

## MARCH NEWSLETTER



February ended with our group successfully competing at the Low Country dressage show in Charleston. Many blues, ribbons, high scores and smiles. Highlights were Caroline and the very big and handsome Delo. They debuted at 4<sup>th</sup> 3 with an incredible score of 76%. A very uphill ride! Sarah also earned a high score in the 70% range with her new and improved 2<sup>nd</sup> level freestyle on Raj. Also congrats to Debbie, Lisi, Liz, Ginger, Laurens on their rides. Debbie was also the organizer for the first ever evening competitor's party. Held at the lovely hotel in Kiawah, a lovely display of finger foods and wine enjoyed by all. A big surprise was to see our dearest friend Anne Laver out and about! Improving and recovering every day. Please continue to keep her in your thoughts. A great way to start the month of March.

On March 2, Amy and her wonderful S program scribes, Lisi and Kathy headed back down to Wellington, Florida for session two of apprenticing. This program was led by The Linda Zang. A fabulous experience to work with her. We judged lots of amazing riders including Lisa Wilcox and Lars Peterson to name a few. Lots of Grand Prix and Intermediare 1 to observe and judge. Our group "The Magnificent 7" of S candidates received compliments on our consistency with our percentages and placings in comparison to the FEI panel of 5 judges.

Amy was 1 of 4 judges at one of Full Gallops largest event of the year right here in Aiken. A lot of Aikens finest were competing. Lots of nice horses and higher levels. A very competitive Preliminary division Amy had the pleasure of evaluating.

Amy once again headed back to Wellington on the 17<sup>th</sup> for more S observing and to participate in the USEF mandatory S judge's seminar. The first day there was observing with Sara Schmit and Janet Foy. A variety of FEI classes but mainly Intermediare 2. Our forum began with the Friday night lights Grand Prix freestyles. The Natalie Lamping was the instructor for this weekend's course. We were very fortunate to only have 9 candidates, compared to the usual 20. This meant we received a lot individual as well as extra attention. Natalie offered us wealth of knowledge, and information with the wide variety of FEI horses and riders to practice our judging skills.

Happily back in Aiken, Amy judged the Stable View event. A very large show if 190 rides! Record breaking for them. Remember to send your entry for their schooling and recognized dressage shows starting in April. The McElroy group will participating in all of the upcoming Stable View dressage shows.

March celebrates the birthdays of Shelly, Lauri and Lyn. Birthday wishes to our friends. The latest Aiken Horse is available. Please take a moment to read the Ask the Judge column and remember to send in your questions.