

Morgan Dressage association

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in Dressage.

MEMBERS AND THEIR MORGANS 2014



Top Left, clockwise: Kathleen Farris and Statesman's Eclipse; Emma Bond and Monnington Fresco; Brenda Thoma and Hollyhock Bella Luna; April Leytem and EMR Courage; Angie Thayer and Highover French Krystle; Rebecca Darragh and The Legacy of Scotmadison (with Courtney King-Dye) and Diana Wold and Merriewold Quintessa .



October, 2014

News and Reminders:

- Check out [Page 16](#) (and the [website!](#)) for **new Classified** listings—they are growing!
- Congratulations to all the MDA Members who competed this year at the Morgan Nationals!
- How is your season goin'? Let everyone know by sharing on the MDA Facebook page! 
- Planning to compete for a MDA Award of Excellence this year? Requirements have changed! See the [MDA website](#) for more details.
- Important! The MDA Scholarship deadline has been extended to **October 31st**. See [Page 18](#) for more important

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DETERMINATION AND PERSISTENCE ARE PARAMOUNT

By Ashley Anderson

The second weekend of September 2014, my family and I traveled to Nampa, Idaho for the Region 6 Dressage Championships so I could participate in the USEF/USDF 13 and under Dressage Seat Medal semi-finals. We made the long and winding drive to Nampa from Bigfork, Montana, and after we unloaded my wobbly legged horse, Nemo, from the hot and musty trailer we walked around the show grounds to stretch out our legs.

The one thing that caught my eye was the huge indoor arena that was far bigger than any other arena Nemo and I had ever seen together. It was big, clean and there were no annoying and noisy birds! As Nemo and I were walking around I felt like we were reflecting on the journey that took us to this show. It all started last year with Mike Osinski. He suggested I consider working towards qualifying for the "Dressage Seat Medal Finals". The purpose of the seat medal classes are to promote a solid foundation for junior riders by rewarding a correct seat, position and proper use of aids in Dressage. To qualify for the semi finals a score of 70% or better must be earned at a USDF recognized dressage show in an equation class.

During my clinics with Mike, he stressed proper rider alignment; ear, shoulder, hip, heel aligned in a straight line. The one exercise that I really remember was when he ran a whip through the crook of my arms and behind my back. This forces you lift your sternum and bring your elbows back making a straight line from your elbow to hand and to the bit. Ouch!

As I said good night to Nemo, I mentally prepared for the equation class the following day. The next morning with the bright pink clouds in the sunrise Nemo and I, along with 3 other equitation riders, were warming up for the



"S" Judge Mike Osinski with Ashley Anderson and Mantic Nemo

class. At 8:00 we all entered the arena and tracked to the left at a walk. I was nervous, but confident that we would do well. There was a judge that stood in the middle and a judge on the outside by C. At the time I did not realize that he was a judge so I did a few of my corrections in front of him, oops!

We were asked to walk, trot and canter both directions and then line up on the center line. Nemo and I were the

reserve champions! This earned us a spot to compete for Region 6 at the USEF/USDF Dressage Seat Medal Finals next August.

We are still waiting to hear where the location will be held but I am looking forward to the experience!



ADDING DRESSAGE CLASSES TO MORGAN SHOWS

By Karin Weight

Are you one of those who would like to get dressage added to your local or regional Morgan show? The aim of this article is to point out problems you may face and possible ways to overcome those problems.

The first thing you need to do is to get a small committee of dedicated Morgan dressage enthusiasts who are willing to work hard to get dressage added to the show, and then to make sure that the classes are successful. Everyone must understand that this will be time-consuming and it will NOT be easy.

The committee members should include someone (preferably everyone) who is a member of the Morgan organization who is putting on the show, and at least one committee member needs to be a member of the local dressage GMO (Group Member Organization). Because Western Dressage is rapidly gaining popularity among Morgan owners, it will be wise to include that division, so one committee member should be a Western Dressage advocate.

One committee member should be designated as the liaison, who will make the original presentation to the show

committee and then follow up as necessary. That person needs to be personable and reasonable and should definitely not be a “known enemy” of the show horse world. It would be best if the liaison has had experience in dressage show management, but s/he should at the least be very familiar with all the rules involved.

The show committee is going to be nervous about adding dressage to the show because they have probably heard horror stories of shows that have lost a great deal of money when offered dressage. So you are going to have to do quite a bit of research and legwork in order to convince the show people that you can make the addition of dressage a positive experience...and then to make that positive experience happen.

The four problems you need to focus on are:

1. **Money.** Shows run on a budget and you need to be sure dressage brings in as much as it costs.
2. **Effort.** The show committee members are already over-worked; you don't want to increase their burden.
3. **Time.** Is there a way you can add dressage classes without adding an extra day?

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2014 USDF Adult Clinic with Hilda Gurney

By April Leytem

Back in September, my partner EMR Courage and I were selected to be one of the demo horse and riders for the USDF Region 6 Adult Clinic Series featuring Hilda Gurney. I was not sure whether to be excited or terrified. Most people that learned about our selection were either super excited for us or looked at me like I was about to step in front of a speeding car and simply said “You are going to ride with Hilda?”

I tried to not let this dampen my spirits. I knew her reputation for being, well blunt, but I figured that you have to be able learn something from someone who has ridden in the Olympics and has trained such a vast number of horses and riders over the years. So I was quite optimistic—and shaking in my boots.

We arrived at the Ford Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, Idaho on Friday night, where we met the other seven horse/rider combinations (some of whom I already knew) and mostly everyone was pretty much as terrified as I was. The lineup consisted of five very fancy warmbloods, a warm-blood-thoroughbred cross, a thoroughbred and my 4-year-old Morgan. The venue was quite intimidating (and unfortunately a horrible backdrop for pictures), consisting of a huge arena with a huge set of bleachers set out into the arena alongside the dressage ring. It could be a lot for a 4-year-old, but thankfully Courage is actually very courageous and he keeps me calm in situations like this. We did a very light ride around the arena checking everything out and saved our energy for the clinic.



April Leytem and EMR Courage

Saturday morning we were shiny, braided, and ready to go. I followed the USDF clinic instructions and did not warm up too much and went into the arena. Not warming up enough was a huge mistake as we did not get to do our normal relaxation exercises and I ended up with a hot, hot, hot horse. Did I mention that Courage is quite possibly the most sensitive horse on the planet? Just breathing can be too much movement when he is nervous—and we were both nervous. So Day One was spent trotting and cantering around the arena trying to get him to relax and not hold tension through his topline. This pretty much just made him more and more tense as he started to

wonder why we weren't leg yielding doing shoulder-in and some fun mediums; obviously something bad was going to happen. After a couple of explosive canter transitions which were met with "...yet another horse that can't canter!" we started to calm down a little bit. We did get some very nice compliments about how steady his connection to the bit was and how nice our transitions were. I was just happy we survived.

Sunday, I was quite a bit smarter. We did our normal warm-up which included a lot of lateral work and in we went. Hilda was amazed that this was the same horse. Other than painfully criticizing my posture at the walk we had a pretty nice ride. She commented that we had a lovely connection and swing over the back, great leg yields, shoulder in, beautiful canter departs and a nice medium trot...and nice counter canter loops. She actually told the crowd to give us a round of applause when we finished for doing such a great job. She said I was a "...very, very, very good student." I could not have been happier.

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Estate Planning for Horse Owners: What's All The Fuss About?

By Robert E. Koss, JD, LL.M.

Why should a horse owner take his or her horses into account in the owner's estate planning? In most cases the horse owner will outlive the horse. In many cases, the horse owner has not even done estate planning for the owner's two-legged family members, so what's the fuss about? Just let things go and, in all probability, everything will work out fine, you may say.

The fact is that estate planning is not planning for the best case scenario, but for the worst case scenario. Estate planners hope for the best—but plan for the worse. Particularly where an animal is involved, the animal cannot fend for itself. Reflect on the famous quote from *THE LITTLE PRINCE*, by Antoine de Saint Exupery:

“Men have forgotten this truth,” said the fox. “But you must not forget it. You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed...”

That's the reason we believe that a responsible pet owner, including an owner of a horse, has a moral responsibility to plan for the animal's future welfare, should something happen to the owner. This extends not only to the death of the owner, but also incapacity or unexpected prolonged absence. It also encompasses planning for natural disasters such as tornados, hurricanes, fire, and flood. In fact, some disaster planners would extend the planning to nuclear and other major disasters and terrorist acts which result in widespread evacuations.

In our book on estate planning for pet owners, *WHO WILL CARE WHEN YOU ARE NOT THERE? ESTATE PLANNING FOR PET OWNERS* (www.carobtreepress.com), we review basic considerations as to why planning is necessary, what events to plan for, the issues that must be addressed, and the alternative solutions.



Since the publication of that book we have been approached by numerous horse owners, horse owner associations, veterinarians, lawyers and estate administrators, all requesting that we publish something which focuses on the particular issues facing horse owners. That is the reason for this Special Report.

As you will see, it is intended to supplement our book and does not contain full discussion of all the basic issues.

Planning for Horses: A Topic With Infinite Variations

Planning for horse owners is more complex than planning for owners of small animals for numerous reasons.

First, horses have relatively long life expectancies, and are more expensive to maintain than small animals such as a dog or cat. It's also more difficult to find someone to care for your horse than it might be for a dog or cat. You typically can't ask your neighbor or your brother-in-law to take your horse if something happens to you. You may be lucky if you live in an area where everyone has horses or your entire family is into horses, but from what we have heard that might be the exception rather than the rule.

Next, there are different types of horse owners. Some own one horse, keep it on their own property, and ride it as a hobby. Others board their horses and have trainers and instructors. Some own numerous horses, may or may not have a personal relationship with them, and consider their ownership more of a business. They may be using them for racing, for example, or they give riding lessons. Many are very involved showing their horses, sometimes in various countries. Some consider their horses sports equipment, while others use them in their work. Some own horses primarily for breeding.

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Morgan Dressage
association

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in dressage.

Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1 – December 31. Please print out this form, fill it out, and send it with payment to: Morgan Dressage Association, Karin Weight, 1069 N. Geneva Rd., Provo, UT 84601. Refer to the MDA website for Paypal options.

Name _____ Year _____

Farm name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ (required)

Please list family members participating in MDA programs and note birthdate of any junior young rider members.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Please check your membership category (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Jr/Young Rider (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Family (\$35) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100) |

Please indicate if you are willing to help the organization by donating your time and skills. Check all that is of interest to you:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership directory/advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Write educational articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breed promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Business Listing. For an additional \$25, a link to your farm/business is included in the membership directory with the option of a color business card/logo display and a listing in the Directory of Services and Professionals on the website with a brief description of services.

Please check all that apply: _____Breeder _____Sales _____Training _____Clinics

Web site URL for listing in directory and link on MDA web site: _____

Please be sure your **email address is clear and legible**, all newsletters and MDA Extensions will be sent via email.

Please make your checks payable to MDA and return this form with membership dues to:
Morgan Dressage Association • c/o Karin Weight • 1069 N. Geneva Rd. • Provo, UT 84601