



Ride-A-Test: 30 September 2023
On-the-Bit Farm, Bryan, Texas
Mary Wicksten

New horse? Trying to move up a level? Never been to a show? Want to get a different “take” on your riding? A Ride-A-Test is for you! Donna Meyer and her team set up a small dressage arena in a quiet place. Each participant had two rides: the first one for a score, the second to try to improve the first test. Donna went over the scores with each rider and pointed out how they could have been improved. It was understood that there could be imperfections ranging from slight adjustments to a “Looky-Lou” horse.

For those interested in serving as a scribe, the tests were a good introduction: two were western dressage and another was combined training. (Nobody rode “dressage/dressage”). Although they use much the same movements, the scoring is different. Having a free-moving obedient horse willing to stretch out or collect as needed are constant to all. The rider was encouraged to use his/her balance, not to pull on the reins (one of my bad habits!) Two rides were recorded on video, which gave the photographer and the rider practice for “Virtual” tests.

Thanks to Donna for an informative morning, both for participants in the saddle and observers. Let’s hope we can do this again during a time when it’s not so hot!