

IN FCEA French Creek Equestrian Association

BALANCE

The Official Publication of French Creek Equestrian Association
 Volume VI, Issue 6 November/December 2014

Upcoming Activities

- Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8
Board meetings
- Nov 9 - Veterans Day Paper Chase
- Nov 16 - Lessons with Silva Martin
- Dec 20 - 5K/10K Fund Raiser
- Feb 28 - Annual Awards Banquet

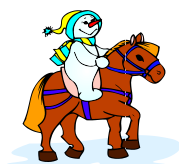
Important Dates: Check web site for latest info

- 11/1 - Last day for new members to join to earn points for 2014.
- 11/30 - Last day to earn points at approved shows.
- 11/30 - Nominations due for special awards.
- 12/15 - Points posted for 2014. Points protest period begins.
- 12/22 - Last day to protest points for 2014.
- 1/1/2015 - Renew NOW for 2015 MEMBERSHIP form on page 19

Remember to check the website for an up to date schedule of activities.

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Inside the Starting Box

Optimist, Pessimist or Realist?

My husband, Seth, always condones me for being a pessimist and I always say, "I'm a realist". In reality, I think that at different points in time, I am an optimist, a pessimist or a realist depending on what I need to be to get through whatever situation is facing me. During the off-season, when training is my primary focus and I have no stress of shows, I would say I'm an optimist. I'm positive about the progress we've made, mostly because it's uncontested, and I'm excited and anxious for the show season. As the shows get closer, and I'm preparing for an event, I am most certainly a pessimist. Every ride the week of an event is awful and I wonder how I'll ever get him into the dressage ring, let alone complete an event. My week is filled with statements such as, "I don't belong at this level", "I don't know why I do this", "I've wasted so much of my life and time on this and it won't possibly work out". When I finally get to the show, I become a realist. I know that I've done my training and I trust my program. I also trust my horse and know his unbelievable talent. I also remember how far we've come as a team and the ups and downs we've already overcome together. For me, the pessimism phase can be prolonged and exaggerated when I have issues. I have trouble forgetting or just chalking it up to a bad day.



This season was filled with ups and downs for Hobbs and I. My end goal was to compete at Fair Hill CIC** in October. I needed to get a qualifying score at a CIC** to get there. Plantation Field CIC** in September was my chosen qualifier and as that date approached we started to run into minor health issues. Hobbs popped an abscess two weeks before Plantation, no big deal give it a few days and he'll be fine just like every other time. Well, a few days turned into 10 days and we didn't get him sound until the Monday before Plantation. Ok, deep breath and we're going for it. We had a wonderful dressage test then during the show jumping warmup he felt awful to me, but appeared sound. We had a terrible round, knocking down 6 rails and missing our qualifying score...I was devastated. The next morning I wake up and Hobbs couldn't put any weight on his hind leg, turns out he had a terrible boot rub that got infected which must've been simmering during our round the day before, so I had to withdraw. Through all of this I felt good, perhaps even optimistic, I felt like I knew why everything had happened and none of this was a result of our training, but bad timing. So I rerouted to Morven Park CIC** two weeks later to give it another go. Again, we have a solid dressage test and get to show jumping. At fence 5 he pulls a shoe but we get around just under the limit for qualification. We then had a very strong XC round and finish Morven with our sights set on Fair Hill. Fair Hill was an amazing experience. I was overcome with emotion after our dressage test which, although it didn't score as well as I thought, was by far our best effort at the international level. I was so pumped for XC and thought we had it, but we had an unfortunate elimination at a corner combination early on in the course. It was a very difficult day, I had been a spectator at the event for so many years, and then when it was all said and done, I still felt like a spectator because I didn't get a completion. Now, a week after the event, I'm trying to not be a pessimist. This was my last competition of the year, and Hobbs is off for several weeks to just be a horse. I have no training to flip me over to optimism, so I've opted for realism. I realize how many other riders go through what I'm going through or worse. I wasn't alone at Fair Hill...roughly 35% of the 110 horses that started the competition were eliminated by XC day. Those odds stink! But, at the end of *(Continued on [page 3](#))*

BRC Activities

French Creek is a member of the British Riding Clubs, and thus, we are allowed to perform the testing for the BRC Riding and Horse Welfare levels, and participate in the Riding Club division of the InterDressage League. Results are shown below.

Contact Louise for more information on the British Riding Club , testing and courses, and FCEA's International Team at ljajb@ptd.net
www.louisejordanbeam.com Cell: 610-506-7411



InterDressage.com Results for August & September

After several months of InterDressage competition, FCEA is holding hard to third place, with only two members showing for the club. Remember there is room for you to compete. With at least eight separate classes, there is at least one class that is suitable for you and your horse. Show as little or as much as you like.

Riding Club standings:

Radway	455
Evergreen	316
French Creek (USA)	197
Cherwell Valley	104

Riding School Standings

Corner House (USA)	441
Summerwood (USA)	333
Swang Pony Centre (UK)	289
County Lane (UK)	192

AUGUST Placings: Individual Placings for all club members:

CLASS 1B (Adult): Walk and Trot E. Intermediate.

- 1 Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain-Corner House RS -USA 76.36%

CLASS TWO A (Adult): Walk and Trot E. Open.

- 6 Sandy Foster & Babble-Corner House RS-USA 74.32%

CLASS TWO B (Adult): Walk, trot, canter, entry level F.

- 9 Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain-Corner House RS -USA 66.50%

CLASS FOUR B (Adult): Old Masters. Starter Test 1.

- 1 Cherie Gaebel & Sequel(66)-French Creek Eq. Assoc. RC-USA 76.94%

CLASS FIVE A (Adult): Baroque Freestyle. Ridden.

- 1 Fay Seltzer & Doodlebug- French Creek Eq. Assoc. RC-USA 87.00%

(Continued on [page 9](#))

Web Sites of Interest

If you would like to receive e-newsletters in your inbox, you can subscribe to several of those newsletters through Equine Network. You can sign up for newsletters from: American Cowboy, Discover Horses, Dressage Today, Equine.com, Equisearch, EQUUS, Horse & Rider, Stablebeat, Equine Journal and many more. To sign up, search for Equine Network newsletters. (Sorry I couldn't find an easier way.)

the day, both Hobbs and I came home safe and sound, and that's really all that matters. We will have another chance and I'm reflecting on the amazing season I had and all of the wonderful progress I made. I did get to Fair Hill which was a huge accomplishment. I'm not quite to the optimism phase for 2015, but I know I will get there!

Best of luck with your riding,

Kelly

(And Dina)

Given an opportunity, you will never be sorry that you tried, but, you may be sorry that you didn't. Go for it!



January '15

February '15

March '15

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Board Meetings 11/6, 12/4, 1/8,
2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2,
8/6, 9/3, 10/1,

FCEA Pointed Shows 2014

Dunmovin Farm
Thorncroft
Dunmovin Farm
Thorncroft - canceled
Thorncroft
Dunmovin Farm
Dunmovin Farm

FCEA Fund Raisers 2014

11/9 Paper Chase - tentative date
12/20 Elves of Elverson 5K, 10K

1/12
1/19
2/1
2/9
3/2
3/8
4/26
5/4
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5/18
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6/8
6/14
6/29
7/12
7/13
7/13
8/2
8/24

Friendly Horsemen's Club
Dunmovin Farm
LVDA
Friendly Horsemen's Club
LVDA
Dunmovin Farm
Straight Forward Dr
Dunmovin Farm
LVDA
Straight Forward Dr
Dunmovin Farm
Straight Forward Dr

Clinics & Seminars 2014

2/22 Fly Sprays & Dewormers @
EE
5/10 Equine Dental Seminar @ EE
6/20-22 Georges Malleroni Clinic
9/27 Pasture Management
? Saddle Fitting
? Rider Fitness
? Core Strength for Horses
? Cindy Stephens
9/13&14 George Williams Clinic @
Justaplain Farm

July '15

August '15

September '15

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27	28	29	30				

April '15							May '15							June '15						
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26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

9/7 Friendly Horsemen's Club

9/14 LVDA

9/20 Dunmovin Farm

10/5 LVDA

10/11 Straight Forward Dr and
CHAMPIONSHIP Show

10/25 Dunmovin Farm

11/15 Dunmovin Farm

Recognized Shows of Note

June 5-8 - Festival of Champions,
Gladstone, NJ

July 15-20 - NAJYRC, Lex KY

July 26-27 - Youth Teams,
Leesburg, VA

Oct 2-5 - Regional Champs, NC

Oct 16-19 - BLM Champs, VA

Nov 6-9 - Nat. Champs, KY

Other Items of Note

3/16 Spring Region One Meeting @
Hasslers

11/13 Fall Region One Meeting -
webinar 7pm

Facility Abbreviations

BCHP - Bucks County Horse Park

DVCTA - Del Val Combined Tr Assoc.

EE - Equine Exchange

FHC - Friendly Horseman's Club

GMF - Great Marsh Farm

JEF - Journey's End Farm

LVDA - Lehigh Valley Dressage Assoc

SFD - Straight Forward Dressage

WWF - Whysper Wynd Farm

Farm/Facility addresses available on
FCEA web site.

* *Please confirm dates at
www.frenchcreekequestrian.org*

"The first time I see a jogger smiling, I'll consider it." — Joan Rivers

October '14							November '14							December '14						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			

The View from E - notes from the editor

This issue is full of activity reports. So many of our members are out there doing things: Competing, Traveling, and Learning. I hope you enjoy this issue and are inspired to report on your own adventures.

In December, I will be attending the USDF convention in Cambridge, Mass. This will be the third time that French Creek has had a representative at the national meeting. This year, however, we are receiving a few awards as a GMO. In the categories for Small GMO of under 75 members, we have earned some awards. In the Newsletter category, we received an honorable mention for Louise Jordan-Beam's scholarship article entitled "You're Only 50 Once" including tips from her experience. Kelly Beaver's president's message "Finding Inspiration" won the General Interest Category, and our new website was awarded first place as "Best User Experience". Now let's see if we can get some photographers motivated to win a photography award. The only catch here is releases must be given for any people in the pictures.

This year, we are sending a Basket of FCEA for the GMO basket tradition. Started by Ruth Arvanette, it continues to be a favorite activity at the BOG, meeting. GMO's from around the US donate these beautiful, customized gift baskets that uniquely represent their club, and winners are drawn throughout the meeting.



The Annual Convention is also full of educational activities and seminars. They keep you going all day. On this year's agenda are topics like: Hind-gut Issues, Adequan, Develop a winning program & partnership, Biomechanics of turning, Importance of Forage, Saddle Fit, The Good the Bad & the Ugly, Replacing nutrients-how why and when, competition forums, round table discussions, rule changes, along with the welcome party, salute gala, and silent auction. The Annual Convention, as I learned last year, is also a great opportunity to get together with other clubs and share experiences. I'll have a convention follow up report for you in January.

Until the next issue,
Keep your life "In Balance."
Fay



"I use poultices to keep warm all winter."

Comments to
nhf2054@gmail.com

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press@mighty-pencil.com



Saturday, December 20
3rd Annual
Elves of Elverson 5K/10K
and 1 mile Fun Run/Walk

8:30 Registration opens
10:00 5K & 10K
10:15 1 mile Fun Run/Walk
11:00 Awards for 5K and 10K



Finish line & timing service provided by Pretzel City Sports.
Race results posted on www.pretzelcitytiming.com

Awards: Medals presented to top three male and female finishers in each of the following age brackets: <14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+. Awards will not be mailed.

Registration: Received by 12/12, \$20 for 5K/10K to receive T-shirt. Entries after 12/12 are \$25 (t-shirt not guaranteed)

Activities and race start at 453 township Line Rd, Elverson, PA
FMI: Seth Beaver 610-507-4873 sethbeaver@hotmail.com

FCEA presents a dressage clinic with

Silva Martin

At Whysper Wynd Farm
Elverson, PA

Sunday, November 16

Cost: Members \$120 All lessons are 45 minute private
Non-members \$135
Auditors: Members FREE Entry Form
Non-Members \$5 on FCEA web site.

Bio: German born, Silva Martin has trained with noted horsemen Paul Beck, Rudolf Zeilinger and Hubertus Schmidt. Silva is a tough competitor, but she is also down to earth, approachable, and relates well to people, making her a superb coach. She has a solid education in dressage training and is happy to impart her knowledge to students of any level.

Normandy WEG

The 2014 World Equestrian Games has received some bad reviews, especially from those who experienced complete gridlock while trying to get to the Cross Country phase of the three day. But, I was fortunate to attend some of the events during the second week of the games along with my sister, and we truly had the trip of a lifetime. We stayed in a hotel in the charming city of Caen that was within walking distance of the show jumping, combined driving, and vaulting venues, and was very close to the WEG Village, which featured unrivaled shopping and dining. The food at the Kentucky WEG was much maligned, and rightly so, but the Normandy organizers did a much better job in both handling the crowds and offering a remarkable mix of sit-down restaurant dining and a multitude of kiosks offering high quality food and drink. While admittedly a small sample, the vendors we spoke to at various tack and equipment booths seemed very pleased with the attendance and the show generally.

The highlight of the games for us was the team show jumping final. The course was beautiful, and the crowd was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. The majority of the commentary was in French, and while I speak no French beyond “merci”, the announcer was so animated that it wasn’t difficult to follow. There was a secondary announcer who quickly tried to give an overview in English, but there often wasn’t time, and he wound up whispering as golf commentators often do



on TV. The competition was exciting, and while Bezie Madden was the only American to have a double clear that day, the US did capture the Bronze medal, and Bezie’s wonderful horse, Cortes C, ultimately won the best horse award after completing four clear rounds with four different riders in the individual final. Much to the delight of the crowd, the French team won the team silver, and later that evening turned up in the WEG village to a hero’s welcome. The Dutch team won the gold.

Virtually everywhere we went in Caen there was either a giant screen or a monitor showing the live competitions or recaps. We even had a live video feed in our hotel room. One of the great things about WEG is that you have the opportunity to see disciplines that you might not otherwise encounter. When we attended the 2010 games in Kentucky, we discovered the obstacles phase of combined driving, which is amazing. In Caen we discovered vaulting, which features both a beautiful horse with perfect rhythm and demeanor, and a team of riders that work together to put on an impressive display of athletic ability.



One of the reasons we wanted to attend the Normandy games was because of the rich history of the region, and we were able to combine the horse show with visits to the D-Day beaches and museums, as well as to Mont St. Michel, which is a venue I recommend for anyone’s bucket list. When

the tide is out, it is possible to ride horses on the tidal basin surrounding the fortress and abbey at St. Michel which provides spectacular views like nowhere else in the world. The area is rich with farms, with milk cows, sheep, and lots of apples, and of course, horses, and it was very easy to get around even without renting a car. The hospitality of Normandy was memorable, and the gratitude the residents of the region still hold for the actions of allied service men during World War II is still palpable. One of the most moving experiences I've ever had as an American was walking through the stunningly beautiful American cemetery at Colleville Sur Mer overlooking Omaha Beach, where 9,387 US service men and women who lost their lives during the D-Day invasion are laid to rest.

The only thing I wish I could change about our trip is that I wish we would have also attended the live dressage competition, but we just couldn't fit that in our schedule. I hope the complaints being aired about Normandy's WEG don't discourage people from considering attending the next one in Bromont. With some careful planning and resourcefulness, you can attend on a budget and have a great time. We also attended the games in Kentucky, where we saw the booth announcing the Normandy venue, so we had a long time to plan. I heartily recommend attending at least part of one WEG, as it is a unique opportunity to see the best in our sport compete, and is more accessible than the Olympics. It is also a unique opportunity to meet folks from all over the world who share the same passion, and window shop for state-of-the-art equipment and the latest ideas in horsecare. So here's hoping for a great games at Bromont!

- Barbara Brungess

- Pictures taken by Barbara: #1 Bezie Madden over the final fence to secure the individual bronze medal ; #2 the winning show jumping teams on the podium with best horse Cortes C: #3 a group of trail riders at Mont St Michel'

SEPTEMBER Placings - Championship Classes for InterDressage.com

Class 1A Walk/Trot - Adult

- 6 Louise Jordan-Beam & Wally-Corner House RS -USA 77.37%
- 7 Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain-Corner House RS -USA 77.11%
- 10 Cherie Gaebel & Sequel-French Creek RC-USA 76.58%
- 19 Sandy Foster & Babble-Corner House RS-USA 72.11%

Class 1B Walk/Trot Canter - Adult

- 4 Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain-Corner House RS -USA 71.25%

Class 2A Starter - Adult

- 5 Louise Jordan-Beam & Wally-Corner House RS -USA 77.17%
- 6 Cherie Gaebel & Sequel-French Creek RC-USA 76.74%
- 10 Sandy Foster & Babble-Corner House RS-USA 73.48%

Class 3A Baroque - split into walk, w/t, and w/t/c - listed overall

- 1tie 1ST WT Louise Jordan-Beam & Handsome-Corner House RS -USA 89.50%
- 3 1ST W Louise Jordan-Beam & Handsome-Corner House RS - USA 89.00%

CLASS THREE B (Adult): Freestyle Jumping.

- 1 Cherie Gaebel & Sequel-French Creek RC-USA 86.25%

Starter - "Vialba Challenge" - Senior Season End

TIE =2ND Cherie Gaebel & Sequel

=2ND Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain



"Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death." ~ Harold Wilson

FCEA Affiliated Show Results

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW RESULTS at Straight Forward Dressage on October 11

Introductory Level Champ	Louise Jordan Beam & Captain de Bec
Training Level Champ	Louise Jordan Beam & Captain de Bec
Reserve	Jessica Wolfskill & Severi
Third	Joyce Faccenda & Pikasso Gold
Fourth	Tori Belles & OSSA
First Level Champ	Ange Bean & Colgin IX (owned by Dina Porter)
Second Level Champ	Ange Bean & Trailhead Absarok

September 7 - Friendly Horseman's Club

Sandy Foster & Babble - 4th in Training 1, 4th in Training 2

Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain de Bec - 2nd in Training 1, 3rd in Training 2

September 20 - Dunmovin

Kat Kruemmling & Dahlia - 1st in Third 2

Tami Dureka & The Duke - 59.286% in Training 2

Tami Dureka & So Far So Good - 2nd in Training 2, 1st in Training 3

October 11 - Straight Forward Dressage

Ange Bean & Colgin IX - 1st in both First 2 and First 3

Ange Bean & Trailhead Absaroka - 1st in Second 3

Tori Belles & OSSA - 3rd in Training 3

Joyce Faccenda & Pikasso Gold - 3rd in Training 2

Leigh Frazier & Fortunes Cougar - 3rd in Training 1, 2nd in Training 2

Louise Jordan-Beam & Captain de Bec - 1st in Intro C, 2nd in Training 3

Carsan Rucci & Paint My Memories - 1st in Novice A, Novice B, & FEI Novice JR

Jessica Wolfskill & Severi - 1st in Training 2, 2nd in Training 3

October 25 - Dunmovin

Leigh Frazier & Fortunes Cougar - 4th in Training 1, 7th in Training 2



News -- The Region One Omnibus is Digital and Perpetual

The Region 1 Omnibus is digital; no more paper. Here is how it works. Region 1 will provide a page on the website that has all the same features of the Omnibus such as show listings, access to dressage tests, Regional Championship rules, information about NAJYRC, Developing programs and clinics, as well as general competition information.

Also sign up for the **monthly emails** containing opening and closing dates for listed shows in Region One. There will be no cost to competitors.

FMI: www.usdfregion1.org

"You will have bad times, but they will always wake you up to the stuff you weren't paying attention to." — Robin Williams

OUTSIDE the BOX

Recognized & Other Show/Event Results submitted by you.

If you would like to report your results, send them to me.

CONGRATULATIONS!

DAD results:

Ange Bean and Capitano - 8th in Suitability and 6th in Materiale, both for 5 year olds.

Kristen Ortt & Felix- 1st place Suitable to Become a Dressage Horse 5 year olds, 1st place 4 and 5 year old Stallions and Geldings under saddle.

NCDCTA Harvest Moon Dressage

Kristen Ortt and Felix 1st place 2nd 1 69.714%, 1st place 2nd 2 72.6%, 1st place 2nd 2 70.2% 1st place 2nd 2 67.4%

BLM Championships:

Ange Bean and Capitano were 7th in Training Level BLM Championships

Ange and BR Danny's Secret were 6th in the 4th level Championship class.

Dressage at Stone Tavern:

Ange Bean and BR Danny's Secret was 4th Level Champion

Clinics of Interest - Local & Regional

- Region One presents George Williams Jr/YR clinic will be held at Hilltop Farm in Col-ora, MD on Nov 22 & 23. FMI: check out the region one web site.
- New Bolton Center offers First Tuesday's Lecture Series and Animal Lovers Lecture Series - check their calendar at www.vet.upenn.edu for topics covered and locations.



Take care of the flat work, and the fences will take care of themselves.



In order to win, you have to run the whole race.

Always sit tall in the saddle.

the Good NEWS

Adding another year of Experience to their Personal History are:

November	Bonnie Ann Crofford	Susan Smith
December	Kelly Beaver	Barbara Brungess
	Karen Orloff-Yatsko	Jessica Wolfskill

Please note: The horse people that are listed, are listed alphabetically by last name. This list is in no way experience or age related! Enjoy your special day, and many more to come.

Also I apologize if I missed anyone, but not everyone has admitted to being experienced.

If you have any good news, please let me know I'll put it here!

"You can tell a lot about a fellow's character by his way of eating jellybeans." — [Ronald Reagan](#)

Feed Back from the George Williams Clinic

Check This Off My Bucket List - by Linda Otto

A few years back, a medical condition woke me up to the fact that I am indeed not only mortal, but, I am an older mortal. Truly, I could croak any time, so I made my bucket list. The most crazy idea on it was that I was going to ride with George Williams. I had watched in awe as he danced around Devon with Rocher. For the first time, the light bulb moment, I clearly saw the communication, trust and unified effort that brought looseness, thoroughness, tears and goose pimples. I thought, "I can do that." Hahahaha-good luck with that one.

At the time, I didn't show. I rode a half plow horse and crooked thoroughbred as often as possible in the backyard and on the trails in more or less clown outfits. I felt myself hugely fortunate and was trying with all my might, with all my years of built up built in bad habits and misconceptions to "Get it right", to let my inner dressage queen shine through. My poor horses!

Fate lead me to a flyer advertising an FCDA (French Creek Dressage Assoc.) clinic with George. I screwed up my courage, (I had myself totally intimidated) and audited. What an eye opener! No one had white pants on! Everyone could ride ok-but only a couple of the riders were 'really' good. And surprise, surprise- the horses were by no means dressage super stars! They were the same kind you would see in any boarding stable! It was NOT such a crazy idea after all.

In that audience, I connected with Helen Stearns (heaven sent) of Justaplain farm and then with her daughter Gert. The rest is history. There was a clinic at their farm- I applied and was accepted and rode with George. Everyone was kind and helpful. No one laughed at me, not at my ancient truck or twice as old trailer or my not quite dressage clothes. No one laughed at my backyard riding or my half plow. Everyone recognized my desire and effort. They saw what a 'perfect' horse I ride. The audience actually applauded us! Actually, what was applauded was the fantastic results that George led us to those first 2 magical mornings.

My mountains turned into baby steps in that clinic. And the beat goes on. Since the Eye Opening, I have ridden with more than a half dozen amazing clinicians. If I learn only one amazing thing from each of them, I will know many amazing things. One has given me my courage back. Another has used that courage. Most have worked on my hands, my contact. One has fixed my posture, given me a frame to work from. And now, I am being tweaked- thinking about things like elegance. The auditors share experiences. The clinics are additive and addictive. The people who attend them are rabid students. They are there to learn and share. It is an exciting climate.

So all you chickadees - get off the fence. Sign up and go. The first time, go just for the fun of it. Dress warmly,(more warmly than that) bring a snack, a chair just in case and open your mind. Yes, there are definitely the more and less educated, the more and less capable. The competition, however, is with oneself. Everyone is reaching for their own personal best. You can do this! The act is its' own reward, and it is immensely fulfilling.

From an Eventers Point of View - Carsan Rucci

I recently had the opportunity to ride in an FCEA (French Creek Equestrian Association) George Williams clinic at Justaplain Farm. Prior *(Continued on [page 13](#))*

to this clinic I was excited, but also very nervous. It was not until about two weeks before the clinic that I really understood what I was getting myself into. As an eventer, I compete in dressage to get to the jumping. I went for my weekly dressage lesson and I told my trainer Ange, I am riding in a George Williams clinic next Saturday; she replied “your riding with the USDF President, pretty darn cool”. After that, I felt pretty worried and I knew we had a lot to do to prepare for the clinic. So, I put myself through some hard core workouts with Ange and Kelly. Numerous lessons and tune up rides all season would make us as ready as we would ever be.

All Eventing season, I had been working with my pony to improve our dressage scores, and I felt this was the real test. The day of the clinic, I polished my boots, scrubbed my pony, cleaned and oiled my saddle and I think we are ready. As I walked in the ring in the back of my head I just keep thinking here goes nothing. At the beginning of the lesson, I was tense and stiff, which resulted in Kito (my pony) becoming tense. By the end of the lesson, I became relaxed allowing my body to move along with Kito thus allowing him relax with me. George was very calm and encouraging, while helping us become better and I had nothing to worry about. It finally kicked in after I rode, that I was able to ride with one of the best dressage trainers and I actually survived. I learned a lot more about dressage and felt inspired to do more from the experience.

Twelve Years and still Learning from George - Kristen Ortt

Another fantastic clinic with George Williams at Justaplain Farm! I have always enjoyed working with George. This is my twelfth year of participating in clinics with him. George has a fantastic way of teaching with a classical approach. He uses his arsenal of exercises to build upon each part of the lesson. You always leave the clinic with a positive attitude and a goal to achieve.

Day one for me, consisted of a complete warm-up with George watching and evaluating each step. For my particular horse, he wanted his neck a bit lower in order for the horse to use more of his entire topline. He then incorporated lots of loopy figures including figure eights and 3,4 and 5 loop serpentines, The point of the exercise was the horse to be more supple through the rib cage. We then moved on to transitions. Transitions first between the gaits, all to be done in repetitions. Quick walk break and into transitions within the gait. We started with a great deal of canter, working canter to collected canter, then repeat several times. Starting on the 20m circle, then moving through the entire arena adding on the medium canter to collected canter. We then added the working trot to collected trot exercises, in the same fashion, repeat repeat repeat! Ended the session allowing the horse to stretch on a long rein. All of this work was the preface for Sunday's ride.

Day two started similarly with a complete warm-up. We moved right into some more transitions work, this time collected canter figure 8's all the way down the center line, with a walk transition on the C-line between figures. This incorporated the bending exercises along with the transitions from day 1. We then focused on the lateral work. Lots of 10m circles to shoulder in to 10M circle. Same with the travers, 10m circle to travers to 10m circle. Then, he added in the shoulder in to renvers, then renvers all the way through the short side, continuing in renvers. This was a good test for both horse and rider, but it really gets the horse bending in the middle. George then pushed the horse a bit to *(Continued on [page 14](#))*

see what the half pass looked like. He acknowledged he knew I hadn't schooled much of this, but let's test it. We used a lot of 10m circles down the long side, then came around the short side into a shallow half pass both ways, using this pattern in both trot and canter. The session ended by allowing the horse to trot on a long rein.

Thanks to our hosts Justaplain farm and FCEA for organizing this event. I hope we can have more sessions with George in 2015.

Right out of the pages of a Magazine - Fay Seltzer

When I have time, I enjoy reading. When I am having breakfast, I usually have a magazine on the side. One of my favorites is "Dressage Today". The August 2014 issue featured a reprinted article by George Williams titled, "Kindergarten Exercises to Learn the Aids". I read it with interest, knowing I would be riding in the FCEA clinic in a few weeks. It was a nice intro into getting the young horse to relax and obey the aids so the rider can use the aids to shift the weight to the rear. But I didn't think to practice these exercises with my young horse, since we were still working on steering and brakes.

For the clinic in September, I was planning to ride Doodlebug, my fourth level mare, however, as the clinic neared, it was obvious that she would not be sound for the clinic. With hesitation and encouragement from the organizers, I agreed to take my young horse, Sam, who just returned from two months with a cowboy trainer. He had been home for about three weeks, and we had not yet gotten very comfortable with each other. Our first weekend adventure would be the two day clinic. I just kept thinking, "I hope it's worth it", and, "I hope he doesn't throw me off again!". (Last year, I spent five months going to Physical Therapy and Chiropractor to fix my back.)

The first day, we started our warm up with lunging, and then mounted and got moving. After a discussion of Sam's current level of training, George wanted to watch us do our thing. He first had us go forward, and then we started on the Kindergarten Exercises. It took about 30 minutes, and I had a totally different horse. He went from resisting the contact with the bit and aids to relaxing when an aid was given, a new horse. That night, when I went home, I reread the article as a review of what we had done. I felt like we had just walked out of the magazine.

The following day, we confirmed the Kindergarten Exercises, and then really started to ask him to obey the aids and move forward. After some brief canter work, we then tried some shallow leg yields from the second quarter line to the wall. As we ended the lesson, I realized that we had also conquered the steering situation.

A light bulb moment happened when Sam was not going straight and forward, and George said to push him forward and the forward energy would straighten him out. So I pushed a little, and it was like taking a swerving car, stepping on the gas, and it goes straight. We have all heard it, "Push him to go straight", but this was the first time I really felt it, tsunami sized.

When I look back at this clinic, I am thrilled with the results. Due to camera problems, I didn't get any video this year, but, thanks to DT and GW, I have the best notes, and I can review them as often as needed.

"The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn."~ David Russell



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Proceeds Benefit the FCEA Education Fund and Educational Activities

The WEG's are Coming

Just Announced: From August 12 to 26, 2018, Canada's Bromont and Montréal will host the next Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) World Equestrian Games.

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." — [Ronald Reagan](#)

You know you're getting old, when Santa starts looking younger. - Robert Paul

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Please periodically update the "for sale" and "wanted" ads.

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Boarding & Training - Suzanne Belles

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Instruction, Arena-Pa, XC course, & BRC - Louise Jordan-Beam

Tack New and Used at Equine Exchange - Michelle Thomas

Mobile Welding, Fabrication & Laser Art - Mike Seltzer

USEF "r" judge, USPC examiner, side saddle instruction - Anne Moss

Next
Issue deadline is
Dec 15th



HELP WANTED

The members of the Board of Directors could use your help. We are always looking for great ideas, willing volunteers, and activity coordinators. If you would like to organize an activity and give us a hand, we would love to have you.

Looking for some good stuff? Have some great stuff that you don't need? List it Here. Current members can advertise here for FREE !! Send the info to Fay at NHF2054@gmail.com

Official Sponsors of the Newsletter.

Below are the Mini Business Cards (MBC) of the Official Sponsors of the Newsletter. These MBC Sponsorship Listings are available to the first eight subscribers. First choice is given to full year sponsors, and monthly sponsors will be taken as available. If you are interested, please contact Michelle, Fay, Kelly or Louise. Rates are \$10/issue or \$50/year. Please patronize our sponsors, and tell them you appreciate their support of FCEA

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If you think you can do a thing
or think you can't do a thing,
you're right. - Henry Ford

Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude. - E. P. Powell

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"
- [Bob Hope](#)



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Kind words can be short and
easy to speak, but their
echoes are truly endless.
- Mother Theresa



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Contact Info

www.frenchcreekequestrian.org
*email links for board members
are listed on the website



Officers, Board Members, & Duties

Presidents	Kelly Beaver	610-913-0192	Insurance, E-newsletter
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	Matilda Johansson	859-559-5340	
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Additional Board Members	Sandy Foster	610-845-8812	Education & Grants, volunteer hours & co-coordinator
	Fay Seltzer	570-366-0489	USDF Local Delegate, George Williams Clinic correspondent, Newsletter

Other Key Contact Persons

Louise Jordan-Beam	610-506-7411	BRC, Membership
Courtney Sarge	610-286-1862	University Programs
Cherie Gaebel	610-761-0918	USEA Rep
Carsan Rucci	610-913-0426	Jr representative

If you would like to help, please contact any board member.

MISSION STATEMENT

French Creek Equestrian Assoc. is dedicated to promoting proper equine management and horsemanship through quality education provided to the interested general public and the membership in the form of clinics, events, seminars, and horse shows.



FCDA is a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO) and all primary members are automatically USDF Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.

Publication Deadlines:

Newsletter will be published on the Odd numbered months, and information to be published should be sent in by the 15th of each even month. Earlier submissions are greatly appreciated. Send to Fay at NHF2054@gmail.com

French Creek Equestrian Association

Membership Application Form 2015



FCDA/FCEA is a USDF Group Member Organization, and all Primary Memberships are automatically USDF Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF. FCDA is affiliated with USEA and BRC. Membership year runs from December 1st to November 30th, extended membership starts in September.

Member Name _____ USDF # _____

Birthday* _____ JR under 18 Adult (Amateur or Open)
MASTERS (Over 50) (Amateur or Open)

*NOTE: Date of birth required for Junior or Masters applications, month requested for fun.

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Cell/work phone (____) _____

Email address _____ Trainer _____

Add'l Family Member Name: _____ USDF# _____

Birthday* _____ JR under 18 Adult (Amateur or Open)
MASTERS (Over 50) (Amateur or Open)

*NOTE: Date of birth required for Junior or Masters applications, month requested for fun.

To be eligible for year end awards, members must complete the volunteer requirements. If you have a preference, which volunteer activities would you prefer to do or what skills would you like to offer?

What are your interests? Dressage Eventing Education Jumping BRC activities
 Everything Horse Western Dressage

Where would you like to see activities held? _____

Would you like to be listed on the Member Services Directory of the FCEA newsletter?

Please list Service(s) Provided (ie:Boarding, Instruction, Braiding, Trailing, Farrier,etc)

Would you allow FCEA to give your email address to approved Sponsors? Yes No

How would you prefer to receive the bi-monthly newsletter, "In Balance"? email snail mail-USPS

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 Monthly Ads are due 15th of Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct
Newsletter MBC Ads are \$50/year or \$10/issue

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**Extended Membership is for members joining late in the year. Membership Starts in September and continues thru the following year.*

***Education Members do not receive USEA nor USDF GMO membership or privileges. Education members may participate in club activities, but must pay the non-member fee to show.*

Farm Sponsorship	\$30 / Jan-Dec	\$ _____
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Extended Education Membership*	\$50 / Sept-Dec	\$ _____
Mini Business Card Ads		\$ _____
	Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Make checks payable to: FCEA

Please mail your check and membership application to:

Louise Jordan-Beam, 95 Morlatton Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

FCEEA

French Creek Equestrian Association

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