

V O L U M E · 6

SCDCTA



JUNE-JULY 2024



PART 2 - BUCKY...WHAT'S
IN A NAME?

PROFILE: MIKE STINE

AMATEUR CORNER

SPRINGTIME
HIGH SCORES

Tracking UP

Newsletter
of the
South Carolina
Dressage &
Combined Training
Association

LAS VEGAS DE MASSA
ON HIS WAY TO HIGH SCORE



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

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JUNE 2024

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

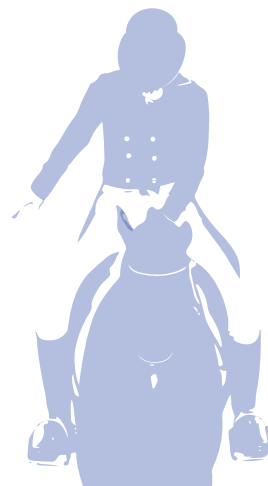
SCDCTA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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.

Cover photo: k.maginnis
Las Vegas de Massa
Open high score: both days Springtime Dressage I & II
rider: Jill Allard
Owner: Nancy Rogers



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.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

JUNE 2024

TRISHA DINGLE

As I write this, I'm staring out my office window at the rain. I'm not going to complain - we've had far too little of it the past few months, and I'm grateful for greener pastures and a softer grass arena to ride in. But it does put a damper on my day, as it means I most likely won't have time to work both, or even one, of my horses before I have to go to my job.



JOB. Now that's a bit of a foreign concept to me. I've been *working* my entire life, since I started cleaning tack and mucking stalls at age 11 to pay for my riding lessons. However the majority of the past thirty-something years since has been spent as a PROFESSIONAL horse trainer and barn manager. Growing up I never had any intentions of going pro - I knew what a tough lifestyle choice it was and I preferred the idea of attending college, working a "normal" job, and competing my horses as an amateur. I had every intention of competing at the highest level of my chosen sport (at the time three-day eventing), and felt I'd have more time and money to do that if I wasn't running my own barn, tied down by students and training horses. However life had different plans for me, and for twenty-five years I introduced myself as a professional horse trainer.

The world is changing, and it's making it harder and harder for pros to make a living AND put our horses' well-being at the forefront. My circumstances changed, and without a home base I found myself taking on fewer students and training horses. For a few years I've walked that line between "Professional" and "Amateur" - yes I have the training and education of a pro, but hopping on the occasional pleasure horse to school or teaching a beginner lesson here and there just isn't the same as riding 3-6 competitive horses and coaching riders at an elite level. So last fall I finally bit the bullet and decided to give up my professional status and become a card carrying adult amateur - that would give me more time to focus on my own horses, right?

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Boy was I wrong! As a young pro I'll admit I was envious of my adult amateur clients - they could leave their job and family at the barn door, and spend time just enjoying their horses and camaraderie of fellow horsemen while I had my "job" follow me whether I was trying to spend time with my own horses or enjoy a fun afternoon with barn friends. But growing up when I put it out to the universe that I wanted to be an Amateur, I forgot to mention I wanted to be an independently wealthy amateur lol! Because you know what, trying to juggle a 40 hour + work week AND care for my own farm AND support an elderly parent is HARD! I'll admit, running a full time training barn is not without

its struggles, but I really took for granted how nice it was to make my own schedule. Raining in the morning? No problem, stay inside and do house or barn chores until it clears up. Too hot in the afternoons? Start work before sunrise, take a siesta, then finish up after dark. Not so easy when your full time job now has set hours and you have to fit the rest of your life around that time frame. And while there are the few amateurs who may be able to set their own work schedule and have more freedom in their day, the vast majority of us are struggling to make it all work out - even harder when you have competitive aspirations.

On that note, I am happy to introduce a new feature to Tracking Up: "Amateur Corner". This will be a regular column featuring real life advice from real life amateurs. I hope you enjoy it, and I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any ideas for the column or would like to contribute. Meanwhile my hats off to all you other adults with "real jobs" - and I'm going to now cut this short as its stopped raining and I'm going outside to try to ride before the next storm.



Trisha



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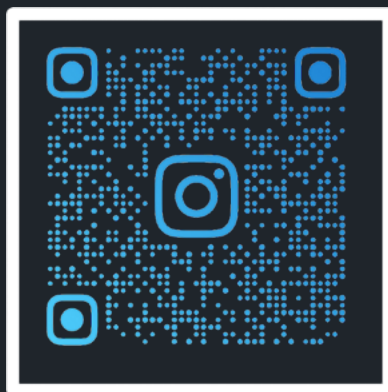
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WHO YOU GONNA CALL

A Guide to SCDCTA

Committee Heads



SCDCTA's day-to-day operations are conducted by a series of committees responsible for different activities. If you've ever wondered who you should call with questions about getting a schooling show recognized, how your business can become a show sponsor, or who to call about a clinic idea, here is a handy list to make sure you reach the best person as quickly as possible.

Membership: Missouri Powers (Membership@scdcta.com)

Recognized USDF dressage shows:

Marcy Hippey (President@scdcta.com)-volunteers, judges/officials, administrative

Carol Freligh (Treasurer@scdcta.com)—entries, program

Schooling Show Recognition: Linda Kelly (showrecog@scdcta.com)

Schooling Show Championships: Carol Freligh (Treasurer@scdcta.com)

Sponsorship: Tierney Boyd (Tierney@scdcta.com)

Newsletter-website liason: Trisha Dingle (Editor@scdcta.com)

Juniors/Young Riders: Kathryn Butt (klb317@gmail.com)-including annual junior clinics

Education/Clinics: --

Communications: Lisa Hinkle (Secretary@scdcta.com)-including social media

Year-end Points and Awards: Sharon Anderson (Sharon@scdcta.com)

Annual Awards Banquet:

Sharon Anderson (sharon@scdcta.com) — venue, administrative

Tierney Boyd Tierney@scdcta.com) — silent auction

Volunteer Coordinator: Marcy Hippey (President@scdcta.com)

Volunteer Hours: Sharon Anderson (Sharon@scdcta.com)

Elections: Lisa Hinkle (Secretary@scdcta.com)

To reach the entire board, please email info@scdcta.com



SCDCTA



BUSINESS NEWS

Tracking Up Advertising Rates

Full Page (7" x 10"): \$40 members; \$50 non-members

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**All SCDCTA members are entitled to one free classified ad/issue

**Business members are entitled to *2* free 1/2 page ads or *1* free full page ad/ membership year. Any additional ads available at 50% off above listed member prices.

Benefits of SCDCTA Business Membership

- » GMO membership with USDF (1/business)
- » Eligible for year-end awards as an Adult Amateur or Open rider (volunteer hours & lifetime horse registration still required)
- » Eligible for SCDCTA member high and low score awards at SCDCTA recognized schooling shows and high score USDF shows (if available per the prizelist)
- » Listing on the SCDCTA website and in the quarterly magazine with your Logo or business card
- » Listing in the USDF Recognized Show Programs (Low Country Classic and Springtime).
- » Eligible to promote business with a banner at SCDCTA Recognized USDF Shows held at Mullet Hall & SC Equine Park. The owner must provide the banner to the show organizer (Marcy Hippey president@scdcta.com).
- » Receive our quarterly award-winning digital magazine TRACKING UP
- » *FREE* ½ page ad in the magazine twice per year or a full page ad once per year. Must request this ad and provide the graphics/ text for the ad to editor@scdcta.com
- » 50% reduced cost for any additional ads requested for the magazine
- » 50% discount for schooling show recognition (\$5 vs. \$10 for non-members)
- » Business profiled in TRACKING UP once/year.
- » Promotion of your business on the Public SCDCTA Group Facebook Page. Only businesses that are members can promote their business on the SCDCTA Group Facebook Page.
- » Business membership costs only \$100/year

Important Dates

June 28-30

SCDCTA Annual Junior/YR Dressage Clinic, Camden, SC

July 1 USDF Arts Contest Entries Due

August 15 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Nominations Due

August 23-25 Made In the Shade I, II, III & East Coast Breeders Championships, Clemson, SC

August 31 USDF GMO Awards Submissions Due

August 31

USDF Creative GMO Sponsored Program Nominations Due

August 31 USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year Nominations Due

August 31 USDF Youth Convention Scholarship & Ruth Arvanette Grant Applications Due

October 18-19 SCDCTA Steven Hayes Adult Clinic, Camden, SC

October 19-20 SCDCTA Oktoberfest Schooling Show Championships, Camden, SC

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**Alison Head – S, SC**

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**Rebecca Armstrong – r, CA**

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# BUSINESS PROFILE



## Equine Dynamics *Horses in Motion*

"Well...do you have good sense?"

This is usually the first question Mike Stine will ask when someone approaches him with interest in becoming a farrier. If the answer is "no", then he claims that's an excellent first step in learning about the profession!

All joking aside, Mike did not start out as a farrier; in fact he was a lineman for Duke Power who learned how to trim and shoe just to save money on his own horses. Then a life altering illness - not to Mike, but to his best friend - changed the course of his career. The little buckskin mare Siva helped Mike through difficult high school years, and when she was struck with laminitis it devastated him. Despite doing all they knew how to do at the time, his vet and farrier could not save the mare's life, and she passed away the same day as Secretariat - October 4th, 1989.

From that moment forward this power company worker from Monroe, NC decided he was going to dedicate his life to learning all he could about proper hoof care, specifically therapeutic trimming and shoeing, so that no one else would have to lose their best friend to lack of knowledge. But even Mike didn't realize how this one traumatic event in his life would lead to an even larger journey into the world of equine biomechanics, not just farrier work. His motto is "horses should retire from old age, not unsoundness".

Dedicated to learning all that he can to help horses, Mike sought out education and accreditation wherever he could - he is an Accredited Professional Farrier™ (APF-I) with the American Association of Professional Farriers; a Registered Journeyman Farrier (RJF) with the Guild of Professional Farriers; and a Certified Journeyman



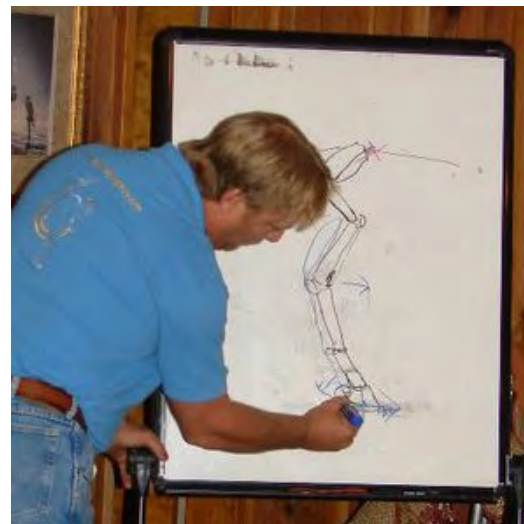
Farrier II (CJF II) with the Brotherhood of Working Farriers (BWFA). In 1990 Mike attended a course with Dr. Redden, one of the foremost equine veterinary podiatrists in the country. Since then he has continued to attend classes

# BUSINESS PROFILE

## P2



with Dr. Redden in advanced podiatry training, as well as doing consultations with him, assisting him with cases at NC State University, and regularly does referral calls for Dr. Redden. Although farriers are not required to fulfill annual continuing education requirements like veterinarians, Mike continues to attend at least one event, symposium, or course each year to keep his knowledge up to the latest standards of care.



While Mike originally set out to focus on therapeutic shoeing and still specializes in laminitic horses, along the way he discovered that in order to prevent many unsoundnesses one must evaluate the whole horse, not just the feet. This led to the study of equine biomechanics and conformation, as well as courses in equine massage therapy and saddle fitting. Mike has become an expert in evaluating a horse's movement, able to pinpoint where there may be problems, and making appropriate adjustments to trimming and/or shoeing. His varied education and experience gives him the ability to recommend to owners what other experts they need to seek out - be it a veterinarian, a saddle fitter, or some other body worker. Mike believes strongly that "no farrier is an island" and to be successful a farrier needs to have a good working relationship with the veterinarian and other professionals working with the horse.

Although therapeutic cases are still dear to him, they can be heartbreaking, and Mike has discovered a love of working on competitive horses, specifically upper level dressage and three-day eventers. Through the course of his career Mike has had the opportunity to be a part of a number of high level competitions, most markedly he was one of the official farriers for the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon (AAPF team). He has also been the official farrier for the 2017 American Eventing Championship at Tryon International Equestrian Center, the 2018 Three-Day

Eventing Test event for the World Equestrian Games (Tryon), has been the official farrier for 9 years at The Fork Horse Trials FEI \*\*\*\* qualifier (2010-2018) and was the Evaluating Farrier for the 2008 USEF Endurance Team East Coast training session.



As a farrier Mike believes strongly in including not just other equine medical professionals, but the horse's owner and trainer in discussing trimming/shoeing needs. Because of this he is committed to educating horse owners so that they can take an active part in their horses' overall soundness and preventative care. In addition to his busy shoeing business, Mike gives talks and teaches clinics ranging from basic hoof anatomy and care to evaluation of movement patterns, conformation, and muscle development across the country.

Oftentimes he teams up with other professionals like veterinarians, body workers, or trainers in order to offer participants a well rounded outlook on how everything ties in together. Besides local venues, Mike has been a presenter, along with Ray Morris,



in multiple clinics in New Zealand /Australia and a Speaker at the 2017 International Lameness Prevention Conference; he has also been a presenter at Equitana, the Carolina Classic Horse Expo, Southern Horse Festival, and multiple other venues.

Most notably Mike was a speaker at the 2020 International Hoof Care Summit, an annual educational event attended by farriers and veterinarians from around the world.

In order to reach out and educate more horse owners, in the fall of 2021 Mike teamed up with a client's husband to start producing his own podcast, Equine Dynamics Podcast. Not only do the podcasts feature educational talks from Mike on a variety of hoof and movement related topics, but they feature guest speakers ranging anywhere from veterinarians and body workers, to accomplished trainers, to other farriers. Anyone who has met Mike knows that he has an impishness to him, and his interactions with both the host and his guest speakers is not only educational but is extremely entertaining! Now in its 9th season, the Equine Dynamics Podcast can be accessed through Mike's website



equinedynamics.com and can also be found on I-Heart Radio. If you'd like to watch and listen, visit Mike's YouTube Channel (search Mike Stine Equine Dynamics).

Based out of Monroe, NC, Mike Stine can be frequently seen around the Carolina's at local events and horse shows. When he's not working (which isn't often!) he enjoys visiting with horse owners and trainers, and loves attending competitions where he can cheer on his clients as they compete. Mike is available not only for shoeing consultations but as a guest speaker and clinician - he can be reached through his website: [equinedynamics.com](http://equinedynamics.com) or at 704-821-4799. 🐾



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# In memory of Fancy

3/4/03 - 3/3/24



PC: The Summer House

March 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year I was anticipating sending a message to my mare's lessee to "give Fancy a beer on me for her 21st birthday tomorrow". But instead I awoke to a message no horse owner wants to hear - Fancy isn't doing well, we are on our way to see her. Unfortunately there was nothing they or the vet could do, and she passed away one day shy of her birthday.

17 years ago Ima Bustn Loose came into my life the way most of my personal horses have - as a training horse that I just couldn't give up. A pure Polish Arabian destined for the racetrack, the mare lived up to her name and was just too sensitive and terrified of grandstands, so her breeders sent her to me to retrain and resell. None of us knew that buyer would end up being me! Most people who met Fancy were immediately enamored by her larger than life personality - quivering her lips whenever nervous, and kissing everyone she met (a trick her co-owner and I eventually regretted teaching her!). Her breeder had given her the barn name as a filly - born a brilliant chestnut with blaze, stockings up past her hocks, a belly spot and spot on her knee - Fancy definitely stood out in a crowd. Even as she greyed out she retained that "stand out" look, despite the fact that she had the least "typey" head of any Arabian I'd ever known!

Fancy had all the Prix horse - she hands and had a canter you could ride plans for her, but didn't agree. Most won't remember mostly showed her "retired" her from a ten year old. But will well remember at local schooling occasional USDF



makings of a Grand stood just shy of 16 big floaty trot plus a all day. I had great unfortunately Fancy current members us competing, as I at breed shows and the show ring as long term members me showing Fancy shows and the show - but not

# Fancy



PC: Liz Crawley Photography

Editor's note: SCDCTA supports the wearing of ASTM/SEI certified headgear. This photo is a historical photo from back when wearing top hats was common; I \*always\* wear a helmet when I ride now.

because of our brilliance in the dressage arena. No matter how hard I tried, Fancy was a nervous wreck when competing and we often entertained spectators with "expressive" flying changes and lovely airs above the ground. With help from my amazingly patient trainer Jill Allard, Fancy and I did progress to schooling Prix St George, but my frustrations with low scores and a continually stressed out horse led to me cutting her show career short.

Fancy had the opportunity to attempt a number of other careers - RPSI approved broodmare (she wouldn't hold a pregnancy), western dressage (nope that involved shows), jumping (only if there were no flowers or other scary fillers), and finally endurance. This she excelled at, but unfortunately her lessees could not keep her sound. By pure luck I stumbled on the career that Fancy was born to do - Equine Facilitated Therapy. With her lessees up in North Carolina Fancy thrived in her new life, because in actuality she'd always been a "mirror", reflecting back to me all of my stress, nervousness,

and insecurities as a young trainer, as well as my undiagnosed ADHD. In her short time with the Stricklands Fancy made a huge difference in the lives of so many people, but unfortunately cancer ended her life just as it truly had begun.

I always expected that Fancy would return to me to retire, so losing her to a sudden illness at only 21 years old was quite the shock. I regret that I never got to finally thank her and say goodbye, or ask her forgiveness. Although I did learn how to train flying changes and canter pirouettes with her, I didn't realize her true gift to me until it was too late: and that is the fact that our horses are ALWAYS communicating with us, all we have to do is listen. Fancy had to nearly scream at me before I really took the time to listen, and it is because of her that I am the horsewoman I am today. I can only hope to do right by my boys now in her memory.



PC: Nancy Sluys





# UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

## USDF Membership/Horse Registration Checklist

If you plan to compete soon, use this list to ensure everything is in place prior to the show:

- ✓ Do you have the correct horse registration in place? Do you need a Horse Identification (HID) number or a Lifetime Registration? Please take proof of registration with you to the show.
- ✓ If your horse is registered with USDF and US Equestrian Federation (USEF), do the registered name and ownership (including lease recordings) match with both organizations? Please note, if the owner with USEF is a business, the owner should be the business with USDF as well.
- ✓ Is your membership active? Do you need a Group, Participating or Business Membership? Please bring proof of membership with you to the show. Also please note that there is a membership requirement for both riders and owners - *if the horse has more than one registered owner, only list the owner with an active membership on the show entry.*
- ✓ Before you submit a competition entry, double check that your entry lists the correct owner and rider. *If there is an active lease recording on file, the lessee should be listed as the owner on the show entry.* With the [USDF/USEF Master Verification](#), you can check and print the status of all registrations and memberships.
- ✓ Check with USEF to make sure their membership and horse registration requirements have also been met.

To check the membership and horse registration **eligibility requirements** for various USDF education, awards and championship programs, refer to the [USDF Member Guide](#). If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact the USDF Member Services Department at [usdressage@usdf.org](mailto:usdressage@usdf.org).

# SCDCTA JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER CLINIC

# ADAM LASTOWSKA

The SCDCTA Annual Youth Clinic is so pleased to welcome Adam Lastowka to the South Carolina Equine Park, Your Camden Showgrounds, on June 29 & 30!

**June 29-30, 2024**

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Adam Lastowka is a 5 Star rated Dressage Trainer who has an impressive back ground in multiple equestrian disciplines. Adam moved to GA in 2004 and operated the beautiful After the Fox Farm in Madison. Adam has shown numerous horses at the FEI level and continues to develop dressage prospects, having worked with Robert Dover, Kathy Connelly and Henk van Bergen. As a teacher

Adam's infectious personality brings humor to the riding arena while remaining serious enough to make sure his students reach their goals. With his well trained, precise eye for spotting a good dressage horse, Adam has been very successful finding students the right horse. On a daily basis Adam and Roel work closely together to make Atlanta Dressage a place that stands for quality riding combined with having a good time.

Thank-you to all our supporters, and a special shout out to SCDCTA Youth Rep Lillian Frenzel for all of her hard work obtaining these amazing swag sponsors!

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- » Jr/YR Rider Applications were emailed in May
- » Juniors audit for free
- » Adults auditors are welcome at \$20/day--and we will be raffling off 1 additional slot to ANY current SCDCTA member!
- » Keep an eye on our FB page for that info!



# “YOU NAMED HIM BUCKY ????!!!”

“OH SH\*\*!”

PART 2

## A STAR IS BORN

Bucky with his Top 10 Ribbon from the Arabian Sport Horse Alliance, 2022



In May of 2018, we decided to have Bucky re-xrayed. He had remained 100% sound since his initial recovery from the fractured navicular bone 8 years earlier, but our farrier Mike Stine was curious to see what it looked like and as I was planning on putting the stallion back into consistent work we thought it would be a good idea to have it checked out. Because the new bone and connective tissue that fills in breaks is a different density from original bone, you can still see the initial fracture line. However the navicular itself looked healthy with no signs of changes or displacement that could cause trouble down the road. After years of wearing front shoes just as a precaution,



Bucky in his first UCSC Dressage show of 2022. PC Tom DePuy

“

...Bucky adapted to the gelding life, and I was down to only a couple of horses, so it was time for him to start earning his keep. Bucky was only thirteen, sound, and healthy - way too young to become a retired pasture ornament.”

”

Bucky was now barefoot and I was determined to put him back into consistent training. After all I had a Reserve National Champion Sport Horse Stallion standing in my pasture, and it was time he fulfill his destiny.

That same day I received the heart wrenching news that the Lucases were having to sell Whitehaven, Bucky's birthplace and the farm I had been training out of. They would be moving back to Mount Pleasant to be near their children, and we had to find homes for five remaining horses, including 13 year old stallion Bucky and his 26 year old sire Bodacious. We had had high hopes for "WH The Aga Khan" as a herd sire for Arabian sport horses, but so many factors seemed to have gotten in the way, and Bucky had only been bred a handful of times siring just three foals. However we felt the best thing to do would be to castrate him as it would be easier to place him as a gelding. Unfortunately training issues that had arisen over the years made him unrideable for anyone but an experienced rider looking for a project, and as it turned out that rider was going to have to be me.

Now Bucky and I had always had a love-hate relationship - I think probably because I had wanted my chestnut filly and I'd never forgiven him for being a grey colt lol. But we just never did mesh like I had with his older brother Tumbler (WH Marengo), and as Bucky was born during a time when I had a large number of training horses to focus on he was always put on the back burner. One of the greatest mistakes I have made in my life as a professional trainer was pushing Bucky aside and allowing one of my working students, who had fallen in love with the young opinionated stallion, to take over his training. The girl was just not experienced enough and a very stiff rider; she tried to hold Bucky into a frame riding more front to back despite regular lessons with me. This is incorrect training with any horse, but particularly with the Bodacious line as they do not like stiff riders and they do not like anyone sitting up on their shoulders "holding" them. I

used to write off Bucky's antics as being a young green stud, and did not realize until too late that his rider was creating most of the issues and actually picking fights with him when I was not around. When I would school him before her lessons and get him in front of my leg Bucky was a joy to ride. Unfortunately our lesson work was never followed through with, and I was too busy to notice the damage being done. The few schooling dressage shows we took him to were always a disaster - regardless of who was riding, Bucky was tense, nervous, and overall a very unhappy horse. By now it had become a very tricky situation involving farm lease/management, friendships, and so on, so taking the girl off of the horse was not really an option. Fortunately as she became busier with her own business she lost interest in Bucky and he was tossed out to pasture. This is one of my biggest regrets in my career with horses, as poor Bucky paid the price and got all the blame.

I had tried a handful of times to put Bucky back in training with me, but something always came up and he was tossed aside once again. This of course did nothing to help him physically or mentally, and certainly did nothing to improve our relationship. In 2018, after a brief move to NC, I was back home and rebuilding my training business when I got the news about having to move. Once again Bucky's schooling was to be interrupted. Fortunately we were able to place the four other horses, and after doing some juggling with my personal horses Bucky made the move to the Florence Area Humane Society Hands Helping Horses with me - FAHS had recently become clients and it made sense

for me to move my horses to their facility in Effingham, SC. By now I had Bucky's 3/4 brother Tango (Entre Toi et Moi), who I had bred, raised, and was training to be my upper level dressage horse. Tango and I have an extremely special relationship, and as I still had some



Bucky-xray healed



David Lucas visiting Bucky at the FAHS barn

knots he'd built up with his previous ridden work. Over the next couple of months we ruled out ulcers, teeth, kissing spine, and arthritis. Saddle fit was tricky - no longer having a full training business I only had a couple of saddles left, and none of them were a perfect fit. Bucky jokingly became known as "Goldilocks" - this saddle's too wide, this saddle is too long, this saddle pinches my shoulders...Bucky's short slightly dropped back, well-sprung ribs but narrow shoulders/chest, and his absolute hate of any restriction of his shoulders, would become my nemesis for the next four years.

So what was left? Having ruled out all health issues that could be causing Bucky's unhappiness under saddle, the only thing left was behavioral. Since he was first started under saddle I'd learned so much more about starting young horses, effective ground work, communication, and I had developed a slightly better ability to listen to my horses. Yet Bucky was going to prove to be my

training and sales horses I was working with poor Bucky still remained the "(non)red headed stepchild". Between being gelded and moving to a new farm for the first time in his 13 years, Bucky had a lot to adapt to. I initially tried to keep up with his training but even just walking mounted around the farm brought out severe barn sourness and acting out.

As my life started to stabilize, so did Bucky's. For the first time since he was a two year old (when he chased his younger gelded brother through three fences), he was now turned out with other horses. This transition of course did not come without its fare share of disasters for the accident prone horse, including two separate instances that involved a busted gate and a beat up mare. But eventually Bucky adapted to the gelding life, and I was down to only a couple of horses, so it was time for him to start earning his keep. Bucky was only thirteen, sound, and healthy - way too young to become a retired pasture ornament.

Our first few rides were not fun. On the lunge he still remained a bronc and was not fond of being sent forward. When I sat on him the resistance continued - I could not touch his right rein, and he would slowly spin left to avoid it, including half rears and hops with his front end and the occasional in place buck. If I did try to turn him right it resulted in a full rear. We had no arena at this point, and his behavior remained the same whether I was in a field or trying to hack out on the trail.

### **Behavior or Pain?**

My first chore was to determine if Bucky had any health or soundness issues causing his problems under saddle. Dr. Heather Craven gave him a chiropractic adjustment and found his sacroiliac joint to be out of place. That definitely improved his desire to move forward, but he was still not a happy horse. Massage from Lisa Hinkle released any muscle tension he had as well as old



Mike Stine dropped by one of Bucky's 2022 shows to cheer him on

biggest challenge. I tried everything: restarting him from the ground up; more effective groundwork to build our relationship; lunging & ground driving to build his topline before sitting on him; discipline in the saddle when he acted up (not a good idea - that just brought out the fight in him); discipline from the ground and/or groundwork when he acted up under saddle; excessive praise when he would behave. All I wanted to do was walk quietly around the farm with no pressure: no longer did I have aspirations of national titles, my only goal was for Bucky to see our rides as relaxing and enjoyable. While he would eventually stop with his antics and begrudgingly go for a walk around the farm he still was unhappy, leaving me increasingly frustrated. Nothing seemed to work consistently - even when grooming Bucky had a wary "I hate you and don't trust you" look in his eye. Out of despair I finally stumbled upon the one



Bucky happily hanging out with Missy Freigh on Bravado, owned by Anne Duffe, at a UCSC schooling show

thing that seemed to work consistently - not reacting when he acted up, just raising my voice and scolding him until he finally stood still

and eventually chose to walk off calmly on his own, at which point I would give excessive praise. I think this may go back to his time as a breeding stallion - I normally used a raised voice to discipline the studs in the breeding shed and rarely used the stud chain unless they became extremely unruly or dangerous, and Bucky seemed to react well to this. It was humorous from a bystander's view, and I had to warn anyone at the farm that if they heard me yelling across the field I was fine and not to panic unless Bucky returned to the barn without me! It finally got to the point where I could mount Bucky in front of the barn with no lunging, and ask him to walk quietly around the farm - if he considered humping his back or kicking out I would just growl at him and then praise when he continued on. Within six months or so we were even trotting on a loose rein around the perimeter of the pastures and inside his turnout field with little bad behavior.

As Bucky's positive response continued, I was able to start asking a little more of him. Bucky needed to learn to stretch over his back and down into the contact (something missed in his early training), so as he became more trusting of the bit and my hand, I started to encourage him to be working in a stretching frame at all times, even when hacking around the pastures. Gradually I was able to sneak in some "field dressage" - as I explained to Bucky this was all about strengthening his topline and hindquarters, which would prolong his health and happiness into old age. Bucky wasn't really convinced! As he got stronger and fitter the antics became less - but they didn't quite go away. Bucky continued to remain slightly "cold backed", especially following multiple days off. Of my three saddles - an old western Arabian saddle, his brother Tango's very wide Albion hoop tree dressage saddle, and my medium wide Albion hoop tree jump saddle, the jump saddle seemed to be his favorite. With help from my wonderful saddle fitter Mike Scott, we managed to get him as comfortable

as possible while I attempted to sell the dressage saddle - by now Tango had his own customized Mike Scott Baroque

dressage saddle, so my plan was to sell the Albion dressage and purchase Bucky his very own saddle. We assumed because the Albion did not fit Bucky that the Baroque wouldn't either, as the brothers have two completely different shapes.

### **No One Wants a Teenager**

Bucky had grown to enjoy trail riding and hacking out, and now that he was becoming a pretty solid citizen I decided it was time to find him his own person. I was more interested in pursuing competitive dressage, and we still hadn't really formed any sort of bond. To make matters worse I was dealing with an old back/hip injury that made it difficult for me to ride one horse a day let alone two. I spent the majority of 2021 in pain and/or babying my back, so decided to list Bucky for sale or possibly lease. The year after Covid saw a drastic increase in prices for horses, and a demand for quiet trail horses, so even though Bucky was a less sought after breed, finding him a new home should be easy peasy, right? Boy was I wrong! It did not matter what I priced him at, which ranged from the very reasonable \$3500 - \$7500, or even if I offered him up for lease. He was sixteen approaching seventeen, and while I received a number of phone calls on him he was always turned aside because of age, lack of show or trail miles, or both. He left the farm twice - once on lease for a month but was returned because he needed some work on crossing water. The second was to the perfect home with someone I knew to be a trail horse for her granddaughter - the sale hinged on the acceptance of my friend's quiet mare of Bucky, as one would need to be ponied from the other. Unfortunately Izzy hated the now quiet former stallion. I couldn't even give the horse away, so it looked like Bucky was stuck with me!

My Albion was proving to be just as difficult to sell as Bucky was, so he still did not have his own saddle. I reached out to friends and was able to borrow an old flat as can be Passier dressage saddle from Missouri Freigh, and again while not perfect Bucky seemed to take to it; his antics at the canter nearly disappeared.

Fortunately by now I'd found an amazing chiropractor that knew horse people and human biomechanics who was able to fix my hip problem, so while it would take quite a bit of time to regain strength and fix my imbalances, I was finally pain free.

I was happy, Bucky seemed to be happy with the borrowed saddle, so we started playing around with a day a week in the dressage ring I had set up in my pasture. It was January of 2022, and I started to wonder, could Bucky actually return to the show arena and behave?

### A Star Is Born

We decided to give it a try in February of 2022 at the Union County Saddle Club Britches & Bridles schooling dressage show. I had shown in the series the previous year with Tango, and found everyone to be so kind and positive that I wanted to continue supporting the shows. With Tango going back to USDF




Bucky showing off his very first 1st place ribbon from the 2022 UCSC Britches & Bridles Schooling Dressage Show

shows, I thought maybe I could show Bucky at training level for fun. I'll admit I was a little apprehensive trotting down that first center line - our schooling had initially started out a little tense, but Bucky finally had started to relax. I had nothing to worry about; after our first halt/salute Bucky took a big breath and tried very hard to work with me and do

what I asked; I was so very proud of him. Missouri was with us at the show and when she came back to the trailer holding a first place ribbon I was shocked! Then I saw our score - 67.692%! I immediately signed Bucky up for the UCSC year end program and made plans for the rest of the show season.

In each show of 2022 Bucky became more and more relaxed competing at training level. While we never could quite score high enough to win another class, his scores remained in the mid-high 60's. I started to get a little voice in my head wondering - could he possibly be ready to do the SCDCTA Oktoberfest Schooling Show Championships in October? Amidst an approaching thunderstorm Bucky earned his last qualifying score for SSC, and plans were made. The addition of four shoes that summer virtually did away with any "porpoising" issues he still had at the canter and I was incredibly optimistic. Unfortunately Bucky's show nerves did get the best of him in Camden - after relaxing into a good frame in the warmup he got stage fright showing in a new arena and backed way off my leg. Despite his nerves Bucky tried very hard to behave with no spooking or bucking; it was a tense test but earned us a respectable Reserve Champion ribbon.

Bucky's consistency throughout the year earned him a number of year end awards: UCSC Series Champion Training Level Adult, SCDCTA 3rd Place Training Level Open/Schooling Shows, and a National Top 10 for All Breeds Dressage (all levels) from the Arabian Sport Horse Alliance. But even more rewarding was the fact that Bucky was now working with me as a full partner, his eye had softened and we had finally found that bond we'd been lacking. At the age of 18, after a fractured navicular bone, severe behavioral issues, and inconsistent training, could Bucky actually have a show career with me? 

## Equine Dynamics

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A red promotional card for Mike Stine Equine Dynamics. It features the text "MIKE STINE" and "equinedynamicsusa@gmail.com" at the top. Below that is "10% off Equine One products." and a QR code. Under the QR code is "USE DISCOUNT CODE: EQUINEDYNAMICS". At the bottom, it says "YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT" and "EQUINE ONE www.equine.one".



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A green and black graphic for the "Equine Dynamics Podcast". The text "Equine Dynamics" is in large, bold, black letters at the top. Below it, "with MIKE STINE" and "Creating Sounder Horses" are written in smaller black text. In the center is a large, stylized black horseshoe. At the bottom, the word "PODCAST" is written in large, bold, black letters.

Introducing . . .



Following my plea in the March issue to hear from our members, Marissa Collins emailed me with this fabulous idea for an "Adult Amateur Corner" section in our quarterly newsletter. I absolutely loved this idea, and had it in my original outline for TU when I took over, but it just never had come to fruition...until now! Marissa will be providing input, and again we'd love to hear from our current AA members about what YOU want to discuss in this column. Anything goes - from questions regarding training, or how to handle certain situations that are unique to AAs, to celebrations and shout outs for achievements. Stay tuned to our SCDCTA FB page for topics and questions for upcoming newsletters, and feel free to email me at editor@scdcta.com with any topics or ideas you have. ~Trisha Dingle, Tracking Up Editor

## Time Management

by Marissa Collins

As an adult amateur many of us juggle a lot of different roles. These include spouse, partner, parent, son/daughter, employee, boss, student and more! It can be overwhelming to fulfill everyone's needs, your own and find time to ride! Here are just a few tips and tricks I have found over the years:

### **Plan Ahead!**

Planning helps me make sure I am scheduling in my ride time and time for everything else. Organization is a key part of planning ahead. Whether it be an electronic calendar or hard copy planner, I highly recommend getting into this system! First, I make sure I have all major "can't miss" events on my calendar. Work, appointments, weddings, trips, etc. I then create my riding schedule around those key events. If I cannot ride on a Tuesday because I have a late work event, I make sure I schedule in to ride the day before and after. I then create my plan of what I plan to do with that ride, hack, dressage, pole work, jump, etc. And most importantly, I stick to it! By having a plan for each ride helps me stay motivated to ride on those days where I am tired and just want to go home from work. Also, if I know I am going to have a particularly busy day at work I try to schedule that as a day off or a day where I do not have to "think" while I ride such as taking a hack or doing a trot set.

### **Schedule Weekly Social Time**

I also make a point to schedule in time for my significant other. Sometimes I try for lesson days to be on Saturday's so then I can give my horse Sunday off and have a full day to spend with my boyfriend, rest or to do something social. If I had a busy horse show weekend, I try to schedule a free weeknight to spend time with him and/or I try to make sure the following weekend is not as busy. I will admit, as

Adult

Amateur  
Corner

# Adult Amateur Corner

2

someone who is very dedicated to putting riding first, this was hard for me. But not only does my relationship benefit from it, but so do I as it forces me to take a break from horses (even if I do not want to!).

### Take Care of Yourself!

Make sleep and nutrition a priority. Trying to fit riding in most days can be exhausting. Some days after work I struggle to find the energy to go to the barn.

Making sure I get the right amount of sleep and that I eat good meals, bring snacks and water can really help keep me going.

### Give Yourself Grace

Give yourself a break sometimes. As someone who is constantly on the go, this is often the hardest thing for me. If I am not doing something or I do not go ride a day I planned to ride, I feel incredibly guilty. This is something I still must work on, but I am improving. What helps me is:

Remember why you do it; Many of us did not start riding for the ribbons, awards and moving up the levels. Most of us started riding because we loved horses.

You're Lucky; As someone who does not do this professionally, I often remind myself that I am lucky that I am able to continue to do this sport I love and how

many of us continue to get to do this sport (or hobby) for most of our lives. Or think of the many horse crazy kids like we once were who don't get the chance to ride.

Your horse does not care; Your horse does not care he did not get ridden today. Your horse does not care about nailing the perfect flying change or moving up the levels or winning a ribbon.

While it can be difficult to balance everything with riding, it is possible! It takes a little bit of planning, scheduling some non-horsey time, keeping yourself energized and giving yourself some grace!



Giving yourself grace means being kind and forgiving to yourself, even when you've made a mistake. Practice self-compassion, live mindfully, and fight negative self-talk to work towards giving yourself *grace*.

# Let's Talk About Awards

## The Oktoberfest Schooling Show Championships!

One of the most fun parts of GMO membership can be competing in a year-end Championship show! For members who like to show—whether at schooling or recognized shows—championship shows and other GMO award programs can be a great way to support goal-setting in their riding. While USDF has their own Regional and Final Championships, SCDCTA is proud to be able to offer our members who primarily attend schooling shows their own state championships each year, held every October at the SC Equine Park in Camden, SC. Besides championships classes for Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, and Open riders, the Oktoberfest show features non-championship classes, an adult amateur clinic, and many other fun activities and awards.

So, what is required to qualify for the Schooling Show Championships?

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 2024. **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.


Riders can qualify throughout the show year and must earn three scores at the level of your choice from at least **two** different SCDCTA recognized schooling dressage shows or Combined Tests. For dressage riders, one score must be from the highest test of the level. There are no volunteer requirements for

the Championships, and no paperwork to fill out - our points coordinator will track your qualifications for you! SCDCTA recognized schooling shows can be found on our website, [scdcta.com](http://scdcta.com)

SCDCTA Oktoberfest Schooling Show Championships

### **Qualifications at a Glance:**

#### **How to Qualify:**

- » Horse must be SCDCTA lifetime registered
- » Rider must be a current SCDCTA member
- » Earn three scores at the level of your choice from at least two different SCDCTA recognized schooling dressage shows or Combined Tests. For dressage riders, one score must be from the highest test of the level. 

# SPRINGTIME DRESSAGE I & II

## HIGH SCORES

SCDCTA would like to congratulate all of our High Score Award winners from our recent USDF dressage show held at the SC Equine Park in Camden, SC April 27-28. A special THANK-YOU to all of our wonderful sponsors who make these awards possible!

### **Springtime Dressage I High Score Winners**

SCDCTA AA High Score

(Gillespie's Peanuts/Nancy Rogers):

Stone Lester & Gander GSM II 69.583%

SCDCTA Open High Score

(Charleston Veterinary Staffing Services/Desiree Rinker):

Jill Allard & Las Vegas de Massa 69.999%

SCDCTA Junior/YR High Score

(SeaSong Dressage/Ferris Yanney):

McKenna Sykora & Samira 63.333%

Thoroughbred Incentive Program High Score TB

(Mad Kat Dressage/Kathryn Butt):

Brooklyn Timmons & Top Pick 70.312%

Arabian Sport Horse Alliance High Score Arabian-bred

(Tranquility Acres/Trisha Dingle):

Dayna Keevan & Sterling Raz 66.923%

Westfalen Verband NA (Heidi Medlin)

High Score:

Danielle Sintoni & Die Furstin 71.399%

Reserve High Score:

McKenna Sykora & Samira 63.333%

American Warmblood Society and Sporthorse Registry High Score

(Nancy Rogers): Jill Allard & Las Vegas de Massa 69.999%

National Dressage Pony Cup High Scores

(Mad Kat Dressage/Kathryn Butt):

Anissa Slusher & The Marvelous Ms Maple 63.472%

Jovee Farm Pony Cup High Scores (Jovee Farm)

AA:

Anissa Slusher & The Marvelous Ms Maple 65.694%

Open:

Anne Yanney & Forrest Fern 67.857%

Oldenburg High Score:

Jill Allard & Maus 66.190%

# SPRINGTIME DRESSAGE I & II

## HIGH SCORES

SCDCTA would like to congratulate all of our High Score Award winners from our recent USDF dressage show held at the SC Equine Park in Camden, SC April 27-28. A special THANK-YOU to all of our wonderful sponsors who make these awards possible!

### Springtime Dressage II High Score Winners

SCDCTA AA High Score

(Gillespie's Peanuts/Nancy Rogers): Madison Evans & Die Furstin 76.8%

SCDCTA Open High Score

(Charleston Veterinary Staffing Services/Desiree Rinker): Jill Allard & Las Vegas de Massa 72.5%

SCDCTA Junior/YR High Score

(SeaSong Dressage/Ferris Yanney): Mary B. Hills & Biggby 66.081%

Thoroughbred Incentive Program High Score TB

(Mad Kat Dressage/Kathryn Butt): Sydney Johnson & Mae's Racer 70.108%

Arabian Sport Horse Alliance High Score Arabian-

bred (Tranquility Acres/Trisha Dingle): Dayna Keevan & Sterling Raz 66.923%

Westfalen Verband NA (Heidi Medlin) High Score:

Madison Evans & Die Furstin 76.8%

Reserve High Score:

McKenna Sykora & Samira 62.143%

American Warmblood Society and Sporthorse

Registry High Score (Nancy Rogers): Jill Allard & Las Vegas de Massa 72.5%

National Dressage Pony Cup High Scores

(Mad Kat Dressage/Kathryn Butt): Anissa Slusher & The Marvelous Ms Maple 66.806%

### Individual divisions/classes Sponsored By:

**Intro** - Equinox Equine Services  
(Lisa Hinkle)

**Training** - Oakwood Dressage  
(Jill Allard)

**First** - Hidden Creek Dressage  
(Susan Todd)

**Second** - SC Horse Council  
(Ken Maginnis)

**Third** - Equine Dynamics Podcast  
(Mike Stine)

**Fourth** - Freligh Dressage  
(Missouri Freligh)

**FEI** - Equihemp

**USDF Musical Freestyle** -  
Strides to Solutions  
(Esther Nava)

**Opportunity** classes -  
RDM Plasma Art (Ray Mehl)

Jovee Farm **Pony Cup** Classes -  
Jovee Farm

**FEI Musical Freestyle** -  
Stride to Solutions/Esther Nava)

# 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

## June SCDCTA Events

**8th** CT & Dressage Schooling Show  
The Vista., Aiken, SC

**9th** Dressage Schooling Show  
Pine Tree Stables., Camden, SC

**12th** Dressage & CT Schooling Show  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**28-30th** SCDCTA 2024 Jr/YR Clinic  
SCEP, Camden, SC

**29th** Dressage/CT Show  
Sawyer Equestrian , Hopkins, SC

## July SCDCTA Events

**10th** Dressage & CT Schooling Show  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**13-14th** *Only In America Dressage* - USEF/USDF/SCDCTA  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**21st** *Eventing Academy Schooling Horse Trials*  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

## August SCDCTA Events

**11th** *Eventing Academy Schooling Horse Trials*  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**11th** Dressage Schooling Show  
Pine Tree Stables., Camden, SC

**14-18th** *Too Hot To Trot I & II Dressage* - USEF/USDF/SCDCTA  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**24th** "Britches & Bridles" Schooling CT & Dressage Show  
Union County Saddle Club , Monroe, NC

## September SCDCTA Events

**7-8th** FENCE Dressage/CT Schooling Show  
Tryon, NC

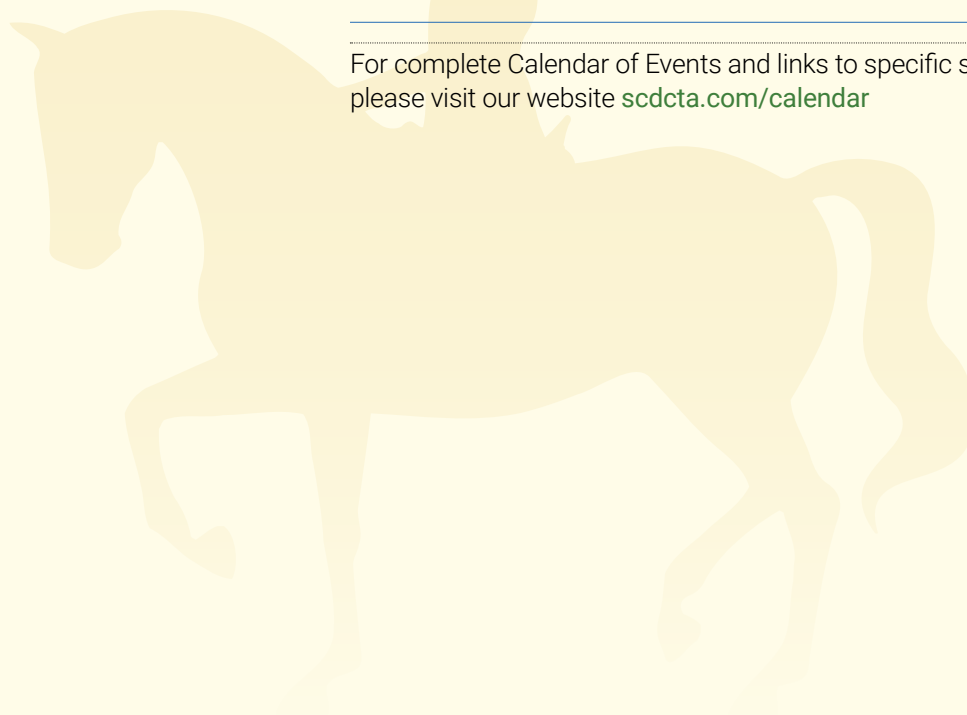
**11th** Dressage & CT Schooling Show  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**14th** *Fall Frenzy Dressage* - USEF/USDF/SCDCTA  
Stable View, Aiken, SC

**21th** "Britches & Bridles" Schooling CT & Dressage Show  
Union County Saddle Club , Monroe, NC

**28th** Middleton Place Equestrian Center Schooling Show Series  
MPEC , Charlestonw, SC

For complete Calendar of Events and links to specific shows,  
please visit our website [scdcta.com/calendar](https://scdcta.com/calendar)



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