

# **Whatcom County Dressage and Eventing Association**

[www.wcdea.org](http://www.wcdea.org)

## **May 2026**

**The WCDEA Cavalletti Clinic is something I look forward to every spring. It is one of those low-stress, purely fun events that the club does. Kim Roe meets each horse and rider where they are, and while she never over-faces them, she does challenge them. And, it's amazing how many exercises she can come up with, with just a few poles! (Although, at Patty Yust's beautiful farm, there are more than a few poles!).**

**This year's event did not disappoint. Rosie and I had a great time walking, then trotting over poles. Kim's fun pole designs always give me ideas for homework later. And, it had been a while since I'd had a lesson, so getting some feedback about my position, and how to be more effective, was very appreciated.**

**Thanks to Carol for putting together a fun day! And to Kim for being a great trainer! And to Patty for letting us use her amazing facility!**

**WCDEA Club Meeting**

**April 16, 2026**

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Becker.

In Attendance: President: Michelle Becker; Vice President Tessa Shelton; Secretary: Michele Bennett; Treasurer: Carol Landt; Kelly O'Toole; Lynn Salas, Robin Probst; Josephine Hegeberg; Faith, Ailyn

Minutes went out in last newsletter: Motion to approve by Salas; Second by Hegeberg. Approved.

Treasurer Report presented by Landt:

Checking: \$3,501.81; Savings: \$2,120.21; Paypal: \$527.58;  
Club Total: \$6,149.60

### **Old Business:**

Cavaletti clinic – filled and made a small profit. Patty's arena is absolutely lovely and all had a great time.

### **New Business:**

- Shelton has secured some clinicians for a 3-part series (dressage; show jumping; eventing)
  - May 16: Nicole Hinde: Dressage clinic (location tbd)
  - June 14: Lhanze Chor – show jumping clinic at Sunset
  - July 25: Kim Barber: cross country clinic at Sunset
- August 1: Derby at Sunset
- Liberty clinic with Juliette in May (limited to 7 riders) 16/17 at Beth's farm
- Kate McNutt (May) equine bodyworker – part of the club meeting
- Possible June clinic w/ Robbie on how to build a show jumping course
- Audit: O'Toole conducted the audit and all checked out good!
- Summer show: Josephine: working with Robbie on the reg form and payment options
- Hegeberg suggested: summer dressage show series on a weeknight... discussion on location followed. Thought was to do a poll on FB.
- O'Toole: swag with the WCDEA logo, stock on hand; ball caps. Prizes for year-end.
- The club is in need of a new hospitality committee for events

## **How to improve your Dressage scores**

Missed notes from previous meeting: Submitted late by Lynn Salas.

A presentation on how to improve your dressage scores was done by Carol Landt, with practical advice on arena work.

Accuracy and geometry are both important, how many times have we read the judges remarks: Circle not round. It's easy enough to hit B and E, but the open part of the arena can be challenging. Here's a good way to mark the other parts of the circle so you and your horse can practice a round circle. Using a lunge line, or other length of rope, etc., place a marker halfway between B and E, then use the rope/lunge line starting at the center to measure 10 meters (to B or E) and to the open parts of the arena. Place a cone on either side of each mark. Then ride

between the cones to learn that perfect circle! (This is so hard to describe, picture is much easier.) See my attempt to draw this at the end.

Knowing where a specific movement of the test begins and ends may earn you a good mark, or deduct a mark. For example, if the movement states lengthen trot across diagonal, collected trot to C, riding into the corner is correct, but cutting the corner isn't. Carol was scribing for a national judge who saw a great diagonal, but the rider lost a full point by not riding into the corner, because that's still part of that movement.

There is a difference between a circle at the end of the arena, and riding into the corner. Accuracy is important. So knowing both the purpose of the test, and the test itself will improve

your scores. That prevents you from going off course, or forgetting a movement.

### Dressage Arena Letters

#### *Small Arena:*

*All Kind Elegant Horses Can Make Best Friends*

All Kind Elephants Have Cute Mothers Bad Fathers  
All King Edward's Horses Carry Many Brave Fighters  
" " " " Can't Make Big Fences  
" " " " Canter Many Big Fences  
" " " " Call Me Beautiful Fool

A King Eats His Chicken Much Better Fried

A Kitten Entered His Corner Munching Bad Fish

Ann Kicked Emily Hard 'Cause Mary Bit Fred

As For Better Marks, Know Each Horse (this omits C)

#### *--Counter Clockwise:*

A Fat Brown/Bay/Black (color of your choice) Mare Can Hardly Even Kick

#### *Large Arena, (all letters):*

All King Vincent Emanuel's Strong Horses Carry Many Really Big Peacock Feathers

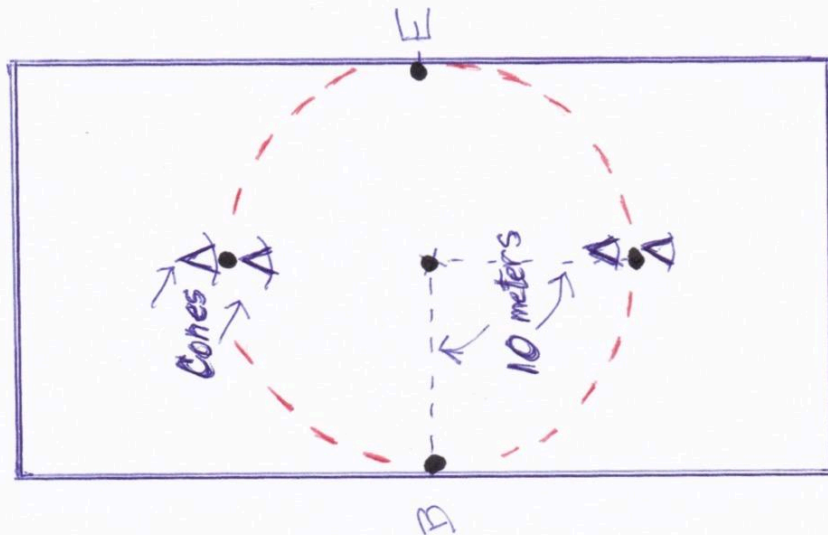
All King Von Edwards Show Horses Can Make Really Big Parallel Fences

*Always Know Very Excellent Stallions Have Collection Mostly Right Before Piaffing Fiercely*

Aunt Karen's Very Elegant Sister's Horse Climbed Mountains Rapidly Because Panthers Followed

#### *--Down the Center Line:*

A Dear Little Xylophone Is Going Camping. From the Internet



[/https://www.wcdea.org/](https://www.wcdea.org/)

The website is kept up to date by webmistress Jo Rochester.

