



off course

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR SEDA MEMBERS ♣ MAY / JUNE 2010

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“Don't Compromise the Basics”

By Leslie Morris, SEDA Dressage Chair

Back in March, I was notified that I was selected to ride in the USDF Region 9 Adult Clinic in Hernando, MS. The clinic had been advertised on the Internet and in several horse magazines. There was a catchy ad...“Charlotte Bredahl-Baker & The Quest for the Pyramid.” It looked like “Raiders of the Lost Ark” meets Dressage. Mapquest showed Hernando a doable five hour drive and my friend, David, encouraged me to enter. Then the hard part came...I had to fill out a lengthy questionnaire on my level of riding and do a video riding the horse I would like to take. I decided to let the tape run, no edits, showing Tobie just as he

is in a riding session. Tobie (Meant To Be) is a Lusitano/Thoroughbred owned by Corinne Morrison that I am competing at Prix St. Georges.

When I sat down to write this article, I thought back to a conversation I had with one of the auditors after my ride on the first day. She came up to me and said she enjoyed watching my lesson and that she had gotten a lot out of it. Then she said, she didn't know how the riders were able to put themselves out in front of everyone and thought it was brave of us. I hope that when you finish

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At the USDF Region 9 Clinic: Leslie Morris aboard Meant to Be. Standing, left to right: Leslie Talley, Nancy Burba, Shelley Barry, Charlotte Bredahl-Baker; Beth Friedel, Margaret Rice and David Banister. Photo courtesy of Margaret Rice.

Amen Corner April Schooling Dressage Results

RIDER	HORSE	SCORE	RIDER	HORSE	SCORE	RIDER	HORSE	SCORE
INTRO LEVEL A			TRAINING LEVEL TEST 3			THIRD LEVEL TEST 2		
Tina Cope	Arctic	69.000	Bernadette Murray-Fertel	Golden Dancer	64.800	Anne Hornbeak	Dannah	61.282
Cammy Serafin	Jet's Image	59.500	Barbara Merrit	Technicolor	64.400	THIRD LEVEL TEST 3		
Dylan Pellegrin	Lil' Angel	55.000	Tina Cope	Mateo	53.600	Allison Barca	Risque	64.884
Emma Beckers	Mystic Stardust	HC	TRAINING LEVEL TEST 4			FOURTH LEVEL TEST 1		
INTRO LEVEL B			Bernadette Murray-Fertel	Golden Dancer	64.400	Anne Hornbeak	Debonaire	66.512
Tina Cope	Arctic	70.000	Barbara Merritt	Technicolor	64.000	FOURTH LEVEL TEST 2		
Christian Papale	B's Poetic Moment	69.500	Nancy Burba	Lord Loxley	59.200	Anne Hornbeak	Debonaire	65.000
Cammy Serafin	Jet's Image	63.000	David Banister	Roubles	59.200	PRIX ST GEORGES - AA		
Dylan Pellegrin	Lil' Angel	60.500	FIRST LEVEL TEST 1			Laura Freeman	Laoma	62.105
Emma Beckers	Mystic Stardust	HC	Kim MacGregor	Cadence	56.333	INTERMEDIARE II - AA		
TRAINING LEVEL TEST 1			FIRST LEVEL TEST 2 - AA			Allison Barca	Roux	61.579
Christian Papale	B's Poetic Moment	63.913	Cathy Shepard	Walter	63.333	USEA NOVICE A - AA		
Victoria Chabaud	Little Miss Independent	63.478	FIRST LEVEL TEST 4 - AA			Rebecca Doleac	Bella Octavia	68.696
Caitlin Jordan	G Force	61.304	Cathy Shepard	Walter	65.263	USEA NOVICE B - AA		
TRAINING LEVEL TEST 2			SECOND LEVEL TEST 1 - JR/YR			Rebecca Doleac	Bella Octavia	68.000
Margaret Rice	Lord Loxley	68.571	Cameron Dauterive	Don Giovanni	61.316	PRIX CAPRILLI INTRO - JR/RV		
Tina Cope	Mateo	57.143	THIRD LEVEL TEST 1			Dylan Pellegrin	Lil' Angel	41.739
Caitlin Jordan	G Force	62.143	Anne Hornbeak	Dannah	62.051			
Victoria Chabaud	Little Miss Independent	62.143	Cameron Dauterive	Don Giovanni	57.436			

USDF Region 9 Clinic ... continued from page 1

reading this article, you will all want to put yourselves "out there" and enter one of these worthwhile clinics. USDF really strives to have educational programs for its members and everyone should take advantage of them if you can.

The host facility was Clifton Farm/ Midsouth Dressage Academy. It is a beautiful farm in Hernando, about 30 minutes from Memphis, TN. The stable had very nice, roomy stalls, an indoor arena that was divided into two full-size dressage arenas, a large lounge/viewing area with full kitchen and twelve rooms with baths for the riders and some of the auditors. It was a perfect facility to host this type of clinic. Charlotte stayed at the farm and it was great to be able to sit and talk to her after dinner while we watched TV and then at breakfast. She also did a lecture the first day with videos of herself training a young horse. It really allowed for lots of discussion and

interchange of ideas. Charlotte Bredahl-Baker is best known for her partnership with her horse, Monsieur. They were part of the 1992 bronze medal United States Olympic team in Barcelona. Charlotte is traveling to every region for USDF and doing "The Quest for the Pyramid" clinic.

USDF sent all the selected riders information about ride times, dress code and general facts about the clinic. I noticed that Nancy Burba would be riding Checkers in the clinic, so SEDA would have two members representing our organization. All riders had to be at the farm Friday afternoon so Charlotte could do a 30-minute session with us, watch us ride, and go over some of the exercises she would be using Saturday and Sunday. I was riding with Laura Jane Crane, who had been showing her horse at 4th level. I can't say that Tobie and I impressed Charlotte. Tobie was fussy and not connected and Charlotte kept saying

more inside leg and more bend. OK, I knew that; but I thought I was using inside leg and I couldn't get more bend, and overall Tobie was happily blowing me off. He knew he was going to get to go back to that nice, roomy stall and eat his hay. That night I dreamed that I put Tobie in my trailer and went home. Tobie must have had the same dream, because he escaped from his stall that night and had a good ol' time causing havoc in the barn aisle.

The first day of the clinic, Charlotte showed us some videos that she made for an Internet web site called dressageclinic.com. They showed her riding and training a young horse. She had a mic on and was talking throughout the video. It gave us an idea of some of the exercises she likes to use and how her horse responded to her aids. Charlotte is a very quiet and effective rider. I found her to be a sympathetic, yet

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Recognized Dressage Standings

As of April 10, 2010

SEDA Recognized Dressage Award Chair:
Sally Richards
75171 Old Military Rd.
Covington, LA 70435
(985) 809-7391
gridweek@bellsouth.net

Volunteer Hours Chair:
Carmen Hall
121 Bennett Drive
Covington, LA 70435

How do members participate in the SEDA Awards Program?

- 1 Make copies of the front of your recognized dressage test results making sure score, date, and judge's name are legible.
- 2 Mail copies to Sally no later than 14 days after the last day of the weekend on which the show in question was held. Include a valid e-mail address.
- 3 Check your standings and volunteer hours on the web site and with each issue. Report any discrepancies to the appropriate chair.

www.sedariders.org

RIDER	HORSE	TESTS/JUDGES	SCORE	VOL. HRS.
TRAINING LEVEL - JR/YR				
AlexVarisco	Vinnie	2/2	62.353	x
TRAINING LEVEL - AA				
Bernadette Murray	WEC Golden Dancer	3/1	71.739	
FIRST LEVEL - JR/YR				
Kathryn Chabaud	Zydeco ZSH	2/2	67.983	
AlexVarisco	Lavalais	1/1	65.000	x
FIRST LEVEL - AA				
Cathy Shepard	Walter	2/1	62.000	
FIRST LEVEL - O				
Anne Hornbeak	Pacifica	4/2	71.361	
SECOND LEVEL - JR/YR				
Kalie Beckers	Rascale	2/1	67.137	x

RIDER	HORSE	TESTS/JUDGES	SCORE	VOL. HRS.
SECOND LEVEL - AA				
Lolly White	Cold Snap	2/1	63.420	
SECOND LEVEL - O				
Anne Hornbeak	Hello Dolly	3/2	66.316	
THIRD LEVEL - AA				
Lolly White	Cayenne	4/2	63.847	
Elaine Harmon	Lincoln	1/1	63.590	x
PRIX ST GEORGES - AA				
Laura Freeman	Laoma	1/1	59.474	
BREED CLASSES				
Dressage Sport Horse Prospect in Hand				
Deborah Epperson	Lascaux	1/1	74.800	
Paula Gregory	Louisiana	1/1	69.700	x

USDF Region 9 Clinic ... continued from page 11

she wants to do the 8 year old young horse test with, and Laura Jane on her FEI Danish horse. All riders did various exercises with leg yield. Another Charlotte quote is appropriate here... "Don't compromise the basics."

Let me describe a few of the exercises that the riders were asked to do: Half pass at canter from the center line to rail then counter canter the short side, turn down center line and back to half pass to rail. This was a tough exercise and the rider that performed this did a good job. Wish I could remember who it was... Nancy knows, she took better notes than me. Quarter canter pirouettes on a square...Turn horse at point of square and leg yield out on line to keep shoulder up. Shallow loop on long side in canter, at arch of the loop/center line do a 10m circle and then continue to corner. This exercise is great for teaching the horse to stay balanced in the counter canter. These exercises also fix specific problems: For the horse that gets too strong, add walk transitions and, in the case of one horse, Charlotte had the rider do a leg yield along the rail and do walk transitions. Shoulder-in to renvers when horse wants to stick its shoulder to the rail. For the horse that anticipates flying changes, start in counter

canter on a circle with the horse in bend to the inside of a circle. Another flying change fix is correct canter lead to counter canter on a half circle, leg yielding to rail and then change.

My lesson on Sunday began with... yes; you guessed it...leg yield. Tobie was soooo much better in the connection that we were able to move quickly on to half pass exercises and then we got to work on flying changes. I felt Tobie had many really good moments and I was happy and inspired leaving the clinic.

This clinic was set up with the auditors in mind and everyone was encouraged to ask questions. USDF wants this to be a learning experience for as many riders as possible. I do hope that the next time Region 9 offers an Adult clinic; you take the chance and put yourself "out there" and enter the selection process. Everyone is very supportive...they are in the same boat as you.

If you can't ride, consider auditing. I know I learned a lot by watching the other riders. I think everyone who made the trip to Hernando was glad they went. OK, Nancy where is your newsletter article?...she took notes on her laptop and had help from Leslie Talley, who continued when Nancy stepped away. I was impressed! ♣