

Summer /Fall Newsletter 2011

Dear Friends,

What a whirlwind of summer activity this year! Mark and I hope you have all had a wonderful summer! Fall is approaching and it is always such a great time of year here in New England!



Sierra Keasler

Trainer/Coach Jessica Roberson Wright of Murfreesboro Tennessee and her Junior Young rider Sierra Keasler have attended the Florida Dressage Experience program for the past 2 winters and have really excelled in the last two years. This experience and training dramatically changed their program. Jessica and Sierra have been at Gladstone this past weekend where Sierra had been invited to a coveted slot to compete at the U.S. National Championships. She had a solid ride her first day on Fabulous in the team test and placed 5th behind horses with International competition records. The final day in their Junior Individual test they improved their score to the 65.00% range and garnered a 4th giving them a 4th over all placing for Fabulous and Sierra. Heartiest congratulations to Coach Jessica, and Sierra and Fabulous!

Shannon Pedlar of Morven Park, Leesburg Virginia organized a fantastic Dressage Camp for me to teach this summer. It was a very close facsimile of our Florida Dressage Experience Program School. It was a delightful 4 days of lectures and training that allowed incredible progress for everyone. It was so successful that I followed it up with another clinic after their August dressage show. While judging this summer I checked

out Santa Barbara Ca., Saratoga N.Y., Long Island, Leesburg Va, Mascouche, Quebec, Murfreesboro, Va., St. Justine de Newton, Quebec and Bromont Quebec. Almost everywhere great organizers asked me to instruct or clinic afterwards and I had the pleasure of seeing so many new horses and riders and greeting old friends as well as preparing so many of you for your fall finals! Our Florida Dressage Experience Program riders have been telephoning and e-mailing and they have been moving up levels and competing with increased successful following their winter training with me. Best of luck to you all!

On a personal note our youngest, Thomas married beloved Britny on July 16 and we had a few days off to be involved with the preparation and celebrations of such a happy occasion. In between judging, clinics, and the wedding I had wonderful horses to train this summer, 4 to 6 daily as well as Elton and lessons here in Maine. Thank you to all the special owners who send their horses to me.

Elton who was 3 on June 6 has had an interesting summer. He has some time off to grow but also made some "cool" progress under saddle and in-hand. If you are interested in young horses and their work check out his Blog... What's Up with Elton? on www.DressageClinics.com. If you haven't checked the website lately, it has a completely new look. The Florida Dressage Experience pages now have area amenities pages to help locate accommodations and services for folks that are attending the Florida Dressage Experience Program.



Icon

Breeder Deb Tyler of Tylord Farms has sent me another one of her outstanding geldings from the farm to start under saddle so that he may go for sale. His name is Icon by Inamorato (talented eventing stallion/the mare is from Deb's traditional dressage lines.). He is 4 years, a light chestnut with small white markings. What a Dream! He is about 16 to 16.1 now. I think he's about grown. I like his mind and personality. He jumps the stone walls in the pasture for fun ! He would make the showiest hunter I have

ever seen but he has nice dressage gaits. I am in the process of backing him and he has been so good for me. I am sorry that he is for sale! I would like to continue with him. I have been lunging him and sitting on him and am progressing in a normal way. I am just starting to "ride" him a tiny bit as he hasn't been here long. Thank you again to Tylord Farms for sending me their fantastic horses.



Many of you know DVM Stephanie Hiekkinen owner of Aryzona. Those of you who rode this wonderful Trakehner mare at our Florida school this year will be pleased to hear that Aryzona has been going eventing for her owner Stephanie and they have been jumping clear and doing a great job in the dressage phase! They are a force to contend with here in Maine. Stephanie has given me permission to bring Aryzona to Florida again to be one of our school horses and she is doing nice flying changes, ½ pass trot and canter, shoulder-in and beautiful walk pirouettes. She is a talented mare that gives the correct feel to a rider and we are thrilled to have her available to be a part of our European Style school. She will be working on the PSG trot tour this winter.

Some of you know that Stepahnie breeds draft crosses. Right now Stephanie has a dark brown 2 year old draft/cross gelding called Reign for sale. I have the pleasure of working with a lot of Stephanie's horses. Reign is going to be large. He's had a lot of handling and training and currently has been tacked, lunged , long lined and is of quiet temperament. Stephanie feels he will be an exceptional eventing horse.

There is more judging and clinics ahead for this fall and the preparations to go to Florida are already under way. The 2012 session Of the Florida Dressage Experience program is looking exceptional. We have great horses and riders coming ! The Program is set up to be as similar to a European Style dressage School as possible. Set in a beautiful, private setting in Florida Daryl Oaks is used exclusively for the school during the winter months. It provides great facilities of a wonderful stable and pastures with a covered arena , good footing and superb mirrors.

Riders and horses work together from 8 to 4 daily with lunch and breaks 5 days a week. Like a school, you are riding, lunging, long lining and learning advanced training techniques as well as attending lectures and demonstrations, keeping a work log/journal , and reading pertinent books and articles to support the work/training you are doing. All riders work on lateral work and walk pirouettes , many on flying changes and FEI work. Each year we start horses in-hand in piaffe work. Most rider/trainers utilize the program in 3 to 12 week segments but accommodations can be made for shorter special circumstances. We do have an opportunity to accept a limited number of riders into the program that cannot bring a mount. Some join the school for a week or two at a time. If you are interested in this style of European Dressage School Experience please contact me soon. There are a few openings. This opportunity to go to school , to DAILY continue in your education is life changing for most riders. It

is not a just a riding lesson, an escape from the winter , an extended clinic , or a chance to go showing with a coach, but it is an education .

This story came in from one of this year's participants ,

"My husband bought another snowmobile last year. It did not change his life. For less money, I came to The Florida Dressage Experience Program. *Your program changed my life*. I have finally begun to go ahead in my riding, teaching and training. My level of teaching has gone up and I have more advanced clients now. At middle age, I had pretty much given up on my own riding as I did not think I would be able to ride any better . With your clear instruction day after day, and opportunity to ride the school horse, I conquered my riding problems. With your guidance I learned how to develop a program to continue my horses training and moved up two levels. I am now headed for Prix St. Georges when I didn't even think I was going to make it out of Second (level) ! My dream of getting to FEI will be fulfilled! Here is my deposit for this winter.... I want to continue my education. I can't wait to get there.. "

Mark and I hope you and your families and horses are all well. With fall approaching we are all making plans for the fall, winter and spring. Give me a call or e-mail if you want a lesson or would like to book a clinic at your farm.. It is easy to organize !

We hope to see you in person or hear from you all soon!
Until then, all our best!

Ida and Mark

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