

EID & CTA Contact

Eastern Iowa Dressage & Combined Training Association is a USDF Group Member Organization • Members automatically become USDF Group Members



For more information contact: eidcta@mwnet.com or <http://www.mwnet.com/eidcta>
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December 2002 ~ Eastern Iowa Dressage & Combined Training Association ~ Better Riding Through Better Understanding

FROM THE PREZ DIVIDED WE STAND

I was reading an editorial in the "Eventing USA" magazine the other day and it was discussing change in relationship to the Eventing world and how the Eventing world had "glacial" change — meaning that it took too long for change to take affect and as a result Eventing could get left behind.

Change is inevitable and with four new officers, we will be going through some changes in this organization. Our change will not be earth-shaking, but it is nevertheless a change. New officers will have, if not new, at least alternate ideas of what we should be doing as an organization. The truth is, however, this organization is your organization and you should be making the decisions as to the direction of the EIDCTA. With that thought in mind I have put together a proposal that is entered in a different part of this newsletter along with an agenda for the January 7th meeting being held at the Lighthouse at 7 P.M..

One of the reasons I like EIDCTA is that the members want to improve their horses and their riding abilities. Maybe the reason the members wish to improve is so that they can compete at a higher level. Maybe it's just to improve their horse's flexibility, suppleness and athletic ability. Maybe it's to have a more responsive trail companion. Whatever the reason, they want to improve their relationship with their horses.

There are many ways for a club to assist its members in achieving their goals. The club can host clinics, give presentations and lectures by clinicians, or provide educational round tables. It's very difficult for only four people (the officers), to plan and execute the activities necessary to achieve the above goals. That's why I've made the proposal for committees (included in this newsletter) for you to review. When you read it, please be thinking of committees you would like to be involved in. If you would like to see a committee formed that isn't on the list, speak right up!

I urge you to attend the January meeting and express your opinion as the direction we should take and how

we should take it. Everyone does not need to be involved in every activity but everyone does need to be involved at least one activity. Hence the phrase list above — Divided we stand. It shows how varied and far-ranging our interests as a club are.

Proposal For Various Changes In EIDCTA

The following suggestions are just that – suggestions to be put before the membership of EIDCTA.

In the past, the officers of EIDCTA had to do it all. They didn't have the time or the resources to explore all the different activities and avenues the club could become involved in. Obviously, if we are going to have the opportunity to accomplish the variety of ideas many of you expressed at the last planning meeting, the officers will need to share the burden with the members.

Here is my proposal: Let's form committees with these simple guidelines.

1. Officers can be a member of any committee but not the chairperson.
2. Committee chairpersons would be responsible for finding volunteers for their committee.
3. Members can volunteer for as many committees as they have the time and interest to serve on.
4. The chairperson of each committee would be responsible for keeping the officers informed of the activities of their committee. The officers will be responsible for providing EIDCTA members with committee updates.
5. Committee may hold meetings at their convenience.

I have taken the liberty of asking some members if they would be willing to be the chairperson of a committee. They had expressed an interest in these areas. The following are suggestions of committees to be formed:

Steering Committee - Megan Ward, Chairperson

This committee will work on issues that would apply to the entire organization such as: Becoming affiliated with USA Eventing and the Name Change.

Awards Committee – Nancy Barta, Chairperson

Develop an awards system and a presentation program to distribute the awards.



"If we learn to live moment to moment and do less
express our horsemanship with less struggle"

Education Committee – Leanne Ebsen, Chairperson
Responsible for the educational portion of the monthly meetings.

Activities Committee – Roberta Culp, Chairperson
These activities would be more of a fun activity such as trail rides, going to Tempel farms, etc.

Young Riders – Andria Pooley, chairperson.
For the encouragement of young riders in the sports of dressage and Eventing. What EIDCTA can do to encourage and support young riders.

Membership Activities – Needs a chairperson
Work on increasing membership

Fund-raising – Needs a chairperson
If we want to keep our dues low and increase activities we will need to have fund-raisers of some kind. For example, Kirkwood is having a tack swap in January. We should be able to come with donations from members to pay for the booth and make a little money. Plus, it is an advertisement for our group.

Publicity/Marketing – Needs a chairperson
One of our purposes is to promote the sport of Dressage and, if we become affiliated, Eventing. In order to do this, we need to have a community outreach program to get our name in front of the public.

Shows & Clinics — Needs a chairperson
Researches the possibility of holding a rated show, a schooling show, or various clinics.

Maybe this is all overkill, but that is why you need to attend the January meeting – because we need your help in planning the future of our organization.

***Congratulations to Amanda Johnson
who received her USDF Gold Medal
for riders achievement.***



A Year to Remember

By Rose Ambrose

My horse (Steinway) and myself qualified and competed at the Midwest Dressage Championships at Training Level in 2002. To qualify for the Midwest Dressage Championships we had to earn 3 qualifying scores from 3 different USA Equestrian/USDF recognized shows, from 3 different judges at a minimum score of 60%. We had until September 1st to qualify.

We went to our first dressage show ever on Aug 24 and 25th, which was actually 2 shows at the NDA Fall Festival I and II, in Fremont, Nebraska. We rode in 7 training level classes and placed first in all 7 classes! It was so exciting. We had a high score of 69.2% and an average score of 66.24%. We won the Championship at Festival I and were Reserve Champions at Festival II, and also won 3 medals.

The following weekend we went to Silverwood Dressage and rode in 4 classes, and ended up with two first places, one second, and one third. There we had a high score of 69.09% and an average of 66.24.

These 3 shows qualified us for the Midwest Dressage Championships the following weekend in Mason City. There we had a high score of 68.8% and an average score of 66.8%. We ended up in 4th place in the Midwest Dressage Championships.

do less with our thoughts and our bodies, we will
struggle and greater artistry" — Author unknown



Let's Go Driving! By Leanne Ebsen

The September 2002 meeting of the EIDCTA was held in the new indoor arena at Barbara & Tom Hall's Hawks' Haven Stables in Cedar Rapids. Don Nelson, the owner and main craftsman of Nelson Cabinets in Cedar Rapids, was our speaker. Don is from the Palo area, and driving horses is one of his long-time passions. He raises Morgan and Morgan-crosses right next door to Pleasant Creek State Park and frequently uses the trails there when he drives his horses. Don also enjoys driving his horses in parades, and to nursing homes and church activities. He is active in competitive driving events throughout the midwest.

We had asked Don, for our meeting, to explain parts of the harness, cart, safety tips, harnessing procedures, and finally basic driving techniques. Don brought with him his homebred bay Morgan/Arab cross gelding named Titus. He used the Hall's beautiful high-wheeled wooden cart. Don first spoke to us about his personal history with horses, then about harness, its parts and purposes, and then demonstrated putting the harness on Titus. He entertained questions from the membership, and then hitched the cart to Titus, got in and gave us a skilled demonstration of driving! Then, he invited the members to take the reins themselves, and take Titus for a drive! Since Ruth Ebsen had already had a "driving lesson" with Don that week, she demonstrated to us how easy and fun it was, and then the other members followed suit, and a great time was had by all as one by one each took Titus for a drive!

Many thanks to Don Nelson and Titus for presenting such a wonderful and informative program, and to Barbara and Tom Hall for hosting the meeting and providing use of their cart!



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NEXT MEETING . . .

Tuesday, January 7, 2003 7 PM

Annual Planning Session. Dinner and Discussion at The Lighthouse, 6905 Mt. Vernon Road, SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 319-362-3467. It is about 1/10th of a mile west of Highway 13 - very close to Abraham's Equine Clinic.

AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

1. Meeting called to order
2. Recognition of the old and the new officers
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Discussion of name change for EIDCTA.
5. Possible involvement of EIDCTA in Region 4 Adult Clinic – Megan Ward
6. USA Eventing affiliation
7. Discussion of the proposal for committees outlined in the newsletter
8. Suggestion for activities
9. Adjourn



Megan Ward
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**"If you learn to ride correctly
you influence the horse directly."
- Chuck Bennett**