



2024

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

Letter From the President March 2024

Greetings AVDA Members, March has been a challenging wet month for dressage riders. We, unfortunately, had to cancel our Laura Gilmer clinic (twice!) because of soggy weather. Spring is officially here. Hopefully the weather gods got the message and will bless us with sunshine and dry arenas.

Our May 19th Schooling Show has been canceled due to lack of participation and volunteer support. It takes a strong group effort to put on a show, and we don't seem to have that right now within our club. We still have the fall show on the books, but soon will be making a decision on canceling that one as well. Our River Walk Schooling Shows have been an AVDA standing tradition for nearly two decades. Hopefully we can gain momentum to bring them back in the future.

In the mean time, we are moving the Virtual Schooling Show to the May 19th date. This will be a fun experiment.

The show committee is working on the details, which will be shared at the next general meeting. Watch for our flyer and information on our website, Face Book page, and in this newsletter next month. This will be a great opportunity to show your horse in a relaxed atmosphere on your terms.

AVDA membership is currently at 31 members and growing. Thank you for joining and supporting our club. If you have not signed up yet, go to the RMDS website and join. Be sure to mark the AVDA box to be in our organization. Wishing you safe and joyful riding!

Sandy Vernon
AVDA President
970-531-0055

Fun/Drill Team Day

April 28th at

Betty Fey's arena in Pueblo.

See page 10 for details

2024 AVDA

Board of Directors

President: Sandy Vernon
V. President: Renee McMillen
Secretary: Debbie Hood
Treasurer: Sarah Murphy

Committee Chairs

Awards - Kim Godfey

Education - Debi Stevens

Events –Sandy Vernon

Marketing - Sandy Vernon

Western Dressage -
Debbly Hood

Member At Large– Katie Knight

Jr/yr Riders to be filled

Contact Information:

avdadressage2019@gmail.com



2024

2

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

Arkansas Valley Dressage Association March 12, 2024 Minutes

Board Meeting: 5:42

Attendance: Sandy Vernon, Renee McMillen, Kim Godfrey, Debi Stevens, via phone Sarah Murphy, Debbie Hood

- Discussion of Facebook policy and revisions to be made.
- Newsletter update and comments.
- Discussion of scholarship funds to begin this year.

Motion to adjourn: 6:29

General Meeting: 6:42

Attendance: Sandy Vernon, Renee McMillen, Debi Stevens, Katie Knight, Sandy Dorr, Betty Fey, Karen Elliott, Nancy Leonard, Cat Siemiet, Ciskey Cuchens, Brenda Haley, via phone Debbie Hood.

President Report: Sandy invited members to join the RMDS meeting March 14th.

VP Report: None

Secretary Report: Betty Fey made a motion to approve the February minutes, Sarah Murphy 2nd all in favor.

Treasurer Report: Checking, Savings and Scholarship Funds = \$5584.95

Awards Report: Betty Fey proposed to repurpose existing awards to fulfill needed areas of awards, including the versatility award.

A flyer about the versatility award will be posted on Facebook and on other social media pages. Renee McMillen has ordered ribbons for the upcoming season.

Education: Debi Stevens reported the Holy Bergay clinic was a success at the 5 Star Arena. Laura Gillmer clinic to be on March 23rd. 9 riders have signed up.

Cat Siemiet made a motion for AVDA members to get a \$10.00 discount on AVDA clinics fees. Cissy Cuchen seconded the motion, all in favor.

Debi Stevens remains committee chair, Brenda Haley, Cat Siemiet, Nancy Leonard and Sandy Vernon are on the committee.

Cat Siemiet gave an update on the footing at Pathfinder. The covered arena has no footing.

Betty Fey has proposed a fun day at her house. Dates to be discussed.



2024

3

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

Arkansas Valley Dressage Association March 12, 2024 Minutes

Events Report: Cissy addressed the virtual show and the need for additional information and assistance in hosting it.

Schooling Shows need a manager. To be addressed at the show meeting on March 14.
A show committee meeting will be held at Sandy Vernon's home March 14th, 2:00

Marketing: Membership is up to 31 members. Facebook and our website are being updated as needed. The Newsletter highlights our members and our activities.

Western Dressage: NA

Old Business: The Scholarship fund will begin this year 2024. Applications to be submitted from May 1st to June 1st. Sarah Murphy will receive scholarship applications. The committee will choose in July.

Insurance rates and contracts have been changing. Katie Knight has been working with our agent and keeping the Board advised of price increases.

New Business: Diane Carver has suggested to hang the AVDA banner at a 4H Fremont County Horse Council event April 6th at Pathfinder

Meeting adjourned at 8:27

Next Meeting April 9th, Sandy Vernon's House.





2024

4

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

Arkansas Valley Dressage Assoc. Scholarship

AVDA is happy to announce our scholarship program will begin in 2024!

The program is based on two scholarships being offered: one in adult amateur and one in junior/young rider.

Details:

- *Each scholarship will be \$200 for 2024.
- *Applicants must be a member of AVDA/RMDS.
- *Application period is May 1st to June 1st, 2024.
- *Applicants should be knowledgeable of the AVDA Scholarship Policies.
- *Recipients will be chosen in June 2024
- *Funds will be available by July 2024.

2025 Scholarship requirements must be completed by November 30, 2024.

For more information, please contact Sarah Murphy at: jsflygirl@gmail.com

Margaret A Murphy

2024 Scholarship



2024
MARCH
AVDA NEWSLETTER
MEMBER BIO

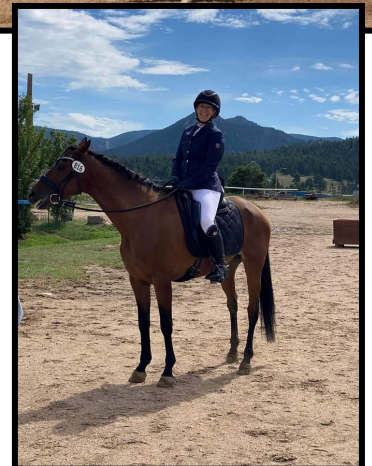
KATIE KNIGHT

I never remember a time when horses weren't my passion. As a little girl, I ran around on my hands and knees and pretended to be a horse! My equally horse crazy aunt taught me to ride and shared her horses with me. I trail rode and did gymkhanas. While in law school, I started taking jumping lessons, ultimately buying my first horse right after graduation. Dressage inevitably found its way into the mix.

My husband and I arrived in Colorado from Washington state in 2016 with our two dogs and two horses. I quickly found Arkansas Valley Dressage Association. Through AVDA, I've met many friends, and find myself competing in rated shows. Due to limited vision, my trainers and friends have worked to help me navigate the dressage court to allow me to compete in able bodied classes. My eventing friends certainly taught me bravery, culminating in an eventing show at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Anne Lowatchie was allowed to ride ahead and lead me through the cross country course!

"I am currently on the AVDA and RMDS' boards. I brought AVDA member Amelia Newcomb to Colorado for the RMDS AA clinic in 2023."

Working on my dressage journey and watching others on theirs is a joy. On any given day, you will find me on the back of Rocky, Murphy, or Cami, probably riding with one of you!





2024

6

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

MEMBER BIO

AMANDA SHADE

My Dream Horse

I have been riding horses since I was in diapers. My grandma (Anita Faoro) ignited my passion for riding horses by giving me the opportunity to ride her horse Orso, who later became mine. After



spending years riding and showing using my quarter horse Rocky for everything from 4-H to quarter horse to dressage I wanted to pursue my dream horse, where my grandma and mom were right there supporting me to do so. I had been looking for almost two years looking for a warm-blood within my budget, where of all places a post on Craigslist for an 18.1 hand Oldenburg was posted. I immediately called and Sabrina Bablitz answered and scheduled an appointment for me to come do a test ride. That weekend my grandpa even moved his branding of cattle, so I could try out the horse I had dreamed of. At first sight I fell in love with this gorgeous 18.1 hand bay with the challenging name Werbenschoen, but everyone just calls him Will. The first step we took it felt as if I was floating or flying and I knew I wanted to adopt him. Sabrina then vetted me and my family out and I went up everyday for a week to ride Will to make sure it was a good fit. I began to load Will when he looked over the top of the 6 foot 6 trailer and he didn't fit, so my grandpa and dad had to raise the trailer to 7 foot 6. I was finally

able to bring Will home, where he had to adjust to more of a farm lifestyle with the cows nearby. We began riding and competing within two months with the help of Margie McNew, my mom, my grandma and Julie. I would travel a block down the road once a week to ride with Margie and learn all of Will's cues and buttons from her. That year Will truly surpassed my wildest of dreams by winning RMDS training level younger rider Championships. The next two years Will dealt with some health issues that Molly Kaplan helped with and I remained by his side as he tolerated me learning on him the correct way.



2024
MARCH
AVDA NEWSLETTER
MEMBER BIO

AMANDA SHADE

Last two years, we began traveling to ride at Tristan Faith barn under Amber Clarks instructions as I worked Will back into shape. We began traveling to clinics to take lessons from Joan Clay, Sue Martin, Holly Bergay, and JoElyn Newcomb. We began competing this year again at First Level. With the support and encouragement from so many AVDA members and constant questions to Amber Clark at the clinics we were able to achieve our qualifying scores. The last six years of owning Will has been a journey of a roller coaster ride, but along the way he has taught me so much. There is just one rule Will has and that is that you have to pay him in jelly beans as soon as you get on for him to begin working. We plan to continue to compete this year at First Level. I also want to continue to grow and gain knowledge about dressage, because the connection it has allowed me to gain with not just Will but my other horses and the enjoyment that I receive from it. Every ride helps everything else disappear and puts a smile on my face!





2024

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

MARKETPLACE

Karen Elliott

719-221-5417

k.egirl@outlook.com

Custom ordered from Black Country, 2018 Eloquence.

Like new. Rode off and on for a year.

Have different horse now that is not the same size.

It is medium-wide tree and 18inch seat.

\$2700.00



3-24



2024

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER

MARKETPLACE

ARIAT BOOTS BRAND NEW SIZE 6fits like a 7B

The beautifully styled Coniston is crafted for comfort while walking in the country or seated in the saddle. Designed to complement your active life, this versatile boot features our DRYMax™ waterproof construction, superior insulation, and a durable outsole.

- ATS® technology provides ergonomic support on uneven terrain
- Premium DRYMax™ waterproof breathable construction keeps you dry in wet environments
- 3M™ Thinsulate™ Insulation for warmth with less bulk
- Removable Pro Performance insole for cushioning and shock absorption
- Duratread™ sole is extremely durable while still letting your foot flex
- Full-length YKK® back zipper
- Front lace fit system
- Equestrian country inspired hardware detail
- Stirrup friendly
- BOOT sole is 3 5/8" wide, sole length 10 1/4", shaft 17 1/4 high (measured at the arch), back zipper 13 1/2" long, approx. calf 13" –16 1/4" (hard to gage with lace up boots).
- **Marcy Wadlington 916-759-3545 canoncityco@earthlink.net**



Retail \$399.00

SALE 150.00





2024

10

MARCH

AVDA NEWSLETTER



SPRING TACK SWAP/SALE

TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR TACK ROOMS
AND TRAILERS! ALL VENDORS, OF ANY KIND,
ARE ALSO WELCOME! PLENTY OF ROOM
FOR EVERYONE!

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

9AM TILL 2PM

HEATH MARSHALL HORSEMANSHIP

1016 J ST. PENROSE, CO

719-276-4406

~NO NEED TO RESERVE A SPACE~

FREE TO SELL AND FREE TO ATTEND!



2024
MARCH
AVDA NEWSLETTER

**AVDA FUN DAY APRIL 28TH
9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. No Charge!**

Everyone's invited! April 28th for a day of fun riding
Want to expose your horse to a new place:
Participate in a drill team practice for drill team newbies?
Take your horse over easy, low xc jumps?
Introduce your horse to obstacles?
Practice jumping? Or dressage?
Ride in open pastures or on a wooded trail?
Then come!

Sarah Murphy is donating her time to introduce 8 riders to the fun practice of drill team riding. The first 8 to sign up are in. Drill starts at 9:00 a.m. (runs about 1.5 hrs)
The arena will be available after drill practice for general use. The pastures, xc jumps, obstacles & trails are available all day.

Bring your own snacks and beverages

Location: Betty Fey's, 1730 Newton Rd., Pueblo (in Red Creek Ranch, located half-way between Wetmore and Pueblo, 3 miles off hwy 96)

Please let Betty know you are coming and if you want to participate in the drill team
719-744-9022 bettyfey6@gmail.com

In the event of bad weather or bad footing the event will be canceled (hopefully re-scheduled)

Helmets and boots required.

--
*"Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible."*



2024
MARCH
AVDA NEWSLETTER

2024 AVDA CLUB MEETINGS

APRIL 9TH MEETING SANDY VERNON 1881 GRAND AVE CANON CITY CO. 5:30pm

Locations and time for all other meetings will be announced on the website and facebook. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8

November 12 (elections and volunteer of the year).
December 14th - Awards Banquet and Christmas Party.

2024 AVDA SHOWS

Registration and Details will be posted on our website at avdaddressage.org

April 13th - Ride-A-Test / Practice Virtual Show: Judge Brenda Haley.
Ride the test of your choice. Your test will be judged and scored by Brenda. Then she will give you a 20 minute lesson to help improve your performance. Bring your phone and we will video your ride. We will help you upload the your video to your YouTube channel. This is a members only event. Cost: \$30. Location: Brenda Haley's. More info on the AVDA website.

May 19th Virtual Schooling Show Judge Michelle Velasco.

Sept. 7th Schooling Show Judge Kathy Daly



2024
MARCH
AVDA NEWSLETTER

From the editor:

MARKETPLACE

Send all info. to: avdanews@earthlink.net

Guidelines:

- * *clear picture/s of item.*
- * *full description and price of each item.*
- * *your name and phone number and or contact information.*
- * *your ad is good for 60 days after hat it will be removed unless you notify avdanews@earthlink.net to keep it listed.*
- *you must notify AVDA news if your item is sold, if you do not, I will not post additional items for you in the future.*

MEMBER BIOS

When typing your bio please use straight text.. Please do not do indent, cut and past items, color or border/outlines, etc..... It makes it difficult for me to edit.

Be sure to always go to our website for updated information:

avdaddressage.org

Submit your articles, pictures etc. to be published in the monthly newsletter by the



VOLUNTEER AND HELP MAKE AVDA GREAT