

First Coast Classical Dressage Society

USDF GMO # 1069

Jacksonville, Florida, USA

= First Coast Classical Dressage Society is a Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation



February ~ March 2020

DRESSAGE - DECIPHERED

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Dates to Remember

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| February 29 - FCCDS Clinic Event - Beth Barritt | Clinic rides offered for private lessons; OR Ride - A - Test format Test and Feedback session. Member Farm location: Conquest Farm; 44096 Woodland Circle; Callahan 32011 Drive in day of clinic - recommend Trailer Tie ability. |
| March 28th - FCCDS Clinic Event - Eugene Abello. | Clinic rides offered for private lessons AM & Afternoon. Member farm location; tentatively: Owl Creek Rd. Farm, 199-A Owl Creek Rd., St. Augustine, FL 32092. Drive in day of lessons; limited stalls available by reservation. Recommend Trailer Tie ability for horses not reserving stalls. |





Welcome ~

Winter in Florida is always more of an idea; and a calendar date - than an actual experience. "Cold" is anything lower than 65 F. People can be seen wearing Ugg Boots and winter coats when it's 60 degrees out sometimes...it makes a Northerner chuckle... But it is a brief period at least for celebrating the Holiday Season - Christmas; Hanukkah; and New Years with some lowered temps.. After that things get packed away in boxes until next "Winter"; and FCCDS has it's Annual Gala ~ or in this case, it's "Annual Gathering". Either way, it was the expected end of the year culmination of the previous year's competition results; and celebration of the winners who gathered the most points in the various levels. Recipients took home more spectacularly embroidered clothes for themselves or horses; along with the extravagant ribbons FCCDS is known for. Mary O'Brien, our founding member and Society Patron and Consultant, was Master of Ceremonies, and with the help of ten year old Eva Beardsley; handed out the loot at the Bistro Aix once again this year. Numbers of winners were fewer this year with the reduction in show spots to earn scores in 2019; and numbers of party attendees was down a little from last year as well. Sadly a few of the of the winners weren't able to attend; but the festivities continued; with the bonus of a special Silent Auction of DONATED items, that included a huge variety of mostly horse clothing, tack and garb; and a few surprises - with or without bids. Everyone came dressed for the fun, though black tie seems irrevocably gone with the wind. Nonetheless food and drink was a-plenty; and some glitter and flash did appear, with Mary O'Brien up front, keeping the atmosphere festive throughout.



Mary O'Brien and Eva Beardsley present the End of Year Championship Awards to First Level rider Carolyn Belcher; and Second Level rider Dina Rojeck; at the Bistro Aix FCCDS "Annual Gathering" and Championship Presentation Banquet. (see more images of the Gathering at Bistro Aix, on our official FCCDS FB page; and our First Coast Classical Dressage Society Friends & Members Group page, where you can submit your own pix of the nite's awards and festivities.)

The Classical Legacy - Masters of Dressage

Education has always been the primary motivation of a focus on the Classical part of Dressage. Dressage without it doesn't exist; and even much that does hardly lives up to the Classical Legacy. Opinions about whether Dressage is currently continuing on the path of the Classics or not are varied; and even the definition of Classical itself in the context of the sport is in dispute. But looking back to see where we have come from and to ensure we have not gone astray from time to time; is every Dressage rider's duty - and to some a joy and delight. This edition of Dressage Deciphered will reflect the abbreviated program we at FCCDS are adopting for the year 2020 by skipping the usual Editor researched and written article on a past Master. Instead this page will feature the history of some of our own Dressage masters here in the USA; people who made an important impact on the evolution of Dressage in America. I thought sharing some information between us about trainers we have worked with in our lives; especially in our earliest days of learning about Dressage; who fit into this category - would be of interest to all; and give us a chance to get to know each other's Dressage life and influences, a little better.

This Bi-monthly Newsletter is featuring Hector Carmona Sr.; and The Los Alamos Dressage Center - the very first wholly dedicated to Dressage Riding Center in the USA; and where your editor studied with Mr. Carmona many decades ago as a young woman. I rode at Los Alamos while working for a private student of Jack LeGoff's - an Adult amateur who paid for my lessons with Mr. Carmona multiple times a week; as my salary for helping him during one of the earliest summer Dressage show seasons - in New Jersey and Long Island in the early 1970s. I took on this position following my graduation from the Potomac Horse Center's British Horse Society program. Mr. Carmona was a lovely man; and very classical. He was one of a few of the greatest old Masters who came to

America in those early days of Dressage here; to teach Americans; still at that time - mostly ignorant of the subject. It was a special time and affected me for life; impressing upon me the importance of the Classical canon; and to appreciate the formal elegant training style of the old school Masters I was so fortunate to get my first lessons with.



Major Hector Carmona, founder of Los Alamos Dressage Center.

The late Major Hector Carmona (1925-1987) founded Los Alamos Dressage Center in 1966 and began teaching dressage to Gail Hoff in 1972. Together they created one of the largest and most successful dressage centers in the United States after relocating to Freehold, NJ in 1978.

Major Carmona was a retired Chilean cavalry officer and after having graduated first in his class as a Riding Master at the Chilean Military Academy, he was retained by the school to serve as instructor and competitor in international dressage, three-day event, and jumping. Thus, prior to coming to the USA in 1964, he had already competed in the South American and Pan American Games, the World Championships, and the Olympic Games as a member of Chile's Modern Pentathlon team.

Upon arriving in the US, first as a member of the Inter-American Defense Board for Chile and then as a civilian after a medical discharge due to an accident sustained in the military, Major Carmona helped as a private citizen to introduce and cultivate dressage in the United States. He not only trained and coached but also offered his services as an International dressage judge. His first student, Martha Knocke, became an international competitor in Europe and won the Junior Medal Championship. He then agreed to coach the United States Equestrian Team dressage riders for the Pan American Games and proved his capabilities when the team won the Silver Medal in 1967. At the same time, using his knowledge of eventing, he also agreed to coach the USET Three-Day riders in dressage and was well rewarded when the team captured the Gold Medal for the United States. Although Major Carmona helped to bring great success to the US at the Pan American Games in 1967, he did not forget his native country, either, and loaned the Chilean team two of his Grand Prix horses, which aided in winning that country the Gold Medal in dressage.

During this period, while Major Carmona continued to coach a USET dressage rider, Donald Plumb, for the 1968 Olympic Games, he had already founded the first dressage school in the US--Los Alamos Dressage Center.

Please submit an article or write up about one of your significant riding Instructors from your Dressage past to "Dressage Deciphered" for publication; to : newsletter@firstcoastclassicaldressagesociety.com

Thank you Patron and Society Patron Members for your extra support of First Coast Classical Dressage Society !!

Gold Society Patron - Mary O'Brien

Patron - Lisa Beardley

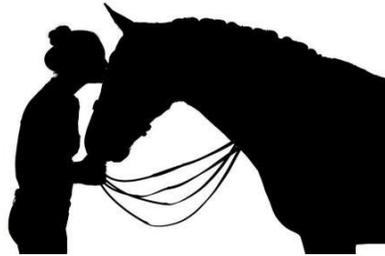
Patron - Sandi Lucas

Patron - Lisa Spallone

Patron - Denise Moxon

Patron - Carolyn Belcher

www.focussed.nl



Classified Information:

Wintec "Professional" Model (discontinued); Jumping Saddle. Suitable for general riding; jumping; training; swimming; etc. I have several tree - bars you can have to go with it. Is a little older looking; but was one of their very BEST models ever; and is still very useful; and unlike newer ones; not slippery. Super lightweight and a good second; guest; beginner; or colt starting saddle. \$220. OBO

Tex Tan 14.5" Barrel Saddle - Deep Seat Western Saddle - VERY useful adorable little Western saddle for a young person or slender adult. Has been used for barrels and as a colt starting saddle. I bought it for a long range trail riding saddle - so I could bring things along, you can't tie onto a dressage saddle. But it's a bit too small for my adult derriere. So I am selling it. It's been all cleaned and oiled and new strings and conchos added etc. Has it's girth straps (cinch straps); and I have a few pads that are really nice and some vintage cool Western bridles I picked up you can go through. Great for Western Dressage. \$250 OBO. **Contact Linda Dennis at: foundationdressage@gmail.com if you are interested in either one of these saddles.**



Meet the Members of First Coast Classical Dressage Society!



Lisa (Lee) Spallone has been a member of First Coast Classical Dressage Society since its inception. She was an early supporter both by participation and financially. She even hosted a number of the earliest riding and social events at her beautiful Bella Mia Stables in St. Augustine, including clinics; a Dressage Schooling Horse Show; and our early General Membership meetings for end of the year.

Lisa is a New Jersey native; who purchased her farm - formerly known as Black Forest Stables - early in the 2000s; and became dedicated to Dressage and Dressage training soon after. She has had a number of important mounts along the way; but is currently the proud owner of a beautiful grey PRE Stallion; whom she rides and trains with our local International FEI *4 level judge and trainer Agnes Majewska Billington; who also coaches a select few boarders at Bella Mia.

Lisa is not a frequent show rider these days; though she showed locally quite a bit at one time with her various horses, including in our own FCCDS shows. Nowadays you might see her volunteering for various equine organizations; where she is still a regular financial supporter and member. When you see her around

the equestrian landscape; be sure to say hello!

Congratulations to The Dressage Foundation's 2020 GIFTED Award Winners: CAROLYN BELCHER & Greyson!!



Carolyn and her KWPN boy Greyson have won the Dressage Foundations's GIFTED grant, for deserving USDF members with a specific riding goal in mind; that would depend on the ability to spend uninterrupted time with their favorite professional to accomplish. Carolyn is working with local trainer Brian MacMahon of Sword from the Stone Farm, in Wellborn, Florida. She is looking forward to working and competing Greyson at the Second Level this year - moving up from First, following this help, and the things she's learned from this opportunity. Once again; Congrats from all of us at FCCDS to Carolyn and Greyson, long time members of First Coast Classical Dressage Society..

<https://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/apply/grants-and-programs.html>



Bulletins from the Board -

Board meetings are held by Teleconference - or Video-Conference on the second Thursday of the Month. All Members are welcome to join in if you wish; by notifying the President - Lisa Beardsley, of your interest so she can provide you with the no. and code to enter; or provide the link for video connection.. You can contact her at president@firstcoastclassicaldressagesociety.com

Our January Board meeting was held on January 23rd at 6pm. Present were Lisa Beardsley President; Linda Dennis Vice President; and Brenda Hartley; Treasurer. Absent was Barbara Cadwell.

Subjects included use of the new Video Conference Ap required to partake in Board Meetings as a participant; and how to share and utilize it. There are still some kinks to work out apparently since only one person was able to use it successfully. :)

We had allot to go over; including the setting up of committees for things such as: helping to coordinate and recruit volunteers for the three upcoming FCCDS clinics; whether to offer points towards the Schooling Dressage Awards at the end of the year; for scores given during Ride-a-Test Clinic Rides with qualified judges; or to keep it all an Educational focused event; and a re-cap of issues regarding Insurance by Blue Bridle of the landowner's property while the FCCDS event is ongoing.

We also discussed Barbara Cadwell's offer to head up the effort to revisit using Lee Tubman for our 2020 Calendar year; in an effort to get some return on the \$1800. Deposit he was given for last year by former VP Heather Rodney. Issues discussed were; where we would hold the event; given the need for an indoor to ensure weather wouldn't be a determining factor; and an attempt to fund the advertising; and venue rental with Dressage Foundation Grant funds; if we can secure one. Whether or not Member rides could be subsidized to make participation by the General Membership that wants to ride in this clinic; was also discussed; and how that might be achieved. His usual fee is \$250. Per 45min. Session.

Also was discussed was the change over from our 2019 Treasurer Sandi Lucas; to our new Treasurer Brenda Hartley; and the requirements for the official business to go forward.

Future Meetings Minutes will be published on the Website. The Website has had the alterations necessary to advertise and take reservations for the upcoming clinics this spring.

For now the upcoming events decided on and on the schedule for the Societies 2020 year are:

4 clinics scheduled; 2/29, 3/28, 4/18, 5/9 on 2/29 – Beth Barritt o 3/28 – Eugene Abello on 4/18 – Simone VanBelligen; on 5/9 – May Days Judges Talk •

Social Events on 6/20 – Xenophon on 7/18 – Beach party on 8/8 – Social Affair Members Choice on Sept/Oct/Nov – need offerings on 12/13 – Ornament Exchange



DRESSAGE DECIPHERED is edited by FCCDS Board Member Linda Dennis. .

Member submissions of articles and images go to: newsletter@firstcoastclassicaldressagesociety.com

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