

THE COLLECTION

FLATLANDERS DRESSAGE AND COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION, INC.

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2010

NEW PREZ HAS REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS



Dear Flatlanders,

I have a few requests for you members. We need some new blood in positions of officers and chairs. I know that we have quite a few new members and now is your chance to get involved.

We need someone to take over awards and banquet. I have had this position for four years and feel that we need some new ideas. It is a chair that doesn't need work during the year except from receiving the forms at the beginning of the season and then toward the end recording same. It is fun to spend money isn't it? Even more fun when it isn't yours.

Is anyone interested in helping with programs for the year? These positions need to be filled before our February meeting.

The Holiday Season is here. I am almost in a panic because it really crept up on me. We have a banquet on January 5, 2010. Invitations will be out shortly. Our Christmas Party at Cheryl Butler's house was wonderful. We always have such great food and fun.

I will be putting together a survey for 2010. I want your input as to how and what your needs are for the year. One part will be without names.

This way you can feel free to express yourself. They will be emailed back to me and I will block out all names before sharing. It doesn't do any good to grumble between ourselves about what we like and don't like. We need to pass our needs on to the chairs of the committees and then let them do their job. It is not the executive committee's job to run the club. We are there to help if needed but the committees need make their own decisions.

If I don't see you before the holiday season ends, I want you wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Gael

President

PRESIDENT: GAEL BOURQUIN	419-991-1651
VICE PRESIDENT: SARAH POTTS	419-369-4989
SECRETARY: PAT BOUTWELL	419-358-3565
TREASURER: LAURIE LEYERLE	419-638-2221
HTTP://WWW.FLATLANDERSDRESSAGE.COM	

NOVEMBER 10, 2009 MINUTES

Flatlanders Dressage and Combined Training Association held a meeting on November 10, 2009, at the Orange Township House, Bluffton.

President Jill Christopher called the meeting to order.

Elsie Feister made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Sarah Deitsch second. Motion carried.

Laurie Leyerle presented the November 10, 2010, Financial Report as follows:

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$4167.51
9/17/09 - ck #1215 - Cash - change for horse show	-\$100.00
9/18/09 - ck #1216 - Jim's Trophies - embroidery of saddle pads	-\$42.70
9/19/09 - ck #1217 - Robin Vaughn Strait - judging fee	-\$200.00
9/19/09 - ck #1218 - Barb's Concessions - judge and scribe lunch	-\$17.50
9/25/09 - ck #1219 - Laurie Leyerle - judges snacks, copies	-\$31.52
9/25/09 - Deposit - Schooling show	+\$1911.00
10/16/09 - ck #1220 - Horseman's Corral - subscriptions	-\$480.00
10/21/09 - ck #1221 - Hancock Co. Ag. Society - grounds rental	-\$575.00
10/29/09 - ck #1222 - Laurie Leyerle - flowers for Alison and Dale	-\$68.42
11/10/09 - Deposit	+\$134.00
\$74.00 - Dues	
\$60.00 - Schooling show, hotel refund from judge	
ENDING BALANCE	\$4697.37

Diane Foltz made a motion to accept the November 10, 2010, as presented. Gael Bourquin second. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP—Pat Boutwell-Chair—We currently have 53 members. It is time to renew memberships for 2010. Pat reminded everyone to take note of the two different types of memberships available and join accordingly. There is the regular membership and sustaining membership. A sustaining member is one who has no intentions of being an active member (hosting a meeting, a committee person, hosting a function, working at a show, etc.), but wants to support the club. 2010 Membership Forms were passed out. Pat also had old membership forms from 2006-2009 and it was agreed that they could be disposed of up through 2008. 2009 Membership Forms would be retained for a year.

AWARDS/BANQUET—Gael Bourquin-Chair—Gael has gotten everything from everyone. There is not as many awards this year as in the past. Location of the banquet will be at the Bistro in Lima, the same as last year.

SCHOOLING SHOW—Laurie Leyerle/Pat Boutwell-Co-Chair—Laurie presented the Financial Report for the three 2009 Schooling Shows as follows:

Income:

First Show	\$3368.75
Second Show	\$2669.50
Third Show	\$1911.00
Refund from hotel for first judge	\$60.00

TOTAL INCOME \$8009.25

Expenses:

Hodges Badge Company	\$467.26
Laurie Leyerle - copies, judges snacks	\$135.08
Barb Moss - Judge 1st show	\$490.00
University of Findlay - Facility 1st show	\$1000.00
University of Findlay - Shavings 1st show	\$60.00
Sandra Arthur - Judge 2nd show	\$300.30
University of Findlay - Facility 2nd show	\$1000.00
University of Findlay - Shavings 2nd show	\$72.00
Laurie Leyerle - copies, judges snacks 2nd show	\$45.11
Cash - change 2nd show	\$100.00
Jim's Trophies - embroidery of saddle pads	\$42.70
Robin Vaughn Strait - Judge 3rd show	\$200.00
Barbs Concessions - judges lunches - 3rd show	\$17.50
Laurie Leyerle - copies, judges snacks 3rd show	\$31.52
Hancock Co. Ag. Society - Facility 3rd show	\$425.00
Hancock Co. Ag Society - Facility 3rd show	\$575.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4961.47

NET PROFIT

\$3047.78

There is still approximately \$150 outstanding in sponsorship money that has not come in.

Pat reported the Schooling Show dates for 2010 as follows: June 12, at UF English Farm; July 17, at UF English Farm; September 18, Hancock County Fairgrounds. Great Lakes Dressage Club will have their show either on August 7th or 14th. They will let us know as soon as they have it set. These shows will again be run as a series.

CAMP—Alison Schmidbauer—Chair—Dates for camp will be July 7 thru 10, 2010.

FUN SHOW—Diane Foltz—Chair—Fun Show dates have been tentatively set. Diane presented a question regarding the Fun Show fee from \$10 per horse and rider team to \$20 per horse and rider team. Discussion was held. Comments were made that there is no need for Fun Shows to make money. The Fun Shows have a budget that they do not exceed and the club has the money to support them. The consensus was to leave them at \$10.

PROGRAMS—MaryLou Paxton—Chair—Christmas Party will be at Sheryl Butler's home, on December 1st. There will be a gift exchange for \$15-\$20. Please bring a dish to share.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—Jill Christopher—No report at this time.

CORRAL REPORTER—Diane Foltz-Elsie Feister will be featured in the December issue. Diane also is willing to turn this position over to anyone that would like to do it.

CLINIC—Gael Bourquin/MaryLou Paxton-Co-Chair--No report at this time.

WEBSITE—Laurie Leyerle—Everything is up-to-date. Will get camp pics up soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Boutwell read a thank-you note from Alison Schmidbauer, thanking everyone for their phone calls, cards, and the very nice candle that she received from the club.

Lee Ann Kagy told us about Eclipse's show season this past summer. Eclipse qualified for the USDF Regional's and was 80th out of 608 horses with a 69.87%. He has done very well this show season.

Diane Foltz thanked everyone for the beautiful planter she received from the club and Dale is doing well.

Pat Boutwell made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Equestrian Therapy Program at Fassett Farm, Cridersville, Ohio. Gael Bourquin second. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the charges at the Fun Show held at Fassett Farm this past August.

Gael Bourquin announced a clinic to be held this Friday with Gerd Heuschman, a German vet. He will be discussing the subject of Roll Kur. Gael plans to attend.

Laurie Leyerle announced that Robin Vaughn-Strait is having Alex Gerding at her farm on November 19-22. It is \$120 to ride and a \$10 or \$20 audit fee. She does not need advance notice if you wish to audit. FMI Laurie.

Election of 2010 officers results are as follow:

OFFICERS

President—Gael Bourquin

Vice President—Sarah Potts

Secretary—Pat Boutwell

Treasurer—Laurie Leyerle

OTHER POSITIONS

Newsletter Editor—Jill Christopher

Corral Reporter—Diane Foltz

Website—Laurie Leyerle

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership—Pat Boutwell

Awards/Banquet—tabled for now

Schooling Show—Laurie Leyerle/Pat Boutwell

Camp—Alison Schmidbauer

Fun Show—Diane Foltz

Programs—tabled for now

Sharon Smith made a motion to accept the 2010 positions. Jill Christopher second. Motion carried.

Elsie Feister made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon second. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Boutwell

FDCTA Secretary

A NOTE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY...

Hi all,

Just a friendly reminder that it is that time again to renew our FDCTA memberships. Several of you have already renewed your FDCTA membership for 2010 and I appreciate that.

Please make note that if you want to continue getting the Corral it is an additional \$10 to your membership fee this year. Again, the Corral raised their fee from \$5 to \$15 (as a non-member the cost is \$30), so we felt it necessary to make this adjustment. This is all clearly explained on the 2010 membership form.

Also, please be sure to print your email clearly so that there are no mistakes made on my part, and you receive the newsletter and the occasional mass emailings that several of us send.

You can print off a membership form from our website: www.flatlandersdressage.com. The attachment to the newsletter email is also a copy of the membership form. There are two pages; please print and fill out both. If you cannot print this form, please let me now and I will mail you one, no problem.

Thanks for your time and consideration and I wish you all a Happy New Year,

Pat Boutwell

FDCTA Membership Chair

WHAT IS A GOOD RIDER? By Dr. Thomas Ritter

What IS a good rider? One that looks good? There are plenty of good looking riders who are not effective. One that is effective? Maybe they don't look so good though? What about riders who can take a ruined horse and make it better but is still only average.... is that a good rider? What about riders who can influence the horse with calm, assertiveness... are they good? Guess the question is -- are they easy to spot? Can you go to a show or demo and say right away -- that's a good rider?<

That's a good question. I think the answer is somewhat personal. To some extent, it's a matter of your own quality standards and of what's important to you. To some extent, it's relative to the rider's age, experience, physical limitations, etc., because somebody can be riding very well, considering where s/he came from or how little instruction s/he has had, but in absolute terms, this person may not be a very advanced rider. Some riders are very good with certain types of horses or with solving certain types of problems, without necessarily being an Olympic calibre rider. On the other hand, somebody can be a very successful competitor at the upper levels, without being a good horseman and without being what I personally would consider a good rider.

I personally think that a good rider has to have a variety of skills. A good rider and good trainer are synonymous to me. Somebody who can taxi a made horse around a test without training the horse to that level may be a skilled technician, but s/he is no Rider.

A good rider must have a good seat, i.e. effective, supple, balanced, strong when necessary, and pleasant to watch. Part of a good seat is good timing and coordination of the aids.

A good rider has to have good intuition, good feel, equestrian tact, and an understanding of the horse's psychology. That's an absolutely indispensable skill.

A good rider is a thinking rider. The rider has to have a certain academic understanding of the subject in order to be able to diagnose correctly, i.e s/he must be able to identify where a problem originates, and to choose the right course of action based on this diagnosis.

A good rider is creative and can think of several solutions to every problem.

A good rider can find individual solutions for each situation and is not limited by "what the books say", because every horse has his "own book" that the trainer has to write.

A good rider should be able to train any breed and any personality type, although every rider has preferences, of course.

A good rider has to be able to know how much is fair to expect of any given horse on any given day. S/he has to know when to demand a little more, when to be content with the effort the horse is making, when to change the subject or the tactic, when to reward, when to reprimand, when to ignore something the horse did, and when to quit.

A good rider needs to know and respect the limitations of the horse in order not to demand anything the horse is unable to deliver.

A good rider has to be able to choose a methodology that is time effective, so that it doesn't take 100 years to get to GP, but that also preserves the horse's physical and mental soundness. A good rider has to be able to make a little improvement in the horse every day, so that the horse feels and looks better at the end of the lesson than at the beginning, and so that there is a visible improvement from week to week, month to month, although there will always be little ups and downs from one day to the next.

A good rider develops the horse's musculature and makes him safe, dependable and enjoyable to ride.

A good rider is his/her own toughest critic and has self discipline.

A good rider recognizes and fights the urge to give in to his/her ego. That's something that every rider is faced with. No exceptions.

A good rider perseveres in spite of inevitable setbacks and disappointments.

A good rider is always sensitive to the horse's needs.

A good rider rides for the horse, not for the audience and does not use the horse as a vehicle for self-aggrandizement. In other words, a good rider does not exploit the horse's talent and generosity.

A good rider puts the horse's well being above everything else.

A good rider is always trying to learn and improve his/her own riding and understanding.

This is a high standard, and there is probably nobody who can live up to it all the time, but these are the things that I look for in a good rider, and they are goals we should all strive for ourselves. Many riders may be good in some of these areas, but bad in others. The best riders combine many of these qualities in themselves, but nobody's perfect.

Notice that I don't place that much emphasis on movements, because somebody may be able to ride all kinds of tricks without fulfilling many of the other points in my list, which I consider much more important. And you can find riders who may not be able to ride very advanced movements, but who score very high in many of the areas that really count.

Thomas Ritter

www.artisticdressage.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 5 - FDCTA awards banquet, Main St. Bistro, Lima. FMI contact Gael; RSVP to Gael with your entree preference.

January 14, 17, & 18 - SRS Bereiter Herbert Seiberl clinics, FMI see information below.

February 2 - FDCTA meeting

March 2 - FDCTA meeting

March 19 - 21 - Thomas Ritter clinic at Lexie Meyer's farm, Troy, OH. FMI contact Gael.

April 6 - FDCTA meeting

April - FDCTA fun show, Lima

May - FDCTA fun show, Laurie's house

June 12 - FDCTA schooling show, UF English farm, FMI contact Pat or Laurie.

June - FDCTA fun show, Diane's house

July 7-10 - FDCTA Camp, UF Western farm, FMI contact Alison.

July 16 - 18 - Thomas Ritter clinic at Lexie Meyer's farm, Troy, OH. FMI contact Gael.

July 17 - FDCTA schooling show, UF English farm, FMI contact Pat or Laurie.

August 8 or 14 - GLDC schooling show

August - FDCTA fun show, Fassett Farm

September 18 - FDCTA schooling show, Hancock Co. fairgrounds, FMI contact Pat or Laurie.

October - FDCTA fun show, Lee Ann's house

November 18 - 21 - Thomas Ritter clinic at Lexie Meyer's farm, Troy, OH. FMI contact Gael.

SRS CLINIC INFORMATION

SRS Bereiter Herbert Seiberl will be returning to Michigan for two January 2010 dressage clinics. The clinics will be at two locations (one with a heated barn/indoor arena; both w/ heated observation rooms) to shorten the traveling distances for auditors and riders hauling horses in to the clinic. Auditors welcome at both clinics! Daily auditing fee is \$13.50 - \$25.00/day; discounts given to pre-registered auditors, those auditing multiple days, groups of 3 or more, and Juniors under 18.

In addition, Herbert will be instructing a workshop Saturday following the clinic at the first clinic venue. The workshop is "Improve Your Horse's Canter and Start/Improve Changes and Tempis." Demo horses from the clinic will be featured - great chance for clinic riders to get some extra instruction at no cost!

A few riding slots are available in both clinics. Cost is \$195 per lesson and each rider receives a \$20.00 Dover Saddlery gift certificate. If you're interested in riding, please contact Jorie ASAP for further information at 616.283.4741. All levels accepted and welcome; overnight stabling available at both clinics.

Clinic #1:

Lakeshore Performance Horses - 1630 65th Street, Fennville, MI 49408

Thursday, January 14 - Saturday, January 16, 2010

Note: This facility has a ***heated indoor arena.*** It is very comfortable to ride in and is kept at about 55 degrees. The barn and observation room are also heated.

Workshop "Improve Your Horse's Canter and Start/Improve Changes & Tempis" following Saturday's clinic (3:30 - 5:00 PM)

Flier w/ additional info and registration are at <http://dressageclinics.org/flierhslph10.pdf> or <http://dressageclinics.org/flierhslph10.doc>

Venue info: www.lphorses.com

Clinic #2:

Blue Water Dressage Stables - 5917 E Curtis Rd, Bridgeport, MI 48722

Sunday, January 17 & Monday, January 18, 2010

Heated observation room available.

Reception following the clinic on Sunday, Jan 17.

Flier w/ additional info and registration is at <http://dressageclinics.org/flierhsbluewater10.pdf> or <http://dressageclinics.org/flierhsbluewater10.doc>

Venue info: www.bluewaterdressagestables.com

Herbert is a fabulous instructor - excellent English, effective and clear communicator, very kind and patient, and a beautiful rider. He has been at the Spanish Riding School for 16 years and also has private students and horses in training in Austria who compete successfully in the show ring. Herbert is one of only two Bereiters who perform the Long Rein work in SRS performances.

He demands correct work but is very encouraging throughout the lesson, and is wonderful with riders of all levels

and both ambies & pros. He is just as good at starting changes and piaffe/passage and tweaking canter pirouettes as he is helping a lower level rider develop throughness and begin lateral work.

The Spanish Riding School Bereiters only get time off in January and July and there are only 12 Bereiters at the SRS, so opportunities to ride with them are limited. I hope you can join us in January!

Please don't hesitate to email or call Jorie (616.283.4741) if you have any questions. Herbert and Jorie look forward to seeing many of you in January!

Next Meeting:

When: January 5, 2010,
6:30pm

What: Awards Banquet

Where: Main Street Bistro,
Lima

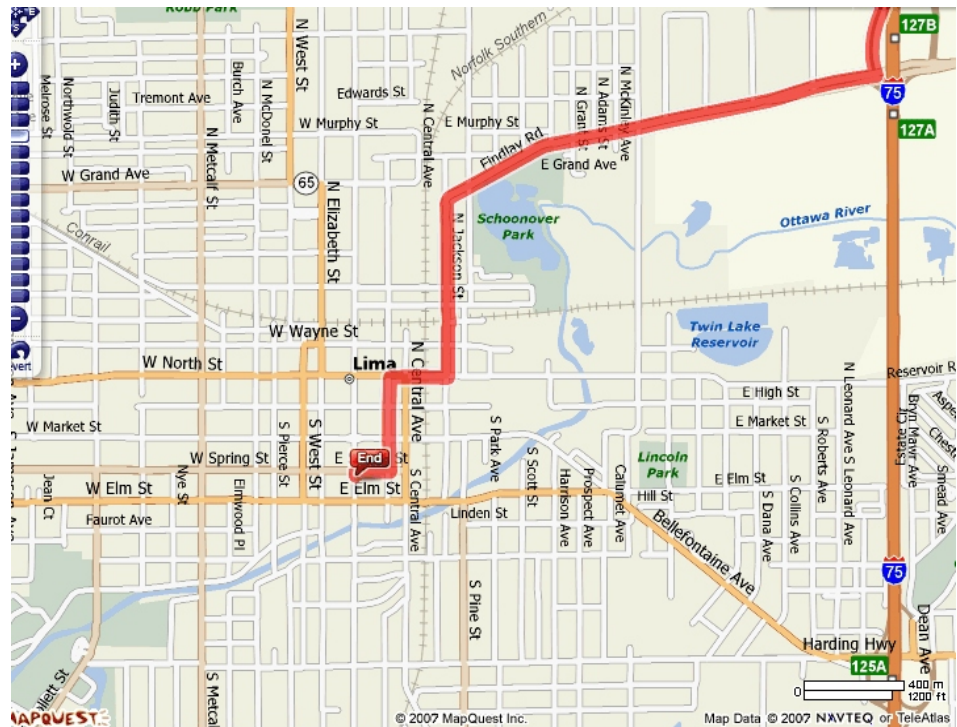
213 S. Main St.

Lima, OH

419-224-0473

Directions:

From I75N: Take exit 125, turn left onto Bellefontaine Ave. into Lima. Bellefontaine Ave. turns into Market St. Take Market St. to Main St., turn left onto Main; the Bistro is about a block past the Convention Center, just past the intersection of Main and Spring streets.



From I75S: Take exit 127B right onto OH 81W into Lima. Follow OH81W to E. North St. Turn right onto E. North St. to N. Main St. Turn left onto N. Main. Take Main past the Convention Center. The Bistro is just past the intersection of Main and Spring streets.

THE COLLECTION
C/O JILL CHRISTOPHER
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