

MARCH 2023



IN MEMORIAM OF
TWO DRESSAGE JUDGES

“LOVE THY EQUINE
PROFESSIONAL”

EQUINE TAX ADVICE

WARM UP RING
ETIQUETTE



Trocking Up

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
DRESSAGE &
COMBINED TRAINING
ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

TRISHA DINGLE

March 2023

Welcome to the new and improved SCDCTA Tracking Up! After being without a quarterly newsletter for the past year or so, Ken Maginnis (newsletter designer extraordinaire) and I are excited to be able to provide our members with what we hope to be a fun, informative, and interesting newsletter packed with news from YOU, our members. We've received a lot of great photos already, as

well as educational and fun articles. Please keep them coming! The sky is the limit – we welcome educational articles, clinic recaps, comedy, creative writing – anything you the reader feel our members would enjoy hearing about. This is YOUR NEWSLETTER, so please help us make it the best one yet. Any and all content can be sent to me at editor@scdcta.com. Please be sure that any photos are high resolution, and documents are best send as word docs.

We hope you enjoy issue #1, and we look forward to bringing you many more!

Namaste,
Trisha



WARM UP

ARENA

Etiquette

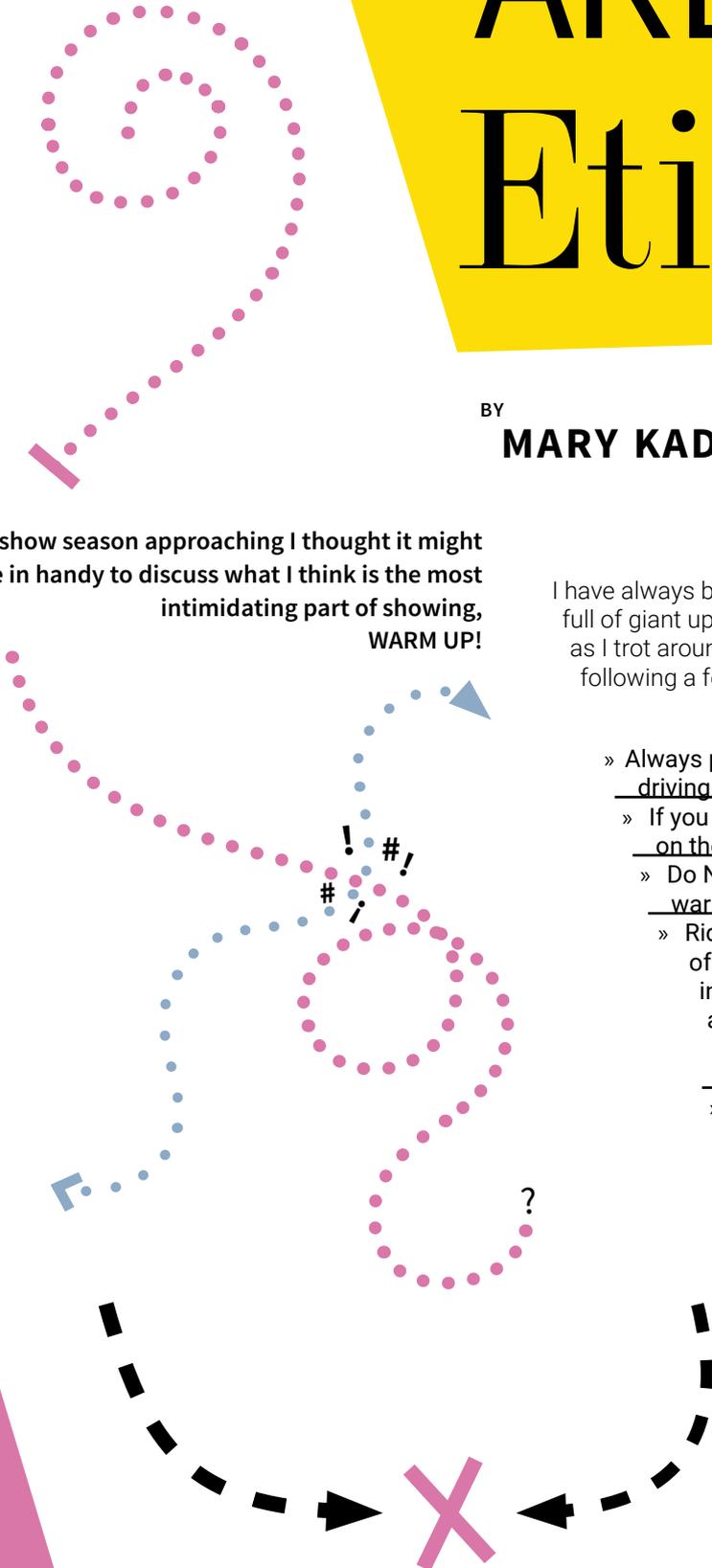
BY
MARY KADAR

With show season approaching I thought it might come in handy to discuss what I think is the most intimidating part of showing, **WARM UP!**

I have always been daunted with the warm up arena. It seems to be full of giant upper level warmbloods zigzagging and lengthening as I trot around trying not to get in the way or be run over. But by following a few simple rules I found it not be so life threatening.

- » Always pass left shoulder to left shoulder. Just as if you were driving.
- » If you are walking, stretching or likewise not moving along stay on the second track.
- » Do Not stand and talk to someone on rail. If you are not warming up remove yourself from the ring.
- » Ride with intent. I used to watch everyone and try to stay out of their way. By doing that no one knew where I was going, including me, and no one could stay out of my riding line, as I didn't have one. As my very wise trainer told me. You have just as much right to be there as anyone else. Ride with resolve and people will stay out of your way.
- » Keep at least one horse length between you and another horse.
- » Don't ride up on another horses tail, turn across the ring.
- » If you have doubt another rider knows where you are going to be, don't be afraid to call out. Such as rail or circling.

I know there is other good advice out there, but I hope you find this a good starting point and somewhat helpful.



BY **PATRICIA P. BELCOURT**
CPA PA

TAX TIPS

As you are working on gathering your information for your income tax returns, and look for ways to save tax money going forward, watch for these items to see how they may apply to you. As always, every taxpayer's situation is unique, so please be sure to check with your tax advisor to understand how these items might impact your personal situation.

Tax Tip #1: Consider Repaying IRA and 401(k) Distributions
In 2020, the Care Act allowed for the tax on a 2020 IRA or 401(k) distribution to be paid over 3 years – 2020, 2021 and 2022 – if you didn't choose to pay the entire tax in 2020. The Cares Act also allows you to repay these 2020 distributions as late as 3 years after the distribution. The money repaid will reduce the amount of the income to be reported in 2022. If you repay more than the income to be reported in 2022, you can go back to 2020 and/or 2021 and reduce income for those years. Please note: an amended return must be filed in order to go back to previous years.

Did you take distributions from these retirement accounts in 2020? If planning to repay any of the distributions paid, be sure to double check the date of the initial distribution.

Tax Tip #2: Be Sure to Break Down Your Mileage for the Year!

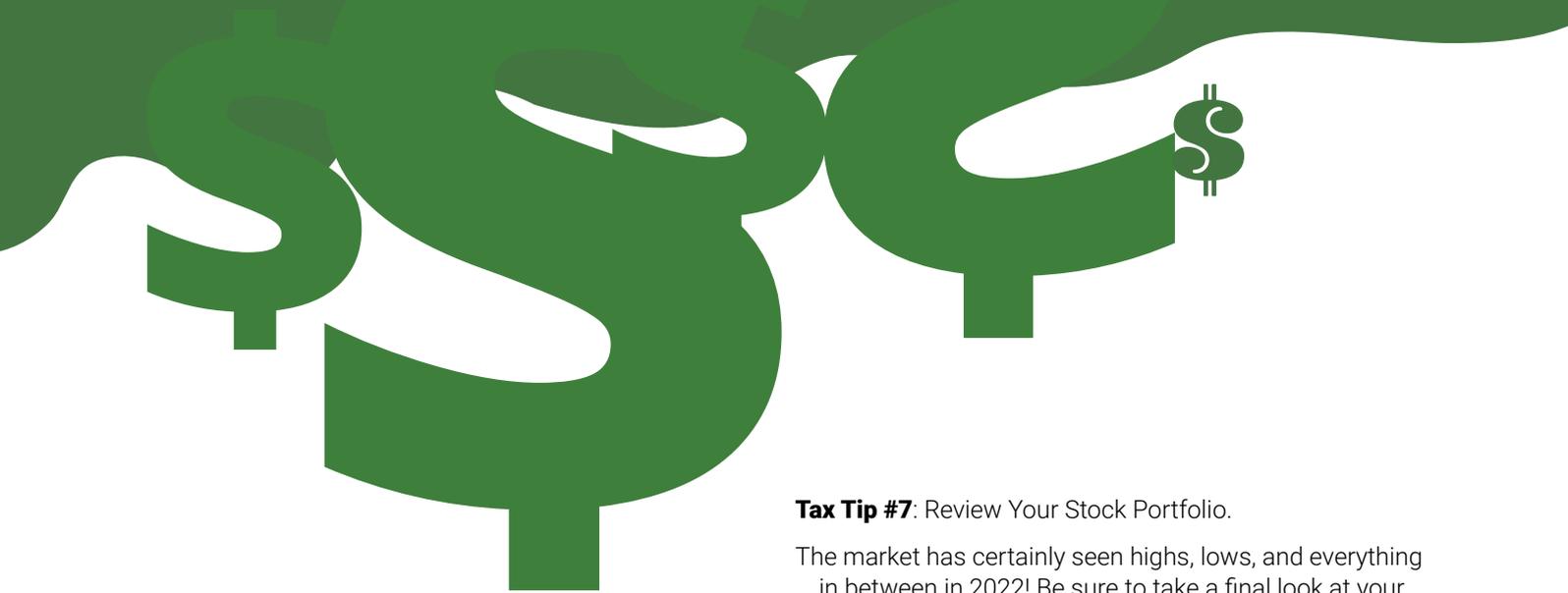
If you are claiming a mileage deduction based upon the Federal standard mileage rate, remember that the IRS changed that rate midyear in 2022. January – June 2022 the rate is 58.5 cents per mile and July – December 2022 the rate increased to 62.5 cents per mile. When preparing your tax returns, be sure to properly allocate your mileage to calculate the right deduction!

Tax Tip #3: In this season of giving, our hearts often go out to folks who have medical bills, or an emergency or some financial need. Some friends trying to help set up a Go Fund Me page and encourage others to help out the folks in need, and you give \$50. Is this tax deductible?

Unfortunately, while giving money to families in need is a kind and generous thing to do, no tax deduction is allowed. Deductible charitable donations must be made to qualified non-profit organizations. If you are not sure if an organization qualifies, check the Tax Exempt Organization database on IRS.gov.



INCOME TAX ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR 2022



Tax Tip #4: Be Prepared for Changes in the Child Tax Credit.

In 2021, parents received enhanced benefits that expanded eligibility for the child tax credit, increased the amount they could receive, made the credit fully refundable and even allowed for prepayments of the estimated credit during the 2021 tax year!

Unfortunately, many of these benefits did not carry over to 2022. In 2022 the credit amount reverted to \$2,000 per child aged 16 and younger and the credit is only refundable up to \$1,500 per child if the parent has earned income of at least \$2,500 and the credit has not been fully phased out. (credit is fully phased out for single taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income of \$200,000; married filing jointly taxpayers faces full phase out when modified adjusted gross income is \$400,000.) Advanced payments are no longer available in 2022, so taxpayers will have to file their 2022 tax returns in order to claim the credit.

These changes will reduce refunds for many taxpayers in 2022 when compared to 2021 tax returns, so please be prepared.

Tax Tip #5: Consider Donating Appreciated Stock to Charity.

If you have held the stock for more than a year, you can deduct it's full value in most cases if you itemize your deductions. Neither you nor the charity pays tax on the appreciation in value.

Don't donate assets that have dropped in value. If you do, the loss is wasted.

Tax Tip #6: Business Owners, Take Advantage of Bonus Depreciation.

In 2022, businesses can deduct 100% of qualified assets placed in service before 12/31/2022. Bonus depreciation applies to new and used property. Under current law, the percentage will decrease from 100% to 80% in 2023 and will gradually taper off until it phases out completely in 2027.

Happy shopping!

Tax Tip #7: Review Your Stock Portfolio.

The market has certainly seen highs, lows, and everything in between in 2022! Be sure to take a final look at your portfolio's performance this year, including any capital gain distributions received. If you are fortunate enough to have an overall capital gain, check to see if there are any poorly performing holdings that you might want to sell to offset those gains.

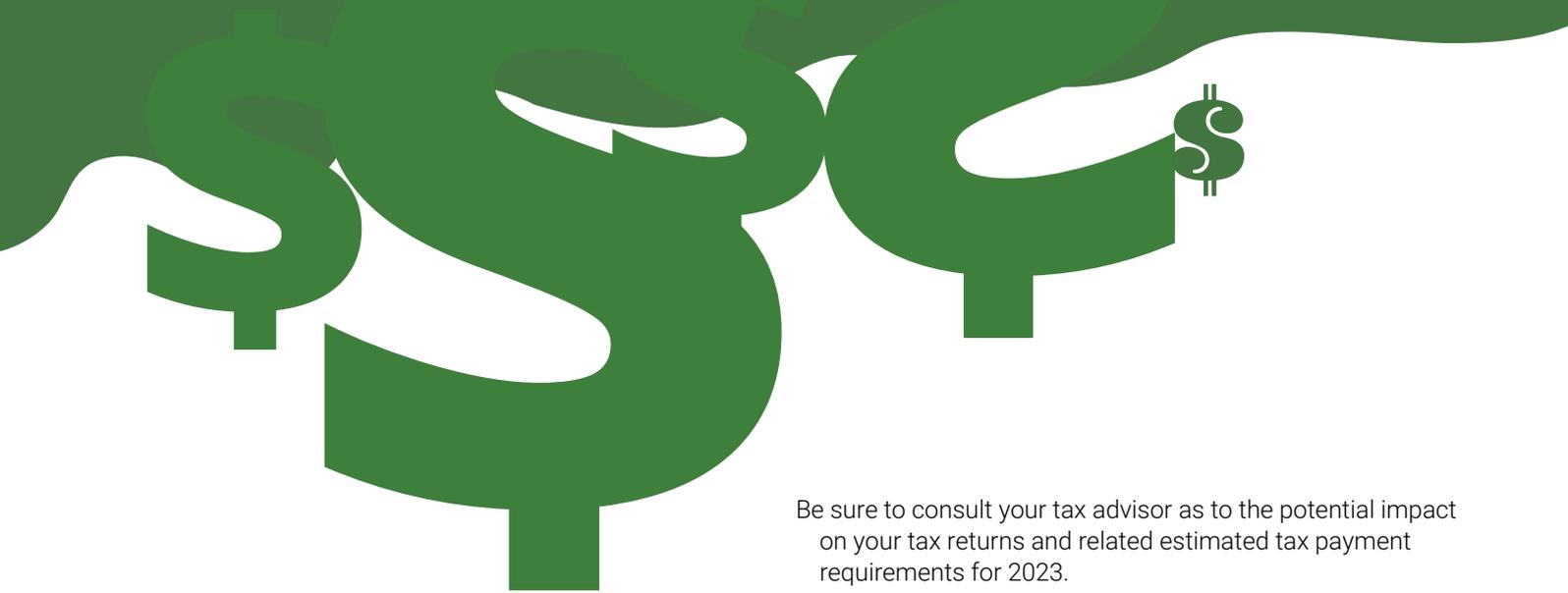
Be careful of the wash-sale rule though. You can't write off a capital loss if you purchase substantially identical securities up to 30 days before or after a sale. Any disallowed loss is added to the tax basis of the replacement securities, so you don't lose the loss, but it won't be helpful to you right now.

Tax Tip #8: Consider the Pass-Through Entity Tax Election.

For owners of partnerships and S Corporations, North Carolina allows your company to elect to pay the state income taxes associated with it's income, beginning with the 2022 tax year. This shifts the deduction for state income taxes from Schedule A on the owner's tax returns (which limits the deduction for state taxes paid to \$10,000) to reducing income on the Schedule K-1 from the company. This election is made annually on the business tax return, but estimated tax payments are required by the company to avoid penalties beginning in 2023.

Be sure to check in with your tax advisor to see how this election could impact your personal tax situation if you are in North Carolina!





Tax Tip #9: Be Prepared for Change in Business Meals Expenses.

We are all familiar with the fact that entertainment expenses (round of golf, tickets to sporting events, etc.) have not been deductible since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Business meals were deductible up to 50% of the cost, assuming other requirements were met. In 2020, however, as part of Covid relief measures, businesses were able to deduct 100% of the cost of eligible business meals and/or beverages purchased from restaurants.

This provision only covered the years 2021 and 2022, so effective January 1, 2023, all business meals and beverages are again subject to the 50% limitations.

Tax Tip #10: Prepare for Form 1099-K Income Reporting.

For taxpayers who get paid for services, merchandise or rental properties through a marketplace or third-party network, they may be receiving a 1099-K for 2022 payments received. Historically, third-party networks were not required to issue 1099-K until the amount paid to a single payee exceeded \$20,000 and had more than 200 transactions.

A provision in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has changed these requirements. Now, Form 1099-K must be issued if payments to a payee exceed \$600 in a calendar year. The number of transactions is no longer a factor. Originally, this change was effective for tax year 2022; however, the IRS has extended the effective date for 1 year.

Why does this matter? Many e-commerce websites and gig-economy services will be required to follow these new rules.

Be prepared for 2023 reporting! Be sure to track your business income (if you're not already) paid by these services. Although transactions for personal gifts, charitable contributions and reimbursements are specifically excluded, be sure to track these items if they come through your business account so they can be excluded from your taxable income.

The Form 1099-K will report your gross income, so be sure to track all of your expenses incurred to earn those funds. The income reported will be able to be reduced by those expenses when completing your tax returns.

Be sure to consult your tax advisor as to the potential impact on your tax returns and related estimated tax payment requirements for 2023.

Tax Tip #11: Plan to Pay Off Credit Cards.

OK, so technically this isn't a tax tip, but it will help you get your financial house in order where you will need more tax tips in the future!

With the unprecedented rise in interest rates in 2022, many of us have seen our finance charges go up. Balances on credit cards have also gone up as prices have gone up on just about everything. Before we know it, minimum payments have risen, straining budgets even further.

Don't let your credit cards get out of hand! Try one of these strategies to start regaining control:

Snowflake Strategy. Use small amounts of extra cash to pay down balances.

Avalanche Strategy. Make your minimum payments plus any extra money to pay down the balance on the card with the highest interest rate. When it's paid off, repeat with the next balance and so on.

Snowball Strategy. Same approach as an avalanche but start with the smallest balance.

Tax Tip #12: Record Your End of Year Odometer Reading.

If you claim a deduction for auto expenses for your business, you are required to disclose your total mileage for the year on your tax return.

So, while you're waiting for the ball to drop, step outside for just a minute and record that year end mileage!

These tax tips were previously shared on my Facebook page, Patricial P. Belcourt CPA PA. Come check it out, and feel free to post any questions or topics you are interested in!



Tracking Up,
the newsletter of the
South Carolina Dressage
& Combined Training
Association

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March 2023

Tracking Up is published quarterly throughout the year. Tracking Up is delivered electronically to SCDCTA members; subscription is by membership only.

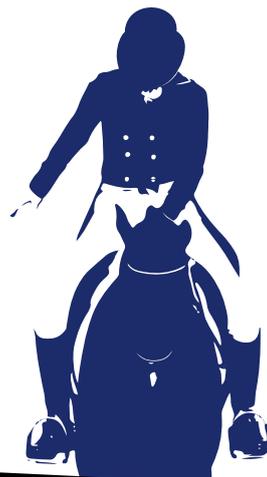
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Contact the editor directly (editor@scdcta.com) for issue-specific deadlines for submissions.

SCDCTA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Want to see more news and photos from your fellow members? So does Tracking Up! We love to share your accomplishments, everyday activities, and cute photos.

We'd also love articles on your training or competition experiences, reviews of books, videos or products, or even just sharing a bit about your favorite horses. Send questions, ideas, completed articles (in MS Word), photos (jpeg) to editor@scdcta.com. If sharing a professional photo, please make sure you have provided photographer credit.



You can also share news and photos via the SCDCTA Facebook group!

To make sure the editor is aware of your posts, please tag "Trisha Louise Dingle" in anything you'd like to see in the newsletter.

SCDCTA



BUSINESS NEWS

Sharon Anderson; Points/Volunteers/Awards

Show season is in progress, make sure you renew your membership and all new horses are registered, it will make point record keeping easier if you do it sooner rather than wait until the end of season. There are lots of opportunities to get your volunteer hours in, including working at shows/clinics, submitting articles to the newsletter, and donating items to the 2023 Awards Banquet silent auction (to be held January 2024). The Schooling Show Championships only require membership/registration to compete in the champion classes, no volunteer hours are required.

Missouri Freligh, Membership

As of 2/19/23, we currently have 21 Business Members, 17 Junior/Young Rider Members, and 116 Senior Members for a total membership of 155 members. 26 New horses have been registered so far in 2023.

Linda Kelly, Show Recognition

As of 2/20/23, we have 65 SCDCTA recognized schooling dressage shows and combined tests.

Kathryn Butt, Junior program

The SCDCTA Annual Youth Clinic is scheduled for June 17-18 at the SC Equine Park in Camden, SC. Clinician TBD; juniors are currently working hard to raise money for the clinic, including setting up a Bake Sale at the SCDCTA Low Country Dressage

Show. Plans are in the works for another bake sale at the April SCDCTA Camden Dressage Show, members are encouraged to donate items to sell as well as bring your sweet tooth to the shows for purchases!

Patricia Dingle, Newsletter editor & Website liaison

Webmaster Ken Maginnis, in addition to designing our quarterly newsletter, has been working to update the website and make it more user friendly. Current focus has been on the Low Country show, Awards banquet, and updating the sponsors. The next few projects will include streamlining the awards information and make it easier to understand and submit scores for special awards, as well as clarifying the membership page and make it easier for new members to find and join.

Our first newsletter is in the books, and we are actively working on our June issue of Tracking Up. We are looking for article submissions from our members as well as high resolution photos. Business members need to fill out their Business Member profile to be included in future issues (or send a short write up on your business), and we will be contacting businesses individually for submission of advertising (included in membership fee). Member submissions earn a minimum of two (2) volunteer hours/article. All submissions should be sent to editor@scdcta.com

LET'S TALK ABOUT YEAR-END AWARDS

One of the most fun parts of GMO membership can be earning scores towards a year-end award! For members who like to show—whether at schooling or recognized shows—year-end prizes and other GMO award programs can be a great way to support goal-setting in their riding.

SCDCTA offers a variety of year-end and special awards each year, including medal programs for both dressage and event riders and horse performance awards, as well as Adult Amateur, Junior, and Professional (Open) awards, first through sixth, at all dressage and eventing levels. And with the gala for 2022 award winners fresh in everyone's mind, this is a great time to review exactly what riders need to do to ensure they meet all eligibility requirements throughout the competition year.

So, what is required to participate in the year-end awards program? Let's start with the administrative stuff. First of all, the rider needs to be an SCDCTA member, so make sure you've enrolled for 2023! Second, the horse must be lifetime-registered with SCDCTA; this is important because the bulk of awards

are based on the horse-rider pair. This is a one-time fee, so once a horse is registered, that registration will follow him for his entire competitive life.

And finally, the rider must complete at least eight hours of volunteer time for the SCDCTA during the current year, which runs Dec. 1, 2022 through Nov. 30, 2023 for this year. There are myriad volunteer opportunities throughout the year, including helping out at schooling or recognized shows, providing content for the quarterly newsletter, or supporting the hard-working board members on various projects, such as clinics or community outreach.

You're super-busy? No problem! SCDCTA allows any member to donate their volunteer time to another member for award purposes. So you can recruit friends, family members, students, or even just strangers off the street to perform your volunteer hours for you.

And if you really just can't donate time, you can provide a donation to the silent auction valued at \$150 or more. If you go the auction donation route, you have two opportunities to make your donation.

The first is coming up at the annual gala to be held Jan. 28! And if you want to donate later, you can make your donation by Nov. 30 for the following year's auction. All you need to do is contact Tierney Boyd or your favorite board member, fill out a simple form, and provide your donation to that person.





About Dressage awards

SCDCTA gives out awards based on the highest median dressage score each year for Introductory through GP levels. These awards are given out in two categories: USDF-recognized shows and schooling shows. In addition to the general requirements above, competitors seeking an award for their performances at USDF shows must also:

Earn at least five scores at a single level at any recognized shows, including at least one score from the highest test of that level, OR

Earn at least four scores at a single FEI level, OR

Earn at least three scores for a musical freestyle at any USDF or FEI level.

A median of those scores will be calculated by the points coordinator. A minimum median score of 57.000% is required for awards at any USDF or FEI and a minimum median of 62.000% is required for a freestyle at any level. For any rider that earns more than the minimum required number of scores, the points coordinator will drop the lowest score; the only exception to this would be if the lowest score is also the only instance where the rider rode the highest test of a USDF level. In such cases, the next-lowest score would be dropped.

These same requirements apply to awards in the schooling show category, with the exception that schooling show competitors need to earn only three scores per level, with one being the highest test of the level. These scores must be earned at shows run or recognized by SCDCTA. Riders can find these on the [SCDCTA calendar](#).

About Eventing awards

For eventers, SCDCTA provides year-end awards based on the lowest median score earned at a given USEA level, Amoeba through Advanced. The same requirements apply for both USEA-recognized events or horse trials (HTs) and to schooling combined tests (CTs) or HTs: Riders must earn at least three scores at a single level, in addition to meeting the general requirements above, to qualify.

The points coordinator will calculate a median score, as described above for dressage awards, with the highest score being dropped for any rider who earns more than three scores at a given level.

As with dressage awards, any schooling CT/HT scores must be earned at a show run or recognized by SCDCTA.

About SCDCTA medals

And that is not all there is to the SCDCTA award program! While having annual goals is fun, some people also like to set longer-term goals and work toward them over multiple years.

SCDCTA's medal program is all about recognizing those longer-term goals for both our dressage and eventing members. Riders may earn scores across multiple levels, on multiple horses, at recognized or schooling shows or both. The only caveat is that schooling shows must be SCDCTA-recognized or -run, and that scores must come from at least two different judges. Below are the specific requirements for each dressage

medal:

Gold medal –

Two scores of 60% or higher from Third Level, with at least one score from Test 3; and

Two scores of 60% or higher from Fourth Level, including at least one from Test 3.

Silver medal –

Two scores of 60% or higher from First Level, with at least one from Test 3; and

Two scores of at least 60%

from Second Level, at least one from Test 3.

Bronze medal –

Two scores of at least 60% from Introductory Level, at least one from Test 3; and

Four scores of 60% or higher from Training level, at least one from Test 3; or

Six scores of 60% or higher from Training level, at least one from Test 3.

And riders seeking to earn an eventing medal must meet the following requirements:



Gold medal — Place first through sixth at three Intermediate or Advanced level competition, including two-day events and 3*** and 4**** three-day events.

Silver medal — Place first through sixth at three Preliminary competitions, including two-day events and 1* three-day events.

Bronze medal — Place first through sixth at three Training competitions.

Medallion award — Place first through sixth at three Novice competitions.

Blue ribbon award—Place first through sixth at three Beginner Novice competitions.

Unlike the annual awards, SCDCTA does not track this information for riders. Each rider seeking a dressage or eventing medal is responsible for submitting the requisite form, found on the SCDCTA website, along with documentation of all scores earned, also detailed on the website, by Nov. 30 of the year they apply for the award. For more information about the medal program, contact Carol Freligh.

About horse awards

But what about our equine partners? They work hard and deserve recognition, too! And SCDCTA has them covered. Like the dressage and eventing medals, these horse-focused awards can be earned over multiple years and under multiple riders. Also like the medals, horse owners are responsible for submitting all the required paperwork by Nov. 30 of the year they apply for the award. Contact Carol Freligh for more information.

Dressage performance certificates are awarded at all levels, Introductory through Grand Prix, and can be earned at both recognized and schooling shows; schooling shows must be SCDCTA recognized or run by SCDCTA. The requirements are:

Ten scores of 60% or higher at a single USDF or FEI level; and

At least four of those scores from the highest test of the level.

Eventing certificates of

achievement are available for horses, as well. To qualify for this award, riders must provide documentation of completing any five eventing competitions—combined tests, horse trials, or one-, two-, or three-day events—at any given level, Amoeba through Advanced.

Got questions about SCDCTA horse awards? Carol Freligh is the contact for these, as well as for the medal program.

As you can see, there are a variety of awards available for all types of competitors. Whether you like to jump or keep your horse's feet on the ground, whether you live for recognized shows or enjoy supporting local schooling shows, there's a little something for everyone. And the medals and horse awards let both riders and their horses get a little recognition for working away over several years.



SCDCTA AWARD

QUALIFICATION:

THE TLDR SUMMARY

ALL COMPETITORS MUST:

- Be a current SCDCTA member;
- Ride a SCDCTA lifetime registered horse;
- and Complete 8 hours of volunteer work within the current year.

Dressage awards also require:

- At least five scores at a single USDF level for recognized shows or three scores for schooling shows, including at least one score from the highest test of that level, OR
- At least four scores at a single FEI level, OR
- At least three scores for a musical freestyle at any USDF or FEI level;

AND

- A minimum median score of 57.000% for all USDF and FEI levels, OR
- A minimum median score of 62.000% for all USDF and FEI musical freestyles.

Eventing awards also require:

- At least three scores at a single USEA level for both recognized and schooling awards.

Dressage medals also require:

- Submission of a medal form and supporting documentation.

Gold medal:

- Two scores of 60% or higher from Third Level, with at least one score from Test 3; AND
- Two scores of 60% or higher from Fourth Level, including at least one from Test 3.

Silver medal:

- Two scores of 60% or higher from First Level, with at least one from Test 3; AND
- Two scores of at least 60% from Second Level, at least one from Test 3.

Bronze medal:

- Two scores of at least 60% from Introductory Level, at least one from Test 3; AND
- Four scores of 60% or higher from Training level, at least one from Test 3;

OR

- Six scores of 60% or higher from Training level, at least one from Test 3.

Eventing medals also require:

- Submission of a certificate form and supporting documentation.

Gold medal:

- Place first through sixth at three Intermediate or Advanced level competition, including

two- day events and 3*** and 4**** three- day events.

Silver medal:

- Place first through sixth at three Preliminary competitions, including two- day events and 1* three- day events.

Bronze medal:

- Place first through sixth at three Training competitions.

Medallion award:

- Place first through sixth at three Novice competitions.

Blue ribbon award:

- Place first through sixth at three Beginner Novice competitions.

Horse awards also require:

- Submission of a certificate form and supporting documentation.

For a **dressage performance certificate:**

- Ten scores of 60% or higher at a single USDF or FEI level;
- At least four of those scores from the highest test of the level

For an **eventing certificate of achievement:**

- Completion of any five competitions at a single USEA level

IN MEMORY OF TWO DRESSAGE JUDGES

TRISHA DINGLE

The SCDCTA board was saddened to hear that in November, within 24 hours, we lost two well-known S dressage judges, Grand Prix Riders, and trainers.



Gretchen Verbonic

Gretchen Verbonic of Tryon, NC, got her riding start on hunters, equitation and event horses in Michigan, but at an early age she caught the dressage bug from her mentor Chuck Grant. She was a disciple of Nuno Oliviero and trained riders and horses to every level of dressage, including training a free horse with EPM to Grand Prix. Gretchen competed multiple self-trained horses through Grand Prix, three of which were long listed for U.S. teams. In 2010 she had an article published in The Chronicle of the Horse entitled "Reflections of Ye Crotchety Olde Dressage Judge". Thirteen years later this certainly holds true today and should still be required reading by every competitor, owner, and trainer.

chronofhorse.com:reflections-ye-crotchety-olde-dressage-judge



Kay Meredith

From Raleigh, NC, Kay Meredith was a founding member and past President of the United States Dressage Federation. A lifetime of dedication to dressage, she was a disciple of Col. Bengt Ljungquist as well as having spent 4 years training with Ernst Bachinger of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. In the 1980's Kay represented the United States on her two horses Domino and Encore. She was often heard telling riders "Don't ride for 70% or 80%, ride for 100%". In addition to her gifts to dressage, Kay was an author of many historical novels, all of which can be found on Amazon.

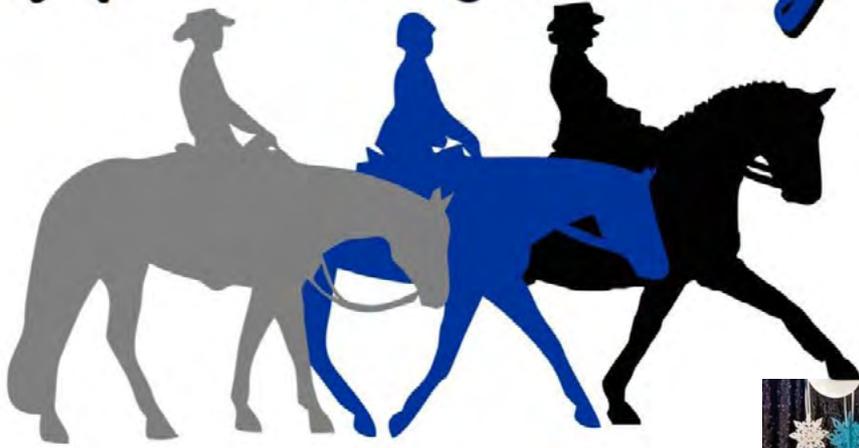


A special thank-you to both these wonderful ladies for all you gave to our sport.

submitted
by

Heidi Medlin

Union County



Saddle Club

LOCATED in the heart of Union County's horse country in Monroe NC, the Union County Saddle Club was founded in 1963 as a club that serves both the existing and future equine community.

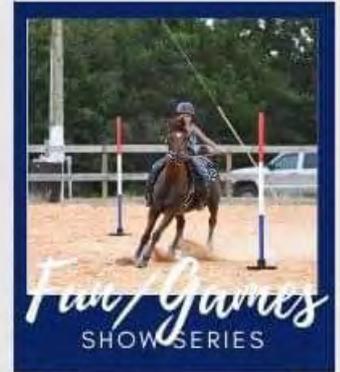
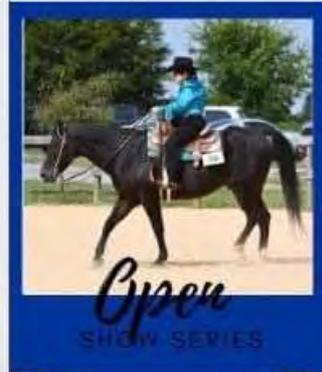
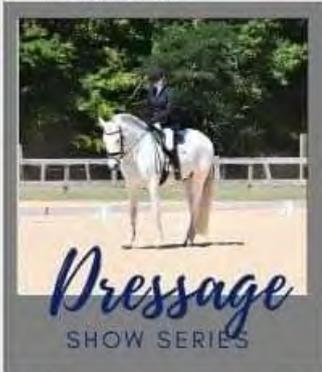
In 2020 we created our Britches and Bridles schooling dressage series. Our goal that first show was to see 25 riders go down centerline, 75 signed up and we've never looked back. Our series was needed in this area. We strive to offer a competitive, fun, encouraging, supportive and laid back environment for all our riders and horses - whether they are 5 or 85, Intro to Grand Prix, the UCSC is a great place to show!





Union County Saddle Club

2023 SHOW SERIES DATES



Britches & Bridles

Dressage Series

MARCH 25, 2023
MAY 20, 2023
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
OCTOBER 28, 2023

**NCDCTA & SCDCTA
RECOGNIZED**

NEW
**PONY DIVISION
DAILY HIGH POINT
AWARDS**

APRIL 1, 2023
MAY 6, 2023
SEPTEMBER 2, 2023
OCTOBER 7, 2023

NEW
**MINI HIGH JUMP
DAILY HIGH POINT
AWARDS**

APRIL 29, 2023
MAY 27, 2023
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
OCTOBER 14, 2023

NEW
**YEAR END AWARDS
DAILY HIGH POINT
AWARDS**

FEBRUARY 11, 2023
MARCH 18, 2023
APRIL 15, 2023
JUNE 10, 2023
AUGUST 26, 2023
NOVEMBER 4, 2023

*SERIES FEE \$40 EACH

*2 SHOW MINIMUM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR END OF YEAR AWARDS

IN OUR SECOND YEAR with the series we had a few SC ladies showing with us. They mentioned SCDCTA and asked if we would consider joining. I decided to contact Carol Frelich of SCDCTA, for more information and by the end of our phone call we were

business members with show recognition from SCDCTA. It has been a wonderful partnership. In 2022 due to popular demand we added combined tests to the series, and new for 2023 will be Dressage High Score/CT Low Score Ribbons for all divisions.

This year we will holding four SCDCTA/NCDCTA schooling dressage & CT's and all riders

are eligible to sign up for our Show Series Year End Awards. Drawing in more SC members in our series has been a bonus, and we are excited to continue to support the organization for many years to come.





Q *What is your primary line of business?*

» Jovee Farm specializes in producing large ponies and small horses for equine enthusiasts that want competitive gaits in a smaller package. We have about 2 foals per year and all horses and ponies are registered Westfalen or Hanoverian. All equines are provided with early education and training using the USDF Breeders Championship Series program.

Q *What does your business offer to the equestrian community? In addition to your formal business, do you provide any other services to the community, such as sponsorships of awards or events?*

» We offer young, people oriented equine athletes and assist new owners by providing education regarding in-hand breed shows. We also support them by offering a step-by-

step approach to preparing their youngster for in-hand showing. When owner and young equine are both prepared it makes for a positive experience that serves as the foundation to the equine's competitive career.

» Our passions are ponies and kids. We have offered high score awards (ribbons and prizes) for a series of shows for ponies and children for many years (NC and VA). We offered placings for Open, AA and Jr so all could be rewarded for showing their pony in dressage. After the series was finished, the highest scoring was awarded very nice sashes and prizes.

» In 2021, we started the Jovee Farm Dressage Pony Championship. This program requires that the horse and rider obtain one score from a participating show that offers the Jovee Farm TOC class, this pony only class is pinned by Open, AA and Jr riders. Any test can be chosen, and the test can also be one that qualifies you for the USDF Regional Championship or the CBLM Championship. In addition, we offer the same for our in-hand breed competitors. Once qualified you can enter to compete in the Jovee Farm Dressage Pony Championship. At the championship you compete with only ponies



and are awarded as Open, AA or JR. We provide an awards ceremony in the ring with a championship victory lap to celebrate the pairs achievements. Also, at the championship we offer the highly sought after Overall Pony Champion. This award is granted based on in hand and under saddle scores. The ponies and their partners are rewarded generously.

looking for. In addition, professional training is offered by our very experienced trainer that has an extensive eventing background. All youngsters working under saddle are introduced to work outside of the ring. The farm is kept small so we can give you and your foal individual attention, and all care is given by persons that have over 30 years of experience in equine care. All client's needs are different, and we work diligently to provide a healthy environment for a young growing equine.



» We also stand our pony stallion - Phenix - he is approved Stud book I - Westfalen. He is a product of our breeding program.

Q How long have you been in business?

» I have been in business since 2005.

Q How would you describe your target clients, e.g., are they other businesses or individuals, professionals or amateurs, etc.?

» My target audience is adult amateurs and juniors that want a smaller (large pony - small horse) competitive mount for dressage, jumping and eventing. I have developed into an in-hand breed show mentor. This has been a very rewarding experience. No words can express the emotion that is felt watching one of your clients and their equine youngster achieve the client's lifelong goal of showing and winning at Dressage at Devon and other Championships.

Q How did you get started with this business?

» I am a lifelong equestrian and started riding as a very little girl. My farm evolved into breeding after a long search for my next dance partner. The mares that were being retired had excellent blood lines, conformation and movement. I like riding young horses so I decided to breed for what I could not find. It has truly been a great adventure!

Q What is unique about your business that might make members select you over other, similar professionals?

» I am vested in you, your young horse and your goals. We offer custom foals at very reasonable prices if one of our foals or young horses is not what you are

» My fascination with ponies began with a project that a family member asked me to take on. It was perfect timing as my warmblood needed to rehabilitate and I needed a ride. So began my love for the 14.1 hand paint pony called Angel. She was just fun and very competitive with the warmbloods. My journey with her lead me to the German Riding ponies. I started breeding them at a time (2005) when they were unheard of. I think there were only four German Riding pony stallions in the states at that time and registries for the GRP were very limited.





Q *Have you run other businesses in the past, either in the equestrian world or in other industries? How did that experience help you with your current business?*

» Yes, our family had a concrete business for many years. It helped me learn about time management, finances and labor.

Q *What is your top advice for someone wanting to start a business like yours?*

» Set a budget and stick to it, get a very good vet that has a history of successful breeding, be prepared for long hours and sacrifice. THE MARES COME FIRST! There are many highs and lows in breeding-- get your young stock in the show ring and sponsor classes, awards, ribbons at shows that have your target audience.

Q *What are some things you have learned in the course of running your business that may benefit SCDCTA members at large?*

» Customers want to be valued and all customers matter- treat everyone you meet as special and really listen. Everyone we meet has something to teach us!

Q *Are there any stories of successes, lessons learned, or interesting anecdotes that you'd like to share with your fellow members?*

» Honestly, I have had some of the greatest things awarded to me as a breeder. Many top honors with the American Hanoverian Society and USDF. I have had a top scoring Hanoverian mare in the US, received the Traveling Trot Trophy from USDF and, in addition, we have had a number of our horses be named USDF Horse of the Year. All awards are from horses that we have produced on the farm. All this is very exciting, but nothing beats welcoming a foal into the world.



LOVE THY EQUINE

Trisha Dingle
Egyptian Rose Sport Horses

originally published online by author in the April 2018 Carolina's Equestrian "Responsible Horse Ownership" blog

PROFESSIONAL

A few months ago my Arabian dressage gelding, Tango, threw a rear shoe – a very odd occurrence for him.

My farrier was scheduled in two weeks, but I called to tell him just because I thought it was funny that only my horse could manage to pull a perfectly tight rear shoe in good footing. My farrier – who lives 1 ½ hours from me – immediately started trying to rearrange his schedule so he could come put the shoe



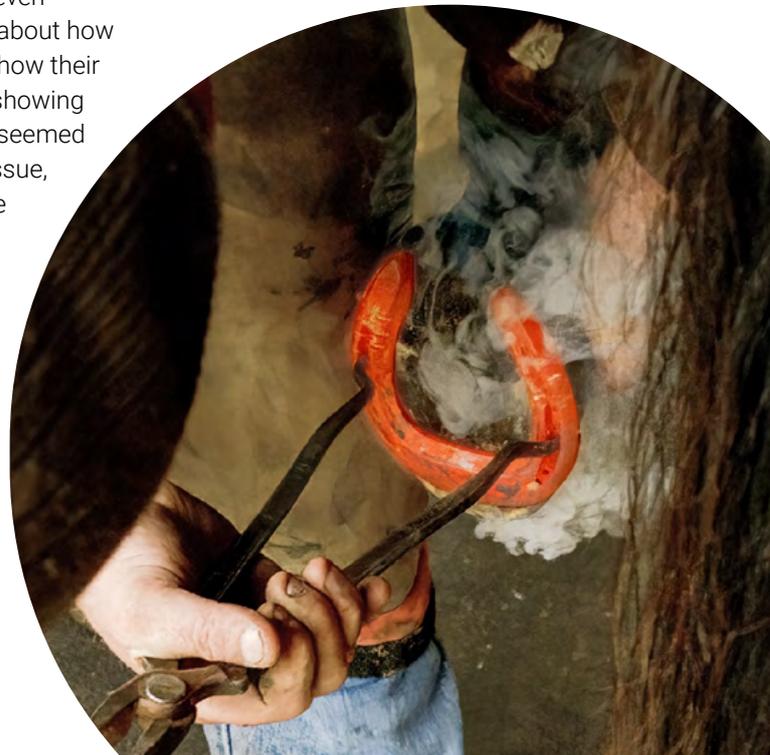
back on. I told him not to worry as we only had one more show left but it was a small one and even giving Tango some off time I knew he'd be ready, and it wouldn't hurt for him to have a week or two off. But I was touched that he was so willing to try and fit us in if I needed him to.

So often I hear horse owners and even professional trainers complaining about how their vet never calls them back, or how their farrier is always cancelling or not showing up as scheduled. This has always seemed odd to me, as I've never had that issue, and in fact the professionals I have worked with always seem to go out of their way to work with me. On the flip side I've also heard so many vets, chiropractors, farriers, and others lament about "bad clients" – clients who constantly cancel/reschedule appointments, unruly/dangerous horses, bad working conditions,

etc. And while I'll admit that there are some very unprofessional people working in this industry, I've found there are far more horse owners who don't treat their horse's caretakers properly. Yes, being a farrier or veterinarian is a "service industry", but in the equine world these people are putting their lives in danger on a daily basis and deserve to be treated fairly. Below I've compiled a list of how I treat the people I work with, and hopefully by following my example you can maximize your relationship with these people for the good of your horse. (For simplicity's sake I will be using the term "Equine Professional", or "EP", to refer in general to anyone you use to help care for your horse, including but not limited to farriers, veterinarians, body work specialists, dentists, etc).

MUTUAL RESPECT

First and foremost you must respect the EP you are using. If you doubt their skill, or feel that they are





not competent in their chosen profession, then you will never be 100% happy and no matter how hard you try there will always be tension in your relationship. Many EP's are more than happy to share their knowledge with you and explain what they are doing to

your horse, but if you

are constantly second guessing them or telling them how to do their job then the relationship just is not going to work. On that same note, it is important that you do use an EP who is comfortable discussing your horse's case with you and is willing to listen to your concerns, as well as share his/her knowledge. If there is any doubt in your mind, you are better finding someone who you are perfectly comfortable with.

BE PROFESSIONAL

You must behave in the manner you wish your EP to behave. If you have a scheduled appointment be sure to keep it and be on time (if not early). Have your horse already caught and in a stall, or tied up. If your EP likes to schedule routine appointments ahead of time try to accommodate him/her.

If your EP is scheduled to only do one procedure on one horse, don't

add two or three or four more horses when they show up (making them late for future appointments that day). And most importantly communicate – emergencies happen, so if you are running late let your EP know, or if you (or another client at the barn) need another horse looked at contact your EP ASAP to find out if he/she has room to add on to your appointment that day. Being professional really is just a continuation of having mutual respect with your EP – respect that they have a schedule and their time is precious, and your EP will most likely do the same in return.

PROVIDE A SAFE & COMFORTABLE WORK ENVIRONMENT

You don't need to own a fancy show barn to make you EP comfortable. Ideally you should have a dry, level area for them, especially in inclement weather. Even a carport or garage (clutter free of course!) can serve in a pinch. It may take a little time and money, but making sure you have a comfortable area for your EP will pay off in the long run. If you do have a barn keep the area your EP is working in clutter free – barn tools, hay/shavings, and grooming equipment should all be neatly kept away from the area. If your horses are tied make sure the tie/cross ties are hung correctly and safely.



Try to pick an area out of the wind and direct sunlight. In my barns I've gone the extra mile to hang heat lamps in our work area for winter and provide fans and cross ventilation for summer. I also pick an area where there is not a lot of foot traffic so my EPs and horses are not disturbed. By providing a safe and comfortable work environment you aren't just minimizing injury to your EP and your horse, but also minimizing the chance that a mistake will be made from an uncomfortable EP (think about it: how well can a farrier trim a hoof if they can't feel their fingers from the cold and their tools are slipping as they are getting rained on?).

TRAIN YOUR HORSE!

One of the number one complaints I hear from EPs is having to work on an unruly horse. Having bred horses for the past twenty years and worked with rescue horses, there is NO EXCUSE for a horse to misbehave when being worked on. Foals and young horses should be handled regularly, and even if their breeder or previous owner didn't do their due diligence then it is your job to do so. If you have an older horse that acts up due to prior experiences, it is your job as the new owner to retrain him so that he is comfortable being worked with. You are not paying your EP to train your horse – and if it's something you can't do on your own it is your responsibility to pay a professional trainer to do so. And if you are a professional trainer, SHAME ON YOU if any horse in your care is repeatedly difficult for the EP.

That being said, even the best-behaved horse can and will act up when it is in pain and/or scared. It is important that you know the difference between a horse in discomfort and one being belligerent, and if you aren't able to determine the difference it is important that you leave the horse handling to someone with more experience. Keep in mind that your emotional level will affect the horse as well – when my "child" Tango was in the hospital I, a professional trainer and equine rehabilitator, was a basket case. Tango sensed my anxiety and was much better off having my friend hold him while the vets worked on him.

Along these lines, it is best that you discuss ahead of time with your EP how discipline will be handled. I know many horse owners get upset when their EP disciplines their horse, but if you aren't going to react when a horse misbehaves then you can't expect your EP to sit back and risk being injured. The EPs I



work with know I expect a certain behavior from all my horses, and if they misbehave the EPs immediately back up and let me do the discipline (as they know it will be effective and end the undesired behavior immediately). That being said, if I am not in the immediate area I have complete trust in all my EPs that they will discipline the horse correctly and fairly.



PERKS & BONUSSES

The question of tipping your EP (specifically farriers) comes up often. This of course is purely a personal preference – as a “starving horse trainer” I am on such a limited budget that I do not tip my EPs; however that being said I know that it is a thankless job and generally EPs do not charge what they are worth and are mostly self employed, so tipping is always appreciated. I do try to show my

appreciation in other ways – depending on their schedule I will offer to buy them lunch, and for EPs traveling a distance I’ve offered my guest bedroom and additional meals. Even little things like a gift basket at Christmas, a card on their birthday, or a beer at the end of a long day, go far in building a repoiere with your EP and showing them that you do appreciate how hard they work.

COMMUNICATE ABOUT PAYMENT

There’s nothing worse than working a long day only to have your client ask if they can post date a check! EPs have bills too, and many are self-employed. So the best way to avoid any animosity is to speak with your EP ahead of time to discuss payment options. Any new EP I hire I always ask what their general charges are and whether they bill or expect payment at time of service, as well as what payments they accept – personal check, credit/debit card, PayPal. And yes, some of my EPs are fine with post-dated checks, but that’s always something I ask before the scheduled appointment. As a professional trainer I also discuss payment of EPs with my clients, and include it in my training/boarding contracts. In general I do not advance any funds for client horses – it is their responsibility to arrange payment with the EP. And if they have not done so ahead of time the service is not performed. If you are a trainer or barn manager it

is important that you support your EPs when it comes to payment – if you have a client with a history of non-payment or bounced checks to EPs, it is your responsibility to protect your EP and not seek their services for a client’s horse until a payment agreement between your client and your EP has been reached.

LOYALTY

If you would not recommend your EP to your best friend, then chances are you need to find someone new. One thing that goes a long way towards keeping a strong relationship with your EP is loyalty and a show of support. It is also important that your team of EPs have a mutual respect for one another – they don’t have to like each other, but they should respect each other as professionals and be willing to work together for the good of the horse. If you are constantly seeking second opinions by changing what EP you use, or fire one of your EPs because another says he’s not doing his job well, you will soon find no one is willing to work with you. This goes back to my very first point – if you don’t have a mutual respect, then you can’t expect them to go out of their way to provide for you and your horse.

I hope you find what I’ve included in this article useful, and that it helps you form a strong team to properly care for your horses. Even if your “team” only consists of a farrier and veterinarian, it is important that all three of you are able to focus on the proper care of your horse, and following the protocol above will greatly increase that chance. My personal team includes me (as trainer and owner), farrier, veterinarian, holistic veterinarian/chiropractor, massage therapist, Bemer rep, bit and saddle fitter. I am happy to say that all of us have a wonderful working relationship and mutual respect, and because of that I am able to have a successful show string, healthy & happy retirees, and have rehabilitated and rehomed a number of horses.

EQUINOX

EQUINE MASSAGE

LISA HINKLE

Q 1. What is your primary line of business?

» I am an animal bodyworker, another term for an animal massage therapist. I prefer the term bodyworker because so many of us in this profession train in multiple modalities and/or work with other professionals to help keep horses and other animals feeling and performing great. Just within my own practice, I include readily recognizable-by-anyone sports massage techniques paired with some Eastern approaches like

acupressure, more specific hands-on techniques like myofascial release and neurokinetic therapy, and human-derived sports support approaches like cold laser and kinesiology taping.



» The bulk of my clients are horses and other equines, but I also have comparable training in canine bodywork and have even been known to work on a barn cat or two.

Q 2. What does your business offer to the equestrian community? In addition to your formal business, do you provide any other services to the community, such as sponsorships of awards or events?

» I am a huge believer in giving to the communities you live, work and play in, both professionally and personally. And since the equestrian community is so important to both parts of my life, I try to give a lot.

» One of my favorite "give-back" efforts is the comp bodywork session. Some of my clients are involved with animal rescues, therapeutic riding programs, or other nonprofits that provide important services to animals and people who need them. If I am working at one of those sites for paying clients, I will very often provide a complimentary massage to a horse within that program.





» Another give-back is my work with the SCDCTA. I've been involved as a volunteer since moving to SC in 2007 and joined the board several years ago. I now serve as Secretary. And my business sponsors a special dressage year-end award to honor older horses competing in dressage. Riders have to submit scores for consideration and a combination of the scores and the horses' ages are used to determine each year's winner. This means a lot to me because I feel that older horses are often overlooked, but they can provide so much to riders, especially when well-cared-for.

Q 3. How would you describe your target clients, e.g., are they other businesses or individuals, professionals or amateurs, etc.?

» My clients fall into a few categories. Most are individual horse owners who compete at some level. A lot of my clients are AA or Jr jumpers. Some are dressage horses and some endurance horses. But quite a few are people's pleasure horses, even some retirees.

» The other group are trainers who have me work on their sale horses and/or their client's horses. These are usually pretty serious competitors, but I am pleased to say that I now have a few "serious show clients" who have me working on their retired or stepped-down horses as well as their current show horses.

Q 4. What is unique about your business that might make members select you over other, similar professionals?

» I pride myself on two things. First is my training and credentials. Not only did I complete my initial professional level studies under one of the pioneers of this practice, I have worked hard to develop skills and gain certifications in multiple modalities. This gives me more tools in my kit to create a truly customized session for every horse, every time. And I'm dedicated to annual CE, often going well beyond that required by my professional association.

» The second is my absolute honesty with my clients. What do I mean by that? I will never make unreasonable claims about what I can do; I strive to be very clear about what each technique I use can offer. I will never tell a client they need to have me out more frequently than necessary. And if I think a particular horse needs another practitioner—a vet, a chiropractor, a specialist farrier, or even another bodyworker with a different skill set—I will share that opinion without hesitation.

» Finally, I never try to present myself as some sort of mystical ninja wizard with magical hands. I can and do teach my clients things to look for and techniques they can apply to their own horses. I'm proud to say that I have many clients who can manage their horses very well for months based on what I've taught them and maybe a few questions answered by email.

Q5. How long have you been in business?

» I completed my first professional certification program in late 2009, so I consider 2010 to be my first year in business.



Q6. How did you get started with this business?

» My start actually occurred more than a decade before my actual start. The late, great Fannie May was champion in a division where the award included a massage session. I was a huge skeptic, but impressed by the bodyworker's skill. Me being me, the research and study commenced.

» I did complete a short massage course, but did not feel I was remotely prepared to practice professionally after a mere week of training. So I continued my private study as I could until moving to SC, where I was close to Mike Scott's School of Equine Massage/Muscle Therapy, one of the schools I considered rigorous enough to produce a solid journeyman-level professional. And the rest is history.

- » Market analysis to determine needs, niches, and an appropriate price;
- » Developing a realistic and thorough business plan;
- » Price-setting and why discounts to "drum up business" are generally non-starters;
- » Incorporating skill development and ongoing education; and
- » Client relations and business boundaries.

Q8. What is your top advice for someone wanting to start a business like yours?

» Number one, get the very best education you possibly can. This type of work looks simple, but you can do damage if you don't have a sufficiently thorough education that includes a solid grounding in anatomy and physiology. Look at what



Nora before and after May 2019

Q7. Have you run other businesses in the past, either in the equestrian world or in other industries? How did that experience help you with your current business?

» I have been self-employed since 2004, and both that experience and my previous experience with a "real job" in corporate America absolutely provided skills and training that transferred into the bodywork business. In fact, I still retain a handful of really good clients in my highly niche freelance writing and editing business as a side hustle to bodywork.

» Some of the important lessons and skills I had already learned before starting this business include:

a human massage therapist must complete; your animal program should be comparable. Look at the certification test offered on a voluntary basis by IAAMB and see if your planned course of study would prepare you to pass it.

» In addition, avoid any certification courses that are 100% online or remote. This is a kinesthetic skill; you must develop touch skills and you must develop them correctly. There is no way to do this without one-on-one mentoring in real time, with your hands on the horse. Many schools offer periodic in-person instruction coupled with remote study and independent work under local professionals that can allow you to work it into your life if you really want it.



Q 10. *Are there any stories of successes, lessons learned, or interesting anecdotes that you'd like to share with your fellow members?*

» I often run up on the importance of touch and intent. I've collected a handful of clients over the years who reportedly didn't like to be touched. They were difficult about grooming, about handling

» Yes, this means there is more cost, travel, even relocation for some people while they get their education. But if you want to provide a truly professional service, you need the appropriate supporting education.

» Number two is to know the laws in the state or states in which you plan to practice. Animal bodywork exists in an odd liminal space where it has things in common with other practices, including veterinary medicine. And state laws vary widely in whether they do or do not lump bodywork under their definitions of veterinary medicine and in the specifics of that definition. It's important to understand the limits of your practice and how that practice may be allowed or not in your state.

Q 9. *What are some things you have learned in the course of running your business that may benefit SCDCTA members at large?*

» a) It takes a village. Performance horses do amazing things just because we ask them and they need all the support we can offer them to do so comfortably and happily. Horse owners and trainers do well to have trusted vets, farriers, bodyworkers, and other skilled professionals on their team who are truly dedicated to the health and well-being of their horses. When all these people work together, horses are better served.

» b) "Normal" and "average" don't exist. In particular after having attended some limb dissections and one whole-body dissection led by experts in the equine anatomy field, I am more convinced than ever that you cannot apply a one-size-fits all approach to horses. Everything from feeding to exercise to tack selection and more really needs to be customized to each individual horse.

for vet or farrier, about tacking ... or sometimes all of the above! I positively adore these horses because they have all made me look good. And it's not that I have any special talent; this is something anyone can learn and do.

» "Bruno" was one of those horses. Competing in A/O jumper classes, his performance under saddle was hard to fault. His trainers included massage and other complementary methods in their program, but Bruno's owner was concerned because she and the grooms struggled with just grooming and tacking. I was warned that he barely tolerated even the lightest touch. Upon questioning, his owner said he was fine with the post-round neck slap that many jumpers receive.

» I was able to almost immediately do quite deep work on Bruno. He was not a fan of light touch—no Swedish massage or this tough guy!—and was also highly reactive to the mood of the room. So people inching up nervously with ticklish little touches set him off. Me striding up with a firm neck pat, quickly identifying areas to be addressed and doing so with a deeper touch? Not a problem. Bruno is now a junior's first post-pony horse and enjoys aggressive currying from his young rider.

» This is not at all unusual. Girthy horses are common, for instance. The ones who are more aggressive about expressing themselves often lead riders to handle them in a similar tentative manner to Bruno's people. And most of the time, I'm able to eliminate the discomfort and behavior by accurately addressing soreness or spasm, most often in the ascending pectoral. Again, this requires touching the objectionable area; doing so quickly, firmly, and above all, accurately yields an immediate result that generally lasts for quite a while, allowing both the horse and rider to have a much more enjoyable experience.

ATTENTION ~ AUFMERKSAMKEIT ~ ATENCIÓN ~ ZHÙYÌ LÌ JUNIOR RIDERS!

The **MADE IN THE SHADE** USDF Dressage show will be held in Camden, SC, in August this year, and there are many opportunities for juniors to earn special prizes. Earn badges by participating in special activities; the junior with the most badges will get a special prize at Made in the Shade III (on Sunday).

The first activity is a **JUNIOR ART CONTEST** - send your horse-themed artwork to ContactMartie@gmail.com.

All submitted artwork will be displayed and honored in the Show Program and the top piece submitted will be on the Show Program cover! Deadline is **AUGUST 1st**, and any junior can submit.



LOW COUNTRY DRESSAGE CLASSIC

HIGH SCORES

Low Country Classic I

Open SCDCTA Member

(sponsored by Seignious & Smith - [facebook](#)): **Sarah Sharpe** on Dreamliner

Adult Amateur SCDCTA Member

(sponsored by Two Hearts Equine Massage - [2heartsequinemassage.net](#)):

Annissa Slusher on Marvelous Mrs. Maple

Jr/YR SCDCTA Member

(sponsored by Seasong Dressage - [facebook.com/SeaSongFarm](#)): **Isabella Lucarelli** on Sugar Rush

Vintage Rider

(sponsored by Seignious & Smith - [facebook.com/seigniousandsmith](#)): **Annissa Slusher** on Marvelous Mrs. Maple

Jovee Farm Champion Adult Amateur Pony

(sponsored by Jovee Farm - [facebook.com/JoveeFarm](#)):

Annissa Slusher on Marvelous Mrs. Maple

Jovee Farm Champion Jr/YR Pony

(sponsored by Jovee Farm - [facebook.com/JoveeFarm](#)):

Isabella Lucarelli on Sugar Rush

AHS High Score Hanoverian/Rhineland

(sponsored by Freligh Dressage): **Sissy Cobden** on Sequel
(High Score of both shows combined)

NDPC Champion Pony

(sponsored by MadKat Dressage): **Amelia Kerney** on Bucky

NDPC Reserve Champion Pony

(sponsored by MadKat Dressage):

Annissa Slusher on Marvelous Mrs. Maple

Introductory Level

(sponsored by Gillespie's Peanuts - [facebook.com/gillespiepeanuts](#)): **Elizabeth Martineau** on Ferdinand

First Level

(sponsored by AO Horsemanship & Performance - [facebook.com/RCSequestrian](#)): **Abigail Harper** on McKinley

Second Level

(sponsored by Equinox Equine Services - [facebook.com/EquinoxMassage](#)): **Camilla Van Lieu** on La Formidable B

Third Level (sponsored by Building Block Dressage):

Sissy Cobden on Sequel

Low Country Classic II

Open SCDCTA Member

(sponsored by Seignious & Smith - [facebook.com/seigniousandsmith](#)): **Sarah Sharpe** on Dreamliner

Adult Amateur SCDCTA Member

(sponsored by Two Hearts Equine Massage - [2heartsequinemassage.net](#)): **Camila Van Lieu** on Nordic ES

Jr/YR SCDCTA Member

(sponsored by Seasong Dressage - [facebook.com/SeaSongFarm](#)): **Isabella Lucarelli** on Sugar Rush

High Score Vintage Rider

(sponsored by Seignious & Smith - [facebook.com/seigniousandsmith](#)): **Annissa Slusher** on Marvelous Mrs. Maple

NDPC Champion Pony

(sponsored by MadKat Dressage):

Isabella Lucarelli on Sugar Rush

NDPC Reserve Champion Pony

(sponsored by MadKat Dressage): **Amelia Kearney** on Bucky

TIP High Score: Thoroughbred

(sponsored by MadKat Dressage): **Meredith Smith** on Starker

Introductory Level

(sponsored by Gillespie's Peanuts - [facebook.com/gillespiepeanuts](#)): **Elizabeth Martineau** on Ferdinand

First Level

(sponsored by AO Horsemanship & Performance - [facebook.com/RCSequestrian](#)): **Abigail Harper** on McKinley

Second Level

(sponsored by Equinox Equine Services - [facebook.com/EquinoxMassage](#)): **Camilla Van Lieu** on La Formidable B

Third Level

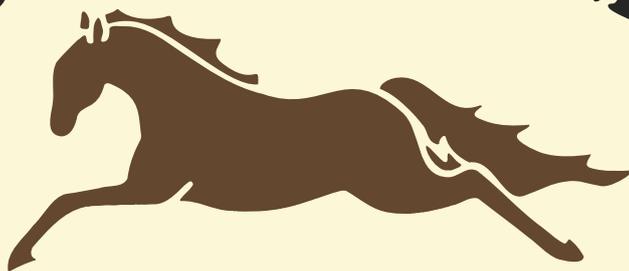
(sponsored by Building Block Dressage):

Ken Maginnis on Raubritter

Congratulations to the High Score Winners from
SCDCTA Low Country Dressage Classic I & II!

February 25-26, 2023 at Mullet Hall Equestrian
Center on John's Island, SC

JOVEE FARM



HIGH SCORE



ISABELLA LUCARELLI

pc: Tamara Brown

on the rescue pony ***Sugar Rush***, who won High Score Jr/YR
SCDCTA Member both days, Jovee Pony Cup Champion
Jr/YR Pony on Saturday and NDPC Champion on Sunday.

KRISTI WYSOCKI

RIDE -A- TEST

My sister and I had the amazing opportunity to audit the Kristi Wysocki Ride-a-Test clinic. It was an amazing experience and we learned a ton!

The first thing Kristi Wysocki explained was that riders should for the directives and purpose of the tests. Then she explained that judges value immobility over squareness in the halts. She revealed that a square halt would lead to a higher score, however, a halt that lands crooked and is moved to square will lead to a lower score.

Lillian L. Frenzel

Kristi Wysocki explained that expectations progress not just from level to level but also within the level. She said that a 70% at training level test one doesn't mean that you should move up to the first level. However, a 70% at training level test three means that you should move up to first level. Kristi said that training level test two is great for concentrated horses who move well. She also explained that the rule book is the best textbook and that riders need to read it. Kristi said that there is no single view that shows whether or not a horse is square.

Kristi explained that riders should always be kind. She said that our sport cannot tolerate abuse. She said that everything in our sport must be done for the benefit of the horse or we won't have a sport. Kristi taught us that it's ok to mix posting and sitting trot at first level depending on what the horse needs. She said that posting is better than sitting 90% of the time. Kristi said that there's a difference between a rider being in the wrong gait and a rider being off course. Kristi said that circles are ridden poorly because rider get distracted by a good start to the circle and forget to finish it well. She said to ride a circle like two half circles, restarting it part of the way through. Kristi said to remember that this should be fun! (unless you're preparing for the Olympics)

Kristi Wysocki defined collection as a powerful balance on the hindquarters. She said that in collection, the length of the horse does not change, it only shifts. Kristi said that to have the right collection, the horse must come out of the movement in as good or better balance than he was when he went into it. Kristi explained that you would ride in a horse show as well as you rode at home 3-6 months ago. Kristi said that some tests from second level test 3 and up have as much as 80 points of walk! She explained that bend is like a banana and should match both the horse's body and the line of travel. Kristi instructed riders to ride the horse first and the test second.



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Kristi Wysocki explained the free walk as being on a long or loose rein offering complete freedom, with the horse reaching for the bit and swinging through its back. She explained that the extended walk is long with the head parallel to the withers. Kristi said that there should be 5-6 inches of rein to go from the medium walk to the extended walk. Kristi taught us not to repeat wrong movements as it establishes them as correct. She said that riders will have the most fun in dressage if they ride at a level that their horse and they can easily do. Kristi said that hyperflexion can impact the horse's gaits as well as its submission.

Kristi explained that cadence comes in the moment of suspension and has a little extra "flair". She said not to bring horses back, she said riders should sit them back instead. Similarly, she said not to bring horses down to the trot, she said riders should sit them down to the trot instead. Kristi said that a correct walk and thoroughness will follow you through all of the levels. Kristi explained that if a judge cannot see something in the moment, then they cannot assume it occurred.

To conclude, The Kristi Wysocki ride-a-test clinic was a wonderful learning experience and I'm thrilled to have been able to audit it!

Lillian

KASSIE BARTEAU

CLINIC

Abby Schneider



Six months ago I was unloading Wellie, my Hanovarian gelding, from the trailer into the NC State Equine Hospital parking lot, unsure of what the future would hold for us. Six days ago I was unloading Wellie from the trailer into our barn after the best two days we have had.

Wellie was admitted to the hospital in July 2021 after experiencing severe colic symptoms and sleep deprivation. He spent the night hooked up to IV fluids and was getting about as much Banamine as he was able before we decided the colic was not going to pass itself and if we wanted to save him, surgery was needed. Colic surgery is a very scary thought for most horse owners. For many, it will never become a reality, but here I was, making the hardest yet easiest decision of my life.

After being in the hospital for eight days following surgery, due to some complications, he lost between three hundred and five hundred pounds. I had never seen him so skinny and under-muscled. He was almost unrecognizable. I spent the entire three months leading up to being cleared for riding getting his weight back up, which was not easy. It took a lot of planning to make sure it didn't overload his digestive system as it had been totally cleared out during surgery.

After thirty days of stall rest, thirty days of confined turnout, and thirty days of regular turnout, Wellie was cleared to return to work at the end of September. A couple weeks later, I heard about a clinic with Kassie Barteau. In February 2021 I broke my ankle and needed surgery. I was out of the saddle for 3 months so I hadn't applied to the SCDCTA Youth Clinic where Kassie was instructing. I was offered the chance to bring Wellie to train privately with my trainer while the clinic was going on and the opportunity to audit but as I was packing the trailer the day before we were supposed to leave, Wellie started to colic and that is when he ended up in the hospital. I was so bummed to miss the clinic. I was so happy to hear of another chance to audit a clinic taught by Kassie. Unfortunately, I had to work but heard from my trainer that Kassie would be back soon. We both thought it would be the perfect way to get our toes wet again.

The next month or two passed very quickly as we were getting back to work. Wellie was feeling better than ever and the clinic was approaching quickly. I was more excited than ever to head to Aiken for this clinic. Finally, the day had arrived.

I packed the trailer, braided Wellie's mane, cleaned all my tack, and we were off! Well kind of, it took quite a while for Wellie to get

KASSIE BARTEAU CLINIC

Abby Schneider

on the trailer. After we arrived to Twin Silos Equestrian Center, I got him all tucked into his stall for the night and was so excited for the next two days.

“He’s got quite a large trot, yeah?” Kassie said after my first trot circle. Sitting Wellie’s trot is my worst enemy. Having competed second level, I could squeak by a test or two sitting, but it was a struggle. “Lets try to make his steps short and energetic. It is almost impossible to get him to settle into a connection if his trot is this big. If his connection is all over the place, his trot is going to be really difficult to sit.” Throughout my lesson on the first day, Kassie really worked on getting him to sit back on his hind end so he would become more collected. The more collected he became, the easier his trot was to sit.

It felt amazing.



We moved into the canter and did a lot of trot-canter-trot transitions and some collected canter-medium canter-collected canter transitions as well. By the end, Wellie was willingly going forward and would collect back

from my seat and legs. He was completely on my aids by the end of day one.

The second day was a bit tougher. Wellie tends to not sleep when away from home for a couple days so naturally, he was quite tired. He was super behind my leg and just overall a bit sluggish. Kassie had us start out with the forward and back transitions within a gait. He was starting to get some pep in his step so we worked on collection within his trot again. We began to work on some more of the second level lateral movements. I was able to sit his trot within the movement and keep the same impulsion. This was a huge step in our training as he always would fall behind my leg in lateral work. By the end of the second day, Wellie felt like a completely new horse.

Overall, my clinic experience with Kassie Barteau was one I will never forget. I can not wait for show season so Wellie and I can finally get back out there.

Abby

2023 EVENT CALENDAR

March SCDCTA Events

2nd Apple Tree Farm Schooling Show
Apple Tree Farm, Windsor, SC

4th-5th SCDCTA Sponsored "L" Program Part 2
Stable View, Aiken, SC

9th Apple Tree Farm Schooling Show
Apple Tree Farm, Windsor, SC

11th SC Schooling Dressage & CT
Sawyer Equestrian, Hopkins, SC

12th SC Eventing Academy & Dressage TOC
Schooling Winter Show
Stable View, Aiken, SC

16th Apple Tree Farm Schooling Show
Apple Tree Farm, Windsor, SC

23rd Apple Tree Farm Schooling Show
Apple Tree Farm, Windsor, SC

25th Foothills Equestrian Nature Center-Fence Schooling Show
Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, Tryon, NC

25th 20th Union County Saddle Club Schooling D & CT
UCSC, Monroe, NC

30th Apple Tree Farm Schooling Show
Apple Tree Farm, Windsor, SC

April SCDCTA Events

15th SC Schooling Dressage & CT
Sawyer Equestrian, Hopkins, SC

29th-30th Camden Dressage, USDF Recognized 2-Day Show
SC Equine Park, Camden, SC

May SCDCTA Events

10th Stable View Schooling Show
Stable View, Aiken, SC

13th SC Schooling Dressage & CT
Sawyer Equestrian, Hopkins, SC

20th Foothills Equestrian Nature Center-Fence Schooling Show
Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, Tryon, NC

20th Union County Saddle Club Schooling D & CT
UCSC, Monroe, NC

For complete Calendar of Events and links to specific shows,
please visit our website scdcta.com/calendar.html

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