



Whatcom County Dressage and Eventing Association

www.wcdea.org

March 2025 Newsletter

Membership Meeting – Thursday March 20th, 2025

Roundtable Pizza, Sunset Square

1145 E Sunset Dr. #135, Bellingham, WA 98226

Meeting from 7:00-8:00pm

Come at 6:30 if you'd like to eat ahead of time, meeting begins at 7 PM.

Board Musings

From Michelle Becker: The Board is still looking for someone to be the president, or even co-presidents, so if you feel the urge, please let Michelle Becker, Michele Bennett, or Carol know! We'd like to recognize our volunteer of the year for 2024, Deirdre Dong! Thank you, Deirdre for all your hard work as someone organizing events, helping at events, as well as being a board member!

2024 was a great year for club activities, whether they were riding activities, or educational opportunities, thank you to everyone who planned and organized and kept our calendar full of fun! 2025 also has a great line-up of activities! Check the website out for more info. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on March 20th!

Upcoming Events:

Be Show Ready March 22

This is an unmounted presentation at Kelly O'Toole's (near Everson) on all things show day for non-seasoned folks. Tell your friends who are getting started, or just come hang out and be social. The only registration is to email host for address and to give us a head count. Bring your own lawn chair. Will be inside Kelly's snug barn. kelly.otoole@cablespeed.com

April 5 & 6 - The always-popular Cavaletti Clinic expanded to two days! Taught by Kim Roe and held at Patti Yust's beautiful farm.

The website has all the information! <https://www.wcdea.org/>

The website is kept up to date by webmistress Jo Rochester. (If organizers get info to Jo, it's on the website.) Thank you, Jo!

Treasurer's Update

The required yearly audit was conducted on January 24th by myself, Lynn Salas and Kelly O'Toole. The books were judged to be in good shape and all accounts balanced.

We had a great year last year, providing many low-cost options for club members. There had been a surplus in accounts, and these were spent down a bit, to a healthy level for a club this size. We had benefits for members, i.e. low cost events, a pizza night and the catered Christmas party.

Alas, all good things often end up needing to be modified. This year there will be more emphasis on events breaking even or making a modest profit. We are still the best thing in town, but you will see entries going up a bit. All event organizers will need to meet with me briefly, to go over budgets as they are formed.

We have a great lineup of activities planned so far. A variety of folks stood up to organize.

Now if someone would take the Pres or find a friend for Co Pres, we'd be in even more fabulous shape!!!

Respectfully,
Carol Landt



Photos from October 2025 Liberty Clinic held at Beth Brannian's farm.

From Linda Cain: I'm Looking for a barn buddy for my 20+ year old, 14.2 hand mare. Daily pasture turn out, stalled with individual gravel paddocks in evening. Mare or gelding. No drama, good ground manners, good in cross-ties and hitching rail. Retired, non-rider would be great. Linda Cain, cainshome4@gmail.com or 360 820 2106

A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

I'm sorry to be so delinquent in getting your newsletter out! I've included the November 2024 and January 2025 minutes below to help catch you up. (I haven't received the February minutes but will include those in the next newsletter). If there is anyone who would enjoy taking on the newsletter job, I'd be more than happy to help get you going! Feel free to email me at bluegatefarm@yahoo.com if you'd like to take give it a try. Many thanks for your patience! Kim Roe

Things Horses Fear: *(Newsletter Humor from Lynn Salas)*

Objects. The objects that horses most commonly find terrifying include: rocks, farm equipment, cars, buildings, jumps, garbage cans and pretty much anything they consider out of the ordinary.

Other animals. Horses are often afraid of birds, cows, goats, sheep, donkeys, deer or other wildlife. And some are afraid of other horses.

January WCDEA Club Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

In Attendance: Vice President: Michelle Becker; Secretary: Michele Bennett; Immed. Past President/Treasurer: Carol Landt; Marilyn Hagen; Deirdra Dong; Jenny Styer; Patty Yust; Robin Probst; Lynn Salas; Beth Brannian; Kelly O'Toole; Vickie Schimke; Josephine Hegeberg
Minutes from November: Secretary to send November minutes to Kim Roe for publishing in the January newsletter. December: Christmas party was a lot of fun.

Treasurer Report:

Checking: \$1,907.61; Savings: \$3,491.05.

Club total: \$5,398.66

Per the Treasurer: we are at our threshold where we can pay for any event. Audit to be conducted.

Old Business:

Shout outs to our great volunteers and club members!!

- Awards! Kelly
- Volunteer of the Year: Deirdra
- Hostess with the Mostest: Patty
- Hospitality: Beth and Jenny
- Website: Jo the Amazing
- Past Presidents: Carol et al.

New Business:

What did we love about 2024? What do we want to do in 2025?

Michelle presented a white board and all present gave ideas on what they wanted to see the club do in the coming year... Below are the current list of educational sessions, clinics, and shows that have so far been committed to:

Shows/Clinics:

- Show Prep Clinic (Mid-March): Organizer: Kelly O'Toole; Host: Kelly O'Toole
Kelly to show people how to braid (w/ Carol)
- Cavaletti Clinic (April 5,6): Organizer: Carol Landt; Host: Patty Yust
May stretch to 2 days to accommodate interest
- Liberty Clinic (Spring): Organizer: Deirdra; Host: Beth Brannian
- Ride-A-Test (May): Organizers: Patty and Kelly; Host: Patty Yust
- WE Clinic and Show – 2 days (Mid-July): Organizer: Vickie and Robbie; Venue: Sunset Park
- Halloween show (October): Organizers: Vickie and Deirdra; Host: TBD
- WE Clinic w/ Kim Roe (TBD): Organizer: Michelle Becker

Education:

- First Aid – Barn and On the Trail (TBD): Organizer: Deirdra
- Equine Dentistry (TBD): Organizer: Michele Bennett

2025 Committees:

- Hospitality 2025: Robin and Marilyn
- Awards: Kelly and Patty w/ Michelle Becker as back-up

Next meeting in February

Carol motioned to adjourn; Kelly seconded; all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

November WCDEA Club Meeting Minutes

Nov 21, 2024

Call to order 7:00 PM

Attendees: Carol Landt, Lynn Salas, Robin Probst, Deirdra Dong, Marilyn Hagen, Michelle Bennet, Kate Simmons, Michelle Becker, Kelly O'Toole, Vanessa.

Approval of meeting minutes from October meeting. Motion to approve Carol, all approved

Treasurer's report

Income from clinics/shows \$2520.00

Expenses \$3,329.75

Checking \$2,300.94

Savings \$3,490.47

Total \$5,791.41

Old Business

- Super successful year; lots of good events and clinics offered
- Liberty clinic- was a super successful and will be welcoming her back in the late winter or early spring
- Saddle fitting clinic was super; Hannah is a wealth of knowledge and a several members braved the cold to take advantage of the opportunity.
- WE Clinic and a show was a super success! The weather was amazing and Misty River was fantastic as always. Costumes and obstacles were enjoyed by horses and riders.

New Business

- Christmas party- club will cover current members with a plus one. 3:00PM December 1st at Michelle Bennet's, do not take jebbs rd. Will pass a dairy and down a one lane road, pastures out front, farm gate will be open. Parking is ok and safe on the lawn, soil drains super well. Will be catered, bring your own beverage, dessert to share and gift for gift exchange ~\$20
- New board members are needed for 2025. Lynn and Deirdra are stepping down. Carol is willing to run for treasurer. Robin would love to mentor a VP. Need a President and VP. Michelle Bennet is willing to be secretary. Michelle Becker may consider VP.
- Discussion of a partial board.... To be re-discussed at the Christmas party...
- Email will be mailed out regarding openings on the board as we still have a few openings. If interested, please reach out to Carol asap. We will finalize at the xmas party.
- Need to find a new platform other than EventBrite

- Motion to vote on the current proposed board members; Kelly motions, Marilyn seconded, all approved.
- Think about opportunities and events for 2025!!

Announcements

- Welcomed Vanessa who is looking for housing subsidized and/or in exchange for farm/horse care for herself and her teenage daughter. Has experience gardening, landscaping, animals, horses, children and elders. Would like rural within 20minutes of downtown Bellingham. Contact Vanessa at 360-510-3205 or hello@vanessaosage.com

Michelle motioned to adjourn, Kate seconded, all approved. Meeting adjourned 7:35PM