



IN THIS EDITION

Gems from the Arena

Meet a member

Trivia Night Recap

USEA Rules Refresher

JULY 2026

Summer is in full swing which means long days, early morning rides, and dodging afternoon storms before evening chores. Whether you're preparing for your next dressage test, exploring new training opportunities, or simply enjoying time in the saddle, there's plenty happening this season.

Inside this issue, you'll find highlights from our recent Fix-a-Test clinic with Margaret Freeman, a refresher on important USEA whip rule changes, photos from our always-popular Trivia Night, and the monthly member spotlight.

			X	X	X	X
X	X	X				

9.6 Cross Country Schooling

10.31 Dressage & Combined Training Show

11.5 Trivia night



2026 FRC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership into the FRC is a great idea. Perks include an informative, emailed monthly newsletter, discounts on club-sponsored activities, educational programs, socials with fun people, scholarship opportunities and year end awards! Join now with any one of our three membership options below.

- **Individual (\$25)**
- **Family (\$30)**
- **Business (\$35) – includes a free business card sized ad in our monthly newsletter!**

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City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Please write legibly! The club is not responsible for members not receiving club communications due to illegible membership forms.

Check ALL interests: ☐ Dressage ☐ Eventing ☐ Western Dressage ☐ Working Equitation
☐ Pleasure Riding ☐ Endurance ☐ Fox Hunting ☐ Hunter/Jumper ☐ Breeder ☐ Driving
☐ Hunter Pace ☐ Trail Riding ☐ Social member only Other: _____

Ideas for clinics, horse events, educational seminars or social events for 2026:

____ I am available to volunteer for club sponsored events (list volunteer job you would like)

____ I am available to help set up (usually Thurs) before the show (30 club bucks for about 2 hours work)

____ I am available to help pack up after the show (15 club bucks for about 1 hour work)

Make your check payable to FRC and mail to: FRC, P. O. Box 637, Landrum, SC 29356.

If you have chosen to join as a Business Member, please attach your business card with this application! You can **also join on-line** at www.foothillsridingclub.org

For questions, please contact foothillsridingclub@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Check our website for info, updates & more! **www.foothillsridingclub.org**



JOIN THE BOARD!

Consider giving back to the equestrian community by joining the Foothills Riding Club Board. Help shape the future of our events, programs, and community outreach.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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GEMS FROM THE ARENA

**A day of “fixing” tests with “S” Judge Margaret Freeman
Submitted by Candice Carr**

FRC hosted a Fix-a-Test on June 20th at Deer Meadow Farm. Clear skies, a cool breeze, and every chair along the C end of the ring filled ready to pick up some test “gems” from USEF “S”-rated dressage judge Margaret Freeman. We had all shapes and sizes participating, from Thoroughbreds to Irish sport horses to a variety of Baroque breeds.

Fix-a-Test clinics are a fantastic learning opportunity: you ride your test, hear the score and the reason behind it, and then – crucially – you get to fix it. Under Margaret’s clear, encouraging eye, every combination left the arena with something actionable. For those watching from the chairs, the lessons were just as rich.

“The half-halt is a renewable resource.”
– Judge Margaret Freeman

Here are a few gems that had everyone nodding – and quietly making mental notes for their own next ride.

- On corners: “Rotate your inside shoulder back.”
- On the centerline: “Riding shoulder-fore gives the horse confidence – he stays straight and doesn’t drift.”
- On lengthening: “Lengthening the trot does not mean posting faster. Rev the engine – increase engagement.”
- On ambition: “Riding for 6s just gets you a lot of 6s. Be brave and ride for 8s.”
- On accuracy: “You overshot the centerline at A ... again.”
(Delivered with a smile. We’ve all been there.)

GEMS FROM THE ARENA

The one that will stick:

If there was a single thread running through Margaret's coaching, it was good horsemanship – do what is going to benefit your horse in that moment.

The half-halt line drew the biggest question marks from the chairs. So many riders ration half-halts as though the supply might run out. Margaret's reminder that they are freely renewable was, for more than a few people watching, a lightbulb moment.

A BIG thank you to Misha and Chuck Marshall for hosting at their beautiful Deer Meadow Farm.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and newsletter for more FRC events!







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TRIVIA NIGHT

Although the faces changed a bit, the name and the results stayed the same: Mutton Withers came out on top of the FRC June Trivia Night, as they did in March, although seven other teams gave them a run for their money. We had a wonderful sponsor for the evening, Pink Rose Organix (available at The Hay Rack), who provided food for our stomachs to go with the food for our brains.

The questions were tough (in retrospect maybe too tough) and the competition was fierce. With some new faces, this Mutton Withers winning version included: Bette Mann, Becca Mann, Mary Otwell, Deborah Anderson and Christie Moldovan.

Seven other teams competed and made Mutton Withers work hard. In second were The Thoroughbreds: Jessica Braznell, Jane Barrett, Nicola Deines and Erin Hurlbert. Third was the team of Neigh Sayers: Ashley Rice, Harriette Smith, Kristen Griffith, Chris Allan, Candice Carr and Anne Crowley.

Here are a couple of questions from the evening that challenged the teams:

How many flying changes are there in an FEI grand prix dressage test?

What are the two gaits used in harness racing?

(See answers on page 19.)

The third and final FRC Trivia Night is planned for November 5th. Watch the newsletter for details.



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MEET A MEMBER



Favorite Horse:

My favorite horse is my horse, Bella. She's taught me so much more than I ever thought was possible. I still remember the first time I rode her. It was the coldest day of the year, and my family and I went down to Aiken to try horses. We thought we wanted a gelding, but when I first sat on Bella, we all knew she was the one. My mom felt this peaceful calm when I was on her, and I felt at home. I even stopped riding for a minute because of nerves, and Bella took care of me. She continues to take care of me every day, making me a better person and equestrian.



MADDIE GODDARD

of Years Membership:

This is my third year

Discipline(s):

Eventing

Favorite Food:

Chips! Any kind will do

Favorite Music:

I love all kinds of music, but currently listening to a lot of Singer-Songwriter and Broadway Musicals

Favorite Horse Movie:

National Velvet

Favorite non-horsey thing to do:

Crafting and anything art

Favorite thing about FRC:

FRC offers all my favorite horse things: cross country, hunter pace, and combined training! The shows are fun and well organized, and the people are so friendly and encouraging!

RULE REFRESHER: UNDERSTANDING THE 2025 CHANGES TO THE WHIP RULES

Meagan DeLisle | USEA Staff

Originally [published](#) on June 26, 2026



Regulations around whip usage changed in April of 2025, and the Eventing Riders Association of North America (ERAofNA) felt it was important to dedicate an edition of Rule Refresher to changes made to rule EV112.3 in the USEF Rules for Eventing.

Changes to this language were part of an extraordinary rule change, which was an expedited rule change process that took effect on April 1, 2025. Section EV112 in the USEF Rules for Eventing is categorized as “Unethical Treatment of the Horse.” Changes made to this section at that time were limited to EV112. Section 3, Whip. The new language appears as follows in the rules:

3. WHIP. The use of the whip must be reasonably administered at an appropriate time and in the right place.

a. **The whip must only be used as an aid to encourage the Horse forward.**

b. Time: As an aid, the only appropriate time is **when a Horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. Instances of inappropriate use of the whip include the whip used after Elimination, after the last fence on course, and/or multiple times between Obstacles.**

c. Place: **The whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the Athlete’s leg.** It must never be used overhand (e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a Horse’s head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.

d. Severity: **A whip should never be hit more than two times for one incident.** If a Horse’s skin is broken or has visible marks from the use of the whip, that will be deemed excessive use. It must never be used to vent an Athlete’s temper. Such use is always excessive.

The extraordinary rule change omitted previous language through EV112.3 that allowed for the whip to be used as a reprimand– but what does that mean for you?

Noting the bolded language in point A and B above, a whip may only be used when a horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs.

It is no longer acceptable in the rules for a whip to be utilized as a discipline **AFTER** a horse has refused a jump or forward movement. As noted in point B, inappropriate use of the whip includes after elimination, after a fence on course, or multiple times in between obstacles when forward movement is not a concern.

“As a licensed official, it’s about the education and the enforcement of the rule,” Licensed Official and USEA Board of Governors member Sharyn Antico said. “Riders need to be educated on how to interpret the rule so that they’re using it properly. It’s important from a horse welfare standpoint that we understand how the rule is supposed to be enforced.”

To better help USEA members understand the rule change at its core, Antico shared the explanation that she provides at the jump judges meeting at each competition.

“The whip is to be used as a reinforcement of the leg as an aid to move forward,” she explained. “If the horse is hesitant to move off the leg, that’s your opportunity to use the whip to reinforce the use of the leg. If the horse does refuse the jump, then you are not allowed to use the whip until you are moving the horse forward again and only if the horse is still reluctant to move from the aids and move forward.”

She noted that if a horse is stalling or balking on the approach to a fence without losing that forward motion, that using your whip is appropriate per the rules at that time.

“After a refusal, you are not allowed to whip the horse,” Antico continued. “You must be moving forward. The other thing that I say to jump judges is that if the horse stops, and the rider then gets themselves organized as they move away from the fence, and as they’re moving away from the fence, if the horse needs a reminder to move forward from the leg, that’s your opportunity to then use the whip as a reinforcement of the leg to move forward.”

“There were some important rule changes this year and as competitors, it is our responsibility to understand these changes,” said ERAofNA member and five-star event rider Allison Springer. “Furthermore, as trainers, I believe it is our responsibility to explain them to our students. Unfortunately, the changes to the whip rule have already caught a few competitors out this year. A rider can only use the whip to “encourage the horse forward” and never as a reprimand. If you have a refusal, you cannot use your stick when your horse has stopped in front of the fence; if you have a runout, you cannot tap your horse on the shoulder in correction right after the horse has run out – both of these scenarios would be considered a reprimand even if it is only a gentle tap!”



BIT O' NEWS

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The Foothills Riding Club (FRC) offers up to 4 scholarships annually for current members, aimed at supporting specific educational or competitive opportunities (not for regular lessons or local shows, but for championship events).

Scholarships are announced in the newsletter and on social media. The Board will select the recipients and determine the scholarship amounts. To be eligible, applicants must have logged a minimum of 4.5 hours of volunteer time with FRC. Scholarship recipients are required to "payback" their award in some way, such as by writing an article for the newsletter, speaking at a monthly meeting, etc.

Each member is eligible for **one scholarship per year**.

Applications must be submitted at least **6 weeks before** the proposed event.

The scholarship award amounts are based on the number of volunteer hours logged with FRC:

- **4.5 hours** = \$250
- **9 hours (full day)** = \$500

A total of **\$2,000** is available each year, with a **\$500 cap** per scholarship recipient.

If there are more than 4 applicants, volunteer service to the club in the current and preceding membership year will be taken into awarding scholarships.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance after review by the FRC Board.

I wish to apply for an FRC Scholarship for:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Specific Purpose for Scholarship Request (include name, date, place)

How will you benefit from attending this event?

How will you "pay back" your scholarship to the club? Creative ideas welcomed!

**Please submit your application to:
FRC President PO Box 637 Landrum, SC 29356**

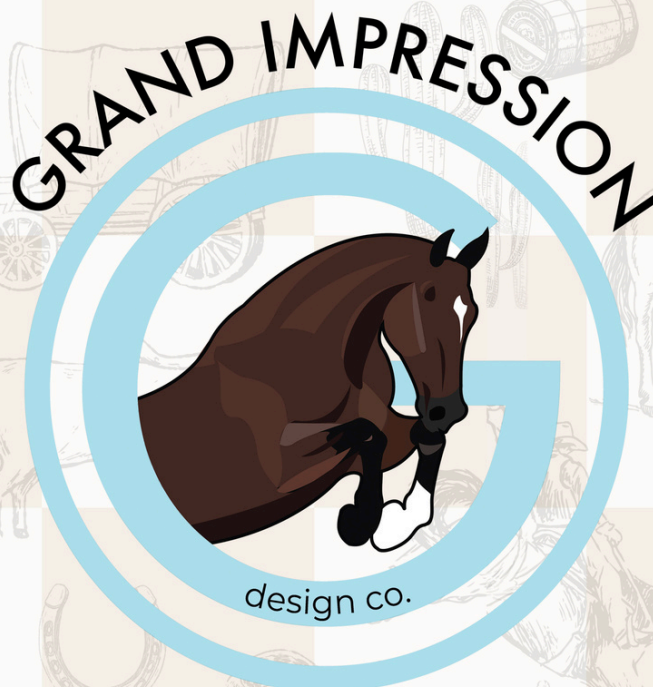
Note: In the event that you are unable to fulfill the scholarship requirements the scholarship money must be returned.

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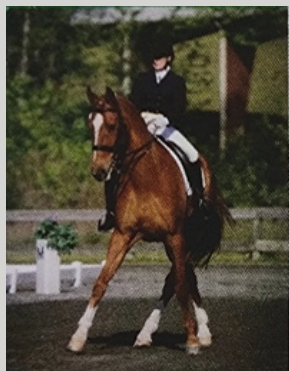
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Model:	REPAIR Saddle Tracker list model in NOTES
Leathertype:	
Options	
Seat Size	17.5
Flap Length	15
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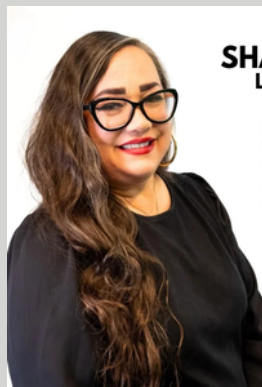
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"Sit" Happens

Trivia Night answers:

There are 31 flying changes in an FEI grand prix dressage test.

Trot and pace are the two gaits used in harness racing.

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