

Hubertus Schmidt Clinic in Wellington.

About two months ago, I got a call from the owner of Dressageclinic.com Andreas Stano. He told me that he and Wellington Classic Dressage was organizing a clinic with Hubertus Schmidt at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in Wellington. Because I am one of the trainers on Dressageclinic.com, he invited me to ride in the clinic. It turned out that I was already scheduled to judge at the same facility the weekend before, so I thought it would be fun to stay there for the week and ride with Hubertus. I had watched him teach two years earlier at a USDF Trainers Symposium and I thought he was fantastic. I told Andreas I would love to ride, but would have to find a horse, since my horses were in California. I called my friend Bent Jensen who trains in Wellington and without hesitation he said " we will find you something". I trusted him and committed to riding in the clinic.

I went to Florida to judge for three days at the awesome facility at Jim Brandon Eq. Center managed by Noreen O'sullivan Flanagan and John Flanagan. The facility and the management do not get any better anywhere in this country. A rider and a judges dream.

The day after the show I went to Bent Jensen's and John Zapatti's barn and between the two of them they offered me 3 different horses to choose from. I ended up riding the same three horses for 3 days, until I made up my mind which one to ride. The horse I picked was owned by John's student Kristy Lund who very generously let me ride two of her horses all week. On Thursday John trailered Fabio to Jim Brandon , so I could ride him in a private lesson with Hubertus. I had a great lesson. Hubertus is not only an excellent trainer, but also a very good communicator. On Friday John trailered Fabio in for the clinic. I cannot thank John, Bent and Kristy enough for their willingness to get me a horse to ride.

The clinic went off in style. Noreen and John did a fantastic job organizing everything down to every detail. The place looked great with tables all around the arena with nice center pieces. The program started at 3pm with a cocktail reception and great food. Each day there was a lecture by Hubertus Schmidt and Steffen Peters from horseback Both did an amazing job riding borrowed horses. Bo Jenna did a very good long lining demonstration, Lendon Gray talked about her vision for The Dressage Foundation and Laura King talked about Memory & Concentration Techniques. Each day 4 people got to take a lesson with Hubertus. On Friday it was Heather Bender, Bill Warren, Shannon Dueck and myself. On Saturday Melissa Jackson, Jan Brons, Oded Shimoni and Betsy Steiner. It was great to watch Hubertus work with the different riders and seeing the progress they all made. He is very positive and also respectful of the riders.

The event generously sponsored by County Saddlery was very well attended and turned out to be a real social event as well.