



KDEA E Newsletter – Late February 2024

KDEA Mission Statement

KDEA serves the South Central Kansas dressage and eventing community by providing educational, social, and competitive opportunities that promote a harmonious partnership between horse and rider



KDEA Officers and Board 2024

President: Cassie Black

Vice President: Cyndi Harris

Secretary Jennifer Thuener

Treasurer: Hillary Akers

Board: Susan Lang, Becky Rolph, Kim Miller, Natalie Petz, Lisa Del Mundo, Marty Foster Dennett, Joanna Gunzelman, Eysley Hatfield-Jr Rep, Natalie Parnell-Jr Rep

In This Newsletter....

- **President's Message**
- **KDEA Ride A Test – March 2-3 at Capall Stables and Eagle View Equestrian. Auditors welcome**
- **Item Up for Vote at Next KDEA Meeting – Director's and Officers Insurance**
- **Award Winners 2023 – Congratulate your Friends!**
- **Reminder about Vaccines and Coggins for Upcoming Show Season**
- **Looking for a Place to Meet**
- **Volunteers! We Need You!**
- **Host A Meeting? Why Not?**
- **Newsletter Submissions – Make This YOUR Newsletter!**
- **2024 Bit Inspections at Recognized Dressage Shows – Know the Rule Change**
- **KDEA Schooling Show Attire/Equipment**
- **Western Dressage Attire and Equipment**
- **Eventing Scoring Errors and Attire Questions**
- **KDEA USEF "Lite" Western Dressage Show – June 15th at Eagle View in Wichita**
- **How To Read a Test**
- **Show Blunders**
- **2024 KDEA Show Dates**

President's Message: It is gearing up to be a busy, fun year for our KDEA members! We have already had members show at a winter schooling show (in 16 degrees!) and have had several clinicians come help us work toward our goals. KDEA also hosted a fun unmounted Geometry clinic in February. Learning is such a big part of Dressage and Eventing, as we are always looking for new ways to communicate with our horses as we move through levels of training. Continue to check the KDEA calendar on the website as we add events and reach out to local barn owners (Eagle View Equestrian, Twin Creek Trails, Capall Baile Stable) to find out about learning opportunities happening in our community. I am a part of the KDEA Education committee, and we have some great upcoming events, including our Mini educational sessions before each meeting, and a fall symposium in the works.

With all of these shows and learning opportunities please don't forget that KDEA offers grants for both junior and senior members. Applications can be found on the website and are due in May and November. There are other Dressage grants available through The Dressage Foundation and breed organizations for all different learning involvement, from judges training to young rider to Western Dressage riders. We love hearing about rider success and, if any members have received grants, please let us know!

We have several new members and love meeting new people. If this is your first year as a KDEA member, please know that we are thrilled to have you join us! We offer quite a few learning and show opportunities in the area, but if you have something else that you would like to see happen, please don't hesitate to reach out by email, Facebook messenger or in person. This organization is here for its members and we love ideas and feedback so we can continue to grow.

Cassie Black. 2024 KDEA President

The KDEA Ride a Test is just around the corner – March 2nd and 3rd at Eagle View and Capall. Check out the [website](#) for the ride times. This is a perfect time to come see what scribing and scoring is all about and to watch the rides. You can also learn to read a test (see article near the end of the newsletter) Ride a Test slots are full, but come join the learning!

Item Up for Vote - KDEA Meeting – April 2nd. At the April 2nd meeting, there will be a vote of the membership regarding a proposal to secure Directors and Officers insurance for KDEA Officers and Board. This information was brought to the February meeting attendees for consideration and is being published in this newsletter in advance of the April 2nd meeting vote. The information below was provided by Cyndi Harris, Vice President, who sourced the information from Blue Bridle, the insurance agency that KDEA uses to insure our individual show dates and clinic event dates. A D&O policy is only available to a club as an addition to an existing liability policy covering club activities.

What is Directors and Officers Liability Insurance? Actions brought against directors and officers based upon actual or alleged wrongful acts arising from the execution of their day-to-day duties and management functions can result in a D&O claim. D&O liability insurance can protect the personal assets of directors and officers from catastrophic financial loss in the event of such a claim. The D&O policy also provides coverage for the organization. It is becoming more common for directors to require that an organization purchase D&O liability insurance before they serve on its board. It is easy to understand why. Litigation expenses alone can amount to millions of dollars. D&O coverage can help protect the directors and officers from personal financial loss relating to those expenses.

The cost of the most basic (lowest insured value of \$1,000,000) is \$948 per year, and for a 2,000,000 policy the fee is \$1423 per year. This insurance is in addition to the approximately \$700 per year KDEA pays to ensure individual dates we have shows and clinics. If you have any questions about this topic prior to the April meeting, please contact Cyndi Harris at ntrlhigh@wheatstate.com.

KDEA Award Winners 2023. The Award Winners for 2024 are listed on the KDEA website, but here it is in a nutshell:

KDEA Volunteer of the Year: Jake Bartholmew....for all his help at KDEA schooling shows
Recognized Novice Horse Trials – Tornado King – Gail Knoffloch – Professional – Avg 51.667
Schooling Starter CT or Horse Trials – Gracie – Brynlee Newman – Junior – Average – 38.177
Schooling Beginner Novice CT or Horse Trials – Louisiana Bling – Savannah Byer, Junior – Avg 36.8
Schooling Novice CT or Horse Trials – Rise Up Redhawk – Zuhrah Alwahabi – Amateur – Avg 39.19
Recognized First Level – Thackery Binx – Karlee Ward – Amateur – Avg 64.196

Recognized Second Level – Adamaris HSR – Lisa Del Mundo – Professional Avg 68.103
Recognized Fourth Level – Your Ex Boyfriend – Gail Knoffloch – Professional – 60.083
Recognized Prix St George – Your Ex Boyfriend – Gail Knoffloch – Professional – 59.063
Recognized WD Intro – Mister Manhattan – Sarah Pryor – Amateur – Average 72.598
Recognized WD Intro – Reserve – Thor Boon Cat – Karen Pool – Amateur – Average 70.314
Recognized WD Intro – Docs Blonde Dollie – Cyndi Harris – Professional – Average 76.401
Recognized WD Basic – Black Merlot – Anne Stephens – Amateur – Average 69.841
Recognized WD Basic – Docs Blonde Dollie – Cyndi Harris – Professional – 74.044
Recognized WD Level 1 – My Three Crystals – Cassie Black – Professional – Average 77.881
Recognized WD Level 1 – Reserve, Doc’s Blonde Dollie – Cyndi Harris – Professional -73.1
Recognized WD Level 2 – OTC Ayasha – Hillary Akers – Amateur – 69.566
Recognized WD Level 2 – Reserve – Jacoby – Kelli Wolf – Amateur – 67.168
Schooling Introductory Level – Dolly Madison – Scarlett Bartel – Junior – 66.675
Schooling Introductory Level Reserve – Winnie B – Emmelynn Herrman – Junior – 65.469
Schooling Training Level – Black Merlot – Anne Stephens – Amateur – 70.460
Schooling Training Level Reserve – First Edition – Shannon Howerton – Amateur -66.876
Schooling Training Level – Iskra – Eysley Hatfield – Junior – 65.039
Schooling Training Level, Reserve – Breckenridge – Olivia Liggett – Junior – 61.586
Schooling Training Level – Rhaegar Targaryen – Adrian Moody = Professional - 69.748
Schooling Training Level, Reserve – Ljubima – Kim Miller – Professional – 63.242
Schooling First Level – Ljubima – Kim Miller – Professional – 59.277
Schooling Western Intro – Thor Boon Cat – Karen Pool – Amateur – 72.398
Schooling Western Intro, Reserve – Cat – Lori Lockhart – Amateur – 62.094
Schooling Western Intro = Stella – Cyndi Harris – Professional – 69.628
Schooling Western Basic – My Three Crystals – Haley Kottler – Amateur – 71.396
Schooling Western Level 1 – Docs Blonde Dollie – Cyndi Harris -Professional – 72.295
Schooling Jumper 2’5’ and Below – Dolly Madison – Scarlett Bartel
Schooling Jumper 2’5” and Below Reserve – Winnie B – Emmelynn Herrmann
Schooling Jumper 2’6 and above – Rise Up Red Hawk – Zuhrah Alwahabi

Thanks to Kim Miller, Awards chair, and Haley Kottler (event planner) for a fun celebration! Here’s to 2024 being a great year for everyone who chooses to show!

Reminder about Vaccines. As you schedule spring shots/wellness exams for your horses, remember that if you plan to show at any United States Equestrian Federation show in 2024 (KDEA’s Lite Western Dressage is a USEF show), you must be able to provide proof of rhino/flu vaccine being given within 6 months of the show date. In addition, all facilities used by KDEA for shows and clinics require a negative Coggins within 1 year of the show/clinic date. Some of the facilities also require the proof of vaccines. So be prepared!

Looking For a Place to Meet.. So, this year’s KDEA Year End awards celebration was very well attended – so much so that we outgrew our host facility at Equestrian Estates. Do any of our members have access to a (low or no cost) option for meeting space? We will need something for the year–end awards (usually a Sunday in January), and we may also have educational events that would require meeting space with (or without) audio visual capability. If any of our members have a home theater with enough space for a club meeting (20 to 30 people), please let our President, Cassie Black, know. It is never too early to get things booked!

Volunteers! Come One and All! Marty Foster Dennett will once again be leading our volunteer efforts for our shows and clinics this year. There is a Volunteer Checklist to record your volunteer efforts, and attached to that form is a list of volunteer positions available at most shows. Check out the Forms tab at www.kdea.org Marty can be reached at showbewalkin@gmail.com. Remember that to qualify for year-end awards, you have to earn “points” by volunteering for various tasks throughout the year.

Host a Meeting. We have a meeting place for our April meeting (April 2nd at Kelli Wolf’s – more info to come) but also need a location for the June 4th, Aug 6th, October 1st and December 1st meetings. If you have any ideas or want to volunteer your home (you get volunteer “points” for hosting a meeting), please let Cassie know. You are not required to provide anything fancy...just chairs and enough space for about 20 to 25 people, and it is up to you as to whether you provide any light refreshments. Some folks will bring things without being asked, and some meeting hosts solicit meeting “goodies” from their barn or riding partners.

Newsletter Submissions. We are always in need of articles and write-ups for the newsletter. If you read a good book, saw a good video or DVD, or went to a clinic, please write up your notes and send them in to Susan at smlang2@cox.net. There is no deadline...whenever articles come in, they go in one of the upcoming newsletters. Thanks!

New for 2024 – at USEF Recognized Dressage (English, not Western) Shows. So, in the past, you came out of the arena and 1/3 of those in your class were required to be “equipment checked” on exiting the arena. This included the equipment checker putting their (gloved) fingers in your horse’s mouth and “checking the bit.” Starting 12/1/23, the Technical Delegate is required to inspect at least 50% of the entries’ bits OFF the horse. This can be in the stabling area at a set time, or in random walk throughs, or after a ride (they will follow you back to your stall for you to “drop the bit” and have the bridle inspected). This will allow a better look at the bit being used, and the construction of the bridle/headstall/throatlatch to make sure it is legal. Even though the bit will not be inspected after each class, you will still have 1/3 of each class inspected for the same tack as before – helmet, whip, spurs, looking for blood, equipment, logos, proper attire, etc. Check out the following links for more information. www.usef.org/forms-pubs/96D17ISsaCo/annex---bits-saddlery-equipment/www.usef.org/forms-pubs/sAH3nOVD85c/dressage-attire-equipment-booklet

KDEA Schooling Shows – What Can I Wear? What Can My Horse Wear? – KDEA schooling shows generally adhere to the national association (USEF) equipment rules, except that we do allow boots and wraps, as well as a relaxed RIDER dress code. However, bits are required to be legal as is tack and equipment. We do not have any formal tack and equipment check, but the judge may stop you if you have on illegal attire or equipment, and one of our savvy ring steward may also notice something you may not be aware is illegal. If you have questions about legal attire or equipment, contact Susan Lang at smlang2@cox.net.

And not to forget Western Dressage – At USEF Western Dressage Shows (such as our June Lite show) 1/3 of each class is required to have an attire and equipment check that includes the rider “dropping the bit” after they come out of the ring for the ring steward to inspect. Western Dressage equipment and attire information can be found here:
<https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/WDAA%20Equipment%20and%20Attire%20Guide%204%2013%202023.pdf>

And Then Moving on to Eventing. So, there is a handy reference guide for common questions and answers for attire and scoring in eventing tests. It discusses things such as when you can wear half

chaps, what happens if you learn the wrong test, how errors are scored, etc. These answers and more can be found here <https://useventing.com/resources/documents/Rule-Variences-Doc-1.pdf>

USEF “Lite” Western Dressage Show – June 15th at Eagle View. Check out www.horseshowconsulting.com website for the prize list/entry form, and the site also lists the last 2 years of results. It isn't too early to start thinking about getting a few sponsorships for us, and to sign up to volunteer! The entry form is also on the KDEA website. For more information, contact Susan at smlang2@cox.net.

A - Enter Working Trot. X – Halt Salute (or, How To Call A Test)

At some point, you have probably been asked at the last minute to read a test for a rider who was ready to go down centerline. Maybe you are an accomplished reader and know how to read a test, but for those who may be pressed into service for the first time or who become anxious every time they read a test, a few pointers can make the experience more positive for both the reader and the rider entering the competition ring.

First, you need to determine whether you are a good candidate to be a reader.

- Do you have a strong voice that carries? Soft-poken people do not make good readers.
- Have you ridden dressage tests before so that you know the general flow of a test? Some people who do not ride are good readers, but it usually helps if you are a rider and it is even better if you have ridden to the level of the test you are reading.
- Are you the parent (or child or spouse) of the person you are reading for? If so, find someone else to read, as it is generally not a good idea for parents, children and spouses to read for each other.
- Do you want to watch the test? If you are reading, and you do a good job, you will see very little of the test. Reading requires concentration to the task at hand, and if you get caught up in watching the ride, you will get behind in your reading and you will not do a good job reading.
- Are you tough enough to handle the rider who comes out of the ring after a poor test? Unfortunately, there are some competition-stressed riders who will initially blame the reader for a bad test and you have to not take it personally.
- If you are riding at the same show, do you have the ability to concentrate on your own horse and your rides and in addition take on the task of reading for others? Your ride times may conflict or be so close that you are late to read, or you don't have time to properly warm up your own horse.

If you think you have the qualities to be a good reader, then volunteer to read for your friends at a few local schooling show. The low-key nature of a schooling show will take the pressure off of you, as making a mistake to the detriment of the rider at a USEF recognized show is a much more 'expensive' mistake for all involved. After practicing at schooling shows then you can step up and read at a recognized show, where there are typically many more pressures and tensions that at a schooling show.

So what should be on your mind when you read at a USEF-recognized show? Here are a few pointers to keep you calm, cool and collected and of the most assistance to the rider going down centerline.

- Do you have the current tests? Tests change every four years, and are available in commercial booklets with all tests, off the USEF and USDF websites, as well as via iPhone applications. The rider should have a test copy or book from which you can read.
- In which ring is your rider competing? Sometimes both the reader and the rider can be confused as to which ring is the correct one, or the ring times/schedule may have changed since the initial ride times were posted. At shows with multiple rings, be sure you know how to get down to the ring (sometimes there is only one way to get to the arenas, or what appears to be the logical paths may be blocked off).
- Is the ring running on time? Although the rider does not have to ride before their scheduled ride time, judges sometimes get behind, or accidents happen that delay the show. Time changes will affect the rider's warm up as well as when you should arrive ringside to read. Most of the time, the rider will look to their reader or groom for this information, so be sure to check with the in gate steward for any changes or delays.
- What is the number of the horse in front of your rider? This will help you assure that you are ready at the right moment (regardless of the scheduled ride time).
- Are you listening for a bell or whistle to begin reading? If you begin reading at the wrong signal (bell instead of whistle), your rider may end up in the ring before their signal has sounded (and they can be eliminated for entering before their signal).
- What test does the rider think they are riding? Does that match what the in gate person and program says? Sometimes tests get scheduled out of order, and the rider may not be clued in that they are actually riding Test 3 before Test 2.
- What test is in front of you that you are preparing to read? As the rider circles the arena, it is always a good idea to recite "Training Level Test 1" or whatever the person is riding so that you both confirm the upcoming test.

The Test Itself

- Read the test ahead of time and make sure that you know the geometry involved in the test. That helps you know when to read a particular movement, and some of the tests are quite "wordy" and require you to read a lot of words within a few meters, and then you may be silent for what seems like a long time before the next movement.
- Hopefully you know the rider for whom you are reading, and know whether they want each movement read long in advance (before they are finishing the movement before) or they want it read only 5 to 10 strides out. Part of this depends on the show and riding experience of the rider, as the further out from the movement you read, the more time the rider has to prepare the upcoming movement. However, if you read too early, then the rider may not hear you as they are still focusing on finishing the half pass, and doesn't really hear you say "F-X-H- medium trot."
- Make sure that as you walk up to the ring, you have the correct test open in your book (or on your phone application). Then as you read, be sure to put your finger on the page as you read so that when you look up to see where the rider is in the test, you can easily find your place on the test again to continue reading.
- Although it is always the rider's responsibility to know the test, the reader is an asset in that if the rider is momentarily confused, the reader can direct them through creative test reading. For example, for a "broken line" walk diagonal (H-X-K) if the reader sees that the rider is making no effort to change direction at X (because the rider has it in their mind they are doing the HXF diagonal, just before the rider reaches X, the reader can read "K (emphasized loudly) medium walk" and the rider, seeing that they are going toward F instead of K, can quickly correct their line of travel. The same thing can be done when a rider does a 15 meter circle instead of a 10

meter circle – the second time, the reader can read “B - 10 (emphasized) meter circle and the rider will get the idea that they are to ride a 10 meter circle, not a 15 meter circle.

Now for the rules and protocol.

- You must begin reading at the beginning of the test (i.e. you can't show up in the middle of the test and begin reading).
- You may only read exactly what is written on the test sheet, and there are portions which are marked as not to be read.
- You cannot talk to the rider during the test or give instructions, as this is “unauthorized assistance” and can result in elimination of the rider from the test.
- You can't re-read a movement unless it is very clear that there was a sound or disturbance that caused your voice not to be heard.
- You must call the test in English unless you have proper permission to read in another language.
- Although there is no set place in the ring from which a test is required to be read, B and E are the normal locations for readers. If there is little distance between the two rings, opt to read from the side furthest away from the other ring.
- If the rider goes off course, the judge will signal the rider and tell them where to re-start the test. During this time, as the reader you are to remain silent; once the rider has resumed the test, you can continue reading where you left off.
- If you find that in addition to being the reader, you are the impromptu groom before the rider goes in the ring, make sure that wraps are off and the rider has a number on the bridle, saddle pad, or boot. Wearing wraps into a test, or failing to exhibit a number can result in elimination by the judge.

Techniques for Reading.

- Be sure that you enunciate clearly, as “B” and “E” sound very similar, especially with noise from fans, squeaky boots on the saddle, or other readers. As you read, look directly at your rider (not at the test book) to project your voice toward your rider (and not to the rider in the other ring or into the ground).
- Project your voice appropriately for the conditions of the arena. If there are loud fans on, or you are outside in the wind, you may have to almost shout to be heard. However, if you are in an arena with very little noise, yelling or a strident voice is very annoying to the judge and scribe (who have to sit there all day trying to tune out readers).
- In the case of an outdoor arena when it is raining, be sure that you have a plastic bag or something water resistant in which you place the test to be read. Wear a rain hat or rain coat rather than carry an umbrella to juggle and control while you read.

With all these thoughts in mind, you can be a great asset to riders competing at shows. Reading tests is also a great way to become familiar with the show scene and all that is involved in riding and showing. That way, when it is your turn to go down centerline and you choose someone to read for you, you can make sure that they know how to best assist you.

It can Happen to Anyone – Show Blunders...

Riding your horse in a dressage competition is a test of training and teamwork. The competition is stressful as you try to achieve a good ride and a good score. Even though you try to control your horse

and follow all the rules of competition etiquette, sometimes the show just doesn't go as planned. Do any of these scenarios sound familiar?

You are trotting quietly around the arena before your dressage ride. Your horse is going very nicely, and you think what a nice test you are going to have. Suddenly, you hear "BOOM" as the local country club begins the golf tournament with a shotgun start. Your horse "shotguns" away and you struggle to control him as he leaps into the dressage arena. He does gymnastics in the air, but only his hind feet actually land in the arena before he quickly exits. The rules say that you are eliminated for entering the arena before the whistle, but only your horse's hind feet entered. You wonder if you are eliminated (the ruling was that the rider was not eliminated).

You are halfway through a very nice dressage test, and you are approaching H. Without warning, your horse leaps away from H and snorts as you struggle to continue the test. Every time you approach H, your horse shies away and acts terrified. After finishing the test, your reader finds a brown toad (the same color as the arena dirt) hopping around at H, trying to find his way somewhere. The reader catches the toad and deposits him far away from the competition arenas.

The dressage arena is set up in a grassy field, and it is a beautiful morning. You school your horse in the warmup arena, and you hear engine noise in the background. Looking around, you notice that on the other side of the hedge row is a small airport with several runways. Three planes are getting ready to taxi to the runway, and the judge has just whistled for you to enter the arena. Your horse looks at the "big fly" and shakes a bit, but doesn't bolt off. You wonder if the organizers could have found a different place for the dressage arenas – maybe they wanted a "home court advantage" for horses accustomed to airplanes taking off in close range.

You trot down centerline and halt at X. You nudge your horse with your calves to move off at a crisp trot, but your horse won't move. A harder nudge only results in the horse stretching out to urinate. Try as you might, you cannot get your horse to abandon the idea of urinating. Fifteen seconds later, your horse lurches to a trot, and you begin the test. Although you are embarrassed, you continue the test. However, your horse won't go straight on the diagonal, as he veers around the puddle at X. So much for that dressage test!

As you are riding your dressage test, you hear the call of "loose horse." Looking up as you halt at C, you see a horse galloping up to your arena. The escapee easily jumps over the chain arena, makes a swing toward your horse, and then decides to leave the arena to explore other parts of the show grounds. Your horse wants to leave, too, preferring to run around the show grounds rather than perform a test.

You ride into the arena and halt at X. The judge stands up and nods. He begins to sit back down, but his chair slides off the back of the judge's stand. The judge and the chair disappear off the back of the stand. You make the decision to remain at X until the judge reappears.

It is hot, and your legs are too sweaty and swollen to get into your new (tight) boots. Even though you know it is tacky, you wear your loose-fitting rubber boots that were conveniently stowed in the trailer. Halfway through the ride, you know that one boot is slowly sliding off your foot. At the halt at C, the boot is half off, so you quietly kick the boot off and continue the ride. As the spectators laugh, you finish a very nice test, with one boot on, one boot off. The judge puts a note on the bottom of the test to call the bootmaker immediately to order new boots.

You are nervous at your first show, and are barely breathing as you ride the test. When your horse nears "A," he decides that the best place to be is outside the arena, and he steps out through A, completely surprising you. Exasperated, you bring him back into the arena, as the judge allows you to continue the test even though you have just been eliminated. When you walk out of the ring, very frustrated, everyone just laughs and says that they've had it happen to them, too, at some point, and to just chalk it up to "been there, done that." Suddenly, you breathe again, and realize that every test is a learning experience.

The next time you and your horse have an “embarrassing moment” at a competition, remember that you are not the only one who endures show blunders. Other people have survived, and so will you!

March 2-3

KDEA Ride A Test - 2 full days, but AM/PM sessions alternate Capall and Eagle View

Instructors Susan Lang, Marie Maloney, Lisa Del Mundo. See website for times. Auditors welcome

April 13th

KDEA Dressage Schooling show and Combined Test - at Eagle View. Judge: Gail Matheus, “R” Western Dressage, L Graduate with Distinction, “r” dressage candidate.

May 18th

KDEA Dressage Schooling show at Three Wooden Crosses. Judge: Laurie Hedlund, L Graduate, USDF Certified Instructor. USEF “r” Western Dressage applicant

June 15th

KDEA USEF "Lite" Western Dressage Show - at Eagle View. Judge: Melissa Creswick, "R" WD

July 13th

KDEA Dressage Schooling Show and Combined Test - 20x40 ring only - at Twin Creek Trails. Judge: Cassie Black, L Candidate

August 17th

KDEA Dressage Schooling Show at Three Wooden Crosses. Judge: Holly Luke, L Graduate

September 14

KDEA Dressage Schooling Show and Combined Test - at Eagle View. Judge: Sherry Guess, L Graduate, USDF Certified Instructor

**KDEA General Membership and Board Meetings 2024 Most will start at
6:30 with a min-education session**

April 2nd

June 4th

Aug 6th

October 1st

December 3