

# The McElroy Group

**Highlights of the McElroy Group and their beloved steeds. Check back often for news updates on the happenings of this talented and ambitious group.**

## **December 2014**

Our group started off the month with the Aiken Dressage Show on December 6 & 7 with 11 riders competing and trying out the new USEF 2015 tests. We had a great show despite the weather! We had two riders with over 70% and there were not many 70s overall at this show.

-Mary Dixon and Scenic had a 71% and a win at 1st, 3 and a 60.9 (almost 70% :)). Very exciting for this pair as they have met their goal!

-Sherry Dolan and Angel had a super weekend as well with their final training level ride breaking a 70%, which confirmed her high score Training Level award with a blue ribbon and check for \$500. This pair has come a long way--persistence pays off.

-Lisa Tibrea and Tali joined Sherry with her own High Score with her own blue ribbon and check for \$500. They made their Intermediare I debut--a huge milestone and a dream come true and a good score at 63%!

-Caroline Von Asten debuted at FEI PSG on her very own Fire & flame (shown since Training Level). This amazing duo had very pleasant rides with scores of 60%--on their way to a Silver medal!

-While we are talking about Silver medals, congratulations to Laurens Bissell on earning her medal!! She and Orient Rocked with almost 65% and 66%! Elite Equines, the new FEI barn of Charleston couldn't be happier watching you soar with so much success through the levels.

-Great rides also from Jenna, back from giving birth just over a year ago to sweet Roxanne, who also came to her first horse show. The pair moved up to 1st, 3 and scored over 65% in both tests!!

-Dru and her new horse, French Kiss, also debuted at First Level with a high 68% and wins.

-Jeanie's tests improved with each ride and also earned a 68% at Training Level.

-Debbie and Giles put in a good effort at 2nd, 3!

Just the beginning of a great year to come!

December 13 & 14 Fair Lane Farm is hosting a Hakan Thorn clinic. We are eager to welcome him back--it's been too long.

On December 20-21, Jessica Wisdom will be hosting a clinic and Amy, Debbie, Shelly, and Justine are some of the group members planning to ride.

## **November 2014**

Amy, Justine & Special D and Sarah and Loxley left on November 5 to be part of the US Nationals in Lexington, Kentucky!! Unlike Wellington, it was freezing with rain and some sleet. The show grounds boasted 6 arenas and one very impressive, and luckily heated, indoor arena. The classes were also quite large with very impressive competition. It was an amazing place in which to show and be a part, and the McElroy Group was joined by good friend Dr. Joan Gariboldi, who also competed. Amy was very proud of the group's efforts and thought they all did a great job.

On November 15 & 16 Amy gave a clinic at Elite Equines in Charleston. All she could say is "Wow!" with all of the work being done there including a fancy new arena with mirrors. All of the participants had super rides despite the rain. Be watching for Laurens and Caroline, our newest FEI riders, to compete this season.

On November 17-19, Amy, Shelly and Cooper took a road trip to Gunnar's farm in Ocala for some intensive training on the road to Grand Prix. Of course, they also took time off from schooling to get in some good shopping!

On November 22, Amy judged Jumping Branch Farms famous schooling horse trials which had 4 arenas running. Other judges included the McElroy Group's Holly Spencer and Valerie Swygert, along with dear friend Kate Hutchens.

We were lucky on November 25 to have Jeremy Steinberg pass through Aiken and give a few lessons at Fair Lane Farm. Amy, Holly, Justine, and Kathy V. got to learn from his unique teaching methods and analysis of the horses. We're hoping he comes back through Aiken again!!

Hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving!!! Amy is thankful to all her wonderful clients/friends and horses for bringing so much joy to her life.