

The Center Line

**November & December 2009
January 2010**

Times Have Changed

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Most of you won't remember the sedan of the 1950's era whose only safety devices included the cord that ran the length of the backside of the front seats (which I used to pretend was my driving lines to my team of pulling horses). It also had the safety strap that hung from the top of the window and was used primarily when we careened around icy mountain curves with 3000 foot drop offs (no guard rail). Ahh...good times. It's no wonder I grew up resenting the seat belt law!

However, times change and now our children are much more protected (dare I say too much sometimes?). Protecting our young'ens aside, we, as so-called adults, should have choices. The freedom of choice is wonderful! However, times have changed and litigation has changed us.

How does all this rambling pertain to SWFDA concerns, you ask? You guessed it--helmets!

Personally, I HATE them! There, I said it and it's good to come out. As much as I object, life is NOT all about me, so I am forced to consider others in this safety issue. Let me explain that SWDFA's insurance requires that we post a "helmet required" type of notice for our events. We need insurance to protect ourselves against litigation, right? But who should police this request? Do we hire an armed guard or do we leave it to the discretion of the individual rider? If we are at a facility that also is required to have insurance, should we, out of respect and in deference to the legal requirements, wear safety head gear? Consider the ramifications: 1. The facility might not allow us to return. 2. What kind of example are we setting for others? 3. OK, I can't come up with any others, but I am sure you can.

So, fellow horse enthusiasts, remember that when we travel to another facility, out of respect and with legal ramifications, we should try to remember that it's not all about you, it's about litigation. In the meanwhile, I will wear my seat belt to preserve my face from hitting the dash board and dare to ride my horse buck necked (head-wise) while at home, on the trail, or other non-SWFDA sponsored events.

Did I mention I hate hats?

~~~Barb Stark

## *SWFDA Holds First Annual Dressage Open House*

October 31<sup>st</sup> turned out to be a beautiful day to host our first annual dressage open house at the wonderful manicured facility of DaVinci Farms in Fort Myers!

Activities started at 9 a.m. and after a slow start, folks started to trickle in. Spectators enjoyed our demo-rides, Halloween-activities, and an assortment of games. The barn tours were also a huge hit and well received! We sold over 850 tickets to buy food, drinks, used tack and do games. Get well wishes were sent to Elaine Sherer who came down with the flu. Bravo will surely get his chance to show off his fancy steps at our next open house.

Everybody was in a relaxed mood - the only thing that stressed some of the horses was the huge drill that was working in the corner to drill a new well. Poor Sandy—her well collapsed the day before the event!

I would like to send a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers and helpers that made the day a huge success for our club:

Demo-riders: Carol Herron, Be Engler, Ashely Gornik. Jessica Reynolds, Evelyn Drysdale, Michelle Vastola, Mona Raux and me.

### Volunteers:

Lesley + Steve Pryce - tack and soda sale  
Cathy Cottril - selling tickets and giving club information  
Susan O'Brien - announcer  
Carol Herron - barn tours  
Barb STark - custome class jury  
Fran Spears + Marilee Tyrell - bake sale  
Mona Raux - helping at ticket booth  
Michelle Vastola - games for kids + barn tours  
Jessica + Evelyn - helping with games and barn tour  
Mike Brown - horse shoeing demo  
Martha Dodd - face painting  
Elaine Cornwall - paint the pony

Very special thanks to Sandy who helped me organize the event & get all the details out to the media! FOX4 News and the News Press attended to the event with reporters anxious to discover more about our club.

Please forgive me if I forgot anybody!!!


We roped in 8 new members during the event as well as 2 new sponsors!

DANKESCHOEN / THANK YOU / MUCHAS GRACIAS!!!!

~~~Doris Suenkel



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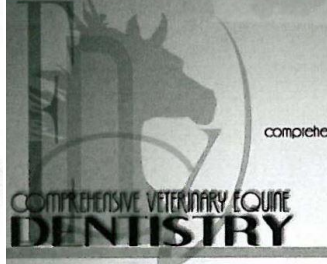


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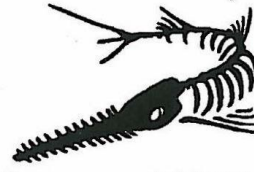
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November Turkey Trotters

The first show of any season usually has its kinks to work out and November's Turkey Trot was no different in that respect. However, all things considered, most of the day went fairly smoothly. The judge, Charlotte Trentleman, was fair and was not afraid to use the full range of scoring numbers (way to go Lea with a perfect 10 halt!). Hopefully, we can get her back next year.

This was my first attempt at show managing and I can more deeply appreciate all the hard, behind the scenes work that makes the show work smoothly. First and foremost, I would like to thank the amazing Karen McCulley for gathering all the volunteers together and coordinating the Friday set up along with Fran Spears, Doris Suenkel, Agnetta Lillyhook, Mary Jane Tenwick, and Rheta Hasselbach. I have to admit that I was unable to help Friday and my hat goes off to all of you. They even got the Civic Center speaker to work, so that everyone had the opportunity to hear the velvet voice of Susan O'Bryan.

Saturday morning was a bit hectic, but with Sandy Meador's help dragging the arena, I was spared the task (at least temporarily). After the noon break, when I did manage to hop aboard the 4 wheeler, I found out that it's actually quite fun and am thankful that I am among the few that are authorized to drive it. Thanks, Sandy!

Our scribes, Lesley Price and Cathy Cottrill; scorekeepers, Michelle Vastola and Carla De Yorgi kept busy recording the comments and scores while Sandy, Michelle V also ran score sheets from judge to scorekeeper. Lynn Zachary was kind enough to keep our warm up arena going in a timely manner, Evelyn Drysdale and Jessica Reynolds sold quite a bit of our new T-shirts, as well as other merchandise.

For those of you who took the extra time to stay and tear down our arena and load it all into our trailer I want to give an extra thank you. There is no one better at organizing our stuff than Michelle Gerlach. We have tried to duplicate her skill, but let's face it, she is the best! Cathy Cottrill, Elaine Hollis, Evelyn Drysdale, Jessica Reynolds, her dad, Lee Ann Harrington, Be Engler, Sandy Meador, Carla and Wayne DeYorgi, Susan O, and the effervescent Katie McClain all pitched in to tidy up along with Phil and myself.

Without our show volunteers, we would not have a show to put together so give yourselves a hug! Don't forget to bring items for our Year End Auction to the December show, and I will try to remember to bring Christmas goodies...homemade, of course! ~~Barb Stark

Show Results: The Turkey Trot
November 14, 2009
Judge: Charlotte Trentelman, "S"

Introductory Level Test A

1. Jessica Reynolds Toby 63.500%

Introductory Level Test B

1. Sandy Sharma Romeo 70.500
2. Gari Lewis Two to Tango 68.500
3. Dawn Burger Timex 67.000
4. Jessica Reynolds Toby 62.000
5. Kerri Gantt Mystic Mamba 57.500

Training Level Test 1

1. Megan Griffin Amazing Grace 66.521
2. Julie Griffin Magnum 65.652
3. Alison Wincel Painted Canvas 63.043
4. Gari Lewis Two to Tango 62.608
5. Sandy Sharma Romeo 60.000
6. David Turkel Elinora 59.130
Kerri Gantt Mystic Mambo 58.260
Dawn Burger Timex 57.391
Ashley Gornik Hickey's Creek scratch

Training Level Test 1 Jr/YR

1. Evelyn Drysdale Ginger 67.391
Vivienne Wiederhold Santana HW eliminated

Training Level Test 2

1. Michelle Gerlach Serengeti 69.643
2. Rachel Stroemer Quijote 57.500

Training Level Test 2 AA

1. Beth Yurkovac Mesecina DuSan 53.929
Ashley Gornik Hickey's Creek scratch

Training Level Test 3

1. Michelle Gerlach Serengeti 69.600
2. Evelyn Drysdale Ginger 62.400
3. Polly Spate Sir Nathan 61.600
4. Beth Yurkovac Mesecina DuSan 57.200

Training Level Test 4

1. Polly Spate Sir Nathan 62.000
2. Holly Chernoff Sandjour Hit 61.200
3. Rachel Stroemer Quijote 55.600

First Level Test 1

1. Katie McClain Katrina 70.000
2. Verna Saxer-Gibson Tarantella 66.667
3. Be Engler Cataplan 64.000
4. Carol Ellis Crème Brulee 63.000
5. (tie)Andrea Bivens Fuerte Cen 56.667

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5. (tie)Melanie Werst
Holly Chernoff | Cash Dazzler
Sandjour Hit | 56.667
scratch |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|

First Level Test 1 Jr/YR

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|---------|
| Vivienne Wiederhold | Santina HW | scratch |
|---------------------|------------|---------|

First Level Test 2

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| 1. Verna Saxer-Gibson | Tarantella | 69.167 |
| 2. Katie McClain | Katrina | 67.500 |
| 3. Andrea Bivens | Fuerte Cen | 60.833 |
| 4. Be Engler | Cataplan | 60.556 |
| 5. Lea Haven | DC Sensation | 58.611 |

First Level Test 3

| | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Doris Suenkel | Famous | 61.143 |
|------------------|--------|--------|

First Level Test 3 AA

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------|
| 1. Lea Haven | DC Sensation | 64.000 |
| 2. Melanie Werst | Cash Dazzler | 57.429 |

First Level Test 4

| | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Doris Suenkel | Famous | 60.263 |
|------------------|--------|--------|

Second Level Test 1

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1. Martha Dodd | Ain't Ms Behavin' | 61.579 |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|

Second Level Test 2

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 1. Carol Herron | Barossa | 67.567 |
| 2. Kelly Jorgensen | Lukas | 61.351 |
| Martha Dodd | Ain't Ms Behavin' | withdrew |

Second Level Test 3

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| 1. Michelle Vastola | Spiderman | 67.441 |
| 2. Kelly Jorgensen | Lukas | 58.837 |

Second Level Test 4

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Carol Herron | Barossa | scratch |
|--------------|---------|---------|

Third Level Test 1

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| 1. Cathy Cottrill | Estrella | 61.026 |
| 2. Hanna Stroemer | Teake | 58.462 |

Freestyle

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Michelle Vastola | Spiderman (1 st Level) | 70.000 |
| 2. Doris Suenkel | Famous (1 st Level) | 64.583 |

High Point Awards:

Introductory Level: Sandy Sharma, Romeo 70.500

Training Level: Michelle Gerlach, Serengeti 69.643

First Level: Katie McClain, Katrina 70.000

Second Level: Carol Herron, Barossa 67.567

Up On The Rooftop, Reindeer Romped....

The Reindeer Romped lightly at the December show, but those of us who were there enjoyed the warm day. I continue to be amazed at how much work, planning and communication is involved with putting together a horse show! Starting with Karen McCulley's command of volunteers, not to mention her ability to show me how to hook up the sound system, the ring was set up fairly quickly by Marrilee Tyrrell, Doris Suenkel, Fran Spears, Rheta Hasselbach, Agneta Lilliehook and Mary Jane Tenwick.. Mary Jane saved the day by driving back home to pick up her ATV so we could enjoy a groomed arena (the lake was unavoidable, but most of the horses dealt with it nicely).

Mary Frances Denten and Carla DeYorgi tallied scores while Carol Herron had the warm up arena running smoothly. Lesley Price and Holly Chernoff kept busy scribing for our judge, Cheryl Holekamp; and Evelyn Drysdale, Jessica Reynolds and Caryl Thompson womanned the merchandise table.

By the end of the day, there were several people there to help with tear down. Ashley Gornik drove the show trailer, Elaine Hollis, Evelyn Drysdale, Dan and Jessica Reynolds and Michelle Gerlach all made sure that the trailer was packed neatly away. To all of our volunteers, I thank you and want you all to know your time is very much appreciated.

Our December show was light on entries and I am hoping to see a bigger turn out for January. I know that the economy isn't stellar so even if you cannot ride, I would love to see you at the show just to watch and get together with us. Who knows, I might even bake cookies again! By the way, a big THANK YOU goes to Catherine Farnham who donated her portion of the 50/50 drawing to our charities! ~~~Barb Stark

Reindeer Romp: December 12, 2009

Judge: Cheryl Holekamp "r"

Introductory Level Test A

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|--------|
| 1. Jessica Reynolds | Toby | 118 | 59.000 |
|---------------------|------|-----|--------|

Introductory Level Test B

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| 1. Agneta Lilliehook | Briosche | 139 | 69.500 |
| 2. Jessica Reynolds | Toby | 125 | 62.500 |
| Scratch: Adam Cropper | Waldgeist | | |

Training Level Test 1

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Ashley Gornik | Hickey'sCreek | 161 | 70.000 |
| 2. Mona Raux | Roosevelt Teddy | 152 | 66.087 |
| 3. Julie Griffin | Magnum | 146 | 63.478 |
| 4. Megan Griffin | Amazing Grace | 145 | 63.043 |
| 5. Mona Raux | Miss Ace of Spades | 137 | 59.565 |

Training Level Test 1 Jr/YR

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-----|--------|
| 1. Evelyn Drysdale | Ginger | 230 | 65.217 |
|--------------------|--------|-----|--------|

Training Level Test 2

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Adam Cropper | Waldgeist | 184 | 65.714 |
| 2. Michelle Gerlach | Serengeti | 179 | 63.928 |
| 3. Megan Griffin | Amazing Grace | 175 | 62.500 |
| 4. Julie Griffin | Magnum | 164 | 58.571 |
| Eliminated: Mona Raux | Miss Ace of Spades | | |

Training Level Test 2 AA

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Ashley Gornik | Hickey's Creek | 179 | 63.928 |
| 2. Mona Raux | Roosevelt Teddy | 174 | 62.142 |
| Eliminated: Mary Pruchansky | Nasak | | |

Training Level Test 3

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Michelle Gerlach | Serengeti | 157 | 62.800 |
| 1. Mona Raux | Roosevelt Teddy | 157 | 62.800 |
| 3. Evelyn Drysdale | Ginger | 156 | 62.400 |

Training Level Test 4

Scratch: Holly Chernoff, Sandjour Hit

First Level Test 1

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|---------|
| 1. Adam Cropper | Protégé | 207 | 69.000 |
| 2. Andrea Bivens | Fuerte Cen | 191 | 63.666+ |
| 3. Be Engler | Cataplan | 191 | 63.666- |
| 4. Holly Chernoff | Sandjour Hit | 187 | 62.333 |
| 5. Melanie Werst | Cash Dazzler | 182 | 60.666 |

First Level Test 2

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Be Engler | Cataplan | 222 | 61.666 |
| 2. Lea Haven | DC Sensation | 220 | 61.111 |
| Scratch: Katie McClain | Katrina | | |
| Scratch: Andrea Bivens | Fuerte Cen | | |

First Level Test 3 AA

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Lea Haven | DC Sensation | 219 | 62.571 |
| 2. Melanie Werst | Cash Dazzler | 199 | 56.857 |

First Level Test 4

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1. Doris Suenkel | Lujean | 227 | 59.736 |
| Scratch: Katie McClain | Katrina | | |

Second Level Test 2

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----|--------|
| 1. Rodney Schriver | Farbough | 223 | 60.270 |
|--------------------|----------|-----|--------|

Second Level Test 3

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| 1. Michelle Vastola | Spiderman | 272 | 63.255 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|--------|

Second Level Test 4

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| 1. Nadine Kothe | Zarina HM | 252 | 60.000 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----|--------|

Third Level Test 1

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----|--------|
| 1. Adam Cropper | Lukas | 243 | 62.307 |
| 2. Cathy Cottrill | Estrella | 236 | 60.512 |

Third Level Test 2

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-----|--------|
| 1. Rheta Hasselbach | Draven | 204 | 52.307 |
|---------------------|--------|-----|--------|

Third Level Test 3

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-----|--------|
| 1. Rheta Hasselbach | Draven | 262 | 60.930 |
|---------------------|--------|-----|--------|

FEI Test of Choice

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----|--------------|
| 1. Kathryn Tout | Da Capo | 237 | 62.368 (PSG) |
|-----------------|---------|-----|--------------|

Pas de Deux

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Doris Suenkel | Lujean | | |
| Mona Raux | Miss Ace of Spades | 135 | 67.500 |

Freestyle

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1. Michelle Vastola | Spiderman | 164.500 | 68.541 (1 st) |
| 2. Doris Suenkel | Lujean | 152.500 | 63.541 (1 st) |

High Score Awards

Training Level: Ashley Gornik, Hickey'sCreek 70.000

First Level: Adam Cropper, Protégé 69.000

Second Level: Michelle Vastola, Spiderman 63.255

Third Level: Adam Cropper, Lukas 62.307

November Volunteer Spotlight: Lesley Pryce

I first caught the riding “bug” from a school friend at the age of 11. My riding lessons began at a local riding school/dairy farm; the farmer’s daughter was a certified BHSI (British Horse Society Instructor). It was not a fancy center, there was no formal “arena” but I learned good basics. We did a little jumping, local riding club gymkhana events, the occasional “mock hunt” & of course many wonderful hours of trail riding over the fine English countryside that I was fortunate enough to live near.

In my late teens & early twenties I started having lessons at a more formal BHS certified equestrian center that not only had an indoor riding arena, but also offered me the opportunity to take some of the introductory BHS Horse Master tests.

At 29 I moved from England to Fort Myers with my husband & two children. It took a couple of years before I began looking for somewhere to ride and quickly realized that the area did not offer the same choice of quality riding facilities as I was used to finding in the UK. I finally started having some lessons with Judy Williams, who no longer resides here, but I’m sure some of you older club members will remember. It was with one of Judy’s boarded horses that I first showed at a SWFDA show when they were held at Jan Bass’s location.

Later I started having lessons at a small boarding facility that used to be located on the corner of College & McGregor, now home to Publix & Racetrack Gas Station. It was here that I came to find Junior a $\frac{3}{4}$ Hanoverian, former A circuit jumper, who I would come to lease for 3 years.

During this time that I met Tori Polonitza, BHSI at one of the SWFDA shows, in those days held at Gateway. She started giving me some lessons on Junior, who was not the best of dressage horses, much preferring to go with his head high jumper frame. At Tori’s encouragement I started to volunteer with SWFDA as a scribe to further my Dressage education and I have been volunteering ever since, probably 15+ years.

In 1999 I purchased 4 yr old Tresbelle (Belle) my $\frac{3}{4}$ Hanoverian mare. We don’t show as much as I would like, she’s not one of the easiest horses to take “out & about” and our progression up the levels has been limited due to a number of reasons including lack of finances for lessons. But I love her anyway & feel very fortunate to be in a position to even own a horse and enjoy the feeling that all of us horse lovers have when we are just hanging out at the barn doing the things we like to do.



Ringin' In 2010

With the New Year upon us, most of us contemplate the future; where we were, and where we want to be. Last year was a challenge for many of us financially, which took a toll on our pocketbooks as well as our membership roster. I am hoping that we can rebuild our membership to SWFDA in order to have a more stable club, and to be able to donate more freely to local charitable organizations that need donations more than ever. We did a great job getting sponsors and new members with the Open House and Sponsorship drive, so keep thinking of ways to improve!

One toll taken on SWFDA was the lack of entries in the Kay Meredith Clinic scheduled for January 2010. A poll was taken in October to see if there would be any interest in bringing her back in January; and from all indications, many were hoping to sign up. In the end, we lost the airfare money to bring her down, and thankfully, she waived her fee for the 2 days of lessons. I don't think money was the only reason few riders signed up for this clinic. I believe that show season, not to mention the holidays, is taxing on many of us for a variety of reasons. It is my belief that unless we have a prepaid ride agreement, we should not venture into having a clinic in the winter season. It's unfortunate, because many clinicians winter in Florida from which we could benefit, and our weather doesn't dictate that we get all rides in before the heat or rain of the day.

Thanks to the few times I have gone to the USDF Convention, I have seen first hand how lucky we are to have such an active GMO for such a small area. There are several GMO's that have to cover 3 states in order to be productive! Can you imagine the difficulty they have to find not only a place to meet but the lack of community they must feel? The convention also is a good source of information to better our local GMO's via round table discussions and other valuable input and I am hoping to go again soon as your GMO delegate.

The future is in our hands. We are the only ones who can dictate what direction our club will go. Do we want it to prosper and be fun, or are we willing to let things slide and go downhill? I am doing my best, but could use your ideas and support. If you can't make a meeting and have a suggestion as to what we could do to make our club grow, please email me at: Saddlesore98@yahoo.com and I will try to incorporate your input.

In the meantime, remember that we have the Frostbite Frolic January 23rd so if you haven't met the deadline, at least come to the Civic Center to support the riders and fellow members. Can someone bring something hot cocoa or cookies? Hopefully we will be out of the Arctic wind and back into the balmy days of a Floridian winter!

~~~Barb Stark

## *Changing of the Guards*

Michelle Gerlach (our Vice President Extraordinaire and Show Secretary) will be taking a temporary leave of absence from being the Centerline Editor. The current show season has her bustling with little spare time to get the news in our mailboxes on time. So, in order to give her a break & some room to breathe we have asked Beth Yurkovac to take over for the time being. Michelle will be back after show season.

Please email any information for the Centerline to:

Beth Yurkovac: [byurkovac@comcast.net](mailto:byurkovac@comcast.net)

## SWFDA minutes, Oct. 8, 2009

Treasurer Michelle Vastola called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Secretary Cathy Cottrill read the minutes of the September meeting. There were no corrections. Michelle reported that we have \$3,470.36 in the bank. She said the Ride-A-Test went well, but we didn't break even. Thanks to our new sponsorship guru, Anne Ross, we raised \$3,140 in sponsorship income. Last year we had 10 sponsors; this year we have 15, including a title sponsor! Michelle also reminded members that it's membership renewal time, the earlier the better. Renewals are due by Nov. 11.

**President's Address:** In President Barb Stark's absence, Michelle reported that the civic center contracts are signed. Cathy Cottrill will remind Katie McClain to check the grounds prior to our first show to see what condition they're in. We also need to check the status of our arena drag. The tests have been printed for show season; some ribbons need to be ordered.

### **Committees:**

Volunteer Chairman Karen McCulley was not present, but it was reported that she is well set for volunteers for show season. Education Chairman Verna Saxer-Gibson reported that the Oct. 3-4 Ride-A-Test was a big success, with lots of drop-in auditors. Verna thanked Anne Ross for the raffle baskets for the Ride-A-Test. They raised \$175. We gave a gift card to Tori Polonitza, who judged for free, and paid for meals for Kay and her host, Barb Stark. Sandy was given two free SWFDA rides and 8 points a day for donating the facility.

Verna is planning a Jan. 9-10 Kay Meredith clinic, with eight 45-minute rides a day. The cost will be \$100 per ride. Riders can bring lunch and enjoy a lunch break with Kay, who will do a Q&A. Sandy Meador will have some stalls available at Da Vinci.

**Sponsorship:** After a discussion about our membership year, Michelle moved to have our 2010 sponsorship year end Oct. 15, so we can get T-shirts ready for our November show. The T-shirts, bearing our title sponsor's name, will be sold at the SWFDA booth. Marrilee Tyrrell seconded and the motion passed.

Doris Suenkel moved that gold, silver and bronze sponsors receive T-shirts; Michelle seconded and the motion passed.

Michelle will check to see if we can get some color other than white; gray is preferred.

Verna suggested we start with two dozen and sell them at the SWFDA booth.

**Omnibus:** Due to communication problems, the SWFDA Omnibus was sent out without the names of our big sponsors. Michelle said Barb asked that all decisions and major purchases be routed through her to avoid additional glitches. Cathy Cottrill suggested sending out an addendum, but Michelle said she would prefer to send out the entire omnibus with the sponsors added. Verna suggested putting the sponsor info on colored paper. Carol Herron asked again if sponsors could be announced at our shows.

**Shows:** Verna said all judges' contracts have been signed except one. Kathy Daly is out and Cheryl Holekamp is in. The January judge will be Heiner Jeibmann, R, from Germany.

**Open House:** Doris reported that the Oct. 31 open house is coming along nicely. She still needs demo riders, but may have some of the freestyle riders perform twice. Michelle will handle the games. Suggestions for games included pin the tail on the donkey and paint the pony. Doris has a barbecue concession coming and is putting flyers out. Tickets for activities will be sold for \$1 each and there will be people at various stations for activities. Verna said we need to check on the sound system. Doris said she has a sound system if one is needed. She will check to see if Susan O'Bryan will be available to announce.

**Miscellaneous:** Carol Herron announced the possibility of a Chris Hickey clinic, date RBA. Verna mentioned that we need a step or a mounting block for the judge's stand at our shows. Cathy Cottrill volunteered to edit club press releases and announcements before they are sent out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## SWFDA Minutes, Nov. 12, 2009

President Barb Stark called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Treasurer Michelle Vastola reported that SWFDA has \$4,726.60 in its coffers. "It's absolutely wonderful," said Michelle. "We have a number of sponsors." She said our open house netted \$166.83, as well as eight new members and two new sponsors. Michelle is looking into getting the club's nonprofit status upgraded to 501c3. She said we may need to amend our articles of incorporation.

Barb reported that club T-shirts with our sponsor information are now available. She congratulated Doris Suenkel for a very successful open house at Da Vinci Farms on Oct. 31. Barb also reminded members that membership renewal time is here. Barb welcomed first-time visitors Gabriela Lauriston and Marianne Taylor. She also told members about the passing of Anne Ross's mother. The club will be sending a sympathy card.

### **Committee Reports:**

Volunteer Chair Karen McCulley reported that she was all set with volunteers for our Nov. 14 show.

Volunteer of the Month is Lesley Pryce, who Karen described as a really active volunteer who pitches in wherever she is needed. Lesley often scribes at SWFDA shows.

In Education Chair Verna Saxer-Gibson's absence, Barb reminded members of the Kay Meredith clinic in January. The cost is \$100 for a 45-minute lesson and entry forms have been sent out.

Barb also reported that the Alpha Dressage Association's Double Delight I and II shows are no more. The club will no longer host the April show at Fox Lea Farm in Venice and no other entity stepped up to take the shows over.

**Old Business:**

Barb said she could not be present at set-up day before our November show. She said the club needs a mounting block or step for the judge to get up onto the flatbed that holds the judge's stand. Sandy Meador said she would bring one. Katie McClain reported that the civic center was in good condition for our first show of the season, although the gate to the warmup area was off the hinges. Fran Spears will make sure our arena drag is at the show and Barb will bring ice.

Michelle Vastola reported that we have four overnight horses, so we will be providing security. Barb reminded the morning crew to set up barrels to close off the front entrance to the barns so rigs do not drive in while horses are competing.

**New Business**

The closing date for our Dec. 12 show is Nov. 23. An e-mail reminder of the closing date will be sent out. Verna Saxer-Gibson will be typing our show scores this year.

Sandy Meador brought up the calling list to remind members to attend meetings. She said some members are becoming annoyed about the calls and believes they are a waste of time. Michelle V. moved that member reps stop making the calls; Mary Frances Denton seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**SWFDA Minutes, Dec. 12, 2009**

President Barb Stark called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Treasurer Michelle Vastola reported that SWFDA has \$6,273.34 in its coffers. She also said we have picked up several new members.

Barb reported that Laura McClain's father had passed away. SWFDA will send a card.

**Old Business**

The December show was discussed. Ashley Gornik said she went to the show grounds the night before our November show and there was no security for the horses staying there. Barb said security doesn't start until 10 p.m.

Barb reminded members to bring donations of horse supplies to the shows to fill the trash cans that will be raffled at the year-end awards party.

Barb also reminded members that they cannot pull up in front of the barns to load or unload horses while the show is in progress. They may pull behind the barns and back out. Barb said our announcer, Susan O'Bryan, would not be able to attend the show, so Barb would fill in as announcer. Sandy Meador reported that the ATV used to drag the arena is out of commission; she will try to get a John Deere we can use.

The closing date for the Kay Meredith clinic is Dec. 19. If this clinic doesn't fill, we will need to cancel it. Barb said Education Chair Verna Saxer-Gibson will no longer schedule events during show season if this clinic is canceled.

Sandy Meador will bring a mounting block to the show for the judge and scribe to use to get onto the judge's stand.

**New Business**

Barb said Michelle Gerlach needs to step down as newsletter editor. Michelle Vastola said Beth Yurkovac will be happy to take over.

The club needs to have a bylaws meeting. It was decided that 2 p.m. Jan. 30 will be the date at Fran Spears' house in south Fort Myers.

Barb said a club member suggested having the footing graded at the Lee Civic Center. Michelle Vastola moved that we take no action on this; Fran seconded and the motion passed.

Barb mentioned that USEF has a new rule about longing at shows, requiring a secure, separate area. It was decided to table this discussion until the January meeting.

The deadline for entries for the January show is Jan. 4.

The tires on the flatbed were discussed. Marrilee Tyrrell said we need four new tires and a spare. Ashley Gornik will check with Ken McClain and get a price on rebuilt tires as well.

Fran Spears made a motion to buy four new or used tires; Michelle Vastola seconded and the motion passed.

Michelle V. said this is our first year as a 501c7. Ten percent of each show's net proceeds will go to charity, split between our gold and bronze sponsors.

Barb spoke with one of our sponsors, Sheila Kagan, about charities. Sheila was seeking suggestions about what charity to donate to.

Doris Suenkel said First Bank needs a charity to donate to. ARC was suggested.

The volunteer of the month is Holly Chernoff. Congrats!

Doris Suenkel said a new photographer, Amy Wegman, will be coming to our show. Doris suggested that she become a sponsor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

# The SWFDA Page

## 2009-10 SWFDA OFFICIALS:

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### **Committees:**

Jr./YR:  
Social: Karen McCulley  
Education: Verna Saxer-Gibson & Anne Ross

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Southwest Florida Dressage Association Mission Statement: Our mission is to educate, inspire, encourage interest in and promote the equestrian discipline of dressage. To accomplish this mission, our members, working together, will:

- a. **Promote sportsmanship and fair competition in dressage**
- b. **Provide services for the members' common benefit**
- c. **Educate horsemen and the general public about dressage**
- d. **Expand and enhance the image of dressage locally**
- e. **Work with the United States Dressage Federation and the United States Equestrian Federation to encourage participation.**

## About SWFDA

SWFDA, a United States Dressage Federation Group Member Organization, offers: Monthly meetings, educational events, an awards program, a video lending library, clinics, show volunteer training, networking opportunities and shows. New members are welcome! Call any club officer for more information. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month for dinner; meetings start at 7 p.m. The meeting location is Uno's on Daniels Parkway in Fort Myers.

SWFDA is now online at [SWFDA.org](http://SWFDA.org)



The Center Line  
Beth Yurkovac/Editor  
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**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, January 14th, 6:00 pm for dinner at Uno's off Daniels Parkway; meeting starts at 7:00 pm sharp. All members are both welcomed and encouraged to attend.**

**SWFDA is a Group Member Organization of USDF.**

**All SWFDA members are automatically USDF GMO members.**