


DALLAS DRESSAGE CLUB




Welcome to the DDC Newsletter!


Spring 2026

This is our newly reestablished newsletter that will be out quarterly. Look for it on the DDC website and Facebook page. This edition I thought I'd just do some housekeeping reminders for the new competition year.

 USEF requires all horses competing in recognized shows to now be microchipped by December 1, 2026. [LINK](#)

 If you do not own the horse you are competing, please put the CURRENT owner's name on the entry form. It is also required that the owner be a current member of USEF and USDF. If done before you submit the entry, it will help to relieve some of the headaches in the show office.

 If you have a horse registered with the breed organization, be sure to renew its breed membership so that it can be eligible for the USDF All Breed rankings.

 DDC keeps a record of its scores for recognized shows for year end awards. However, DDC does NOT keep records of the other recognized shows or the other schooling shows i.e. HDS, Haras, FWDC, TriState, Longhorn Arena, etc. Submit your best scores at those shows and remember at least one of the shows must be a DDC competition to qualify for a year end award.

 All shows are listed in the Region 9 Omnibus but make sure you check online in case there are date changes.

It's been a busy year for the DDC board members. We have been working hard to reestablish this newsletter and are currently working on a new website. Remember to check our Facebook page for all current information. We have a NEW year, NEW goals, NEW shows, and some wonderful NEW members!

Best wishes to all for a healthy, happy, and successful year.

Becky



X HALT SALUTE

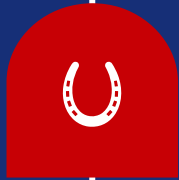
Take Note!



Member perk: Calendar

Have an event to promote? Add it to our calendar for FREE! Clinics, Shows, Fittings, Demonstrations, Open Houses, Garage Sales, etc. Boost attendance and awareness as an included benefit to your membership with DDC.

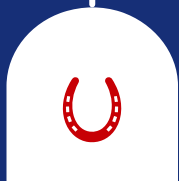
Send details to Sponsorships@DallasDressage.org to get your event on our calendar.



2026 Sponsorships: NOW OPEN

New: [Apply Online](#) to secure your sponsored classes, advertising placements, award naming rights, banners, and pet sponsors!

Your Advertising and Sponsorships support our shows, education, and access to dressage.



Coming Soon: Member Directory

As a new feature, the website will host a directory that will be free for members to have a listing. Members will be able to link to businesses, services, classifieds, sale/wanted ads, and more.



Register Today

DDC SPRING I & II

Texas Rose Horse Park
Tyler, TX

May 30 & 31, 2026

CLOSE DATE MAY 14

Judges

Cheryl Holekamp, S
Amy McElroy, S
Jennifer Roth, S



USDF Level 3 Competition

Register Now:

www.dallasdressageclub.wildapricot.org

Note: The Hunter show will NOT be held during this weekend

BOOKMARK THESE DATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 16
-
JUNE 28

VIRTUAL
SHOW

Summer Hoofbeats Classic Virtual Show

MAY 30 & 31

TYLER,
TX

Spring Show I & II

Close Date May 14

MAY 31



Deadline to apply for Spring Scholarships

Open, AA, Jr/YR, L Program

JUNE 20 & 21

TYLER,
TX

Sport Horse In Hand & Dressage Show I&II

Close Date June 4

JULY 3 - 26

VIRTUAL
SHOW

Harvest & Hoofbeats Fall Virtual Show



BOOKMARK THESE DATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY
17 - 19**

**SAN
ANTONIO**

Region 9 Summer Meeting

**JULY
18 - 19**

**GREENVILLE,
TX**

Sizzlin Sumer Schooling Show I & II

**AUG
8 - 9**

**ATHENS,
TX**

Lemonade Daze I & II

**NOV
7 - 8**

**ATHENS,
TX**

Yellow Rose I & II

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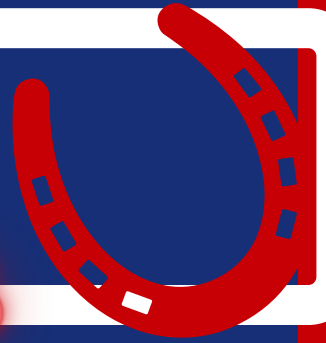
**ADD
YOURS
HERE**

Have an event you'd like to see on the calendar?
Members can add to our calendar for free!
Send details to
sponsorships@dallasdressage.org



SHOW SPOTLIGHT

THE 70% CLUB



The following riders achieved a 70+% at our last recognized show in November. Congratulations to these Yellow Rose competitors!

Day 1

Sandy Venneman riding 907 Favory Vi Adelena, First Level Freestyle, Open 72.028%

Charlene Maddox riding Gerzon, Training Level Test 1, AA 71.538%

Amber Hall riding Drogon D, Owned by Charlotte Atkins-Dumford, Training Level Test 1, Open, 72.885%

Kamran Fatehdin riding Gernhill Sao Miguel, Training Level Test 1, Jr/YR, 75.690%

Kamran Fatehdin riding Gernhill Sao Miguel, Training Level Test 3, Jr/YR, 74.800%

Savannah Ware riding Machen of the Hill, Dressage Equitation, Jr/YR 72.000%

Day 2

Savannah Ware riding Machen of the Hill, First Level Test 1, Jr/YR, 71.667%

Hannah Taylor riding Nyls G.Fan E' Rydwei, Owned by Rachel Burns, First Level Test 1, Open, 71.852%

Sandy Venneman riding 907 Favory Vi Adelena, First Level Freestyle, Open, 70.083%

Charlene Maddox riding Gerzon, Training Level Test 1, AA, 73.077%

Kamran Fatehdin riding Gernhill Sao Miguel, Training Level Test 2, Jr/YR, 71.034%

Kamran Fatehdin riding Gernhill Sao Miguel, Training Level Test 3, Jr/YR, 70.800%

Hannah Taylor riding Nyls G.Fan E' Rydwei, Owned by Rachel Burns, First Level Test 1, Open, 70.800%

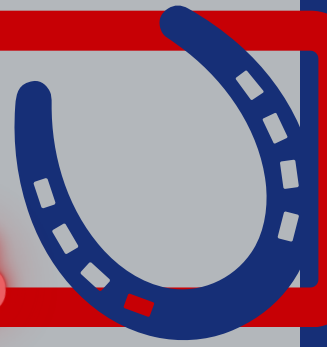
Savannah Ware riding Machen of the Hill, Dressage Equitation, Jr/YR, 77.000%

Amatey Wensel riding Pontifex V/D Debbbehoeve & Cynthia Burchett riding Crescendo, Pas de Deux, Open, 71.400%



SHOW SPOTLIGHT

THE 70% CLUB



**The following riders achieved a 70+% at our last schooling show in April.
Congratulations to these Spring Has Sprung competitors!**

- Candy Hill riding Cowboy, WDAA Basic Test 4, AA, 80.769%
- Mallory Studer riding Mistress of the Dark Ella Vang, Dressage Suitability, Open, 80.000%
- Mallory Studer riding Mistress of the Dark Ella Vang, Dressage Equitation WTC, Open, 80.000%
- Candy Hill riding Cowboy, WDAA Basic Test 4, AA, 79.038%
- Tim Cobb riding Devon Ridge Tresor D'or, WDAA Level 1 Test 4, 78.966%
- Mallory Studer riding Spicy Chicken Nugget, Intro Test C, Open, 78.5%
- Heather Baggett riding Art Aficianado, WDAA Intro Test 4, AA, 78.25%
- Mallory Studer riding Spicy Chicken Nugget, Intro Test C, Open, 77.75%
- Yvonne Kusserow riding Boreal Devergara, Training Level Test 3, Open, 77.2%
- Heather Baggett riding Art Aficianado, WDAA Intro Test 3, AA, 76.25%
- Amy Hunt riding Allen's Alibi, Training Level Test 3, AA, 76.2%
- Margaret Kitts riding Bandera Mead, WDAA Level 1 Test 3, Open, 75.968%
- Mallory Studer riding Mistress of the Dark Ella Vang, First Level Test 1, Open, 75.741%
- Heather Blaylock riding DP Pizazz, First Level Test 2, AA, 75%
- Crystal Moore riding Guston the North Wind, Intro Test B, AA, 74.688%
- Heather Blaylock riding DP Pizazz, First Level Test 1, AA, 74.444%
- Mallory Studer riding Mistress of the Dark Ella Vang, First Level Test 1, Open, 74.259%
- Laura Impey riding Nadal, First Level Test 2, Open, 74.242%
- MK Connatser riding Schnell's Highlight, Fourth Level Freestyle, Jr/YR, 73.875%
- Mallory Struder riding Call Me Al, Intro Test A, Open, 73.75%
- Crystal Moore riding Guston the North Wind, Intro Test A, AA, 73.125%
- Crystal Moore riding Guston the North Wind, Intro Test C, AA, 73.000%
- Candy Hill riding Cowboy, WDAA Basic Test 4, AA, 72.5%
- Candy Hill riding Cowboy, WDAA Basic Test 4, AA, 72.308%
- Laura Impey riding Dunamis, FEI PSG, Open, 72.265%
- Camille Moore riding Ella Grace, Intro Test B, Jr/YR, 71.875%
- Amy Hunt riding Hitch City, Intro Test B, AA, 71.875%
- Sage Smith riding Journey C, YR Team Test, Jr/YR, 71.765%
- Amy Hunt riding Allen's Alibi, Training Level Test 3, AA, 71.552%
- Heather Baggett riding Art Aficianado, WDAA Intro Test 3, AA, 71.5%
- Mallory Struder riding Call Me Al, Intro Test A, Open, 71.25%
- Camille Moore riding Ella Grace, Intro Test A, Jr/YR, 70.625%
- Sara Dickinson riding All American Boy, First Level Test 3, Open, 70.417%
- Tim Cobb riding Devon Ridge Tresor D'Or, WDAA Level 1 Test 4, Open, 70.345%
- Savanah Lazo riding Mighty Monsoon, Intro Test A, AA, 70.000%

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: GALVIN SWIFT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

I remember my very first time on a horse. My parents tried to tell me that it was a pony, but they were wrong! (See the photo). After a few years of Saturday pony rides at a nearby park, I started riding lessons on my seventh birthday. My parents had five kids, so a horse of my own had to wait until I was on my own and living in San Francisco. At that time there was an idyllic barn in Golden Gate Park and wonderful travelling trainers who came to give lessons weekly. After 6 years in SF I moved to Dallas in 1980. I was able to get back to riding in 1982 and became a member of the young Dallas Dressage Club. Depending on the trainers available I switched back and forth between dressage and hunters for the next 25 years. When the Las Colinas Equestrian Center closed, I moved my pony to Rocking M and started training with Yvonne Kusserow. With her wonderful guidance I was able to earn my bronze medal with my pony Giorgio, and then my silver medal with my lovely Dutch Warmblood Ursula (photo). After Ursula retired from showing I moved back to a pony who isn't too interested in showing but is a solid citizen and close to the ground in the event that I dismount suddenly. My favorite part of my retirement is that I can ride daily and enjoy the company of a great group of people at Rocking M.

I became the DDC membership chair after my younger child left for college and I was no longer a gymnastics/soccer/lacrosse mom as well as full time worker. I wanted to give back to the club that had made so many events available to me in the North Texas area. At that time, I took over the membership chair from the retiring chair, and ran for the position in the next club election. I picked this job because I can do it on my own as my schedule permits. Other board positions and committee chair positions require more outreach to others. There is a volunteer position waiting for you!



MEMBER'S CORNER BY GALVIN SWIFT

It's time to renew your membership for competition year 2026, which runs from December 1, 2025 to Nov 30, 2026. Thanks in advance for your renewals! There is no club without our wonderful members helping to create a community interested in dressage.

SIX REASONS TO JOIN DDC

1

Be part of the community of people interested in participating in the art of Dressage.

2

Support the Dallas Dressage Club which sponsors 8 annual recognized shows (on 4 weekends). This is more than half of the recognized shows in the North TX area.

3

Support the Club that sponsors several schooling shows as well as schooling show championships. Western Dressage is also included in these schooling shows.

4

Be eligible to earn scholarships. Scholarships of several types are available for juniors, young riders, adult amateurs, and professionals.

5

Participate in various educational activities and clinics. Last year these opportunities included a Freestyle Clinic with Joan Darnell and a super informative and fun Equitation Clinic, the first for any USDF member organization!

6

Qualify for year-end awards presented at our always enjoyable year end banquet. You must be an active (paid) member of the DDC before the end of the 2026 competition year (November 30) to qualify for awards.



DALLAS DRESSAGE CLUB

SCHOLARSHIPS

This fall the Dallas Dressage Club awarded scholarships to the following members

-  Barbara Richardson-Lewis \$1500 towards the 2026 USDF FEI Trainers conference in FL
-  Allison Stai \$500 towards the “L” Judge Program
-  MK Connatser \$500 towards the Region 9 FEI Youth Clinic
-  Eloise Poupart \$500 towards the Region 9 FEI Youth Clinic



TRAINER'S CONFERENCE NOTES FROM YVONNE KUSSEROW

Hi fellow DDC members!

Some of you know me already, my name is Yvonne Kusserow and we own and operate Rocking M Stables in Dallas. I applied and received the DDC Scholarship of \$1500 to attend the 2024 USDF Trainers Conference in Loxahatchee, Florida. This year's conference featured Sven Rothenberger and Sabine Schut-Kery and it was a great experience!

It was my first-time auditing this very educational and fun event! I watched, listened and made notes simultaneously and want to share a few of my thoughts with you.

Each rider had a 45-minute lesson with one of the clinicians each day. Four riders in the morning and four riders in the afternoon with a 45-minute lunch break for everyone! Trainers and Adult Amateurs were represented in this clinic with horse's ages varying from 7 to 16. If you are thinking about attending the Conference I can strongly recommend it! Making time and being able to focus on Dressage for two full days is a blast! As a bonus, you are in Florida!

CONTINUED...



CONTINUED FROM YVONNE KUSSEROW

Staying a couple of days longer, watching a show at Global or just enjoying yourself during the season in Wellington is fun! I recommend booking your hotel with the USDF Conference discount or stay at an Air BnB. January is main season so remember to make reservations sooner than later! What I really enjoyed was the laid back yet very professional atmosphere at the Conference. Auditors are seated on one side of the arena. The view is good and the speaker system worked well. At the end of each ride during a short break, the clinicians answered questions submitted by the audience.

Here are some of the answers and quotes from Sabine and Sven I found super interesting and great reminders for all riders, instructors and students!

While on a break or asking your trainer a question... “Keep walking!”

Horses learn quickly and it can become a habit wanting to stop. A walk break should be used to keep suppleness going, staying relaxed and preparing for the next thing. Stopping takes the flow away.

Horses have to move in their own way, we cannot always control every step!

I find this statement so helpful to not get in your head about micromanaging every step and over correcting our horse's movements.

You are never too old to ride without stirrups

It is important to continuously work on your seat to influence the horse properly and there is no better way then crossing your stirrups in all three gaits for a few minutes.

Balance (in a rider) changes thru life, always look for it

I found this statement (advice) super motivating because everyone gets older and most likely experiences changes in their ability to move with the horse, apply aids invisibly and feeling connected!

What I get out of it is “it's ok and keep trying”.

And last, this advice from Sven doesn't need much of an explanation...

“As a rider you need to be able to take criticism!”

Thank you, Dallas Dressage Club for this opportunity! It is a great chance to watch and listen to top trainers, visit with old friends or make new connections!



USEFUL RESOURCES



[2026 USEF RULE BOOK](#)

[2026 DRESSAGE USEF RULE BOOK](#)

[REGION 9 WEBSITE & OMNIBUS](#)

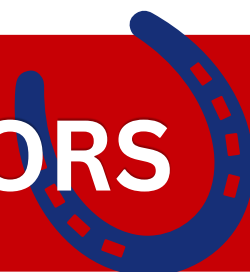
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