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ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
THECENTERLINE

Finding Flow: Samantha MacDonald's Journey Through Partnership and Perseverance

by Leslie Sherlin, PhD

Some riders discover dressage through family tradition. Others stumble upon it by chance. For Samantha MacDonald, the spark ignited at six years old when she watched her mother's best friend's daughter ride. What began as admiration for someone she looked up to became a lifelong pursuit of that elusive, magical connection between horse and rider. Now, after overcoming significant physical setbacks and achieving success at the highest levels of junior competition, Sami understands that the deepest rewards in this sport come not from ribbons but from those transcendent moments when horse and rider move as one.



The Beginning: A Partnership Worth Pursuing

"I went out to the barn with her, and I watched her ride, and I just fell in love with it," Sami recalls of that formative childhood experience. "I fell in love with her bond with her horse, and I wanted to create that special partnership with a horse." From her very first lesson, she was hooked. The appeal wasn't the sport itself but rather the relationship it enabled, the possibility of building something profound with an animal partner.

For five or six years, Sami developed her skills and explored what riding could offer. Then she met Crush, the gelding who would become her heart horse and teach her what true partnership could feel like. Their journey together would span years of growth, challenge, and ultimately triumph at one of junior dressage's most prestigious events.

The Heart Horse: Lessons from Crush

With Crush, Sami learned the fundamentals not just of riding but of relationship. They started at Training Level and worked their way up systematically, building trust and understanding with each step. The partnership wasn't always easy. Early shows brought challenges as Crush came out hot and forward, testing Sami's ability to stay confident and connected through the spiciness and energy.

"We grew together and we learned together, and we did it all together," Sami reflects on their partnership.

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ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
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Your Voice Matters—

Earn Volunteer Hours by Contributing to *THE CENTERLINE!*

Are you passionate about dressage, love to write, or have barn news to share? *The Centerline* newsletter is looking for AZ dressage community members—riders, trainers, and horse lovers alike—to contribute articles, opinions, updates, and tips.

SUBMIT TO: centerline@azdressage.org

**The deadline for submission is the 20th of the month.*

Ideas for Submissions

Letters to the Editor: Submit your comments, suggestions, or opinions relating to the sport of dressage. The Centerline Editor reserves the right to edit submitted content for clarity, tone, and space.

Barn News: Trainers would you like to let us know about the recent accomplishments of your clients or introduce new clients and horses? Would you like to update readers about barn improvements, or talk about any other news of interest to the membership.

Member Submissions: Submit an article and photo of you and your horse on a topic of interest, a clinic or show experience. Submit your favorite barn and horse care tips, or review clinics. We'd love to hear from you! NOTE: *If the photo is a riding photo, a helmet is required.*

***Product Endorsements/Advertising** In most cases, products and services are considered paid advertising. Articles that are negative in nature concerning a particular product will not be considered for publication.*

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This growing together, learning together, struggling and succeeding side by side, created the foundation for what would become her most memorable achievement to date.

At the 2025 Festival of Champions, Sami and Crush achieved something extraordinary. The year before, they had finished second, coming tantalizingly close to the title. Returning with renewed determination, they knew what they were capable of achieving. "I really wanted it, and I knew we could do it," Sami says simply.

What unfolded that day transcended mere competition. "He was so calm. We were just with each other," she recalls, her voice still holding the wonder of that experience. "I can't even explain it, but it was honestly magical. We were just like, we got this. We were confident, and we went in there, we did our best." They achieved their highest score ever at Lamplight, with notoriously difficult judging, and claimed the National Champion FEI Pony title.

"Everything came together. Everything came together," Sami emphasizes, still moved by the memory. "All of those lessons where you have bad lessons, and you always second guess yourself and you're like, I don't know, are we gonna be able to do this? But it was just incredible."

The experience represented what athletes and performers describe as flow state: that rare alignment where everything clicks, where rider and horse move in perfect synchronization, where doubt dissolves and only the pure joy of movement remains. "I was on a high for like two weeks after. I was just glowing," Sami admits with a laugh.

Yet even as she celebrated this pinnacle achievement with Crush, Sami recognized something important. "I felt like with Crush, I had completed all my goals on him. He truly was my heart horse, but I wanted him to go make another family as confident and happy as he made me." The decision to sell him after Festival of Champions, while difficult, came from a place of gratitude and generosity, wanting to share the gift he had been with others who could benefit from his special qualities.

The New Partnership: Learning to Trust Again

Entering the horse shopping process with clear goals, Sami knew she needed a partner capable of taking her to Juniors and NAYC (North American Youth Championships). Poppi was the very first horse she tried. "As soon as I picked up the trot, I was like, I never want to get off. It was the best feeling, because I had never known that a horse can feel like that before. The power, it was just so electric. I didn't want to get off. I was like, I just want to keep going."

Despite trying multiple talented horses afterward, none captured that same instant magic. "They were all amazing, but I didn't get that same instant feeling," Sami explains. Sometimes the right partnership announces itself immediately, and wisdom lies in recognizing and trusting that recognition.

Yet transitioning from Crush to Poppi has brought its own challenges. "It was hard going from a horse you know everything about to starting something new," Sami acknowledges honestly. "But I also think that's what's so beautiful about it, creating a new partnership and a new bond and working towards new goals."

The shift from gelding to mare required particular adjustment. "Poppi is so sensitive, which is good, but with every horse, it's gonna take a while to get a bond with them," Sami notes. She's discovered that mares require a different approach, both in and out of the saddle. "I think a mare is a



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Events Survey Results: Taking Your Feedback into 2026!

Thank you to all who answered our recently fielded survey, asking for feedback and suggestions on our future educational events. The Arizona Dressage Association is committed to taking your feedback into account and will continue to provide several educational opportunities throughout the year, following our successful Core Transformation series! We had a total of 51 responses and patterns of strong enthusiasm for our educational programming with clear direction for 2026 planning.

Of the 51 responses, 70% of members attended educational events in 2025, with the Steffen Peters/Janet Foy Symposium leading attendance (22 mentions), followed by the Mike Osinski Clinic (16 mentions), Janet Jones's Horse Brain/Human Brain presentation (9 mentions), and the Wine & Scribe event with Judge Bev Rogers (8 mentions). While satisfaction was overall high and many members showing excitement around ADA educational events, some attendees noted concerns about VIP/general admission segregation and communication clarity that we'll address in future events.

Looking ahead to 2026 and 2027, members have identified clear priorities for educational content and logistics. Technical skills development dominates member interests, with 80% wanting dressage tests and movement/technique clinics, and 78% seeking judges' perspective events that reveal what they look for in the arena. Sports psychology and mental preparation (57%) and equine veterinary care and wellness (51%) round out the top topics. Members strongly prefer in-person clinics and seminars (59%), though significant interest in hybrid formats (35%) suggests opportunities to expand accessibility. Regarding seasonality, all times of year were equally selected, meaning we will continue to provide year round offerings being mindful of other events.

Based on this feedback, ADA will build on 2025 successes by continuing to pursue in person symposiums with elite clinicians. We'll also look to explore hybrid delivery for select topics and develop specialized clinics following member requests for events focusing on sports psychology, bit fitting, and more. We are looking forward to organizing events to support our members education and growth in the sport of Dressage!



2025 YEAR-END AWARDS Luncheon

Honoring Our Recognized & Schooling Show Award Winners.

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

Sunday, April 26, 2026
12:30 pm

Please RSVP by Monday, April 20th
azdressage.org

Winners are free
Guests pay $35

Maggiano's Little Italy

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Family Style Lunch

Served with Freshly Baked Bread
Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, Hot Tea,
Iced Tea, and Assorted Sodas.

First Course

Italian Chopped Salad

Second Course

Mushroom Ravioli
Chicken Piccata
Baked Ziti - sausage served on the side

Dessert

Tiramisu
Gigi's Butter Cake

**Vegan/GF Options available upon request*

Arizona Dressage Association Scholarship Program Reaches New Milestone in Participation

By: Karen McGee

Each year, the Arizona Dressage Association (ADA) reaffirms its commitment to education, rider development, and the long-term growth of the sport through its annual scholarship program. Designed to support members in advancing their dressage education, in 20206 program was expanded to award six scholarships of $750 each to riders who demonstrate a history of dedication to growth in the sport, concrete learning goals for their riding, and active engagement in the dressage community. **This year's cycle marked an exciting milestone: the highest number of applications ever received, underscoring both the enthusiasm of ADA's membership and the growing impact of the program**.

A Mission Rooted in Education and Community

The ADA scholarship program was created to help riders pursue meaningful educational opportunities—clinics, workshops, symposiums, and other qualifying training events—that deepen their understanding of dressage and strengthen their partnership with their horses. At its core, the program reflects ADA's mission: to promote education in the sport and to give back to the members who help the ADA thrive year after year.

As participation in the program continues to grow, so does ADA's commitment to expanding it. An aspirational objective is to be able to raise additional funding and continue to increase the scholarships offered, allowing more riders to benefit from opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. The record-breaking number of applicants this year is a promising sign that the program is resonating and fulfilling a real need as costs in the sport continue to increase.

Eligibility Requirements Designed to Support Active Members

To ensure that the scholarship program supports those who are actively contributing and engaged with ADA, applicants must meet essential eligibility requirements including (A) being current, active members, and (B) completing volunteer hours within the past 12 months (paying the annual $50.00 volunteer donation also counts toward this requirement as it does with the Year End Award program).

Volunteerism is a cornerstone of ADA's culture. From organizing shows to supporting educational events, volunteers make it possible for the organization to offer the programs and opportunities that benefit the entire membership. Requiring volunteer hours not only recognizes this contribution but also reinforces the value of service.

A Thoughtful and Objective Selection Process

Given the record number of applications this year, the selection process required careful, collaborative, and objective evaluation. To ensure fairness and transparency, the Scholarship Chair designed a structured scoring rubric for each component of the application and convened a panel of three additional. The committee included Karen McGee (Chair), Christa Severns (ADA Board Member), Sabine Preisinger (NAC Board Member) and Kim Garling Yacobucci, one of our local Gold Medal trainers, ADA member and owner/operator/trainer of Horseshoe Springs Farm. Each application was evaluated independently before the panel met to discuss final selections.

The scoring rubric focused on several key criteria:

- **Clarity of Learning Objectives:** Applicants were asked to articulate their educational goals in detail. Strong applications demonstrated not only what the rider hoped to learn, but why those goals were meaningful to their development in the sport.
- **Confirmed Plans for Qualifying Educational Events:** Applicants needed to identify specific clinics, workshops, or training opportunities they planned to attend in the coming year. This requirement ensured that scholarship funds would be applied directly to concrete, well-defined educational experiences.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** In addition to meeting the minimum eligibility requirement, applicants who demonstrated a deeper commitment to volunteerism

—through consistent service or meaningful contributions —were recognized in the scoring process.

- **Dedication to the Sport:** Reviewers also considered the applicant's overall involvement in dressage, including training history, competition experience (if applicable), and long-term commitment to growth within the discipline.

By using a rubric-based system, ADA ensured that each application was evaluated on its merits, with consistent standards applied across the entire applicant pool. The panel's discussions focused on aligning selections with the program's mission and the values that define the ADA community.

Many applicants demonstrated exceptional dedication, thoughtful planning, and a genuine passion for their horses, partnerships, and advancing their dressage education. The strength of the applicant pool made the panel's decisions both challenging and inspiring.

Ultimately, the panel recommended the following individuals to the ADA Board for approval, which was granted at the February Board Meeting: Missy Gilliland, Rebecca Lindy, Tristan Lloyd, Kim Pribble, Mariska Sherlin and Nicola Valentine.

Looking Ahead: A Program Fueled by Inspiration and Poised for Growth

The success of this year's scholarship cycle highlights the importance of continued investment in rider education. As more members seek opportunities to learn, ADA is committed to exploring ways to expand its offerings — whether through additional scholarships and grants or new educational initiatives. By supporting riders in their educational journeys, the scholarship program not only enriches individual members but also strengthens the future of dressage in Arizona.

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Board of Directors
Regular Meeting

January 20, 2026
Minutes

Arizona Dressage Association

Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM | Zoom

Call to Order and Attendance

President Ann Damiano called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Leslie Sherlin served as acting secretary in Kelly Stapleton's absence.

Present: Ann Damiano, Rebecca Lindy, Leslie Sherlin, Michell Combs, Susan Skripac, Erin McHenry, Karen McGee, Christa Severns, Jaime Pollack, Tracy Case, Sue Leutwyler

Absent: Kelly Stapleton, Rebecca Bruening

Guests: Lynne Trenary (NAC Representative), Cathy Jones, Heather Petersen (Region 5 Director)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read and will be submitted to Beth Martinec for publishing in The Centerline.

Officer Reports

President: Ann summarized 2025 accomplishments and outlined plans for 2026. She announced a donation from Barbara Stein's estate, with book royalties designated for junior and young rider programs. Ann also reported on trailer storage relocation options, including a potential site offered by Henry Brown of Spear-Cross that could reduce costs.

Treasurer:

EOM Cash Balance Trend

	Jan	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Notes
xx1521	$ 8,011	$ 26,400	$ 35,377	$ 44,203	$ 42,526	
xx6796	$ 5,215	$ 4,682	$ 2,334	$ 3,189	$ 2,977	Debit card & Paypal link
xx9563	$ 66,622	$ 66,623	$ 36,624	$ 26,741	$ 26,742	September added another $10k to CDs
CDs	$ 23,580		$ 30,000	$ 40,233	$ 40,233	Rolled over CDs 9/25 and added $10k from savings
Petty Cash	$ 400	$ 400	$ 400	$ 400	$ 400	
Total	**$103,828**	**$ 98,105**	**$ 104,735**	**$ 114,766**	**$112,879**	
Inflows include						
Show income				$ 10,488		Fall Fiesta entries & Sponsorships
Clinic income				$ 27,933		Title Sponsor paid in October
Expenses include						
Markel Annual Comml Premium						
Y/E Award banquet		$ 2,800				Caterer, Facility deposits and awards
Outstanding CORE expenses		$ 3,951				Horseshoe Sprgs, Exp Reimbursements
June show expenses			$ 10,945			Westworld and some contractor checks cleared in July
Foy/Peters Expenses						Approx-Final Los Cedros, Bar, Food, Clinicians
Catch up- CenterLine management				$ 2,800		
Interest earned on 5-month CDs as of 1/18/26 is $431.60						

Rebecca Lindy confirmed the organization is financially strong with year-to-date net income of approximately $16,000. Clinics generated a $20,900 surplus, schooling shows a $5,800 surplus, and recognized shows a $3,200 loss (offset by prepaid 2026 expenses). Rebecca plans to invest $20,000 of reserves in a CD through Fidelity. The Finance Committee is finalizing updated financial policies for board approval, and the board discussed creating a 2026 capital budget for equipment needs. NAC financial data was requested from Lynne Trenary for consolidated tax filing.

Committee Reports

Education: Cathy Jones concluded her two-year term as chair, highlighting the success of seven clinics, particularly the well-attended Mike Osinski Clinic. Rebecca Bruening will assume the chair role with Cathy providing support during the transition. The board expressed gratitude for Cathy's leadership.

JR/YR: Leslie Sherlin reported on the successful January schooling show held in collaboration with Pony Club. The event raised approximately $150 for JR/YR programming and generated positive community feedback. Plans include a fall social event for young riders and continued partnership with Pony Club(s) where possible.

NAC: Lynne Trenary reported a successful 2025 with well-attended schooling shows. For 2026, NAC has three schooling shows and two clinics planned. Their new website is live, and a potential August 2026 rated show is under early consideration. The scholarship program is on hold pending funding decisions.

Awards: Jaime Pollack is following up with award recipients who have not yet met volunteer requirements. The awards banquet is scheduled for April 26th at Maggiano's. Jaime will obtain quotes for schooling show first-place ribbons.

Recognized Shows: Kelly Stapleton will step down February 1st, with Teresa Uddo assuming show management duties. Ann will serve as interim Show Committee chair. Westworld has requested moving the fall show from October 31-November 1 to November 7-8, offering a financial incentive. The new dates avoid conflict with US Dressage Finals. Key personnel are available; judge availability is being assessed.

Schooling Shows: Christa Severns reported the January show had a small surplus with positive feedback and several new participants. The committee will draft a proposal on eliminating the nomination fee and revising year-end award eligibility for the next meeting. Tracy Case proposed a schooling show standings system to encourage participation.

Year-End Awards Eligibility: Region 5 Director Heather Petersen joined to address questions about Prix St. George class eligibility. She clarified that the US Festival qualifying Prix St. George class is open to all riders and uses the standard test. The board reached consensus to include these scores in year-end awards. Sue Leutwyler will review affected results, and the website will be updated with clearer eligibility guidance.

Volunteer: Tracy Case reported growth in the volunteer program with a stable core of regular participants and new interest from non-members. She is working to improve hour tracking and database integration.

Membership: Michell Combs reported 152 current 2026 members, including 13 new and 10 returning. Of the 2025 members, 134 have not yet renewed. Personal outreach emails are prompting additional renewals.

Nominating & Governance: Karen McGee presented officer nominations to fill vacancies created by Kelly Stapleton's departure and Rebecca Bruening's transition from Vice President.

Motion: To approve Leslie Sherlin as Vice President and Rebecca Bruening as Secretary, effective February 1, 2026. **Passed unanimously** (Leslie Sherlin abstained on his nomination).

Kelly's departure creates a two-year board vacancy. The N&G Committee welcomes candidate suggestions.

Motion: To approve the 2026 committee chair slate as presented, with Rebecca Bruening as Education Committee chair and the Show Committee chair position remaining open (Ann Damiano serving as interim). **Passed unanimously.**

Scholarship: Karen McGee reported three applications received with the deadline approaching. Final promotional efforts are underway via social media and direct outreach.

Communications: Erin McHenry reported a member survey is in progress with results to be presented at the next meeting. The Social License to Operate webinar has 48 registrants. Erin encouraged board members to promote ADA's Instagram account to reach younger demographics.

Fundraising: No report.

Old Business

The board plans to hold a virtual member meeting and town hall in late February to share updates and gather member feedback. A small planning group will be formed from communications, website, and officer volunteers. Coordination with NAC on insurance and financial documentation continues, with Lynne Trenary following up with NAC leadership.

New Business

Guests Sue Leutwyler and Lynne Trenary were invited to raise any items for the good of the order. No new business was raised.

Executive Session

The board entered executive session at 7:55 PM to discuss a confidential matter.

Motion: To approve partial reimbursement of $180 for a committee expense. **Passed unanimously** (Rebecca Lindy abstained).

The board returned to open session at 8:15 PM.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held February 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Members interested in attending should contact the Secretary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Sherlin

Acting Secretary

"People may forget what you said or what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

— *Maya Angelou*

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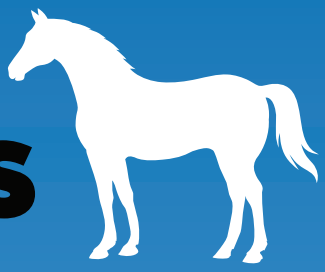
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GREEN *horse friendly*

The horse appears happy, willing, and content.

The connection between horse and human is harmonious and in sync.

YELLOW *cautionary*

Actions that cause you to pause and question whether they are acceptable.

Some actions may be acceptable for a very short period of time but may escalate to mistreatment if pressure or conflict increases in intensity.

RED *unacceptable OR not okay*

Actions that make you think, "This is not okay."

Actions that make you immediately think, "This behavior must stop."

Sometimes athletes can be acting in the red zone without even realizing it - these situations may be resolved by a licensed official interrupting the training, discussing the issue, and providing a verbal warning.

Scan to report

If you see an interaction that falls into the red zone, please alert an official to the situation and submit a report.

US EQUESTRIAN

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completely different type of bond. Because she's so sensitive, we really have to trust each other. She'll see something spooky, and she's like, I don't know what to do. And I'm like, I'm okay, you're okay, I got you. It's a constant trust back and forth between us."

This mutual vulnerability creates deeper connection. "I think mares have their person, and once you're their person, they'll do anything for you," Sami explains. The evidence appears in small moments: Poppi now runs to greet her in turnout, a gesture of recognition and affection that validates the relationship they're building.

Cultivating this bond requires intentional time together beyond riding. "I just love bonding with her. I'll just walk her around for an hour, grooming her and bathing her. Sometimes I'll literally just do my homework in her stall and sit with her," Sami says. "I think it's important to have a relationship on and off the ground with them, because that's how they're gonna trust you. You need to be their comfort person. If you're gonna be their comfort person in the saddle, you also need to be their comfort person on the ground."

The relationship requires mutuality. "I have to trust her as much as she has to trust me," Sami emphasizes. "Mares take a little more convincing sometimes. They're like, I don't think so. It's more of a personal relationship as opposed to just a piece of sporting equipment."

Her current goal with Poppi reflects this understanding. "My ultimate goal is to just get her to trust me, because she's been in a bunch of different places recently, and I think she's very unsettled. So my goal is to just have her be comfortable with me, and then I think everything else will follow from that once she's settled." The competitive goals of qualifying for Juniors and NAYC and returning to Festival of Champions remain, but Sami recognizes they'll only be achievable once the foundation of trust is solid.

Overcoming Adversity: The Injury That Changed Everything

Sami's journey hasn't been without significant obstacles. A wrist injury requiring ten surgeries and bone grafting from her leg created both physical and psychological challenges that tested her commitment and resilience. "That was definitely a major setback, and that took my confidence back a lot, because I wasn't confident in how my body was able to perform," she recalls.

The injury affected her riding in profound ways. "Whenever a horse would go too fast or get a little hot, I would get so tense. I didn't trust my body. I couldn't even trust myself." The physical rehabilitation was difficult enough, but the mental and emotional work of rebuilding confidence proved equally challenging. "It was definitely hard, learning how to retrain myself in a way, to trust myself."

Yet even in this dark period, horses provided motivation and purpose. "At that time, I had Crush, and that really kept me motivated to keep going, because I wanted to do it for him, and I wanted to do it for our goals and the partnership," Sami explains. The relationship pulled her through when her own determination might have wavered.

Looking back, Sami sees the injury as catalyst for growth rather than simply setback. "I honestly think it happened for a reason, because I think I grew so much as a person, and I learned so much about myself. I learned how to be confident with what I can do, and I think that's helped me ride different horses." The confidence she developed through adversity runs deeper than what

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came before. "I'm more confident now than I was before the injury."

This hard-won resilience serves her well as she builds a new partnership with a sensitive mare who needs a confident, steady partner. The injury that could have ended Sami's riding career instead taught her lessons that make her a better rider and partner.

The Power of Mentorship

Throughout her journey, Sami has benefited from support and guidance from key figures who believed in her potential. Her mother stands foremost among these supporters. "She's my number one supporter, and she just wants the best for me. I mean, it never hurts having someone in your corner like that," Sami says with evident gratitude.

Over the years, a variety of local trainers, instructors, and mentors have made significant positive contributions to her development as a rider and competitor. Most recently, a very special bond has formed with international rider Anna Buffini, whose mentorship proved transformative at a crucial moment in Sami's competitive development. "You see all of these big, amazing riders, and she really kind of took me under her wing and helped encourage me for Festival of Champions," Sami recalls. "Having a mentor who's very successful in the equestrian community believe in you, I think that made me feel better. I was like, if she thinks I can do it, then maybe I can do this."

Buffini's support proved particularly valuable during a difficult training period just weeks before Festival of Champions. "I remember with Crush, I was so nervous. Lamplight was a month and a half away, and we just couldn't get it right. I was so frustrated. I couldn't figure out how to get it back," Sami explains. "Then Anna came, and she helped me through it, and she gave me the confidence that I needed. She's done it all. She's amazing. She's that girl. And she thinks that I can do it, so maybe I can."

This validation from someone who had achieved what Sami aspired to accomplish provided both technical help and psychological boost at a critical moment. The combination helped unlock the performance that would carry them to the National Championship.

What Drives the Pursuit

When asked what motivates her through the inevitable challenges of competitive dressage, through early mornings and difficult weather and the constant demands on time and energy, Sami's answer is immediate and visceral. "I'm always looking for that feeling after a really good ride. Sometimes when you have a really good ride and you're just so motivated after. I'm just chasing that feeling and that rush."



The Festival of Champions experience created a benchmark she continues to pursue. "I'm chasing that. I'm like, I want to feel that again." With Poppi, she sees the opportunity to build toward another moment of flow and transcendence. "Me and Crush grew together, so now me and Poppi are gonna grow together,

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and this is my goal, and we're gonna do everything we can to achieve it. It's gonna be hard along the way, but I just keep reminding myself of the feeling that I had. It's just a feeling. You're just so proud."

This pursuit of peak experience, of those rare moments when everything aligns and horse and rider become one unified entity moving in perfect harmony, sustains commitment through the mundane days of training and the frustrations of setbacks and plateaus. The memory of what's possible keeps drawing her back to the barn, back into the saddle, back to the work of building partnership.

Balancing Present and Future

As a high school student with serious academic ambitions, Sami navigates the familiar challenge of balancing equestrian passion with other goals and responsibilities. She's focused on maintaining strong grades while pursuing her riding dreams, and she's thinking ahead to a career in the helping professions.

"I want to help people in some way. I think I want to be some sort of doctor," Sami explains, drawn particularly to orthopedic surgery or nursing. Her own experience with medical challenges has shaped this interest. "When I had my surgeries, I had this one nurse, and I remember her distinctly. She just made me feel better. Everyone goes through hard things, but it just makes it a little bit better. So I want to be that person for someone else."

Despite knowing the demands of medical training and practice, Sami has no intention of leaving horses behind. "It's definitely a hobby that I will never let go of completely. I definitely want to ride on the weekends and whenever I have extra time, but it's not something I'm ready to fully let go of. Ever." The certainty in that final word speaks volumes.

When not riding or studying, Sami prioritizes time with friends and family. "I love spending time with my friends and family. I love going to the lake with my cousins. I try to spend as much time with my family and friends as I can, because sometimes you get so busy and you haven't seen anyone in weeks." She's learned that maintaining close relationships requires intentional investment. "All you need are a couple close friends. That's all you need."

Wisdom for the Journey

When offering advice to younger riders beginning their dressage journey, Sami draws from her own hard-won experience with patience, process, and perseverance. "I would say just to focus on one thing at a time. One goal at a time. Once you achieve a small goal, then you get more confident, and then you build your way up into even bigger goals."

She emphasizes the importance of persistent pursuit despite obstacles. "Don't stop chasing your goals, even when there's obstacles. Even if you're injured, something happens with your horse, keep believing in the process. It will take time, and it's never gonna go perfectly. There's always obstacles. You just have to go with the flow, maneuver around it, but keep your eye on your goal and don't let it go away. You can do it. Anything is possible. You just have to put your mind to it."

Perhaps most importantly, she stresses patience, both with horses and with oneself. "I think sometimes I get so impatient, and I'm just like, I just want this problem to be fixed. Why can't I just figure this out?" she admits with self-awareness. "But I think just having patience, trusting the process, going with the flow, you will figure it out. You just need to trust the process and have patience with your horse and patience with yourself."

This emphasis on process over outcome reflects mature understanding that sustainable success comes from consistent, patient work rather than shortcuts or forced timelines. Trust the process, and the outcomes will follow.

The Heart of Partnership

When asked what she hopes observers would notice watching her spend a day with Poppi, Sami returns to her core values around relationship and connection. "I think I would want them to see that we have a solid bond with each other. It's not about we're on and off the ground. We're just in sync with each other. Whenever she gets nervous, I'm there for her, and whenever I get a little unsure, she's there for me."

She reaches for words to describe that intangible quality of alignment. "Sometimes you watch people and they're just in sync. They're just in a flow. You can tell there's something different when they're in sync. It's special. Just seeing the bond and that she loves me and I love her. I think that's the most important thing over performance, is just that you love and trust each other."

This priority of relationship over results, of bond over scores, of mutual care over competitive achievement reflects the wisdom Sami has gained through years of

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

partnership with horses. The ribbons matter, the titles count, the competitive goals drive training and focus. But underneath all of that, sustaining all of that, making all of that worthwhile, is the relationship itself.

Looking Forward

As Sami continues building her partnership with Poppi, working toward the goals of qualifying for Juniors at NAYC and hoping to return to Festival of Champions, she carries forward everything Crush taught her about trust, confidence, and the power of growing together. She carries the resilience learned through injury and rehabilitation. She carries the memory of that transcendent moment of flow when everything aligned and horse and rider moved as one perfect entity.

The path ahead holds both challenges and possibilities. Poppi needs time to settle, to trust, to understand that Sami is her person. Sami needs to adapt to the sensitivity and requirements of mare partnership while maintaining the confidence hard-won through adversity. Together, they need to develop the synchronization and understanding that will carry them through the pressures of high-level competition.

But if Sami's journey with Crush taught her anything, it's that patient, consistent work in service of relationship creates the foundation for those magical moments when everything comes together. Trust the process. Build the bond. Stay focused on the goal while remaining present in each day's work. And chase that feeling, that rush, that flow state where horse and rider transcend their separateness and become something greater together.

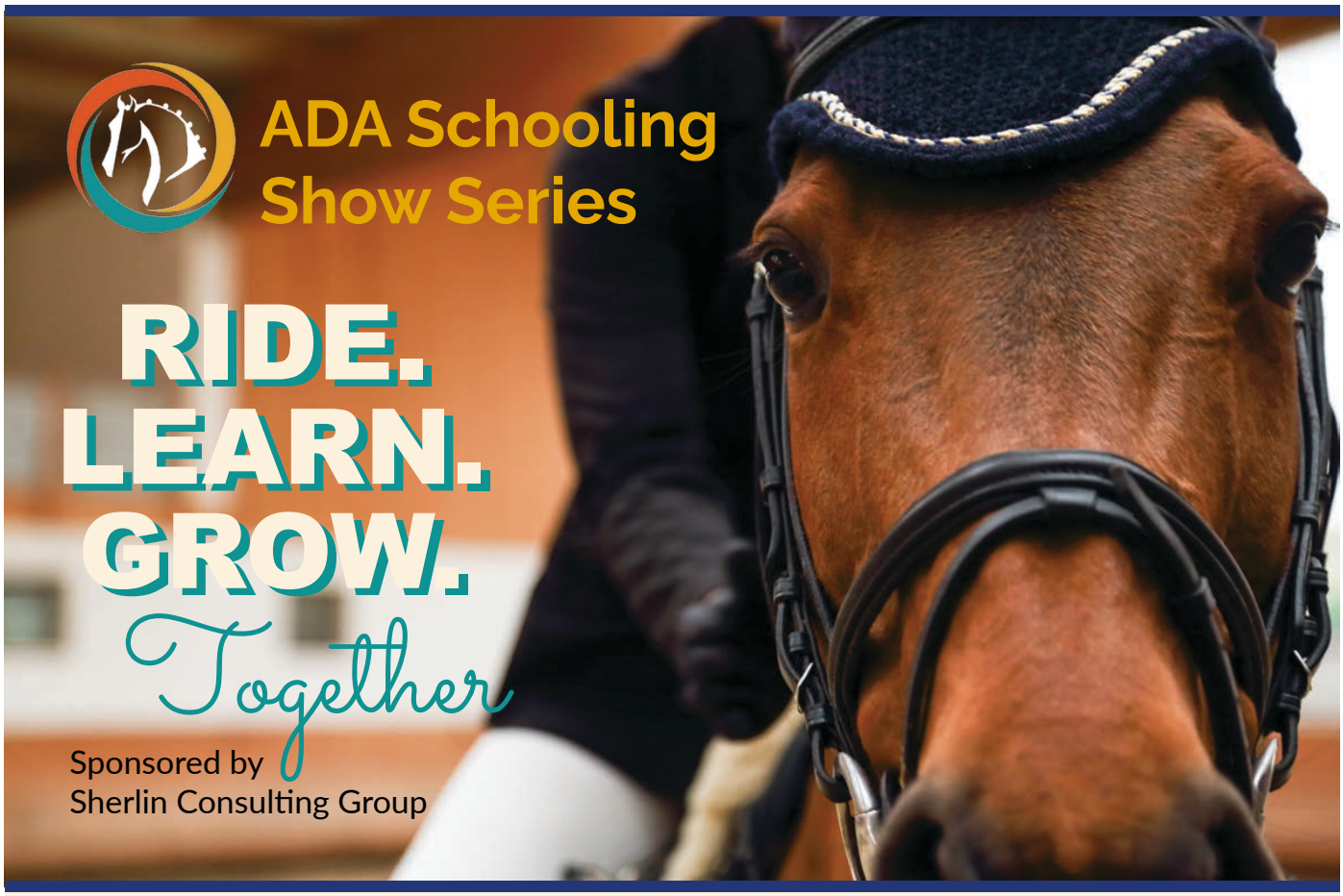
For Samantha MacDonald, the journey from that six-year-old watching an admired friend ride to then becoming a National Champion FEI Pony at Lamplight and now to a young woman building a new partnership with ambitious goals has always been about more than dressage. It's been about discovering what's possible when two beings choose to trust each other completely, support each other through challenges, and pursue excellence together. It's been about learning that the deepest satisfaction comes not from external validation but from those moments of pure connection when you and your partner are simply, perfectly, magically in sync.

As she moves forward with Poppi, chasing new goals while honoring the lessons of the past, Sami embodies the best of what junior dressage can develop: skill and artistry certainly, but more importantly resilience, patience, dedication to relationship, and understanding that the journey matters more than any destination. For the Arizona dressage community and beyond, her story demonstrates that true success in this sport is measured not in ribbons but in the quality of partnership, not in scores but in moments of flow, not in titles but in the trust between horse and rider that makes everything else possible.



We want to hear from you! Please share your stories and build real connections with our community.

SUBMIT TO: centerline@azdressage.org



The Arizona Dressage Association is proud to partner with **Sherlin Consulting Group**, the official sponsor of our **Schooling Show Series.**

Their support helps create accessible, educational opportunities where riders of all levels can gain experience, receive constructive feedback, and build confidence in the show arena.

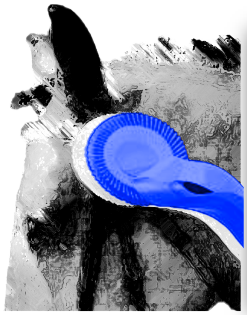
With a shared commitment to personal growth, peak performance, and lifelong learning, Sherlin Consulting Group and ADA are united in supporting the development of our dressage community.

2026 Events

JAN 17	Dale Creek Equestrian Center, West Valley
FEB 15	Carefree Farms, North Valley
MAR 15	Carefree Farms, North Valley
APR 12	Central Arizona Riding Academy, Queen Creek

Please note updated dates; Queen Creek was unavailable earlier in April.

Join Us for the Fun & Experience! azdressage.org



RESULTS

ADA Schooling Show

January 17th, 2026



Intro Test A
(C) Lindsten,

Mariska Sherlin	Calabria	62.813%
Danielle Surrett	Epona's Grey Epiphany	58.125%

Intro Test B
(C) Lindsten,

Sandra Shoup	Desert Rose CR	64.063%
Mariska Sherlin	Calabria	63.438%
Danielle Surrett	Epona's Grey Epiphany	58.750%

Training Level Test 1
(C) Lindsten,

Cody Byrne-Cowan	Malikah	60.192%

Training Level Test 2
(C) Lindsten,

Michelle Desjardins	Donna Prima	67.759%

Training Level Test 3
(C) Lindsten,

Cody Byrne-Cowan	Malikah	63.800%

First Level Test 1
(C) Lindsten,

Lorie Houck	Amazing Grace	73.704%
Leslie Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	64.259%

First Level Test 2
(C) Lindsten,

Lorie Houck	Amazing Grace	67.879%
Katherine Daigle	Donna Prima	67.273%

First Level Test 3
(C) Lindsten,

Lorie Houck	Amazing Grace	67.222%
Nicole Pawenski	GA Sweet E-MOTION	60.833%

Third Level Test 1
(C) Lindsten,

Lori Gordon	Bivemmo	65.000%
Jeanette Lundgren	RS Amarillo	64.730%

ATOC
(C) Lindsten,

Leslie Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	56.200%



RESULTS

ADA Schooling Show

February 15th, 2026



Intro Test A
(C) Peek,

Birgit Sommer	Jax	68.438%
Jan Hanson	Angel	45.938%

Intro Test C
(C) Peek,

Birgit Sommer	Jax	62.000%
Emily Saffer	Zanzybar	61.250%
McKenzie James	Suit of Wands	58.500%

Training Level Test 1
(C) Peek,

Analiese Alexander	King Charming	65.000%
Elaine Coller	I Am the Wind	57.692%

Training Level Test 3
(C) Peek,

Mariska Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	65.800%
Leslie Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	63.600%
Lisa Holland	Nobel Ben	60.000%

First Level Test 1
(C) Peek,

Lorie Houck	Amazing Grace	63.704%
Leslie Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	61.852%

First Level Test 2
(C) Peek,

Lorie Houck	Amazing Grace	64.091%

First Level Test 3
(C) Peek,

Emily Brown	Furelyse	64.722%
Lisa Holland	Nobel Ben	56.111%

Second Level Test 1
(C) Peek,

Kimberly Pribble	Delta GSF	60.000%

Second Level Test 3
(C) Peek,

Felicity Thunes	Dartmouth	56.667%

Third Level Test 1
(C) Peek,

Lori Gordon	Bivemmo	59.865%
Mary Lipton	Logan	56.622%

Third Level Test 3
(C) Peek,

Jeanette Lundgren	RS Amarillo	60.875%
Rebecca Lindy	Fritz de Borrey	60.000%

USEF Test of Choice
(C) Peek,

Analiese Alexander	King Charming	64.423%
Felicity Thunes	Dartmouth	57.738%
Rebecca Lindy	Fritz de Borrey	56.000%

USEF Test of Choice
(C) Peek,

Lori Gordon	Bivemmo	59.595%

FEI Test of Choice
(C) Peek,

Kenzie Riddell	Wallace G	63.971%

Intro TOC
(C) Peek,

Jan Hanson	Angel	54.063%

USA DRESSAGE

DRESSAGE RIDING STANDARDS GUIDELINES

Anatomy of a Successful Experience: Determining If You Are Ready to Move Up a Level

Basic questions to ask yourself as a guideline on whether you're ready to compete at the next level.

- If you practice a movement that is new to the next level, are you able to consistently meet the requirements of the movement directives as stated on the test?
- On average, are you and your horse reasonably confirmed at the current level you are competing with a final score reflecting competency such as a 63% or higher?
- Does your horse willingly cooperate in the performance of the movements required for the level at which you are considering competing?
- Are you familiar with all the new movements asked for at the next level up and the characteristics that define them? Consequently, are you and your horse proficient and confident in performing the movements as they are required in the test?

Strategies for a Successful Experience

- As a general rule, follow the adage of competing at the level below which you are training.
- Read the test directives to ensure you know what factors the judge(s) will be taking into consideration when determining a score for each movement.
- As you move up the Levels, it can feel like the movements come very quickly - one after another. Before competing at a higher level, practice the test at home enough times so that you feel you have time to prepare for each movement.
- Know what core movements "define a level." These may be underlying what is described in the Purpose. For instance, at First Level Test 3, the 10m circles and broken lines test acceptance of the aids used for bending and turning. Second level introduces collection and the movements that help to develop it, such as shoulder-in and turn on the haunches.
- At the end of your show season, first make sure you can answer yes to all of the questions posed above. Then make a thoughtful evaluation of your success. Consider both your strengths and areas in need of improvement. The next level will not only have new test movements, but also a heightened expectation of your horse's balance, engagement and self-carriage which requires time and strength building. Make a training plan that takes advantage of educational and observational opportunities such as ride-a-tests and schooling shows. When you feel your horse is confirmed in the daily work and believe they fulfill the Purposes defined on the next level's dressage test, you can be confident that you are ready to begin competitions at the new level.

Are both you and your horse ready to move up?

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

NOW ACCEPTING 2026 MEMBERSHIPS!

The 2026 membership year runs from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026.

azdressage.org

Join the community that supports your goals with education, scholarships, competition & more - ONE RIDE AT A TIME.

Member Benefits Include:

USDF GMO Membership
Discounted rate at ADA events/clinics
USDF Store – 10% discount
Year End Awards Program
Members Only Priority for Education Events
Member Spotlights and Features
Centerline Newsletter
Networking and Mentorship
And More!

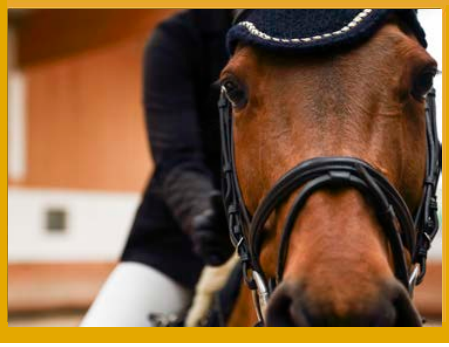
Members Eligible To:

Participate in ADA Year End Awards
Participate in AZ State Championships
Compete at USEF/USDF Competitions
Participate in the USDF Rider Award Program
Eligible for ADA Scholarships
Earn USDF University Program Credit
Attend "L" Education Program
Access to Members Only USDF Website





JOIN OUR CLUB TODAY!



Scan to Join or Renew NOW!



ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

2026 Membership Application December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026

PRIMARY / INDIVIDUAL MEMBER INFORMATION

Check Membership Type: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Membership ☐ NAC (Must Select to be NAC)

Current USDF # _____ (If Applicable)

Use this Form for Payment by Check ONLY - For Payment by Credit Card, Join Online at *www.azdressage.org.*

Name (print clearly) _____ Date of Birth (_____/_____/_____)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

OPT-IN to receive important ADA information by providing your Email address: _____

Centerline newsletter, Show, Clinic and Membership information are delivered electronically. **We respect your privacy. ADA does NOT share your personal information with ANY third parties! See Full Privacy Policy on ADA Website.**

Signature (required) _____ Date _____

JUNIOR /YOUNG RIDER MEMBERSHIP: (one vote) Date of Birth (____/_____/_____) (under age 22 by December 1, 2026)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Only the PRIMARY / INDIVIDUAL MEMBER gets one ADA vote. All memberships eligible for ADA Awards. Every ADA FAMILY MEMBER gets a USDF Group Membership with the additional fee. Some USDF Restrictions May Apply. **Per USDF, Supporting Members MUST reside at the Primary Family member's address.**

Primary Family Member Name (if different than above) _____ Date of Birth (____/____/____)

Supporting Family Member #1 Name _____ Date of Birth (____/____/____)

Supporting Family Member #2 Name _____ Date of Birth (____/____/____)

Individual Membership..... $66.00
☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open

Primary Family Membership..... $66.00
☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open

Each Supporting Family member $35.00
#1 ☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open
#2 ☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open

☐ ADA donation (optional) .....$ 10.00
(for rider education programs)

☐ USDF Region 5 donation (optional) ..... $ 1.00

☐ Region 5 JR/YR donation (optional) ..... $ 5.00

ADA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Organization
Your generous donations help fund ADA Scholarships and Travel Grants for educational opportunities!

TOTAL enclosed $ _____

Make checks payable to: "**ADA**"

*Mail to: **Michell Combs**
8877 N 107th Ave, Suite 302-238
Peoria, AZ 85345

Or Scan/Email to: Membership@azdressage.org

**** Envelope must have Michell's name on it***

***** ADA strives to keep membership fees as low as possible.**

HELP WANTED

ADA is a Volunteer Organization.

****** Volunteering your Time or Expertise is required for Year End Awards, Scholarships, and Grants ******

Visit *www.azdressage.org/volunteer/* for details.
Contact volunteer@azdressage.org
if you can help us out!
or
☐ Volunteer Donation (optional).....$ 50.00
or
These are some areas we can use your help!

Horse Shows	Newsletter
Clinic Activities	Membership
Board Member	Annual Awards
Selection Committees	Provide Arena
Fundraising	Provide Event Venue
Public Relations	Hospitality (home)

GMO GROUP MEMBER ORGANIZATION USDF

ONE RIDE AT A TIME

Full Mission Statement at *www.azdressage.org*

USDF REGION FIVE

USDF Region 5 Update – February 2026

Show season is well underway in the southern part of our region, in California and in Florida! I hope everyone in our northern states is getting a little horse time this winter. We are pretty desperate for snow in Colorado and I hope it comes soon so that we don't have a lot of fires and drought this summer.

It was great to see some of you at the USDF FEI Trainers' Conference in Loxahatchee, Florida in January. I think this might have been one of the best presentations we've had (although last year was awesome too!). Heike Kemmer and Christof Umbach worked very well together and both worked with each rider, from the trainer and judges' perspective. The basics were the highlight and carried through each horse from the youngsters to the FEI horses. I hope you will consider putting the FEI Trainers' Conference on your calendars for future years, each year the level of education is of the highest caliber. We were very blessed to have High Meadow Farm allow us to continue to come after the passing of Mary Anne McPhail. Her family's support has been fantastic.

I hope many of you were able to join us for David O'Connor's Zoom webinar on Horse Welfare & Public Trust. We did record it, so if you'd like to watch it after the fact, please reach out!

If you have an educational activity that your barn, group or organization is doing, please let me know so I can add it to the Region 5 educational activity calendar that is sent out with the monthly Regional updates by USDF. We would love to keep everyone as informed as possible. We can also post events on the Region 5 website. Please feel free to send me an email reminder for anything you'd like to see posted.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the North American Youth Championships in the Childrens, Junior or Young Rider divisions, then please make sure you take note of the application structure for 2026. The application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 9, 2026 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 9th, the fee is only $75 per application. Applications submitted between March 10th and April 20th are $150 and the final application deadline is May 4th, but it will cost you $300 to apply between April 21st and May 4th. At this point in time, absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 4th. If you plan to compete for NAYC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is jnclay@comcast.net and her phone number is 970.420.0887. The 2026 NAYC will be held at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, Flintfields Horse Park, Traverse City, Michigan – July 27 - August 2, 2026.

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

RMDS/USDF "Train The Trainer" Symposium

With Sarah Geike:

4* FEI, FEI Young Horse, and USEF 'S' Dressage Judge, USDF Certified Instructor Faculty

March 7th and 8th, 2026

Join us for a two-day seminar showcasing the USDF Instructor Certification Program, illustrating the application of the Horse Training Pyramid and the Rider Pyramid while teaching through the levels. The format includes:

- ***Classroom session***
- ***Live horse-and-rider demonstrations***
- ***Q&A and discussion, including auditors.***

This event qualifies for USDF continuing education credits for current USDF-Certified Instructors. Instructor participants are also asked to serve as demonstration riders, if possible. This program is geared toward instructors, including dressage, eventing, and western dressage.

Participant registration: $250 for the weekend
Auditor registration: $40 one day, $65 for both
Walk-in auditors also welcome
Deadline: February 15th
Questions? Contact Gwen Ka'awaloa at kaimana_co@hotmail.com 303.917.3679
Registration for both participants and auditors:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNaqw_HxSu9dMiKSIecKuQe4d4JIm-T4C9nq3QhT3ZkJvkTQ/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=107241543083632039219

With funding from:
Rocky Mountain Dressage Society
The Dressage Foundation's Max Gahwyler Instructor Education Fund

Indigo Hills Equestrian Center
36124 County Road 1
Elizabeth, Colorado 80107



US Equestrian Debuts Lifetime Care Feature for Recorded Horses

In an ongoing effort to support equine welfare, US Equestrian is unveiling a new, free feature for recorded horses called Lifetime Care Contacts. The feature is designed to allow a USEF member to add themselves to a horse's USEF record, signifying that if the horse should someday be in need of financial assistance or a home, they would like to be contacted.

"We understand that many breeders, owners, athletes, and grooms care deeply for the horses who have touched their lives and want to be there for them if they should ever fall on hard times down the road," said US Equestrian chief executive officer Bill Moroney. "We had media and member inquiries about such a system last year and realized this is a way we can help."

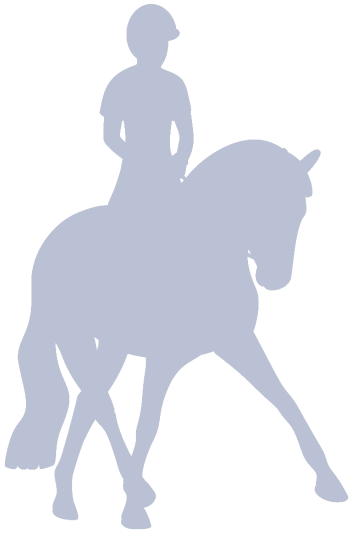
The Lifetime Care Contact feature is free to use. You must be a US Equestrian member or have a free fan account to add yourself to a horse's record because horse data is part of the membership section of the US Equestrian website, but this feature will be accessible at no cost to users.
If you want to add yourself as a Lifetime Care Contact to a horse's USEF record, visit the Lifetime Care tile in your USEF Dashboard and search for the horse you're looking for using the horse's recorded name or USEF number, then click the button prompting you to add your contact information to that horse's list. You'll see a list of horses for whom you're listed as the Lifetime Care Contact at the bottom of the page.

If you have found a horse in need and want to see if they have a Lifetime Care Contact on file, you will need a USEF membership or free fan account to access our Horse Search. Visit the Lifetime Care tile on your Member Dashboard and use the horse's recorded name or microchip number to locate the horse you're seeking care for. You will be prompted to verify you're assisting this horse and can click a button to be sent an email with that horse's Lifetime Care Contact information.

"US Equestrian isn't positioned to require anyone to reach out to a horse's Lifetime Care Contact, but we are in a position to make it easier for a horse in need to be connected with someone who has expressed an interest in helping them," said Moroney.

The Lifetime Care system is designed as a safety net for horses, and its use is voluntary. US Equestrian is unable to require that someone consult a Lifetime Care contact before moving, selling, or transferring a horse. The goal of the feature is to facilitate connections as needed, but this program can only be as effective as the scope of use. US Equestrian encourages members to utilize the free feature to make this equine safety net as robust as possible.

Visit https://www.usef.org/horse-welfare/lifetime-care
to learn more about this program and for a list of frequently asked questions.



HORSESHOE SPRINGS
KIM J. YACOBUCCI, TRAINER
28635 North 53rd Street · Cave Creek, AZ 85331
602-370-4039

Board Meetings:

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
(All meetings are virtual)

If you would like to attend, please contact Ann Damiano
a.damiano@azdressage.org

2025 Year End Standings
Riders of the Year

Training through 4th Levels
Criteria: 4 Scores (1 Highest Test) | 3 Different Shows | 3 Different Judges | Volunteerism

Adult Amateur

Training Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	71.800	Montierth, Heather
Volunteerism?	Yes	66.408	Bresnahan, Michelle
Volunteerism?	Yes	64.650	Kauffman, Laura
Volunteerism?	Yes	64.599	Smith, Sarah
Volunteerism?	No	62.372	Smith, Shawn
Volunteerism?	Yes	62.250	Sherlin, Leslie

First Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	73.518	Barngrover, Alyssa
Volunteerism?	Yes	67.257	Montierth, Heather
Volunteerism?	Yes	67.012	Brown, Emily
Volunteerism?	Yes	65.787	Kauffman, Laura
Volunteerism?	Yes	63.333	Buce, Lisa

Second Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	68.047	Barngrover, Alyssa
Volunteerism?	Yes	65.809	Murphy, Christine
Volunteerism?	Yes	63.028	Swanson, Julie
Volunteerism?	Yes	61.000	Buce, Lisa

Third Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	61.665	Lent, Stacey
Volunteerism?	Yes	60.962	McLaughlin, Erica
Volunteerism?	Yes	60.748	Lindy, Rebecca
Volunteerism?	Yes	60.125	Wheeler-Raheb, Katherine

Fourth Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	64.474	Evans, Shepherd Allison
Volunteerism?	Yes	63.918	Carson, Deborah
Volunteerism?	Yes	63.723	Collins, Natalie
Volunteerism?	Yes	58.485	Ziurys, Lucy

Jr/YR

Training Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	60.650	Sherlin, Mariska

Third Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	62.464	Venkatesh, Ellis

Open

Third Level

Volunteerism?	Yes	65.099	Burnett, Amy

2025 Year End Standings
Cameo

Criteria: 3 Scores | 3 Different Judges | Volunteerism

Volunteerism?	Avg	Horse	Owner	Rider
Yes	64.922	Imperio Do Castanheiro	Radda, Tania	Radda, Tania
Yes	68.750	R U 4 Me	Martin, Molly	Martin, Molly
Yes	69.896	Florisson	Damiano, Ann	Jackson, Cyndi

2025 Year End Standings
Freestyle Rider / Horse Combination

Criteria: 3 Scores | 3 Different Shows | 3 Different Judges | Volunteerism

Open

FS (TL- 4th)

Volunteerism? Yes 66.033 Amy Burnett / Pfrankincense HP

FS (FEI)

Volunteerism? Yes 73.000 Cynthia Jackson / Florisson

2025 Year End Standings
Horses - Training through 4th Levels

Criteria: 3 Scores (1 Highest Test) | 3 Different Shows | 3 Different Judges | Volunteerism

Volunteerism		Avg	Horse	Owner	Rider(s)Owner/Rider
Training Level					
Yes	Yes	72.333	Krystof	Montierth, Heather	Montierth, Heather
Yes	Yes	66.166	Fisher Price	Bresnahan, Michelle	Bresnahan, Michelle
Yes	Yes	65.733	CBC Ryal	Kauffman, Laura	Kauffman, Laura
Yes	Yes	64.638	Thistle Glen's Desperado	Smith, Sarah	Smith, Sarah
Yes	Yes	62.667	Wynn Royalty Wins	Sherlin, Leslie	Sherlin, Leslie
Yes	Yes	60.807	Nesquik	Smith, Shawn	Smith, Shawn
Yes	Yes	60.800	Clononeen Cashmere	Sherlin, Leslie	Sherlin, Mariska
First Level					
Yes	Yes	74.722	Bohemian Rhapsody R	Damiano, Ann	Jackson, Cyndi
Yes	Yes	73.488	Beniciano BG	Barngrover, Alyssa	Barngrover, Alyssa
Yes	Yes	67.453	Krystof	Montierth, Heather	Montierth, Heather
Yes	Yes	63.889	Ryker	Buce, Lisa	Buce, Lisa
Yes	Yes	57.809	Thistle Glen's Desperado	Smith, Sarah	Smith, Sarah
Second Level					
Yes	Yes	71.690	Fanfare HSR	Brusnighan, Christopher	Jackson, Cyndi
Yes	Yes	68.349	Beniciano BG	Barngrover, Alyssa	Barngrover, Alyssa
Yes	Yes	66.793	Made You Look	Murphy, Christine	Murphy, Christine
Yes	Yes	62.990	Fenix EAS	Swanson, Julie	Swanson, Julie
Yes	Yes	62.699	Heros Quest	Keyser, Anastasia	Keyser, Anastasia
Yes	Yes	59.174	Ryker	Buce, Lisa	Buce, Lisa

Yes	Yes	55.873	Logan	Lipton, Mary	Lipton, Mary
Third Level					
Yes	Yes	65.177	Pfrankincense HP	Burnett, Amy	Burnett, Amy
Yes	Yes	63.330	L'Aqiedo	Venkatesh, Debra	Venkatesh, Ellis
Yes	Yes	62.158	Formally Cooper	McLaughlin, Erica	McLaughlin, Erica
Yes	Yes	61.845	Galante Da Prata	Lent, Stacey	Lent, Stacey
Yes	Yes	61.583	Fritz De Borrey	Lindy, Rebecca	Lindy, Rebecca
Yes	Yes	60.333	Icaro Cal	Wheeler-Raheb, Katherine	Wheeler-Raheb, Katherine
Fourth Level					
Yes	Yes	64.169	Nicodemus	Evans, Shepherd Allison	Evans, Shepherd Allison
Yes	Yes	63.426	Dansken	Carson, Deborah	Carson, Deborah
Yes	Yes	61.984	Bravo	Carson, Deborah	Carson, Deborah
Yes	Yes	58.582	Oficial De Susaeta	Ziurys, Lucy	Ziurys, Lucy
Yes	Yes	54.630	Annwylid Dare to Dream	Darling, Lisa	Darling, Lisa

2025 Year End Standings
FEI Horses

Criteria: 3 Scores | 3 Different Shows | 3 Different Judges | Volunteerism

Volunteerism		Avg	Horse	Owner	Rider(s) Owner/Rider
FEI					
Yes	Yes	68.596	Florisson	Damiano, Ann	Jackson, Cyndi
Yes	Yes	68.750	R U 4 Me	Martin, Molly	Martin, Molly
Yes	Yes	67.010	Everdeen	Valentine, Nicola	Valentine, Nicola
Yes	Yes	66.422	De Niro's Black Shadow	Mulcahy, Beth	Mulcahy, Beth
Yes	Yes	65.797	Bailando	McHenry, Erin	McHenry, Erin
Yes	Yes	65.441	CC's Rubin	Cahill, Courtney	Cahill, Courtney
Yes	Yes	64.922	Imperio Do Castanheiro	Radda, Tania	Radda, Tania
Yes	Yes	64.657	Jetsetter EDI	Damiano, Ann	Damiano, Ann
Yes	Yes	64.265	Mooiboy	Cox, Lauren	Cox, Lauren
Yes	Yes	61.618	Bohemio XCVII	Eikel-Baughman, Nathalie	Baughman, Lily
Yes	Yes	61.128	Jordan WRF	McLaughlin, Wendy	McLaughlin, Wendy
Yes	Yes	61.079	Jeitoso XIV	Lindy, Rebecca	Lindy, Rebecca
Yes	Yes	59.094	Dexter WSM	McLaughlin, Wendy	McLaughlin, Wendy

2025 Year End Standings
FEI Riders of the Year

Criteria: 4 Scores | 3 Different Shows | 3 Different Judges | Volunteerism

Adult Amateur

FEI - A

Volunteerism?	Yes	66.508	Cahill, Courtney
Volunteerism?	Yes	66.360	Mulcahy, Beth
Volunteerism?	Yes	64.301	Damiano, Ann
Volunteerism?	Yes	64.206	Radda, Tania
Volunteerism?	Yes	60.662	Lindy, Rebecca

FEI - GP

Volunteerism?	Yes	66.032	McHenry, Erin
Volunteerism?	Yes	59.620	McLaughlin, Wendy

JR/YR

FEI - A

Volunteerism?	Yes	68.787	Valentine, Nicola
Volunteerism?	Yes	60.662	Baughman, Lily

Open

FEI - A

Volunteerism?	Yes	62.978	Cox, Lauren

FEI - GP

Volunteerism?	Yes	68.165	Jackson, Cyndi

2025 Final Year End Standings Schooling Shows

Criteria: Highest Percentage in Each Class | 2 Different Shows | 2 Classes at Each Show

Introductory Level (JR/YR)

1st	Makayla Pothast	Whats Poppin	67.500%
2nd	Mariska Sherlin	Calabria	66.560%

Introductory Level (AA)

1st	Joanne Agostinelli	Stella Starlight	66.000%

First Level (AA)

1st	Emily Brown	Furelyse	67.727%
2nd	Lorie Houck	Amazing Grace	67.037%
3rd	Leslie Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	66.850%

Third Level (AA)

1st	Rebecca Lindy	Fritz De Borrey	66.351%

Alternative TOC (AA) Western Dressage

1st	Melinda Mckay	CLG Mito Money	73.860%
2nd	Leslie Sherlin	Wynn Royalty Wins	63.000%



The **Northern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Dressage Association, NAC of ADA**, is a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization comprised of members in the quad-city areas of **Prescott, Chino Valley, Verde Valley, Prescott Valley, Dewey-Humboldt and beyond!**

2026 Schooling Show & Clinic Dates

April 18th - Schooling Show, Michell Combs 'L' (Freeman Farms)

May 30-31st - Clinic, Dolly Hannon

July 18th - Schooling Show, Dori Vlatten Schmitz 'S' (Imperio Acres)

Sept 5th - Schooling Show, Ellie Stine Masek 'S' (Freeman Farms)

NAC of ADA Officers/Board 2025

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Lisa Darling, Education and Clinic Committee Chair

Theresa Reese, Director

Tristan Lloyd, Director

Kate Goshorn, Director

Sabine Preisinger, Director

Kay Turner, Director

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN	9: ADA Clinic - Refine Core Skills with Mike Osinski	17: ADA Schooling Show, Dale Creek Equestrian Center, West Valley	
FEB	15: ADA Schooling Show, Carefree Farms, North Valley	21-22: Dressage @ Spear-Cross Equine Center Show	21-22: NAC Biomechanics Clinic with Heike Barrett
MAR	7-8: TDC March Madness, Pima County Fairgrounds	15: ADA Schooling Show, Carefree Farms, North Valley	27-29: CARA Champagne Show
APR	4-5: Dressage @ Spear-Cross Equine Center Show	12: ADA Schooling Show, Central Arizona Riding Academy, Queen Creek	18: NAC Schooling Show, Freeman Farms, Michell Combs 'L'
MAY	30-31: NAC Clinic - Dolly Hannon		
JUNE	13-14: ADA Summer Heat, Westworld Scottsdale		
JULY	18: NAC Schooling Show, Imperio Acres, Dorie Vlatten Schmitz 'S'		
AUG			
SEPT	5: NAC Schooling Show, Freeman Farms, Ellie Stine Masek 'S'		
OCT			
NOV	Nov 7-8: ADA Fall Fiesta I & II & State Championships, Westworld Scottsdale	14-15: TDC Fall Festival at Circle D Ranch, Tucson	
DEC		12-13: Dressage @ Spear-Cross Equine Center Show	



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