



EVACUATION - LESSONS LEARNED FROM A NEAR TRAGEDY...

By Michell Combs

(edited & liberally applied dramatic effect added by Philip Combs)

A fire was threatening Carefree Farms. An image of my horse Kaan, standing head stretched and rigid in his stall from the commotion around him, appeared in my mind. I gripped the steering wheel tighter trying to push the truck to go faster. My internal voice advised, Time to evacuate . . .

The barn manager, Laura Borghesani, had already called and warned me of the possibility, but I didn't think it would really happen. These things happen on TV, but it's always happening out there to someone else; you're just an observer. Until now. Friends started texting, offering me a temporary stall for Kaan, but I thought I'd wait until I got there to assess the real threat and get back to them when I wasn't driving.

As I drove up, fire crews and police were everywhere along with many spectators. Planes whooshed overhead and disappeared. The streets were closed, and the power was out. I got through to the barn as smoke from the fire burned my eyes. Someone yelled that the horses had already been evacuated but that Laura was still on site. Presuming Kaan was safe, I shifted my focus on grabbing his saddle and bridles from the tack room while weighing what other items were essential to take.

As I struggled to load the truck, Laura appeared through the smoke haze. "Kaan's been taken over to Jewel Creek Ranch, north Cave Creek." I had



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not heard of the place before. Laura already walked away, so I just finished loading, and looked up the location on my phone, needing assistance to track the place down, but breathing a little easier . . .

I imagined Kaan would be a little stressed and confused when I saw him, and he was. However, his bright eyes opened wide while my teared when I leaped into his stall and gave him a strong, long hug. He stood perfectly still and absorbed (or at least, tolerated) my tension. When I released my grasp and stepped out of his stall,

I asked a few people what was going on and what I could do to help. In the meantime, I borrowed duct tape and put his and my name and number on the stall.



By the time I left, Kaan was tossing his head around and letting me know he wanted to go back home. I got home late and was too exhausted for dinner or even a glass of wine.

Early the next morning, I picked up my horse trailer and headed to Kaan in hopes of getting the OK to take him back to Carefree Farms. Laura was meeting with the local sheriff. The horses were quiet, enjoying breakfast and eager to have the carrots I had brought. My horse was quite confused as to why I'd give such precious treats to the other horses. Then Laura gave me the OK to bring Kaan home. In my efforts to be helpful, I loaded up another pony, and then Kaan (thanks to my friend who stood patiently with me and closed the trailer door). As I was en route to the farm, Laura called me. Apparently I was transporting a pony that didn't belong at Carefree Farms—are you kidding . . . I got to the farm, in a total fit that I stole a pony, and was reassured that all would be fine.

Kaan at least was so happy to be home . . .

Things I learned:

- Make sure your facility has an evacuation plan (superstar Laura & team)
- Don't postpone working with your horse on trailer loading (note to self)
- Try not to put pressure on, or over text the barn manager, perhaps give her a hug (she's probably on overdrive)
- Have things in your vehicle that can identify you and your horse (I had to borrow duct tape)
- Have your horse name and your phone number on the fly mask and/or halter
- Just because you didn't find anything on your Google search doesn't mean that there isn't a crisis
- Be thankful for all the friends you have who are trying to help you

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- Be gracious to everyone, and especially the host facility
- Keep a checklist handy with your horse's necessities (special wraps, ointments or supplements, etc.)
- Be sure to have your trailer tires checked before fire season and check the trailer inside and out (I found a wasp nest in mine!)

A friend of mine, and fellow USEF rated judge, in California, Nicole Chastain Price, who had to evacuate seven times already, said this: "The most important advice in fire season—don't panic. Have a plan. Make sure your horses are TRAINED TO LOAD! I sent horses who knew each other together and to places I knew they would be in stalls and safe. The chaos of evacuating happens when you let horses get taken by just anyone and have no control of the pen, hay, etc. I've seen so many horses get hurt through chaotic evacuations that I've always vowed it would never happen here."

Her expert advice is this:

- 1) Have a plan where you will take horses in both directions so you can be sure to be moving away and not into the path of the fire
- 2) Make sure all halters are labeled with tag, owner number and name, and that all stalls, pastures have them on the doors
- 3) Have wax crayon if you need to write on horse
- 4) Have someone taking all info on what trailer took what horse and their contact info
- 6) Make sure horses are loaded in appropriate trailers—for us this meant we needed all WB sized rigs
- 5) Make sure someone is in charge at receiving end to settle horses and make sure they get correct feed
- 6) We had the foresight and time to boot all horses appropriately before putting on trailers
- 7) Have a plan for moving tack. We had owners with trailers on site as soon as we heard fire and had so many volunteers show up with trailers we could have evacuated two tack rooms. We chose not to as firefighters thought our barns were secure by that time. I make all of my client's keep smaller essentials inside a carrying case with wheels and handle, so my tack rooms are super organized and can be cleared quickly.





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Sunday, September 13, 2020—WestWorld Rings 5 & 5A

WestWorld requires a current negative Coggins test to enter show grounds..

ONLY CURRENT 2020 ADA MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND!

Lungeing is only to be done in the designated corner of the warm-up ring.

Cost: \$30.00 per ride - there will be no classes or ribbons; each ride will be judged and the test will be yours to keep.

\$30.00 for schooling - insurance requires that every horse/rider on the grounds signs a waiver & wears a number.

Tests Offered: Intro, Training - Grand Prix, Four, Five & Six Year Old tests, Junior and Young Rider tests, Freestyles.

Riding Attire: Casual! Boots or half chaps with a heeled shoe. Breeches and a shirt with sleeves, a collar is not required.

Rules: All USEF/USDF rules apply, except for the casual rider attire.

An ASTM-SEI certified helmet must be worn at all times while mounted.

Sunday ONLY Day Stalls (Must Be Reserved in Advance): \$40/stall — Extra Tack Stall: \$40.00 Stalls Open at 6:30 a.m.

Shavings must be purchased from WW Feed & Tack. 2-bag minimum. Call 480-312-6814. Concessions: NO food or drinks provided so bring your own cooler.

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I want to ride the following tests:

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_____ I will be schooling only. # of Day Stall(s): _____ (extra fee of \$40/stall)

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Waiver of Liability: By signing this entry form, I acknowledge that I fully understand that there are risk of serious bodily injury, including death, and risk of damage to or loss of personal property. In consideration for me or my child being allowed to enter, participate in and observe, and/or my horse being permitted to be ridden in, the above listed equine activity, I hereby for myself, my child, my heirs, agents and assigns, agree to waive, release and forever discharge any and all claims, rights and causes of action against the facility, its owners, employees, volunteers, the Arizona Dressage Association, its officers, directors, members, agents and volunteers (ADA) for injury or damage caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by negligence of ADA or the facility, and I agree to hold ADA or the facility harmless against all claims and causes of action for any alleged or actual injury or damage which I, my child, my agents, or my horse, may cause to any person or property. I voluntarily assume all risks associated with my or my child's or my horse's participation in this activity and with being present on the grounds where this activity is held. I further agree to be bound by the rules under which this activity is conducted.

Note: ENTRY FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS SIGNED AND DATED.

Rider's Signature	Date
Owner/Agent Signature	Date
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TOTAL \$

**Entry must be
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Collection

by Susan Downs Parrish, Ph.D.

Every dressage rider knows something about collection. It's at the top of the Training Scale Pyramid, which means that all the other elements precede it: specifically, think Straightness, Impulsion, and Connection. The first time collection is required is at second Level. Since collection is demanded early in competition, we have a general notion of what it is. As someone struggling to grasp the demands of Grand Prix, my view of collection has expanded. Collection sits at the top of the Pyramid because it is complex and it reflects the level of mastery of the previous elements in the pyramid. Straightness is just below Collection. In case you haven't realized it yet: "no Straightness, no Collection," to echo a catchy phrase shouted on the streets these days.

Straightness doesn't represent a straight line. The best way to understand it is to think of straight as being shoulder-fore: the shoulders moved in slightly so that the inside hind leg tracks between the front feet. In a Tucson Dressage Club Symposium a couple of years ago, Debbie Macdonald stressed the usefulness of shoulder-fore. To produce a shoulder-fore position we must have Impulsion and Connection. In his book, *Kottas on Dressage*, Arthur Kottas reminds us that we have to have energy (Impulsion) to shape. Shaping requires Connection. Connection is perhaps the most complex element in the Pyramid.

Let's start with what Connection is not. It is not a simple connection between the hand of the rider and the mouth of the horse through the reins. Kottas writes about holding the horse with your belt and chest. This is his way of saying that the hands aren't primary when it comes to Connection. So, if your hands are your focus, you are heading down the wrong path. Connection involves rein contact, but what a rider feels in the hand depends on the whole aiding system, which raises a question: What does the rider want from the horse concerning Connection? Charles de Kunffy says the horse should seek the bit, but never arrive. If the horse never arrives, how do you know the contact is correct? I'm so glad you asked. We know because the horse tells us.

How does he tell us? He relaxes, saliva flows from his mouth, his eye softens, and his head, to use de Kunffy imagery, hangs from his poll like a chandelier. What we feel in our hands is lightness. Lightness signifies engagement, the essence of Collection. It is a hint of what is possible. To maintain this feeling of lightness, we have to figure out how to hold the horse with our chest and belt, which means the torso. The torso includes the seat. Actually, the seat is the basis of the torso.

One way to improve the seat is to ride without stirrups. If you are comfortable at the walk only, stick with the walk but pay attention to what you feel as your hips swing with the movement. Can you recognize which hind foot is moving? If you can, you are experiencing oneness with the horse. While riding without stirrups, can you talk your horse into seeking contact with the bit. I don't mean that you should use your voice. I mean ride the horse forward into your contact so all you feel is lightness in your hand. This is where some riders resort to sawing back and forth with the hands. This technique is the opposite of holding the horse with your chest and belt. Neither the chest nor the belt can saw!

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Years ago, during a clinic, Charles de Kunffy talked about a young woman who was successful with a horse that didn't want to seek the bit. No one could get this horse to lower his head and seek the bit. This woman got on and rode the horse in a manner similar to the riders with one difference. She held her hands in front of her, a few inches above the pommel of the saddle, then "crossed" her shoulders. At first, the horse resisted, but she persisted, as women are known to do, and the horse lowered his head. No draw reins, no side reins, just crossing the shoulders. This didn't take days, it took minutes, and the horse was going around with his head hanging from his poll like a chandelier.

Crossing the shoulders doesn't rely on force, but it is powerful. It produces the desirable lightness in hand. Don't interpret this as spreading the hands and sawing back and forth. The idea is to alternate drawing the shoulders back, one at a time. The best way to get a feel for crossing the shoulders is to sit on a stability ball, with your chest up and your shoulders relaxed, then draw one shoulder back with some determination, not fast but definite. You should feel the seat bone on the opposite side push down and forward. Hold your hands in front of your belt, just above the imaginary pommel. The stability ball allows you to feel the magic of crossing your shoulders and demonstrates that the magic flows from the seat.

When Connection is accomplished through the torso/seat, *durchlasigkeit* is one of the rewards. *Durchlasigkeit* is throughness, i.e., acceptance of lateral aids. This acceptance of lateral aids is the key to Straightness. We straighten the horse by moving his shoulders in, not his haunches out.



Moving the shoulders requires a half-halt on the outside rein and the application of the inside leg just enough to produce shoulder-fore. And here we are with a straight horse ready to work on Collection.

In February of 2020, I rode in a clinic taught by Mark Rashid, a master who happens to dress like a cowboy. He offered an idea that he said works for some

people. He told me to blink, as in blink not flutter, my eyelids. I tried this with piaffe and felt and "saw" myself doing piaffe. It was extraordinary. Maybe this blink technique will work for you. While sitting atop a straight horse that seeks the bit, ask your horse to engage. As he responds, blink your eyes. What do you see? Maybe you will glimpse the Collection you desire.

A word about draw reins. I have never used draw reins on Maronda but have on another horse, so I know the feel of draw reins. The feeling scared me. The roundness that was beyond my skills at the


time was handed to me, actually placed in my hands. Using draw reins a couple of times was enough for me to get a feel for the roundness I was seeking. A few years later, when looking for a horse to buy, I tried a horse that had been trained with extensive use of draw reins. He never stretched his neck. The feeling in my hand wasn't lightness, it was nothingness. There was no Connection. The dealer selling the horse tried to reassure me that the horse would "come out of it." I was dubious. What you get with draw reins is not Connection. Take a moment to think about what happens if you don't achieve some semblance of Connection as conceived by the Germans who created the Pyramid. Even if you've mastered Rhythm and Relaxation, the elements that precede Connection, the elements above Connection are unattainable. Don't settle for this. If you settle, it's not your horse that will suffer, it's you.

Learning to cross your shoulders will help you achieve Connection as represented by the Training Scale Pyramid. Connection creates the possibility of *durchlässigkeit* which allows you to straighten your horse. The ability to straighten your horse is fundamental to almost anything you want to do with your horse, flying changes, for example. Tempi changes will elude you if your horse isn't straight. Whenever you struggle with a movement, check if your horse is straight. If not, perform shoulder-fore and blink. If what you see and feel is a joyful horse performing shoulder-fore, then you have experienced a moment of the art of dressage. If that doesn't keep you going, I don't know what will.

FORWARD IS THE WAY!



Juan Lopez Torres
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JULY 2020 Region 5 Message

I hope everyone is having a decent summer! Things are still very unusual and every changing, but I hope you are enjoying time with your family, loved ones and animals. I am enjoying the chance to ride a little bit more often than normal during the summer. Shows are starting to pick up a little, but the extra time at home is not unwelcome. It's so much fun to enjoy the summer riding with both of my girls and spending more time with them before they hopefully go back to school in August.

Several important DEADLINES are coming up:

USDF National and Regional GMO volunteer nominations, as well as GMO award nominations, are due to the USDF office by August 31.

GMOs can submit nominations for Newsletter Awards, Website Awards, and Photography Awards. Don't forget that all nominations are due to the USDF office by August 31. No more submitting hard-copy nominations! See the nomination forms for detailed information.

Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year nominations can be submitted by any participating member, group member or the Region Director.

One deserving group member will receive the Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant to attend the 2019 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in Savannah, Georgia. The grant includes full convention registration and partial reimbursement for travel expenses. Applications due by August 31

GMOs must return their GMO Delegate/Proxy Authorization form to the USDF office to appoint representation to the Board of Governors meeting at the USDF Annual Convention December 2-5, 2020.

Region 5 is very much looking for someone that might be interested in being the USDF Region 5 Nominating Committee member for the rest of 2020 and going forward. Eva Maria Adolphi has sold her farm recently and is retiring to a lovely apartment in a senior complex. She has just retired her TD license and is also giving up her position on the nominating committee so we need to look for someone who would be interested in filling her position.

Here are the goals and objectives of the Nominating committee:

Secure nominations for regional Participating Member (PM) delegates and the USDF Executive Board. Ensure that all GMO members are represented on the Board of Governors by GMO delegates.

Educate the membership about the candidates and oversee the election process.

Objectives

Procure nominations for the following USDF Executive Board positions by June 1: Administrative Council At-Large Director (ALD), Technical Council ALD, and Activities Council ALD. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15.

Obtain GMO delegate and proxy appointments when designated by each GMO.

Educate the membership about candidates and oversee the election process.



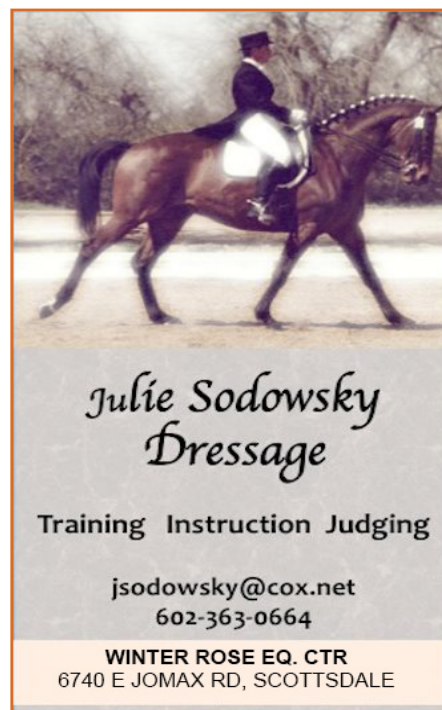
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Notify GMOs who failed to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests that they lost their votes at the Board of Governors meeting.

The person who would serve for Region 5 would help obtain Region 5 PM delegates yearly - we help them by asking folks at each convention if they are interested in serving for the next year; They would also follow up with GMOs who don't send in their delegates or proxies. This is a few phone calls and emails in October and November. They also confirm Regional Director candidates as well and help guide others who may be interested in running for USDF President, VP, secretary, treasurer. There are also a few conference calls throughout the year and we also ask that they attend the USDF Convention each year.

Please let me know if you know anyone who may be interested so we can follow up with them, or have them contact myself!

One more very important thing – due to the lack of competition in Region 5 for the rest of the 2020 USDF Regional Championship qualifying period, the qualifications for the 2020 USDF Region 5 Championships have changed. A press release was recently sent out, but I have also put it below.

Attention Region 5 Competitors:

With recognition that USDF Region 5 has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and now have less than fifteen total competition days to qualify for the 2020 Great American/USDF Regional Championships, the USDF Executive Board has approved alternative qualifying options for the 2020 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships. In addition to normal qualifying procedures, horse/rider combinations may qualify for the 2020 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships if they have obtained the following:

Earning two scores of at least the minimum qualifying percentage from either 2020 Great American/USDF qualifying classes, 2019 Great American/USDF qualifying classes, 2019 Great American/USDF Regional Championship classes, and/or 2019 US Dressage Finals classes. The qualifying fee did not need to be paid prior to riding in these classes.

Competitor must contact USDF in writing to request the previously earned score(s) be recorded as Great American/USDF qualifying and pay the qualifying fee(s) to USDF. Request and fee must be paid prior to the closing date of the regional championship competition.

Scores can be earned at one or more competitions and may be from the same judge or judge panel. As always, to make sure you are accessing the most up-to-date information, visit the USDF website at www.usdf.org and follow us on social media.

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

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USDF Recommended Reading List

USDF Training Manual (Classical Training of the Horse) – USDF

The Principles of Riding – German National Equestrian Federation

Advanced Techniques of Dressage – German National Equestrian Federation

USDF Pyramid of Training – USDF

The Gymnasium of the Horse – Gustav Steinbrecht

The New Basic Training of the Young Horse – Ingrid & Reiner Klimke

Cavalletti for Dressage and Jumping – Ingrid & Reiner Klimke

When Two Spines Align – Beth Baumert

Balance in Movement: The Seat of the Rider – Suzanne von Dietz

Thinking Riding – Books 1 & 2 – Molly Sivewright

The Complete Training of Horse and Rider – Alois Podhajsky

The Riding Teacher – Alois Podhajsky

An Anatomy of Riding – Drs. H. & V. Schusdziarra (Reprinted as Anatomy of Dressage with USDF as the co-publisher)

Rider & Horse Back to Back – Susanne von Dietze

Practical Dressage Manual – Bengt Ljungquist

Dressage with Kyra – Kyra Kyrklund

Dressage: A Guidebook for the Road to Success – Alfred Knopfhart

The Competitive Edge II – Dr. Max Gahwyler

Riding Logic – Wilhelm Müseler

101 Dressage Exercises for Horse & Rider – Jec Aristotle Ballou

Equine Locomotion – Dr. Willem Back and Dr. Hilary Clayton



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As always, to make sure you are accessing the most up-to-date information, visit the USDF website at www.usdf.org and follow us on social media.

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HEY READERS -

The Centerline is always in need of great photos to go along with our articles or just to fill the world with more cute pony pics. So if you have some you'd like to share, please send them to us at:

centerline@azdressage.org



2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

13: ADA Regular Meeting 6:30PM, Location: TBD. Contact president@azdressage.org for details.

18: January Schooling Show, Location: Bar A Ranch, 8510 E Dynamite Blvd. Judges: Sarah Lindsten 'L'

FEBRUARY

9: Fun in February, Location: Dale Creek Equestrian Village, Litchfield Park, AZ. Judge: TBD

10: ADA Regular Meeting 6:30PM, Location: TBD. Contact president@azdressage.org for details.

MARCH

1: CFF Dressage Schooling Day, Location: Carefree Farms, 36412 N 7th Ave. Contact Laura Borghesani laura.borghesani@gmail.com for details.

9: ADA Regular Meeting 6:30PM, Location: TBD. Contact president@azdressage.org for details.

14-15: Tuscon March Madness I/II, Location: Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ.

21: ADA March Schooling Show, Location: Dale Creek Equestrian Village. Judges: Lynn McKinney 'L'

APRIL

11-12: ADA Spring Celebration, Location: WestWorld of Scottsdale, AZ. Judges: TBD

12: Dressage In The Desert, Location: WestWorld of Scottsdale, AZ. Judges: TBD

13: ADA Regular Meeting 6:30PM, Location: TBD. Contact president@azdressage.org for details.

MAY

9: NAC Show, Location American Ranch, Prescott. Contact Kirsten Kuzmanic KirstenK38@gmail.com 951-440-4615 for details: canceled

11: ADA Regular Meeting 6:00PM, Location TBD. Contact enews@azdressage.org for details.

JUNE

POSTPONED Road Runner I, Location: Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, Judges: TBD; Manager Rosemary Panuco, Appeals1@aol.com

7: NAC Working Equitation Clinic, Rimrock, Paulden. Contact Kirsten Kuzmanic KirstenK38@gmail.com 951-440-4615 for details.

8: ADA Regular Meeting 6:00PM, Location: TBD. Contact president@azdressage.org for details.

JULY

~~10-12: Road Runner Dressage Show II, Location: Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, Judges: TBD;~~

13: ADA Regular Meeting 6:00PM, Location TBD. Contact enews@azdressage.org for details.

AUGUST

4-9: Adequan/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), Location: Flintfields Horse Park, Williamsburg, Michigan

10: ADA Regular Meeting 6:00PM, Location TBD. Contact enews@azdressage.org for details.

~~15-16: ADA Mountain Air & Dressage in the Pines, Location: Fort Tuthill County Park, Flagstaff, Judges: TBD~~

18-23: USEF Dressage Festival of Champions, Location: Lamplight Equestrian Center, Wayne, Illinois

22-23: ADA Summer Show, Location: WestWorld of Scottsdale, AZ. Judges: TBD

SEPTEMBER

13: Members Only Schooling Show, Location: WestWorld of Scottsdale, Judge: Lois Whittington, L

24-27: Region 5 USDF/GAIG Regional Championships, Location: Colorado Horse Park, Parker, Colorado

OCTOBER

3: NAC Show, Location: American Ranch, Prescott. Contact Kirsten Kuzmanic KirstenK38@gmail.com 951-440-4615 for details.

12: ADA Regular Meeting 6:00PM, Location TBD. Contact enews@azdressage.org for details.

NOVEMBER

9: ADA Regular Meeting 6:00PM, Location TBD. Contact enews@azdressage.org for details.



ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

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Phoenix, AZ 85046-1602

Greenway Saddlery



The 38th Annual Greenway Summer Sale will have all the great bargains as previous years. But, for this year for safety reasons, we won't have the **BIG OPENING DAY CROWDS**. We will begin pricing Sale Items in July. As the items are tagged, they are now **"ON SALE"**. With our limited staff, it will take till some time in August to get all the items Sale Tagged. So, this year you may want to make several trips in, if you want to be the first to see the Newly Tagged Sale Items. Since this sale is for seasonal and discontinued items, priced will be at our wholesale cost or below and be on Sale till sold.



LOCATED JUST 1 BLOCK NORTH OF THE WESTWORLD EQUIDOME

9380 E. Bahia Dr. #A-103 Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Phone 480 502-9776 www.greenwaysaddlery.com

SUMMER HOURS: Open 10AM to 6PM, Closed Sunday & Monday