



Newsletter Topics

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Upcoming EIDEA Events

Cindy Ishoy Social Hour
June 1, 2024
Winds Reach Farm

Ride-a-Test
June 24, 2024
Northern Lights
Mt Vernon, IA
Lois Pienkos
(c) 319-560-8872
(e) pienkyl@aol.com

Upcoming Region Events

Tamarack Schooling Show
June 2, 2024
Greenbriar Riding Academy
Tammy Lisi
(e) tammylisi71@gmail.com

Cindy Ishoy Clinic
June 1-2, 2024
Winds Reach Farm
Bill Coester
(c) 319-270-9627
(e) calbb@aol.com

Maffitt Lake
June 15-16, 2024
Cumming, IA

To add your event to the list above, email
info@easterniowadressageandeventing.com

President's Update

The board has been hard at work laying the foundation for the continued future of our club. The two priorities for the club are Insurance and 501(c)(3) status.

One of the hurdles to planning events has been costs. One of the costs was insurance. This is because none of the 2024 events were added to our insurance policy at the time it was renewed in June 2023. Member at Large, CC McConnell, has been investigating insurance options and discovered that there is no fee to update event dates and locations after adding them to our insurance policy at the time of renewal. We are taking advantage of the upcoming renewal in June 2024 to add events we know about and placeholders for future events we'd like to try and bring to our club membership. Hopefully eliminating this hurdle for both the current board and the future board as they plan 2025 events.

We're also working on obtaining a 501(c)(3) status for the club. Our Treasurer, Deb Johnson, is leading this effort. The hope is this will generate more financial support for the club through encouraging more donations and allowing members to take advantage of employer benefits that match contributions to charitable organizations.

Trainer Feature – Stephanie Field Staner

River Ridge Stables - Potosi, WI



(Continued next page)



My passion for horses began at a very young age and I'm pretty sure it was in my blood. My mother grew up with horses and was determined that my sisters and I would have the same opportunity. When we moved to the states, my parents bought a facility and my sisters and I began riding saddleseat. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to show saddlebreds all over the country until my early teens when my mother transitioned the barn from a saddleseat training barn to a boarding barn. At that time, we had an influx of boarders move in that were eventers. This was my first time being exposed to such an incredible sport! I was a bit of an adrenalin junkie, and as soon as I saw them jump for the first time there was no turning back. I immediately convinced my mother that I needed to do this, and she was completely supportive (even though we had no idea what we were getting in to). She bought me a couple of project ottb's to get started. To say they taught me a lot is an understatement. One thoroughbred in particular, Jerry, taught me the importance of patience, grit, determination, humility, and perseverance.

I competed in eventing through the rest of my teens and then went to college in Florida where I could continue to focus seriously on my riding while getting my degree in criminal justice. After college I had the opportunity to lease a facility in Wisconsin while I finished my masters. I always knew I would end up working with horses but my parents were adamant that I also needed a formal education so I continued to do both. What I thought would be a short-term lease ended up lasting 12 years. During this time, I began training full time with the focus on starting young horses. The horses I started were from all disciplines from reining, dressage, eventing, and huntseat. I absolutely loved working with the young horses and even had the opportunity to compete horses that I had started at the paint world show. I continued to work with my personal horses as well and focused mainly on restarting ottb's for eventing. I had the opportunity to be mentored by some of the most incredible horsemen, John Harms and Vaughn Knudsen. Their philosophies and methods have helped shape me into the trainer I am today. Their foundation and concepts are based on natural horsemanship principles and I continue to use these methods and theories every day.

I had originally only planned on focusing my energy on training but slowly I started getting clients who wanted to take lessons. Before I knew it, I had a full-blown lesson program including multiple lesson horses. After leasing this facility for 12 years, my husband and I decided it was time to buy our own farm. We bought land in Potosi, WI and built our current facility. When we moved, I was grateful that my entire client base came with me and we moved close to 35 horses. We currently have around 45 horses on the property and offer boarding, training, and lessons. Our lesson program is a huge part of my business, and our lesson horses are the heart of the program. I absolutely love that we are able to provide lesson horses to teach both kids and adults the joy of riding having horses in their lives!

After much encouragement from one of my friends and mentors, Anne Sushko, I decided to do the USDF trainer/instructor program and became certified in 2018. This was an incredible experience for me and it helped spark my desire to continue my education and never stop learning. This year I had the opportunity to go to the USDF trainers conference in Florida and I will continue to participate in educational programs whenever I can!

I have been truly blessed to ride some amazing horses in my career and compete through preliminary level eventing and earn my USDF bronze. I hope to continue competing and working towards my silver medal, but my true pride and joy comes from both developing horses, and watching my students become successful riders and horsemen.

If you're interested in learning more about my facility, training, or instructor services, you may find me at 4252 Kelly Lane Potosi, WI 53820. You may also follow us on Facebook or check out our website, <https://www.riverridgestables.com/>.



Want to be our next featured trainer? Email info@easterniowadressageandeventing.com

June 24th Ride A Test with S Judge Anne Cizadlo



We are proud to announce our Annual Ride-A-Test on June 24 at Northern Lights Farm (1660 O'Connor Rd, Mt Vernon, IA 52314)!

If you are interested in riding in this clinic, please use the button below to apply to ride. Spaces are limited and we want to prioritize members.

Each rider will be given 30 minutes for their ride. You will come in and ride your test of choice, receive feedback from Anne (an S Level judge), and have the opportunity to either do exercises or school the test again with the clinician.

The fees for the clinic are as follows:

Members: \$100 per ride

Non-Members: \$120 per ride

Sponsorships for reduced rider fees are pending fundraising efforts. Payments will be due 2 weeks prior to the clinic when

riders are selected. Ride times will be posted 1 week prior to the event.

Auditing will be available so mark your calendars!

If you are interested in sponsoring a rider (or young rider), please contact Deb Johnson at deb@farginvest.com

[Apply to Ride](#)



Clinic Feature – Sarah Arnold

Perfectionism: Strength or Weakness? And Other Things I Learned at a Clinic

By Sarah Arnold, Photos Derith Vogt



If horse people are weird, dressage people have turned it into an art form. Wait, now hear me out. There is something to say about this sport that attracts the most die-hard of perfectionists. The ones who celebrate the simple beauty of nailing that perfectly square halt. Or hear angels when horse and rider glide down the diagonal in an extended trot. But while all of us will pour blood, sweat, and, if you're like me, the occasional tear, to ride the perfect 10, 15, or 20 meter circle. The reality is few of us will ever see a 10 on our tests and wonder, what on Earth the judge is looking for anyway?

Which is what brought me to Dr. Tom Leavenworth and Dr. Lyse Strnad's beautiful Cedar Run Farm in Tipton. To be fair, the farm is nestled on a hill overlooking the Cedar River and, on a perfect April morning, and it wasn't exactly a hardship to make the drive from Grinnell. But I digress, what drew me out on this day was the North Hills Hunt Shake the Rust Off Dressage Clinic with east Iowa's own Alexandria Novotny Pasker. For those not in the know, Alex completed her USDF L judge license, and if you are going to learn about the inner workings of a judge's mind, who better than from an actual judge!

I was one of the first rides of the day and, due to a frustratingly consistent talent of always running behind, missed the first two rides while I settled horses into their stalls. Lyse was kind enough to give Val a stall with a window into the arena and she, at least, seemed perfectly content to watch while I tacked Jinx. I'm hoping she took lots of notes for her debut in a couple of years. Unfortunately, her contentment lasted as long as Jinx was next to her, and as I did a little in-hand walk around the indoor it became pretty clear that neither horse abided by the idea of out of sight, out of mind.



Fortunately, eastern Iowa is full of wonderful, supportive, humans who are all about giving the horse a good experience. Even two-year-olds who in need of their emotional support thoroughbred. My darling husband was able to grab Val and bring her into the ring. Jinx took a breath, I took a breath, and mounted up without incident.



Jinx can be a bit anxiety prone, and relaxation has been the name of our game this winter. I have learned that, when it rears it's proverbial head, the best thing I can do is fall on our warm up routine at home. Which involves a lot of long and low work, often on a 20-meter circle. Today was one of those days. While Jinx settled in Alex and I talked about what I had been working on over the winter (relaxation), goals for the upcoming season (dressage, aspirations of First Level), strengths (Huh?) and what my weaknesses were ("All of them?"). Once a few more breaths were had, we moved off the circle and started engaging His Highness' mind and body. Almost from the start Alex noticed two things, Jinx's reluctance to transition up to a trot (a new phenomenon) and difficulty bending through the rib cage to the right (a work in progress). And that became the focus of our session.

Alex and I made a plan to let Jinx set the pace of the session. Gradually increasing what was asked of him when he indicated he was ready without drilling any particular exercise. We started easy with walk, trot, transitions and incorporated bending exercises like spiraling in and out and serpentines. Partially to warm up his body, partially to familiarize him with a brand-new arena. In the way of horses, the busier Jinx stayed, the more focused he became. Before long he told us he was ready for real work. Alex put us back on our circle, where we practiced moving forward, and coming back without tension, as well as incorporating an opening inside rein, with supportive outside rein to encourage bend. The last one came in handy when it was time to canter. His right lead isn't the most consistent, but we put our new tools to the test and after a couple tries... Success! Away we went, relaxed, happy, and on the correct lead!

At the end, more than anything, is what keeps us coming back for more. We recognize and celebrate those little wins. Whether their flashes of harmony on a green horse, or a relaxed movement that used to be met with tension. Because those tiny wins mark the progress of our partnership. And they lay the foundation for those really big, core riding memory, moments.





Meeting Minutes – April 2024

Attendees: Megan Ward, Becky Powell-Rennecker, Danielle Grimes, Hannah Owens, Jodie Bramel, Nina Elskamp, Mala Erickson, Stephanie Staner, Michelle King, Robin Ballntyne, Kelly Kramer

Approval of previous minutes: [March 5 2024 Minutes](#)

Officer Updates:

President:

- Absent for today

Vice President:

- Limited available throughout April and May 5-12

Secretary:

- [List of Judges](#)
- I did not manage to schedule at Jones County
- I will be gone end of May to beginning of June
- Scott Peters and Jillian Krienberg potential discount (10+ members)
- No April Newsletter

Treasurer:

- [month over month summary March.docx](#)

Month	Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance	Notes
Opening balance 2024				
Jan 2024	\$8,543.99	\$464.66	\$360	\$8,648.65
Feb 2024	\$8,648.65	\$315.26	\$578.68	\$8,385.18
March 2024	\$ 99.27			\$8,484.45
April 2024				
May 2024				
June 2024				
July 2024				
Aug 2024				
Sept 2024				
Oct 2024				
Nov 2024				
Dec 2024				
Total				

Annual Expenses Estimated \$1,555

Insurance \$746
 WIX business \$346.68 (2/17/24)pd
 WIX Domain 75.90 (Euro 10/9/2028)
 WIX business email(2) \$154.08 (9/2024)
 Email marketing \$308.16 (11/08/24)

2024 Budget for annual expenditure

Restricted membership \$1,013.04
 Reserve for expenses \$1,208.32
Total side aside \$2,221

- [March 2024.docx](#)

Members at Large:

Membership

- Added one member

Volunteer

- Becky will be reaching out Bill Coester about helping with the Ishoy clinic as volunteers/a membership opportunity

Previous Business:

- [Proposed Event: Wine and Cheese 2024.03 Wine-n-Cheese Ride-a-Test Member Input](#)
- [Proposed Cavaletti Clinic](#)

New Business:

- [Code of Conduct](#) - tabled until May

Announcements

[EIDEA Committee Roster](#)

Email about changing to April 30 - Motion failed, lack of quorum



Cindy Ishoy Dressage Clinic

June 1st - 2nd

WINDS REACH FARM
4427 Kotts Lane, Iowa City, IA
www.windsreachfarm.com

Rides: \$235/session / Auditing: \$35/day

EIDEA, Pony Club member discount (\$10/day)

Stabling: \$35/day

Cindy is a 5-time Olympian and World Cup Rider. Her horse Dynasty, she trained from a 3 yrs old to a silver medal finish at the 1988 World Cup finals. She is respected as one of the top International dressage trainers and clinicians in North America and in Europe

Come join us for a great weekend of learning. Social hour with Cindy following Saturday afternoon rides sponsored by EIDEA

Contact Bill Coester at calbb@aol.com or **319-270-9627**



Current Club Roster

To view the latest club roster, visit <https://www.usdf.org/clubs/people.asp?GroupPass=417&RegionPass=4&TypePass=GMO>

GMO Contacts

Name	Position	Phone
Katherine Wilson	President	(319) 651-6058
Megan Ward	Vice President	(319) 981-0343
Carla Grimes	Secretary	(662) 722-2324
Deborah Johnson	Treasurer	(319) 560-4324
Katherine Wilson	Official Contact	(319) 651-6058
Megan Ward	Roster Contact	(319) 981-0343
Jill Jackson	Web Master	(815) 600-3217
Victoria Spain	Newsletter Editor	(319) 213-0067

Roster with 57 recorded members

Chris Africa	Emma Frimml	Tammy Lisi	Michelle Smith
Sarah-Beth Arnold	Ann Garton	Thomas Lisi	Victoria Spain
Robin Ballantyne	Carla Grimes	Alycia Ludden	Anne Sushko
Katie Barrowcliff	Donna Hammond	Maria Martino-Cardona	Megan Ward
Nancy Barta	Sarah Hauschild	Cecilia McConnell	Kari Washburn
Susan Beck	Julie Hayek	Alexandria Novotny Pasker	Owen Washburn
Justin Bisinger	Rachael Hyland	Hannah Owens	Eadie Weaver
Julie Bloom	Jill Jackson	Lois Pienkos	Robin White
Jodie Bramel	Deborah Johnson	Becky Powell-Rennecker	Katherine Wilson
Susan Brigham	Susan Keller	Jennifer Pundt	Heather Wilson-Roller
Trish Campanelli	Stacey Kindt	Joyce Pundt	Meg Witter
Nina Elskamp	Michelle King	Monica Reiten	Maria Yuska
Leigh Ennen	Kathryn Kostenbader	Diane Riccolo	
Mala Erickson	Ann Kramer	Kathleen Schramm	
Stephanie Field Staner	Ted Lepic	Erin Schwartz	

Have you renewed your membership but don't see your name above? Please reach out to Roster Contact, Megan Ward.

Don't see your name above? You may need to renew your membership. Please reach out to any of the GMO contacts above.