



In the News

<http://www.silvercreekarena.com>

February 14, 2006

Congratulations to all participants and attendees for the weekend 'Combined Tests' event!! We think everyone there will agree that it was truly a treat to see our young riders dressed out 'English to the hilt', their horses braided, hooves polished...looking almost 'foreign' to our own eyes...confidently riding onto the 'Dressage Court', individually accomplishing the tasks 'called'...courageously entering the 'Jump Course', approaching each jump 'looking up for the next'...

It was the first, for us, hosting one of these events. A 'Combined Test' combines Dressage and Jumping into one event that is 'judged', with the results tallied into an overall score. Having had only two 'Introduction to Dressage' clinics and only two 'Over the Fences' clinics prior to the 'test', we were all still quite 'green' going into this event...however, our students executed amazingly well...and we are proud to have had winners in several categories! Several out of town participants, more experienced in this genre, raised the bar and allowed our novices a good view of what's to come...not only a learning experience, but entertaining as well to watch them ride the upper levels.

We all learned a lot...mostly that we need to learn more a lot more! Sharon Lampley is certainly to be commended for her tireless two days of setting up courses, measuring distances by feet and inches and by strides...arranging participant times and instructing volunteers...all in the cold wind that blew non-stop for both days!! It was delightful to see the helpful participation of so many volunteers, helping to carry and place jump standards and poles...quite a lot of work involved...thank you all very much!

*And, we learned a lot about 'timeliness'...*as the participants all work individually, 'timing' is essential...with a whistle from the Judge, the count begins in 'seconds', not minutes, and one must be ready, not only physically but mentally as well, to ride forth and perform the tasks promptly 'called' to them...with the dressage court letters defining the parameter of the task...one must have studied their literature handed out in the clinics, done their homework and practiced!

As one of our early goals at Silver Creek was to provide 'educational' clinics and instruction in the diverse genres of equestrian events...we are so pleased to be already seeing definitive results coming from these more 'precision' oriented events. Targeting 'equitation', English and Western, our clinics are clearly providing exposure and developing the 'eye' to see the positive roles these precision techniques are playing in participant performances. All visiting clinicians and judges have been so impressed with the level of skill they are encountering and all have expressed a desire to return and help further develop a talented group of students...kudos to us all and many thanks to all of you that are supporting our efforts in every way...it is really all for the young people (and us 'young at heart') to be able to learn to safely enjoy the many genres of equestrian sports...:>)

Everyone is waiting for photos...anyone getting photos, please send in jpeg to silvercreek@canufly.net

Wishing everyone a 'Special Valentine Day' :>) And, if you're going to the Dixie National, watch for Ms Elizabeth on Little Red, making her 'Queen's' run...be sure and get her autograph!

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