



Collections

The Suncoast Dressage & Combined Training Association Monthly Newsletter



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**2004
USDF GMO
Website Award
for Small Clubs**



SDCTA 1st Schooling Show of the Season is Coming!

The First Schooling Show of the season will be on October 30th at Keystone Sport Horse Center. "We want this to be a fun show for everyone" said manager Joan Potter. "You may wear a costume during your ride as long as it doesn't interfere with the horse's movement, or distracts other horses. Riders may also wear polos instead of jackets, and if 3 or more riders enter, we'll have a separate costume class for a \$10 fee which will be judged during the lunch break. It will provide entertainment for the spectators."

There will be a new category of award. The high scoring rider in each level will get a prize. "I like this idea better than a single prize for high score in the show. Sometimes a Second Level rider can do the test of their life and it won't score a high as an Intro Level Test.", Joan continued. "I think it is fairer to rate each level for high score."

So dress up, trailer up and show up! We'll see you there!



The Tao of Equus

I had the privilege to attend a workshop called The Tao of Equus back in 2009. What I learned from that class is something I will always treasure and keep in my heart. It not only confirmed my feelings that all

horses are emotional and spiritual beings, but they all have very unique and specific ch'i (energy) surrounding them. During the course of the day I would discover how to read the ch'i of any horse, and also become much more aware of my own.

The main idea of The Tao of Equus is to educate people about understanding their emotions and energy, or ch'i. I was surprised to find that not everyone taking the class had experience with horses. The benefits of this workshop are to help people use leadership skills and to project their energy and feelings effectively and clearly, therefore teaching them skills to use not only in the workplace, but in everyday life. The horses come into play because they are perhaps the most intuitive readers of emotion in the

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE TO COLLECTIONS IS THE 20th OF THE MONTH

SDCTA is a Group Member Organization (GMO) & all members are automatically Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.



Minutes from the September 13th meeting, held at Mary Anne Burns

Attending: Joan Potter, Angela Lytle, Chris Lytle, Kim Rose, Harvey Rose, Elizabeth Campbell, Cherie Cunningham, Mireille Doffegnies, Michelle Russell, Vivian Vetere, Sally Cahill, Lisa Yanchar, Robbie Pouliot, Allyn Childress, Beth Marshall, Denise Peralta, Jessica Combs, Barbara Sutton, Ms. Shaw, Leslie Zieger, Mary Anne Burns, Carol Gullikson.

There was no August meeting. The July minutes were accepted. The treasurer's report was given by Sally Cahill.

There was a discussion of things available on e-Trak at the USDF website: nominations for officers; end of year awards; and the need to set a Christmas Party date. Also mentioned was the USDF Dressage Radio program featuring Lilo Fore on the first Friday of the month.

An Emergency Chart was handed out along with the agenda, the web address for the Competitor's Guide - <http://memberguide.epubxp.com/issue/32209> and a list of new features on e-Trak.

It is membership time again. Forms were handed out at the meeting. They are also available at the web site. Return with your check to Vivian Vetere.

George Gullikson, a saddle fitter, was introduced. He gave a detailed discussion on the correct fit for women's saddles and demonstrated with several people.

Membership forms and dues are DUE please either mail forms to Vivian Vetere or bring to October Meeting - All forms are on SDCTA Website IF we have not received your dues by Sept. 30th you owe 45.00 for individual membership.

How Do You Do That?

Have you ever pondered, "How do you do that?" while watching a horse and rider at a show?

It's time for some answers! Come to a symposium on moving your horse up the levels, hosted by DaVinci Farms in Fort Myers on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our clinician, Charlotte Trentelman, will teach the auditors the ins and outs of what is required to move your horse from Training Level to Grand Prix. There will be two riders at each level who will demonstrate the points that Charlotte is teaching.

This will be a wonderful day for learning, as well as a great day for fun. We'll have raffle baskets galore—a drawing will be held hourly, with a bunch more auctioned off at the lunch break. And there may be a couple of surprises up our sleeve! Raffle tickets will be for sale at \$1 each or \$5 for six. Lunch will be available for \$6, with drinks for sale throughout the day. \$10 for SWFDA members and \$20 for non-members if you register in advance. If you're a walk-in, it's \$25 for everyone. Get a registration form on the SWFDA website at www.swfda.org. For more information, call Verna Saxer-Gibson at 239-543-4032. Don't forget to bring a chair.

Directions to DaVinci Farms: Take exit I-75 exit 141 and head east on Palm Beach Blvd. Turn right on Orange River Blvd. (at the light just 2 blocks from I-75). Continue on Orange River to the stop sign and turn left. Go to Staley Road and turn left. At Long Road turn right, go the short distance to the end, which is the entry into DaVinci. 239-437-7433.



Presidents Message

Thanks to Mary Anne Burns for once again offering her home to SDCTA. The venue for guest speakers is outstanding. The September meeting featured George Gullikson of Equine Inspired LLC. George's presentation was on riding, saddles and the female anatomy. Attendance was large and all stayed late to listen to what George had to say.

Coming up are the club election and end of year awards. Also, please don't forget to renew your memberships as early as possible so that we can get the necessary information to the USDF on time.

Our first schooling show is on October 30th at Pam Aide's excellent facility. Please make plans to attend. A schooling show in a covered arena is an absolute pleasure. Let's take advantage of it.

Please think about changes you would like to see in the next year. While we can't guarantee the use of all ideas, most of last year's changes and new features came from member suggestions.

The coming year will prove to be busy once again. There will lot's to do with a limited amount of time, energy and resources. Let's all plan to use the year to its fullest potential for ourselves and for our equine partners. Good luck to all.

Harvey

Smithy-Posing with Hay Cigar



Year End Awards for volunteers and riders are **DUE by OCTOBER 15th!** Please download those forms fill them out completely and get them in as soon as possible. Remember to vote for Most Improved Rider, Good Egg and Golden Carrot Awards. Any questions regarding awards and eligibility please contact Sally Cahill by email (as above or phone). Mail to: Sally Cahill , 4426 Ferncroft Ave., Tampa, Florida 33609
http://www.sdcta.net/year-end_awards.htm

Happy Birthday to you!

Anna Urquhart
Chris Bublely

October 16th
October 31st



The Tao of Equus

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natural world. A horse must *always* be aware of his own emotions/ch'i along with those of his herdmates because he is a prey animal. Any sign of weakness can indicate to predators that he has his guard down and would be easy to eat. Horses are the *very* best creatures to educate people on the way of the Tao because they naturally practice it. As humans, we can learn to recognize our emotions/ch'i, not only by practicing daily cleansing, but by allowing our horses to read it and actually show us.

Before meeting the workshop horses, I needed to do 10 minutes of meditation and Tai Ch'i. We all had to cleanse away our bad energies or thoughts before trying to attempt a connection with a horse. I found that after doing a little bit of meditation, I felt very pure, refreshed, and at peace. After that, we went out to the roundpen to discover what type of leaders we were via leading a horse around the pen, simultaneously channeling energy from different parts of our bodies. The horse I lead around was an Appaloosa called Taz. I had never met him or seen him before. At first, I had some prejudice against him, as I really don't like Appaloosas much. I always thought that they were ugly and had rat tails. When I first saw Taz with his homely spots and ratty tail, I was a little put off. However, when I allowed myself to have an open mind and pure heart, Taz suddenly became the most beautiful horse I'd ever seen! I had become his chosen leader. I felt so much love, honor, and admiration from this horse that I began to cry. I was angry with myself for judging Taz before meeting him. It was so humbling to know that he held me in such high regard. By channeling the energy from my gut (just like an Alpha mare does), I was able to earn Taz's trust and his respect. After the exercise, I was overcome with love and this driving urge to protect Taz from harm, almost like a mothering feeling. This became my mission of the day: To channel the Alpha Mare within.

The last exercise in the workshop was to actually communicate through our spirit to another horse's spirit. We were told to ask a question, and wait for a response from the horse. Freedom, an elderly chestnut gelding, was our equine spiritual guide. Before entering his pen, I had to cleanse my body once again through meditation. I was going to ask him this question: "How can I find the strength to become my own leader and follow life's path?" Before I even had the chance to approach him, Freedom marched up to me and gazed deeply into my eyes. I felt a cold, electrical sensation shoot down my spine. I believe that was Freedom's energy connecting with my own. Almost instantly, I felt like I had the strength of ten men! Freedom had answered my question *and* let me borrow some of his power!! And as soon as he blessed me with his gift, he turned and walked away. Freedom granted my request for the strength and confidence to move forward with my new endeavors. As I sat with the others in my group to share my experience, Freedom stretched his long neck over the rail of his pen, and placed his head over my shoulder (someone took a picture at that exact moment!). It was almost like he was smiling down on me and my newfound skills with respect and admiration.

In one day, I uncovered my ability to become the Alpha Mare of my own destiny. I was granted the strength and wisdom of an old horse and the confidence of much loved and cherished leader. I took with me that day skills that will stay for a lifetime. By connecting first with the horses, I discovered that it is possible to communicate with people on the same spiritual level. Everyone went home feeling something unique, but personally I felt like I needed to look closer at my relationships with the horses in my life. If I listen to them, horses can teach us lessons much more valuable than just dressage. I must always be conscious of my ch'i and emotions because only then will I be able to listen to others.

Submitted By Rebecca Ruthberg



Classifieds

(member ads will run for 3 months unless editor is notified to continue)

INSTRUCTION

Joan Potter, USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist, instructing beginner to advanced, Pinellas County and Odessa/Lutz area. 813-855-3780.

Leslie O'Sullivan, USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist and USDF "L" judging graduate is offering lessons, beginner to advanced at Admiralty Farm in Odessa, FL, or will travel to you. 813-920-9041 or 727-510-2338.

Elizabeth Campbell, USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist offers lessons for beginners to advanced riders. Lunge lessons to improve their independent seat. School horse at Royal Blue Stables, Odessa. (813)-613-5775

Jane Whitehurst, USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist. School horses at Nosara Farms, Odessa. Full sized ring, good drainage. Horses may trailer in for lessons or training rides. Experienced with all types of horses and training issues. Call 727-254-3554

FOR SALE

My Bejeweled Horseshoes: Hand crafted and personalized for any occasion or décor. We do birthday parties. Call /813-433-1213 or go to www.mybejeweledhorseshoe.com

Jessica Combs, LMT (MA46369)
Therapeutic massage for the active equestrian. (813) 298-6165 or jcdressage80@aol.com

Yanchar Studio-Custom Picture Framing. Expert design, quality craftsmanship and affordable pricing. Lisa 813-926-4299 Odessa

Black Country DaVinci Dressage Saddle -17 MW; monoflap; v.good condition, 2 1/2 years use. \$600. Call Ellen at 727-481-7520

Don't forget to visit SDCTA on the web at www.sdcta.net

Check out the latest news and club information including:

Club Forms
Newsletters
EOY Awards
Show and Clinic Information
Prize Lists
Show Results
Hurricane Preparedness
Classified Ads
Tampa Bay Area Information

As a free service for newcomers to the area, SDCTA has a list of area farms, trainers, and instructors.

NEWSLETTER AD RATES

(listings for 3 months)

	<i>Members</i>	<i>Non-Members</i>
Business Card	\$10.00	\$15.00
1/8 Page	\$20.00	\$25.00
1/4 Page	\$25.00	\$35.00
Half Page	\$40.00	\$50.00
Full Page	\$60.00	\$80.00
Classified Ad	<i>Free</i>	\$10.00

Elite Dressage Coat: 14R (size 10); new with tags; 100% wool; fully lined; silvertone buttons; center vent with shaped rear seams. Black. \$100. Call Ellen at 727-481-7520

Elite Dressage Coat: 8R (size 4); used 3 times; 100% wool; fully lined; silvertone buttons; center vent with shaped rear seams. Black. \$50. Call Ellen at 727-481-7520

BOARDING/TRAINING

Full board and dressage training at **Royal Blue Stables** with 12 stalls on 6 acres. 8 very open stalls with rubber mats. 3 stalls open up to their own pastures. Separate small pasture available with 12x24 stall for horse with limited turnout. Owner/trainer lives on premises. Individual turnout and special care provided. Lighted 60x20m sand/clay boarded arena. \$650 per month. (813)-613-5775

Full Board on 7 acres, very secure property. Individualized care and turnout. Grass pastures, jumps and lessons available. Owner lives on premises with over 20 years horse care, Full Board \$400.00 per month. Kallie Hilyard 352-464-2414 or smfphil@aol.com Located in Spring Hill, Pasco County.

Admiralty Farm, Odessa, FL. Regulation sand ring, eight acres of lush fertilized grass turnout. Must see. 813-920-9041 or 727-510-2338.

Full and partial board -Keystone/Citrus Park area, off Racetrack Rd. Over sized stalls, daily turn out, owners on premise, individual care; Call (813) 926-7822

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Club events are listed in Bold)

October 30th, 2011: SDCTA Schooling Show, Sally Cahill judge, Keystone Sport Horse Center. Joan Potter, 813-855-3780

November 13th, 2011: First Choice Schooling Show, Carol Bulmer, Judge. FMI Barb Hennessey at mb998@tampabay.rr.com

December 4th, 2011: Schooling Show, Half Pass Farm. Judge TBA FMI Tracy Schlabach 813-545-6168.

January 15th, 2012: SDCTA Schooling Show, second in series. More info TBA.

February 19th, 2012: First Choice Schooling Show, Jean White, Judge. FMI Barb Hennessey at mb998@tampabay.rr.com

March 3-4th, 2012: SDCTA Rated Show, Tampa Fairgrounds.

April 15th, 2012: SDCTA Schooling Show, third in series. More info TBA

April 22nd, 2012: First Choice Schooling Show, Heather Stalker, Judge. FMI Barb Hennessey at mb998@tampabay.rr.com

June 9-10th, 2012, 2012: SDCTA Rated Show, Tampa Fairgrounds

SDCTA Newsletter Editor
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Name
Address

Next Meeting
November 8th, 2011
Year End Awards
Sally Cahill's House

SDCTA MEETING

October 11th, 2011

7:00 pm

at

Elizabeth Campbell's house
11632 Innfields Drive, Odessa
813-920-0388

Directions:

From 1-275 take Memorial Hwy north to the Veteran's Expressway. Exit at Ehrlich Road. Go west following Gunn Hwy to S Mobley Road. Turn west on S Mobley, north on Race Track Road, and west on Innfields. Go to the end.

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