Cathy Zager and Rocky, plus Karen McCulley and Finnigan all put in solid tests. Although there were neither medals earned nor special scores achieved, they had fun showing and got the pleasure of spending the weekend with their equine partners.

I was fortunate enough to spend the weekend riding wonderful horses. On Saturday, Donatella HW (4th level), Sandokan (2nd and 3rd levels), and Udjang (PSG) each earned blue ribbons for me. Then Donatella HW and Udjang came through again with 2 more blues on Sunday.

Besides the competition portion of the weekend, there was also the food ... and good food it was. Friday evening, after a long warm-up day, Kelly treated us to a MexItalian feast by her RV. We sat, ate, and laughed for a couple of hours before hot showers called us to prepare for bed. Saturday, after the show, the food venue changed; but the merriment was just the same.

The pleasure of good company, the taste of fine food, the thrill of competition, and the joys of success all made the Double Delight fun to attend ... and to look forward to entering next year.

Submitted by:
Michelle Gerlach

Some Gray-Horse-Cleaning Tips

Picture this: you're at a horse show, your horse is perfectly clean, it's time to tack up, and somehow, a green smudge has appeared on her flank! Simply put some rubbing alcohol on a clean rag and rub the spot out. Don't have alcohol with you? Try a dab of Vetrolin liniment. Both work much better than water.

To find the white tail under the yellow or brown stains, try any or all of these suggestions:

Wash it often. Don't let the grunge build for months and hope for a shiny white tail the weekend of a show. Of the many whitening shampoos I tried, Shapley's worked the best.

This is kind of like a chemistry experiment, but it seems to work. It can be done on the coat or the tail. Start with the hair clean and dry. Rub baking soda into it. Then spray with vinegar. You'll hear a very satisfying fizzing sound, like something is really getting clean. Rinse.

Soak clean tail in a mixture of water and bluing. Be careful not to use too much bluing, or the tail will turn ... you guessed it ... blue. And if the tail is still yellow when you do this, it may turn sort of green.

Submitted by:
Be Engler

Mix With Desitin ...

I routinely use Desitin by itself as a way to keep my horses' pasterns protected from the water standing around my pastures during the wet summer months. It works perfectly because Desitin is nearly impossible to remove once it is applied, and that quality got my brain in gear.

Do you love SWAT? Great stuff, but it doesn't stay put for long ... mix it with Desitin, and it will last longer! How about Furacin salve? Good for wounds and fungus, but it weeps off the affected area in the heat ... mix it with Desitin, and it will still be in place hours later!

Be sure to buy original Desitin ... the creamy stuff doesn't have as much zinc oxide nor does it have the same sticky property as the original. So far, SWAT and Furacin are the only two ointments I have tried "in the mix" successfully; but I bet there are others.

Submitted by:
Michelle Gerlach

SWFDA Minutes April 9, 2009



President Barb Stark called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Treasurer Michelle Vasola reported that SWFDA has \$4,460.13 in its coffers.

Michelle reported that there's been some confusion with DSDF over our status. DSDF has requested our articles of incorporation and something called a letter of determination. She will check this out.

President's Address:

- Barb again reminded members that trailers cannot be parked in front of the barn when a show is under way.
- Karen McCulley won the Missy Johnson award and will take it to be engraved. Congrats!
- Michelle reported that a photographer would like to come to our May show and sponsor a class.
- Barb reported that the club's Unisit has been found and will be available for members to use provided they have a helper.

Committee report:

Karen McCulley announced Cathy Cottrill as the Volunteer of the Month.

Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue: This takes place Friday, May 1, the evening before our show. Barb Stark and Cathy Cottrill will help Karen set up for this event. Fran Spears volunteered to decorate.

Karen needs a budget for the volunteer party. It was decided SWFDA can spend \$300 to \$350. She needs suggestions for funny prizes and awards, such as the oldest member competing. Please e-mail Karen if you have an idea. We will start serving food at 5:30 p.m. Friday, with the program at 6:30.

Old Business:

May Charity Show: Volunteer Committee Chair Karen McCulley brought samples of towels to be used as high-point prizes. We chose the blue; Karen had already guessed we would, so she bought three dozen. They will be taken to Fred's to be embroidered with the SWFDALogo. Karen said she still needs volunteers for a.m. and p.m. ring steward for the May show. Carol Heron will be the afternoon ring steward. Barb Stark also said she could help.

Lea Haven mentioned that no one is leaving horses at the civic center the night before our shows, so we might be able to save money on security by eliminating the security service. Barb said we can discuss this later. Karen suggested we handle this on a case-by-case basis. Carol Heron has agreed to be a sponsor. She will provide gift bags for first place and will sponsor *fust* level test 4.

Barb said we need a new scorekeeper's box; Michelle Vastola agreed to buy one.

The show flatbed for the judge and scribe was again discussed. Sandy Meador, who took it home after our last show, said it has no brakes or lights, making it dangerous to haul. Barb will contact Orange Clover to see if they can get it fixed.

An alternative would be for the club to buy a flatbed; if so, Sandy said we could keep it at Da Vinci. Barb will look on craigslist. Katie McClain also volunteered to ask a friend if he would look at the flatbed if we cannot get it fixed otherwise.

Year-End Party:

Thanks to Holly Chernoff, who has agreed to host the party at her home in Naples; the date is July 11. Details to be announced.

Barb said the perpetual trophies must be returned by the May meeting. Trophies can also be brought to the May show. She reminded members that May is when we declare who is running for SWFDA elections.

We again discussed year-end awards. Suggestions included halters, lead shanks, and boot bags or bridle bags. It was decided that fust-place awards will be boot bags or halters. Barb will price these.

Barb reminded members that we need to vote for the Sandy Gordon Horse & Harmony Award, preferably before the party. She suggested a ballot be created so everyone can only vote one time. Beth Yurkovic volunteered to prepare one.

We also discussed the classified ads in the newsletter. Lea agreed to check them and give Michelle Gerlach a list of ads that can be deleted. It was decided that classifieds can run for three months.

New Business:

Double Delight: The Alpha Dressage Association's Double Delight I and II were discussed because Alpha has approached SWFDA about taking over these shows. We will set up a meeting with ADA President Betty Brown to discuss this. Barb said if we decide to take on this show, it will be a huge commitment of time and money. Many volunteers will be needed. Will need to look closely at the financials to see if putting on this show is even possible.

New meeting location: Barb will call Uno Chicago Grill to see if we go back to holding our meetings there because our most recent spot has closed down.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

SWFDA Minutes May 14, 2009



In President Barb Stark's absence, Vice President Lea Haven called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Secretary Cathy Cottrill read the minutes of the April meeting; there were no corrections. Treasurer Michelle Vastola reported that SWFDA has \$3,147.96 in its coffers.

On behalf of Barb, Lea said the charity show raised more than \$1,350 for the Animal Refuge Center. Lea said the show had tons of sponsors and we need to do this more often.

Volunteer Committee: Chairman Karen McCulley reported that the volunteer of the month is Evelyn Drysdale, a young rider who has been manning our SWFDA merchandise table on show mornings. Congrats, Evelyn!

Karen has a list of 2009-2010 volunteer jobs that will be at the June meeting and at the July party. She reminded members that she won't automatically be putting people in jobs they did the previous year; volunteers have to sign up for the jobs they wish to do. Karen said she's very pleased with all the help she received from volunteers during our 2008-09 show season. "Without our volunteers, we don't have a club," she said. Karen said she would like to see the club have more educational events, especially clinics, which volunteers could receive as perks for their unpaid efforts. Karen said she feels the club spends too much money on prizes and not enough on education.

Education Committee: Members were not present, but they are reportedly working on the pre-Regionals Ride-A-Test at Da Vinci Farms in October.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lea Haven reported that a discussion about the Alpha Dressage Association's Double Delight is on hold because the ADA is discussing turning this show over to Orlando or Fox Lea.

Lea said the flatbed she recently looked at didn't work out, so we need to continue looking for one. Bill Towler from Orange Clover Farm said Patricia Klees may be willing to sell the club the flatbed we have been using. He will get us a price. Sandy Meador said one of her clients may have an ATV the club can use to drag the ring at our shows.

Karen McCulley will be pricing tents for the club to use for the judge's stand and our merchandise table.

Lea reminded members to return the perpetual trophies. Katie McClain said they may be returned to her.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections: Lea said elections will be held at our June 11 meeting; all officers are interested in staying in office. Laura McClain needs to step down as a member rep. Sandy Meador said she would be interested in serving as a member rep. If you are interested in being a member rep, please contact a member of the board.

Awards: The Good Sport and Sandy Gordon Horse & Harmony awards will be voted on by ballot before the July 11 awards party. Two e-mails have been sent out about these awards and ballots were handed out at the Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue.

Lea reminded members that if they are not regularly getting club e-mails, to please e-mail a club officer by going to SWFDA.org to make sure we have your correct e-mail address.

Chinese Auction: This is a big fundraiser held annual at our Awards Party. Lea asked if we wanted to do a big raffle item, as in years past, and members agreed to do so. The club will buy another tack trunk from Home Depot and club members will fill it with donated items. Cathy Cottrill will provide a write-up for Beth and Michelle to send out via the website and the newsletter. A reminder to members: You get points for donating items!"

Donations will be divided among areas:

Naples/Bonita Springs: Tack cleaning
Fort Myers: Treats
Cape Coral/North Fort Myers: First Aid
Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte: Grooming

Donation should be brought to the awards party on July 11. Items for the Chinese Auction are also welcome, and may include gift certificates for services and merchandise.

Show Entries: Carol Herron suggested that one mail-out be done at the beginning of show season for all our shows, sort of a mini-omnibus, to save on printing expenses. Blank show forms would allow competitors to fill in the shown and date. Lea said Coggins tests are problematic because sometimes they expire in the middle of show season. Karen moved that we put out a prize list at the beginning of show season with blanks for show names and dates so people can use these to enter all shows. Carol seconded the motion and it passed. Entry forms are also available on the club's website.

The Newsletter: Michelle Vastola said it is costing the club \$2,800 annually to print and mail out The Center Line. She moved that the club no longer print out the newsletter and just post it online. Marrilee Tyrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with

dissenting votes from Katie McClain and Ashley Gornick. Cathy Cottrill said the newsletter will need to be posted in a timely manner. Lea said Beth can post it quickly if it is provided to her.

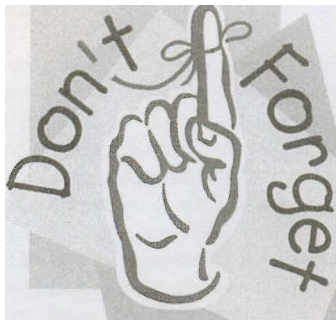
Charity Show: Lea asked if club members thought having the charity show earlier in the season was a good idea. Katie McClain said she would prefer that it be held earlier, and that scores should once again count toward year-end awards. Katie moved that we have the charity show in January, with riders in full show attire, with scores counting toward year-end awards. Michelle Vastola seconded and the motion passed.

Carol Herron, who sponsored a class at our charity show, said she wished the sponsors had been announced. They were included in the show program and with the rider times. We will make a note to make sure they are announced in the future.

Orange Clover Farm: Bill Towler announced that two barns, two rings, and assorted amenities are being offered for lease at Orange Clover Farm in Buckingham. Owner Patricia Klees is pursuing business opportunities in Europe and Bill will be the property manager. Contact Orange Clover if you are interested.

Competitors: Sandy Meador mentioned that show manager Fran Spears, who was unable to attend, has experienced some unkindness from competitors and had not always been made aware of changes happening on show days, such as ride times. Other volunteers have reported problems as well. It was stressed by several members that competitors need to be civil to all show volunteers and appreciate how hard they work, unpaid, to put on shows and club events. Michelle Vastola was thanked for serving as show secretary this year; she is stepping down and Michelle Gerlach is taking over.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Important Dates to Remember

July 11th SWFDA Annual Awards Party

11114/09, 12112/09,
1123/10, 3/13/10, 4/1011 0 SWFDA show dates for the 2009/2010 saeson

2nd Thursday of each month: SWFDA meeting

20th of each month: Newsletter submission deadline