



eCentaur

RMDS President's Message

Our show season is off to an incredible start, with shows filling up in just hours! The weather did not cooperate on Saturday for Dressage for the Cure, or on Sunday for the Nighthawk shows; however, this did not dampen the competitors' or the volunteers' spirits!! It was delightful to see so many happy people, horses and dogs.

I hope now that so many of you are entering shows and competing, you have had a chance to become acquainted with our new website. I am sure you are finding it's workings to be much improved. We have still not yet reached our Build-A-Byte goals leaving our coffers less than full, so please consider donating to this project.

Lastly, I would like to say once again: This is your club, without members there would be no club. Please reach out to the RMDS Central Office if you have any ideas or suggestions that you feel will improve or expand our club. We are still hoping to hear more ideas on how to make our 50th Anniversary Championships show something extraordinary! Please let us know if you have anything you would like to contribute.

Happy Riding,
Dorothy

June 2021 Region 5 Message

Summer is here, and we've had such a wet spring, the grass is green and the

faces at horse shows again! I hope that everyone is enjoying their time with their families and their animals this summer and staying healthy.

We are very close to finalizing a facility for 2022 USDF Region 5 Regional Championships and I'm excited for all the help we've received from folks in finding a suitable venue and weekend.

The 2021 USDF Convention will be December 1-4 in Houston, Texas! Coming visit Region 9 and be a part of the governance process and attend some fabulous educational sessions. The host hotel is right in downtown Houston and there are many great restaurants and things to do within walking distance.

As of when I write this, our potential candidates for the 2021 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships August 9-15 in Travers City, Michigan are going strong and making great qualifying efforts. We have 9 riders who have declared (7 Juniors and 2 Young Riders). If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877. This competition is a reasonable distance for us to travel by trailer, which makes things much more feasible, but we still need your help in order to be able to attend.

Please be sure to read the emails that come out from USDF and USEF on a regular basis. Lots of things change frequently, especially regarding the regulations governing showing, so if you do have intentions of competing this summer, make sure you stay on top of things. Both the USDF and USEF websites also have sections for COVID updates as well.

If you have news you'd like to share, please let me know, we're happy to get it out and about for you.

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

Decide!

“Your Vision of What You Want to Be is your Superpower.”

by Sally O'Dwyer

Passion is a choice and deciding is an action. You do not get chosen—you choose. Once you decide, the muddling ends and your path becomes clear. Is it time for you to sign up, be intentional, and make time to do the work? The sport of dressage is not for dilettantes, dabblers, or hobbyists.

“When we adopt the posture of commitment, something extraordinary happens: The lessons get more profound and useful. The questions asked get more specific and urgent. The connections that are made get deeper.” Seth Godin.

(Photo: Jana Ward on Imparable)

Once you decide that you are going to give dressage your all, your focus will improve, and your decision will guide you on what really matters, spark passion in you, and help you face your fears.

Decision Making Criteria: While we can have big fat fabulous dreams, a good decision is reality based. Consider these tough questions: do you finances to support this decision? While it is possible to lower expenses by being creative, dressage is still expensive. Is your family, loved ones and friends behind you on this? Do you have the right team to help you? You are going to need experts to help you on



Is your decision right for your horse? Is your horse sound, have a good temperament and willing to learn? Will your horse be happy in this role? Are you sure you can commit to make the time and put in the effort to maintain your fitness and the fitness of your horse? If you are not currently in a situation that lends itself to pursuing dressage more seriously, are you willing to make changes that might be difficult for you? (Jana and Imparable pictured right)

Believe. While there are many factors involved in becoming a better rider and taking your relationship with your horse to a new level, you must first believe in your partnership. Of course, there are no guarantees. But one thing for sure is that that you will, 100%, certainly, and without a doubt, not get there if you do not think it is possible.

Be a Grand Prix rider in training! With clarity of intention, you will see yourself as a work in progress, and with this mindset, who knows how far you can go? It is not about how good you are right now; it is how good you can be. Just like everyone else, you have great potential. I am not talking about blind ambition, but do not let negativity and self-doubt shove you around.

Once you have decided, begin where you are. Determine your priorities and create a plan based on incremental progress—the hallmark of dressage. Say “no” to things that do not help you reach your goals. Know that everyone who has advanced in dressage has been where you are now in your training. They stayed focused, held on with everything they had and did not let anything get in their way. Good riding is not found in DNA—its attitude and skill—both can be learned!

Respect yourself enough to invest in and appreciate yourself. You are worthy to dance. Choose your reality—it is up to you! Go ahead, be audacious. Embrace your potential. Owning a mighty goal takes courage. But you got this!

About me. I am an amateur dressage rider, living in Boulder, Colorado. I enjoy learning and competing in Dressage. I hope to encourage others to GO FOR IT!

Upcoming Events

June 4 GVDS Schooling Show II – Judge: Melissa Creswick
Grand Junction, CO

June 5-6 Grand Valley Dressage Show Judge: Melissa Creswick
Grand Junction, CO

June 5 Foothills Ride-A-Test
Golden, CO

June 5 AVDA River Walk RMDS Show – Judge: Kathy Simard
Florence, CO

June 5 On The Bit Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly
Cheyenne, WY

June 6 Foothills Spring Into Summer Judge: Julie Haugen
Golden, CO

June 7 BVD Presents “Vets Guide to First Aid Kits for Show” including evacuation
help by Dr. Bruce Connolly 7 pm
Zoom

June 9 Split Pine Ranch Schooling Shows
Colorado Springs, CO

June 12-13 Cheyenne Dressage Open Show I & II- Judge: Cristel Carlson, Dorie
Vlatten-Schmitz
Cheyenne, WY

June 12 Triple Creek Dressage Schooling Show
Longmont, CO

June 18-19 Sage Creek I & II
Heber City, UT

June 19-20 Rocky Mountain I & II Judges: Michael Osinski, Cindy Canace
Longmont, CO

June 19-20 New Mexico Dressage - Jeremy Steinberg Clinic

June 24-26 Summer Intensive

Golden, CO

June 26 NCDA Schooling Show with Simone Windeler

Greeley, CO

June 26-27 Dressage Under the Big Sky I & II

MT

June 27 NCDA Clinic with Simone Windeler

Nunn, CO

June 27 RMDS Adult Youth Team Competition Judges: Kathleen Donnelly, Sharron

Sarchet

Golden, CO

[Click to View Full Calendar](#)

Rein-Back: 50 Years of RMDS. Features from the Archives Riders Beware – Don't Err!

by Kate Engel, originally published May 2006

Having attended the recent RMDS Judge's forum as a non-Judge, I found the information very beneficial for riders! Although most of the information a rider needs for showing is in the USEF Rule Book, who actually takes the time to read it?! But remember, it is the competitor's responsibility to know the rules!

One of the more interesting topics at the forum was what the Judges do with Errors. I thought I'd summarize a bit in 'rider-speak' and add in the Elimination information as well!

ERRORS

Sample Errors

Wrong turn

Trot rising, instead of sitting, and vice versa
Salute without taking reins in one hand
Transition or movement at incorrect letter

All of these errors are identified by the President of the Ground Jury (the Judge at C) and recorded on the test. The baseball system is used – 3 strikes and you're OUT! Three (3) errors will eliminate the competitor from the test (although the Judge may allow you to complete the test if it doesn't interfere with the next ride or pose a danger). Each error is more costly than the prior error: Error #1 is minus 2 points, #2 is minus 4 points, and #3 is ELIMINATION. These points are then taken off the total score of the test – a COSTLY mistake!

The Judge will 'sound the bell/whistle' for most errors. When the 'sounding of the bell/whistle' would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the test*, the Judge may choose NOT to 'sound the bell/whistle'; however, if the Judge does NOT 'sound the bell/whistle' at an error in which the movement is repeated, and the error occurs again, only 1 error is recorded.

If the rider is sitting the trot instead of rising, or vice versa, the bell MUST be sounded and the rider warned that this is an error that accumulates if repeated!

Also note! If the rider starts a movement and circles (for whatever reason; out of control, horse takes off, etc), the Judge will score the 1st attempt only AND record an error – so be careful about your decision to do this as the 2nd 'chance' is not scored.

*Fluency of test example: transition made at V instead of K, or a pirouette performed at D instead of L. The flow of the test is not interrupted but incorrectly placed.

ELIMINATIONS

There are different types of Elimination - elimination from a test and/or elimination from the competition!

From Competition

Horse's tongue tied down
Cruelty

From Current or Next Class

Horse's tongue tied down

Cruelty

Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry

Failure to wear Competition #

Dress Code Violations-discretion of Ground Jury

Evidence of Blood (Horse)

Use of illegal equipment

Horse leaves arena (all 4 feet), even after the final salute - if not at A!

Late entry into arena (45 + seconds)

Concern for safety of rider, other exhibitors or their entries

Any direct Rule violation

Resistance preventing continuation of test (20+ seconds)

3 Errors in the test

Lameness

Unauthorized Assistance

Ultimately, the President of the Ground Jury (Judge @C) makes the call on eliminating a horse from a test. There is no argument, so don't go there!

VOICE

The use of voice in any way or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly, is a serious fault. This is NOT an error, but does result in the deduction of 2 points from each movement they occur in....so, hushhhhh

To check out this information in more detail, go to: www.usef.org and look up the rules!

Volunteer at an event!

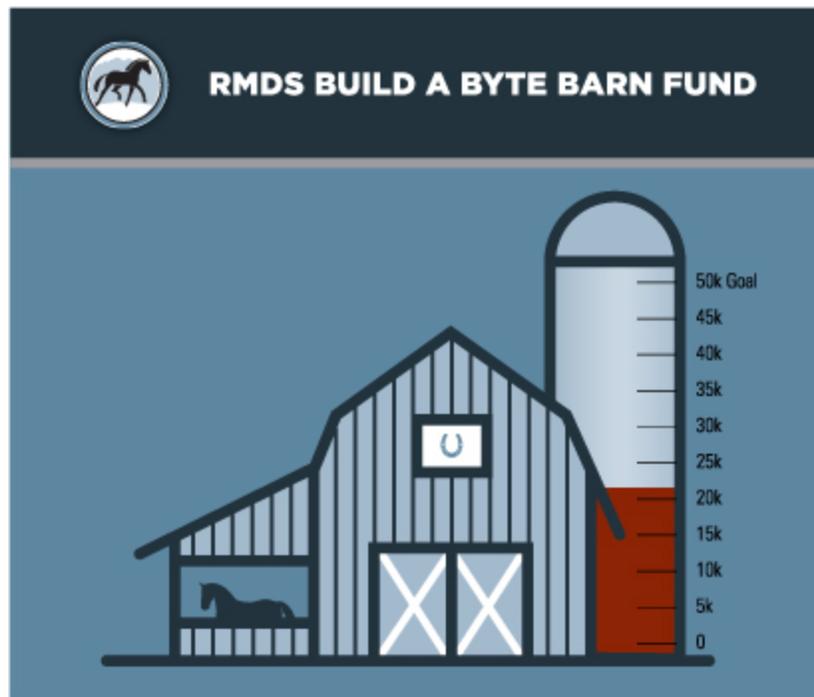
You are needed and will be so appreciated. These events don't happen without fabulous people like you.

Remember to Join RMDS so you don't miss out on fun events and important announcements!

From the homepage at rmds.org: if you are brand new to RMDS click join - if you have been a member at any time through the years click log-in.

Join RMDS

Renew or Login



RMDS had a new database built and website designed. Our previous database was over 30 years old and needed to be revamped in order for our organization to move forward.

Make your tax-deductible donation for 2021! RMDS is a 501(c)3.

\$250 donation = 1 Megabyte
\$500 donation = 1 Gigabyte
\$1000 donation = 1 Terabyte

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