

NWDA

Aug 2023

Accent

The lively equestrian crew representing the Northland at the 2023 National Dressage Pony Cup is, from left:

Leah Nelson, Madelyn Kulak, Brittany Davis, Laura Molter, Julie Davies Pagels, and Kate Sargent

National Dressage Pony Cup

by Laura Molter



Ever thought of traveling to a large show to compete in our wonderful sport of dressage? The National Dressage Pony Cup (NDPC) is worth the trip! This year it was held at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH. What a grand facility for a huge show. There were 7 rings (4 indoor and 3 outdoor) running all day long both days. The facility is set up with matting and heights so you can ride from barn to barn/arena to arena. There is even a ride-up window at the coffee shop! All arena footing was incredible both indoors and out. Outside there were pavilions for spectator shade.

Despite the "Pony Cup" name, the show is for PONIES and SMALL HORSES (taller than pony but less than 16 hands). The show also does have truly open classes for all sizes of horses, but those are not eligible for the pony cup prizes. Some facts about the Pony Cup:

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- The National Dressage Pony Cup and Small Horse Championships is a two-day competition.
- Ponies compete in height-restricted classes. Small Horses compete in Open Show classes and designate that they are competing in the Small Horse Division.
- Each Pony or Small Horse/Rider combination must ride a designated test each day at the level they are competing to be eligible for prizes.

Pony Cup, continued on page 5

All King Victor Emmanuel's School Horses Can Make Really Beautiful People Fall



My Clinic with Lars Holmberg

by Chandler Tollers

On May 20th and 21st I rode in a clinic with Lars Holmberg at West Amity stables in Duluth, Minnesota. Lars has been involved in the equestrian industry for 45 years, starting and training multiple horses through the FEI levels. He has also been a US young horse team member in 2007. He is currently based out of California where He owns Holmberg Wadeborn Dressage with his partner Ulf Wadeborn. He is originally from Sweden and has trained at Stromsholm, the Swedish national riding school. He has also worked with renown riding trainers such as Bo Tibblin, Hans-Helge Rasmussen, Lars Palmer, Liselotte Linsenhoff, and Lillian Van Dahn. He continues to ride and train at his facility in California and teach clinics all around the U.S.

One of Lars's main focuses in training is ensuring the horse and rider partnership have strong basics. This includes focusing on rhythm, thoroughness, steady contact, and collection as you move up the levels.



I have ridden my horse Harry with Lars a number of times over the last 5 years and he has been a huge part in our development as a partnership as well as my development as a rider. During this two day clinic we started with focusing on simple transitions between gaits while being very precise. This precision included ensuring halts were square, transitions were timely, and Harry

way stepping forward into the contact during both up and down transitions. As the ride progressed these transitions became half halts with in each gait to encourage balance, and self carriage.

I have always enjoyed working with Lars, it is helpful to get a fresh perspective on my riding. I encourage people to ride with Lars if they ever have the opportunity. Thank you NWDA for allowing me to ride in this clinic. I encourage other people to take advantage of the scholarship program offered by NWDA.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

SIGN UP through signup genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054aa4a723a6fa7-nwda#/>

OR text, email or call Kjerstin at 630-340-1634 email:

kjerstin.anderson@gmail.com

Pony Cup, from page 1



Oh, did I say Pony Cup is fun? It is. But a big part of that fun is the company we keep. Six northland horses/riders travelled to the NDPC this year. They are:

- Brittany Davis & West Rivers Indigo Royal Callahan (Cal), owned by Madeline Kulak: competing in open 2nd Level and open Freestyle.
- Madelyn Kulak & Wrayza, owned by Elissa Brzezinski: competing in U16 Training Level and 1st Level (photo to right).
- Leah Nelson & Starside Elessar, owned by Natascha Artang: competing in open 2nd Level and Open Freestyle.
- Julie Davies Pagels & Neopolitano Kirilia (Kelvin): competing in small horse open 2nd Level and open Freestyle.
- Laura Molter & Witness Protection (Luci): competing in AA Introductory Level.
- Kate Sargent & Dignity GSF (Lily): competing in AA Training Level and 1st Level as well as AA Freestyle.

The trip was not without its challenges. Three trailers left the north at 5 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5th. One trailer returned 3 hours later. Brittany, Maddie and Laura were 1.5 hours into

the trip and had truck trouble. We turned around to head back. We debated, "is fate trying to tell us not to go?" However, we made a call to Laura's awesome husband who fueled up her truck and brought it to the crew at Big Rock Ranches where we unloaded, unhooked, rehooked, reloaded and headed back out in less than an hour. A shout out to Jim Molter for being horseshow husband of the year.

The Kate/Leah trailer and the Julie/Dave trailer both made it to the show without complications. The crew that was there early bedded our stalls for us and sent us info about the cabin. The Britt/Maddie/Laura trailer rolled in at 1 a.m., tired, but safe and sound.

EVERY horse and rider combination settled in great and performed beyond our expectations. Everyone placed for Pony Cup Awards in at least one event. We also had some personal bests and firsts. Highlights are below.

Leah and Elessar were Champions in their open freestyle and 3rd in open Second Level. Maddie (in spite of huge classes) came through with Wrayza in their second show together and placed 5th in U16 at Training

Pony Cup, continued on page 4

The Benefits of Volunteering for NWDA

by Claudia Schoendorf

Volunteers are the life blood of NWDA! The Show Secretary is the only paid position at NWDA shows, but volunteers can earn show credits!

I received a Certificate of Volunteer Credits good for any NWDA show or clinic class fees when I was a scribe. Sign in and out on the Volunteer page at the show office. This is critical to earn your show credits. It's the only way to keep track of Volunteer hours in the organized chaos of a show. Volunteers earn \$10 per hour in show credits for most jobs.

I like to scribe for the judge, and it earns \$15 per hour in show credits. Wow, I scribed for 8 hours, and got a certificate good for \$120 off future show class fees! Scribing was interesting, you sit next to the judge, and write down her comments and score for each movement. Scribing is educational, you see many riders over the course of the day, and see what a movement done correctly, and incorrectly or brilliantly looks like! Legible handwriting is critical here; if I write too fast you can't read it. Slow down, tempo is important in handwriting as well as dressage. You learn that the judge

really does want you to succeed. There is a good list of common scribing abbreviations on the USDF website, that I found very helpful.

Kjerstin Anderson-Hoff is the volunteer Coordinator, and she has set up a NWDA genius sign up page. She has emailed this link to all NWDA members. It makes it easy to sign up, just pick your day, pick your job, and earn credits too! You will meet new people, learn new things, and have fun!

Find the link to sign up for volunteer positions on the NWDA website under the volunteers tab or email Kjerstin.anderson@gmail.com! She has also set up a google document listing how many show credits and dollar amounts you have earned in case you can't find the certificate she sent you! She will email you the link.

How do you redeem these credits when you enter on-line? There is no way to deduct the dollar amount of your show credits from the horseshowoffice.com site. So just bring your credits certificate to the show, and they will write you a check to reimburse you for the class fees, Easy! Peasy!

Pony Cup, from page 5

Level and 3rd in First Level. Brittany and Cal placed 3rd in their open Freestyle. Laura and Luci in their third show ever and their first canter classes were Champions in Introductory Level. Julie and Kelvin came through with 4th place in the open Freestyle. And, finally, Kate and Lily were in it to win it. They were Champions in both AA Training Level and First Level.

The three trailers and their crew headed for home Sunday morning. Just as we had on the trip to Ohio, we kept in contact with each other via a pony cup messenger group on the way home; making sure everyone made it home safely. For the most part, the trip was long but uneventful. Julie turned us on to an 8-hour podcast to pass the time. There was only one message sent with "breaking news"; however, you will have to ask Kate about the details. *We'll never tell.*

I can't say this enough, we had a great time with great company. Thank you to everyone who made the trip. Bring great friends and competitors with you as we did, and I'd highly recommend it.

NWDA
Aug 2023 *Accent*

The NWDA Accent editors are:

CLAUDIA SCHOENDORF
BRIGID PAJUNEN

Your horse stories, clinic reports and announcements help us improve communication amongst our members and the larger community of Northland horse lovers. We welcome your submissions to nwdagmo@gmail.com.



NWDA member Taelor Malmstrom tells the story of her partnership with Finn. The T.I.P. championship was created to showcase the versatility of off-the-track thoroughbreds and to create incentives for people to partner with these animals when their racing careers are over. Congratulations, Taelor!

The T.I.P. Championship

by Taelor Malmstrom

In June, I declared my OTTB and I eligible to compete in the T.I.P. Championship in October, in Aiken, South Carolina. It represents a stage to showcase what we've worked very hard to achieve. Six years ago I fell in love with the one and only horse I looked at. I was 14 and dead set on this thoroughbred who had just come off the track 6 months earlier.

Finn, *Southern Parkway*, is a war horse. Hraced 58 times and won close to \$250,000. The first two years, I rode him for only 6 months between the various monthlong injuries he or I sustained, including a trip to the ER with torn tendons in my ankle.

These horses teach you that you really don't know anything. They bring out the worst and best in you, while teaching you how to grow as a rider, and as a person. Above all, they will always give you their entire heart and soul. Finn taught me more about being a patient person than a rider, but that isn't to say he didn't teach me how to actually ride, and still does! I am the rider I am because of him.

When I learned about the Jockey Club T.I.P. (Thoroughbred Incentive Program) this summer, I set my sights on the Championship show. Throughout the year, you take the results of all your shows, whether they have a class for thoroughbreds or not, and enter them on the T.I.P. website for performance year-end awards. On the website, you can find "apply for TIP number," and register your horse in the system. To qualify, you participate in a qualifying show, like NWDA's schooling shows. In order to participate, you need to declare your horse,

which is simply saying that you competed at a qualifying show, at whatever level you showed at, and are planning on attending! All I did was download the form, fill it out, and mail it in! Entries for the championship show opened in July—a separate online form to fill out. I am excited to be able to participate in anything related to T.I.P. because of the hours I've put

into Finn and my relationship. The T.I.P. program, for me, validates the thoroughbred's work ethic, their ability to adapt, their athletic ability and their willingness to please. Finn and I have an amazing relationship in and out of the saddle, with a nightly routine

(and if I deviate, he WILL get sassy, haha). I am excited to be able to showcase our partnership on a stage that is specifically for horses like him, horses that started from only knowing how to run, and who are transformed into champions off the track, giving them a second career. A lot of race horses, if they don't succeed in racing, are often tossed to the sidelines. T.I.P. highlights divisions for western, cross country, hunters, jumpers, and dressage. Any discipline there is for a thoroughbred, it's there, split between Aiken, and the Kentucky Horse Park.

From doing trot poles on our first ride, to jumping 3' six years later, I have finally achieved the goals I set 12 years ago. I am so excited to go meet people, see other horses like Finn, and hear other people's stories.

But mostly, I'm excited to go on another adventure with my best friend.





The President's Message

NORTH WOODS
dressage association

Dear NWDA Members,

Thank You for continuing to support our show's, schooling and recognized. Wow, 2023 attendance was excellent! Both schooling shows and one recognized show filled. The second recognized show had 43 riders which was a great number. As we move forward, it is critical that your voice be heard. All of our board members are here to listen and share. Each year we work to come up with more exciting opportunity classes/prizes etc for you. Last weekend we tried something new. Riders warmed up and greeted the judge inside the ring. Everyone agreed this was something they wanted to continue and really liked not having to ride next to the scary woods. Please tell your friends about our shows. Competitors, volunteers, everyone is welcome to join our horsey village!

THE NWDA MISSION

NWDA exists to develop and encourage an interest in dressage, combined training, and all related English style horse activities; to improve communication among interested people; to provide education and recreational activities to its membership; and to encourage other individuals or groups to provide educational and recreational activities to the area.

NWDA works hard to bring in quality judges and to provide our competitors with a great "State of the Art" riding opportunity. Iron River is truly a magical slice of riding pleasure, let's keep sharing it with our horsey friends.

North Woods Dressage Association is a volunteer-run, non profit organization from top to bottom. Sharing your valuable time and your generous sponsorship helps 'Pay it Forward' and reaps benefits which will be returned directly to you with better activities and educational programs. Please start to think about preparing your end of the year awards information. Information will

be submitted in October.

Thank you for being a part of this great organization, I look forward to seeing you soon.

Let the Horse be With You,
Kathi



2024 NWDA Show Schedule



SCHOOLING SHOWS

June 8-9, 2024
August 3-4, 2024

RECOGNIZED SHOWS

June 22-23, 2024
July 20-21, 2024

NWDA Show Results

NWDA Cooler by the Lake I June 24, 2023

INTRO Champion
Valerie Griggs 71.250
Reserve Champion
Laura Molter 69.063

AA Champion
Annemarie Brockhouse 68.083
Reserve Champion
Laurie Vesel 67.586

OPEN Champion
Jenevieve Hofsommer 72.500
Reserve Champion
Kjirstin Lee 71.061

JR/YR Champion
Louise Scharin 68.571

Reserve Champion
Bennett Stillwell 62.118

MUSICAL FREESTYLE
(combined Sat&Sun) *Champion*
Kjirstin Lee 72.444
Reserve Champion
Louise Scharin 71.889

NWDA Fun in the Sun Schooling Show

SATURDAY

DRESSAGE INTRO
Champion: Laura Molter
Reserve: Krista Mulcahy

JR/YR
Champion: Svea Fish
Reserve: Carolyn DeJong

AA
Champion: Dee Closson
Reserve: Laurie Vesel

OPEN
Champion: Brittany Davis
Reserve: Debbie LaFleur

Cooler by the Lake II June 25

INTRO Champion
Valerie Griggs 67.188
Laura Molter 67.188

AA Champion
Amy Sletten 68.400
Reserve Champ Julie Montgomery 68.083

OPEN Champion
Jennifer Thelen 72.952
Reserve Champion Jenevieve Hofsommer 72.800

JR/YR Champion
Aleksia Dromisky-Perron 60.192
Reserve Chamion Hallie Stillwell 59.423

Weekend overall High Point Jennifer Thelen 72.952
Reserve High Point Jenevieve Hofsommer 72.880

SAT HUNTER/JUMPER

Walk/Trot:

Champion: Nadine Luoma
Reserve: Alia Zimmer
18"

Champion: Rebecca Bischoff
Reserve: Maggie Bellehumeur
2'

Champion: Jenna Mead
Reserve: Maggie Bellehumeur
2'3"

Champion: Taelor Malmstrom
Reserve: Abbey Watt

2'6"-2'9"

Champion: Kelby Cloose

SUNDAY Schooling Show DRESSAGE INTRO

Champion: Laura Molter
Reserve: Abigail Just

JR/YR

Champion: Svea Fish
Reserve: Hunter Marshall

AA

Champion: Laurie Vesel
Reserve: Dee Closson

Sunday Schooling Show OPEN

Champion: Debbie LaFleur
Reserve: Brittany Davis

FREESTYLE

Champion: Kristen Zuzek

SUNDAY HUNTER/JUMPER

Walk/Trot:

Champion: Nadine Luoma
Reserve: Alia Zimmer
18"

Champion: Rebecca Bischoff
Reserve: Danielle Hurd
2'

Champion: Jenna Mead
Reserve: Syra Johnson-Engle
2'3"

Champion: Taelor Malmstrom
Reserve: Serena Ferriere
2'6"-2'9"

Champion: Kelby Cloose

OVERALL WEEKEND HUNTER/JUMPER

Champion: Taelor Malmstrom
Reserve: Rebecca Bischoff



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