

# IMPULSION

The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Dressage Association

Fall 2023

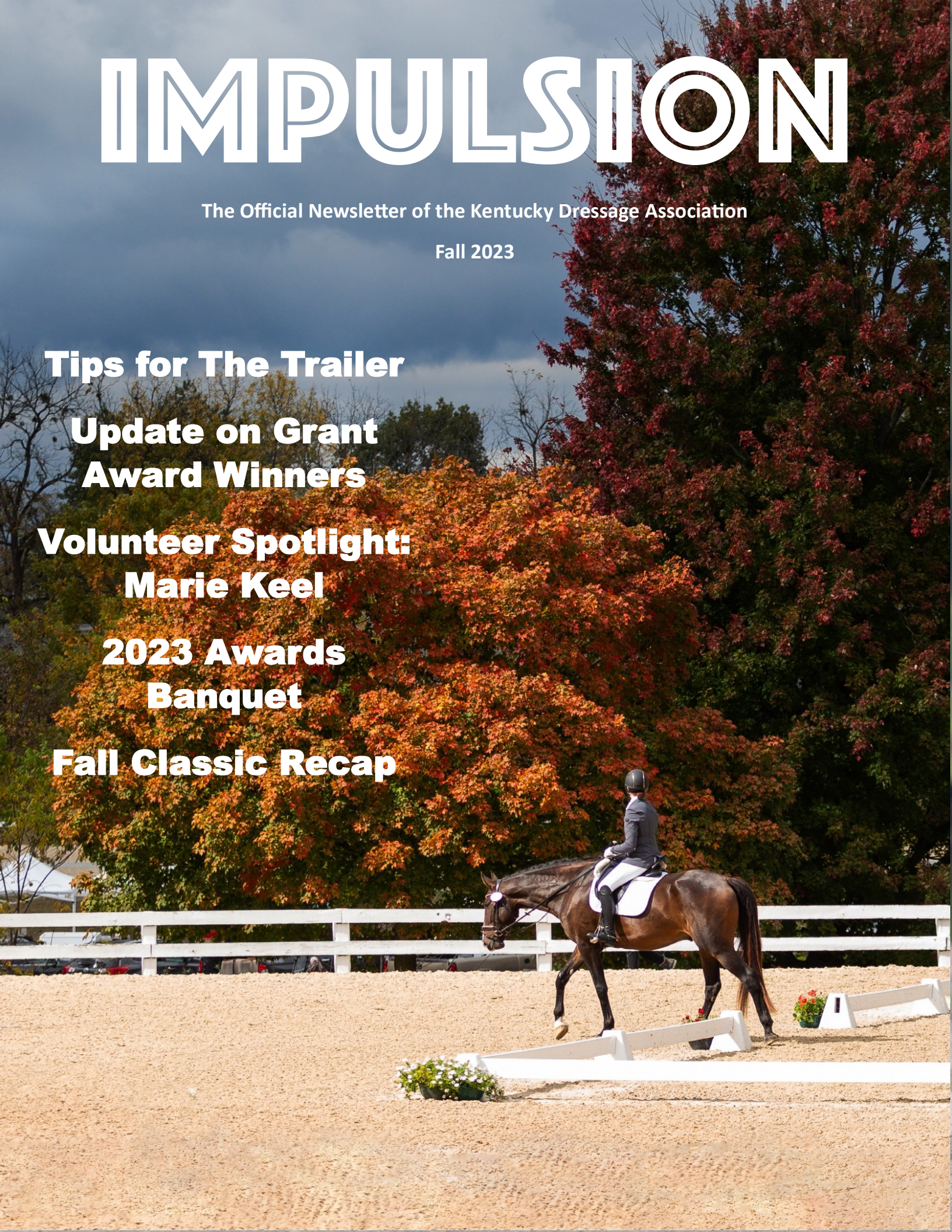
**Tips for The Trailer**

**Update on Grant  
Award Winners**

**Volunteer Spotlight:  
Marie Keel**

**2023 Awards  
Banquet**

**Fall Classic Recap**





# Upcoming KDA Events

**Nov. 18, 2023**    **KDA Awards Banquet**

Woodford Inn

Versailles, KY

**April 6, 2024**    **KDA Early Spring Show**

Skylight Horse Farm

Goshen, KY

## Sign Up To Volunteer!

Attention KDA members — please consider signing up to volunteer! Using the USEA Eventing Volunteers App (EventingVolunteers.com), you can sign up for specific jobs at specific shows. If you need help signing up, please contact Jena White — KDA's admin — at [jena.kda@gmail.com](mailto:jena.kda@gmail.com).

We will need at least 100 volunteers for next year's Regional Championship event in September 2024. The theme for next year will be the Wizard of Oz!

If possible, please consider lending a helping hand to keep our shows and competitions running smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you to those that currently volunteer! The shows and competitions could not function without each and every one of you.

*On the Cover: Photo by Emmet Roche, shooting for Lisa Michelle Dean Photography*

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Allison Deaton

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## What to Keep Inside the Trailer

Anyone who shows horses on a regular basis has a pretty extensive stock of supplies in their trailer. From extra brushes to special show saddle pads, each rider has their own “must have” items that make show days less stressful and keep their horses happy in an unfamiliar environment.

Here are a few of my personal must-have items for the trailer!

**Clip-In Hair Net with Sparkles -** (\$31.95 from Dressage Extensions)  
Not only useful for dressage, this bun-cover keeps riders’ hair tidy for all disciplines. It comes in several colors to coordinate with show clothing, and it has just the right amount of bling. The clips hold hair securely in place so riders do not need to worry about it falling out down the centerline. I keep at least one of these in my trailer, clipped to my garment bag for easy access, so I never have to worry about forgetting it at home.

**Pep-O-Mint Life Savers -** (\$22 from Walmart)  
Feeding treats can be a touchy subject, but I keep a bag of these life savers in my trailer on show days. Individually wrapped and unlikely to melt in the heat, these mints make a tasty snack for both horse and rider. Additionally, these mints have no red dye in them, so a rogue bit of froth could not be wrongly mistaken for any blood in the mouth.

**Slick ‘N Easy Groom Block-** (\$5.99 from KBC Horse Supplies)  
Great for removing bots, these grooming blocks are so useful when those pesky yellow dots sneak into nearly every leg crevice they can find. Keeping a block in the trailer makes removal a breeze for those last minute touch-ups before shows or competitions. While a traditional bot knife can be faster and more effective, the risk of cutting the leg when a horse’s hair is short is much greater. The groom block largely reduces this risk, which is very important at show events.

**Noble Equestrian Socks in Blue-** (\$11.95 Dover Saddlery)  
These are my favorite boot socks to keep stocked in the trailer. Unfortunately, the brand — Dover Saddlery — is a tad difficult to come by in local stores. Nonetheless, having any extra pairs of boot socks can be a good idea. I keep several pairs of these socks in Royal Blue in my garment bag, as you really cannot have too many socks. Whether the weather is hot, cold, or wet, it is always a good idea to keep extras. Of course, it is also important to have them in the right color for placement regulations.

**Hose & Spray Nozzle -** (Found in any local Supply Store)  
Whether a rider needs these for a bath or for filling buckets, having a hose and spray nozzle of one’s own is always beneficial. Anyone who has shown at KHP knows that the spigots in the barn aisles can be a little aggressive with their water pressure, so it is much easier to fill buckets without getting soaking if one has their own hose. Also, there is no guarantee that there will be a hose at any wash stalls, so it would be smart to bring your own just in case. I keep a 25’ hose and my favorite Select-A-Spray nozzle in my trailer for all shows.

These are a just a few of the must-haves that I keep in my trailer.

What are your must-have items for showing?



# The Impact of My Junior Grant

*By Isabelle Montes*

My name is Isabelle Montes, and I recently received a Junior Grant Award from KDA.

I used the first half of my Junior Grant money to help myself and my horse — Valentino — prepare for Third Level with new lessons.

I had one individual lesson with Mary Piller on a more experienced horse so that I could learn to do flying lead changes. The lesson with Ms. Piller helped me understand how to set up and ask for the lead change, as well as feel a horse move through the change.

Following the lesson, I used what I learned to work with Valentino on developing and refining his changes.

In May, we were able to achieve two qualifying third-level scores to earn my USDF Bronze Medal.

In June, I attended a two-day clinic with Georgia Wren-Russ. The first day of the clinic with Ms. Wren-Russ we worked on keeping Valentino more round, and we also worked on canter half passes and lead changes. The second day at the clinic we worked on trot work, keeping Valentino round (on the bit), and having a more square frame.



Valentino and I are continuing to progress, and we hope to qualify for USDF Year-End Awards at Third Level.

## Looking Ahead to The 2024 KDA Calendar

**April 6, 2024**

**KDA Early Spring Show**

Skylight Horse Farm  
Goshen, KY

**August 17, 2024**

**Annual Schooling Show**

Masterson Station Park  
Lexington, KY

**May 24-5, 2024 KDA Spring Warmup Show**

Kentucky Horse Park  
Lexington, KY

**September 12-15, 2024:**

**- Great American Insurance Group/  
United States Dressage Federation  
Region 2 Championships**

**May 26, 2024**

**KDA 37th Dressage Show**

Kentucky Horse Park  
Lexington, KY

**- KDA Fall Classic**

Kentucky Horse Park  
Lexington, KY

**July 20-1, 2024**

**KDA Summer Classic I&II**

Kentucky Horse Park  
Lexington, KY



# KDA Adult Amateur Education Grants Help Fund Continued Learning

By Alex Belton

**A**s a recipient of one of the Adult Amateur Education grants at the 2022 KDA Year-End Banquet, I was excited to have the opportunity to expand my learning this summer. I would first like to thank KDA for awarding me one of their amateur grants. I applaud KDA for prioritizing education for its' amateurs.

I'm currently working on bringing my six-year-old pinto Canadian Warmblood gelding, Art Collector (Artie), up the levels. I purchased him as a greenie at three years old and have done all his training myself with the help of weekly lessons from my trainer, Emily Brollier Curtis. In 2023 we made our Second Level debut, earning a 63.81% at our first show of the year. After getting a "baseline" score for the year, I set a goal to improve upon this score and work toward Third Level next year.

To gain a judge's perspective on methods of score improvement, I wanted to participate in some clinics with recognized show judges. We were able to bring 'S' judge Heidi Berry to our farm for a two-and-a-half-day clinic this summer. Although I was only able to ride with Heidi once during the clinic, I found her feedback to be extremely helpful.

One of the most helpful tidbits Heidi told me regarded scoring at the end of tests. She explained that judges rarely look at the rider and horse when they fill out their scores for collective marks at the end of a test. The judges have already made their decisions on those scores, and they

are often easy points to earn because they have double coefficients.

Talking to Heidi, I explained that one of my biggest challenges is getting my 1700lb. giant into a more compact body length so he is not constantly strung out. Body length also impacts medium and extended gaits, which Artie is still green and learning. To help me improve, Heidi told me to think of my horse as a certain length (like 18 ft) at the beginning of my ride and to continually try to make the horse's body shorter during the ride.

To practice 'shortening the body,' we worked on lateral exercises in shoulder-in and haunches-in, getting Artie to engage his inside hind and put him into the outside rein. By the end of the ride, we implemented the notion of 'shortening the body' in Artie's medium trot across the diagonal, and it showed a real difference in helping Artie sit down and push off his hind end to improve the medium gait. Heidi recommended adding more hill work into our weekly training to gain strength in the hind end.

The following week, I rode in a clinic with trainer Cathy Zappe. She has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals, as well as her Gold Freestyle Bar. She is a USDF Certified Instructor through 4th Level and is a member of the USDF Education Faculty.

I explained my learning goals to Cathy, and she asked me to warm up as normal. She noticed right away that Artie tends to pop his outside



shoulder through my outside rein so he can carry his haunches to the inside and not have to load weight on his inside hind leg. With that in mind, we focused on getting Artie's body straighter in all movements.

Cathy wanted me to constantly have a slight feeling of shoulder fore. To achieve this, we worked with Artie on changing his body movement. We did shoulder-in on a circle, shoulder-in down the wall, and multiple leg yields as practice. Throughout each exercise, I was blocking his outside shoulder with my outside leg and rein, encouraging him to step under his body with his inside hind. We used the same process to go on a straight line and get a straight horse.

Although Artie certainly thought it was difficult, it was obvious looking in the arena mirrors that his was much straighter by the end of the ride. I still notice this crookedness occasionally, but I will continue to correct him until he gets stronger. Straightness is imperative as we begin working on flying changes and other upper level movements.

I look forward to riding with more clinicians as we continue to improve and work toward Third Level. Thanks again to KDA for offering these educational grants that allow me to further develop my skills.



# Volunteer Spotlight

Marie Keel started coming to KDA shows several years ago. One day, she stopped by the volunteer tent to ask how she could help and get involved.

Immediately, Marie was put to work. She began by gathering and arranging clipboards and papers for the next show day. Over time, she learned how to do more and more, and eventually Marie decided she enjoyed ring stewarding the most.

The intricacies of volunteering were all new to Marie, but she learned very quickly and continued to show up time and time again. Marie was a big help the day that she initially volunteered, and she has remained a faithful and dedicated volunteer throughout her time of service.

Marie loves meeting and encouraging the riders, spectators, and show staff at each and every show. She also falls in love with a few horses at each new show.



Marie is never without a smile, and she is always willing to help out in whatever way she can.

Every show needs a Marie!





# Kentucky Dressage Association Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

You do not want to miss the 2023 KDA Awards Banquet!

KDA members and guests can enjoy an annual meeting, dinner, and silent auction on Nov. 18, 2023. The auction will open promptly at 6:00p.m..

Guests may purchase tickets at the door or online on the KDA webpage. Members received RSVP cards by mail along with invitations to the banquet, and the RSVP must be postmarked by November 10th.

## Date:

November 18, 2023

## Time:

6:00pm - 10:00pm

## Tickets:

\$55 Adult

\$35 Jr/Young Rider

## Location:

Woodford Inn

140 Park Street

Versailles, KY 40383



# HIGH POINTS

## FALL CLASSIC I

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 2023

### CHAMPION

### RESERVE

#### OPEN

Emily Brollier, First 3, 74.583

Angela Jackson, Fourth 3, 72.500

#### AA

Julie Clarke, Training 3, 73.400

Erin Birkenhauer, Second 3, 68.690

#### JR/YR

Mary Piller, First 1, 73.889

Ella Fruchterman, Intermediate II,  
70.000

#### T.I.P.

#### CHAMPION

\*OVERALL HIGH POINT

#### TRAINING

Kerri Montgomery, Xingu, 70.000\*

#### FIRST

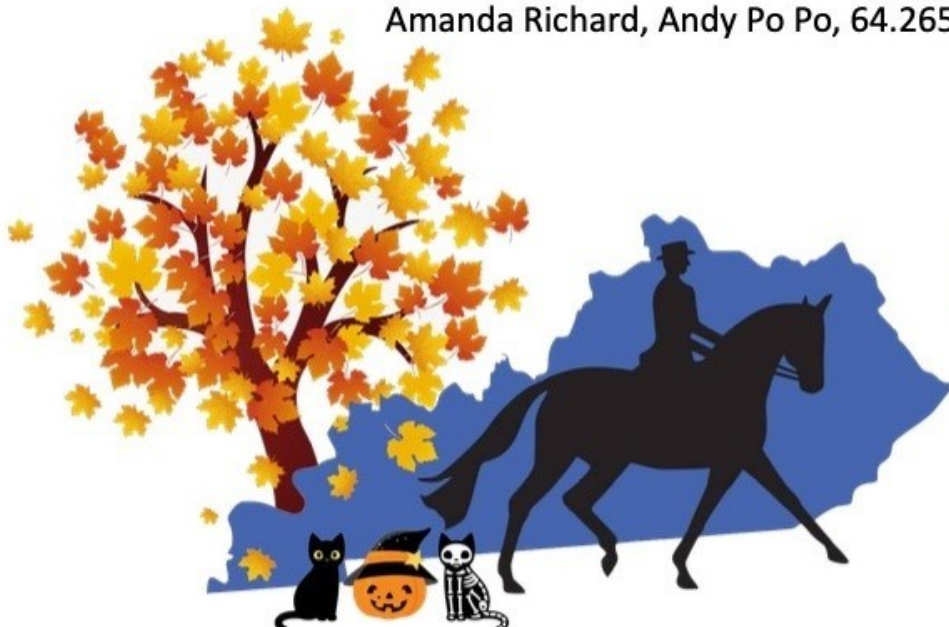
Samantha Mclean, Led Astray, 69.259

#### SECOND-FOURTH

Samantha Mclean, Led Astray, 64.429

#### FEI

Amanda Richard, Andy Po Po, 64.265



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Mary Pillar on Found in M Ocean



Emily Broiler on Love Day



Julie Clarke on Hilda



Samantha Mclean on Led Astray



Erin Birkenhauer on Gravitass

All photography provided by Lisa Michelle Dean photography



# HIGH POINTS

## FALL CLASSIC II

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2023

### CHAMPION

#### OPEN

Emily Brollier, First 3, 76.944

#### AA

Julie Clarke, Training 3, 73.600

#### JR/YR

Mary Piller, First 1, 74.444

### RESERVE

Ela Ladwig, First 1, 69.630

Natalie Hampton, First 3, 70.694

Ella Fruchterman, Grand Prix, 72.308

#### T.I.P.

CHAMPION \*OVERALL HIGH POINT

#### TRAINING

Kerri Montgomery, Xingu, 67.400

#### FIRST

Linda Betts, He's Rising, 65.000

#### SECOND-FOURTH

Kimberly Moore, The LuckDragon, 67.286

#### FEI

Amanda Richard, Andy Po Po, 69.559\*



All photos on the next page by Lisa Dean Photography: [lisamichelledeanphotography.shootproof.com/](https://lisamichelledeanphotography.shootproof.com/)





*Ella Fruchterman on Hannah Montana W*



*Angela Jackson on Salacia*



*Kerri Montgomery on Xingu*



*Amanda Richard on Andy Po Po*

*All photography provided by Lisa Michelle Dean photography*



## Heartfelt Moments from the KDA Fall Classic Show

Tracy Hendricks and her horse, U-Rockstar, rode their final show together at the KDA Fall Classic event. U-Rockstar retired at 22 years of age after completing his last ride at the Fall Classic show. Tracy and U-Rockstar competed in the Intermediate I freestyle and received 69.775% and a blue ribbon for their hard work. Tracy and U-Rockstar also got 68.625% on the second day of the Fall Classic for the same test. The duo retired on a good note!

*Image to the right: Tracy Hendricks and U-Rockstar pose for photographer Lisa Michelle Dean.*



Also at the KDA Fall Classic show, Army veteran Angelita Coots competed while in a special Army uniform. Coots rode her horse, Risen, on Saturday, October 14. They competed in the Training 2 and Training 3 events, earning good scores in both events.

*Image to the left: Angelita Coots displays her special gear for KDA admin Jena White.*