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August 2015

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Jacque McIntyre Awarded Grant

The Dressage Foundation has announced that Adult Amateur Jacquelin McIntyre (CO) is a recipient of TDF's 2015 Heldenberg Training Center Fund grants. Jacquelin will receive \$2,000 to attend the Spanish Riding School's Training Center in Heldenberg, Austria.

"The Spanish Riding School is such an impressive place of classical dressage. I only thought I'd get there in my dreams. When I come back from the Heldenberg Training Center, I hope to inspire others in the art of classical dressage with what I have learned. I am very excited to be able to make the trip with the aid of the grant."

Watch for the review of Andreas Hausberger, Chief Rider at the SRS, clinic in the September issue!

Happening This Month

- 1-2 Dressage In Big Sky I & II, Emily Luoma-Brester 406-698-9646
- 1-2 USDF L Part 2 - D2 session - Lois Yukins, Heather Petersen 303-648-3164
- 8-9 Millbrook Farms Dressage Show, Jan Lawrence 801-885-3083
- 8 Shiloh Ranch Schooling Show, Simone Windeler 719-287-2040
- 9 Centaur Rising II Kris Cooper 303-838-5086
- 9 Clinic-Lateral Fun with Simone Windeler Simone Windeler 719-287-2040
- 14-16 USEF r Judges Program Heather Petersen 719-683-8435
- 14 Estes Park I & Breed Heather Petersen 303-648-3164
- 15-16 Estes Park II Heather Petersen 303-648-3164
- 15 Cottonwood Riding Club Dressage Schooling Show Tara 303-791-7656
- 21-23 Alfredo Hernandez Clinic Elaine Haberman 719-495-7004
- 22-23 UDS Dressage Days I & II, Nance Allen 801-274-1288
- 22 Pendragon Stud Dressage Show, Leslie Terry 303-688-4147
- 22 Dressage Schooling Show Hidden Creek Equestrian Center, Susan Borders susan.e.borders@gmail.com
- 22 Triple Creek Dressage Schooling Show Series, Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291
- 29-30 Anne Howard Clinic Elaine Haberman 719-495-7004
- 30 Boulder Valley So Long to Summer Beth Geier 303-673-9840
- 30 Dressage Schooling Show Plane View Farm Lauren Guesiel 303-532-9381

Go to [Calendar](#) to see complete list of upcoming USEF/RMDS Show Schedule, clinics, schooling shows and events.

Nominations due for Photography Awards!

Nomination Forms for GMO Newsletter, Website, and Photography Awards can be found online. Nominations are due to USDF no later than August 31, 2015.

Chapters

RMDS has 12 chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region. Check for changed days/times/places of meetings! If you would like to change your chapter affiliation you must personally notify the central office in [writing](#).

[Click for Chapters](#)

USDF Region 5

Click [HERE](#) for latest report from Heather Petersen, USDF Region 5 Director.

For the latest updates and current Region 5 news. [Click for Region 5](#)

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USDF TEAM COMPETITION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is here and the temperatures are affecting all of us. When we ride we need to be taking care that our horses do not get overworked in the heat. As good horsemen we must be aware of the heat and even the insects as they make our lives and our horse's lives a bit difficult.

RMDS has been busy getting organized for our Championships in September, and we need your help. Sponsorships and volunteers are needed to run a smooth show and to make it fun for all. We are holding the show in Estes Park to save on cost but good sponsorship helps everyone.... Competitors and spectators will all benefit from sponsorship.

I am happy to announce that Christoph Hess will be returning in October to continue his training with our Instructors/Trainers and to have another Amateur/Young Rider day as well. Keep your eyes open for more details.

As the summer comes to an end we look forward to cooler temperatures and for some school will begin. More clinics and some USEF and USDF sponsored clinics will all be part of the fall schedule. The USDF Convention in Las Vegas will also be an educational event as we are teaming up with several Equine Veterinarians. Plan now to come to Las Vegas in December and take part in the Educational Events.

Enjoy the ride and plan ahead for so much more in the coming months.

Happy Riding
Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

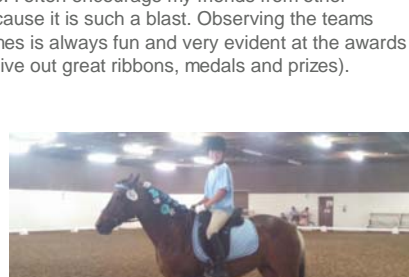
USDF Team Competition

By Carol von Michaelis



The USDF team dressage championship has become one of my favorite shows to attend each year and an event that I look forward to greatly. This year it was very special because we took a young group of new dressage riders and some green horses. Taking 7 horses and 10 riders and camping overnight was definitely an adventure but it created some amazing memories. This show takes all the pressure away and lets riders show in a fun and team oriented atmosphere. The confusion of what memberships to get, how to fill out the entry form, and the expense, which often is daunting to new dressage riders, isn't a threat at this show. There is a flat rate, no memberships required, no show clothes required and friendly managers and secretaries. It is the perfect place to try a new test, bring a new horse, or to try dressage. I often encourage my friends from other disciplines to do this because it is such a blast. Observing the teams camaraderie and costumes is always fun and very evident at the awards ceremony (where they give out great ribbons, medals and prizes).

This year I asked everyone who participated to write about their experiences and this is what this group of young riders said about the weekend:



"The show was a great opportunity to get to work with a team. It was a great choice for adding color to the competition. This made teams be creative and find something that goes with your colors. The show was very organized and was really fun to sit and watch. The experience of the show was great. This was my first season of showing and this was my second show. It was great to see everyone's spirit for color and as riders. I did tests Training level 1 and 3, the judges were kind and fair to all riders." Hallie Parks, age 12.

"Aside from giving me another dressage show experience under my belt, I learned a lot from the show that was not related to the actual riding. Because we kept our horses overnight in box stalls provided by the facility, we had to take care of them for more than just a few hours. This required us to be very vigilant about our horses' living conditions and give them more care than their basic food and water needs. I also had to help prepare my own living conditions for our overnight stay. We had to bring more than just our regular show clothes and also take any other non-riding things we might need. This show helped me realize how much preparation goes into taking care of you and your horse when at new places for long periods of time." Alexis Hersh, age 14

"This show was a fantastic way to build a sense of cooperation and teamwork among barn mates! It was a fun, low-pressure environment that was simply delightful for those getting their first taste of the show ring. Everyone was extremely helpful and supportive and the judges gave fantastic feedback that will help us all stay on track for a successful show season! It was an exceptionally fun and rewarding way to spend a weekend. I would do it again in a heartbeat!" Zoe Parisian-Jeppesen age 19

"The team dressage show in Greeley was my first show, and after the fun that I had, I'm sure it won't be my last. The day was hot, late in June and horses swished their tails impatiently in the stalls. Riders dressed in colored costumes. Some had capes and crowns, others wore top hats and suspenders. Their horses were painted, braided and sported bright saddle pads. The show had an upbeat atmosphere. The horses could feel it, and so could the riders. Amid the warm up ring and dressage arenas riders smiled, laughed and shared their stories. Having never ridden in a show before I was quite nervous, but after completing my first test I was beaming and incredibly excited to do my second one. Everyone at the show was encouraging and helpful. Whether it was their first time doing a show, or they were a seasoned rider they contributed to the excitement of the day. At the end of the show, awards were handed out. Not only for the rides, but for things like best use of color, and the costumes of the teams. Everyone clapped and cheered as teams went up and received their ribbons and prizes. Then the show was over. We packed up our gear, loaded the horses and headed home. It was a wonderful experience, and I am truly look forward to competing with my team again next year." Kate Hartshorn, age 15

"I went to a dressage show with my 4H team and it was a great experience that every horseback rider should have. We learned how to take care of our horses and it is harder than I thought. It's not just about feeding and watering them but mucking and exercising them as well. It was kind of cool knowing that you have the responsibility of your horse depending on you to take care of it. It really brought me closer to my pony and it was fun. My favorite part was getting to dress the horses up in their costumes and seeing how cute they were. Also it was fun to walk around and see everyone's costumes and have them see ours. All in all, we had a great time and I can't wait for the next shows to come." Simone Hersh, age 11

"Showing at the team dressage show was such a wonderful experience. My favorite things were how teams were able to express creativity and team spirit through costumes, as well as the positive and supportive environment it was held in! It was the perfect first show for Olaf and I as well as an extremely valuable team bonding experience. Special thanks to Beth and everyone who volunteered!" Anna Clayton, age 15.

As you can see from these riders' accounts it was a very fun, motivating and friendly show that was great for building confidence. It was a great way to make the sometimes-daunting leap to do a first dressage show, a new test, or get a new horse out an easy and fun experience. I would highly recommend this experience to everyone. It is a great chance to have fun with you barn friends, invite your western or jumping friends to try a test, make new friends and overall remember that this is supposed to be fun sport. I had such a fun time and made memories that I will always remember.

The management of this show goes above and beyond to make it a very friendly and fun experience while still maintaining a professional and organized show. The judging is consistent with other recognized shows and it has a similar feel just with less pressure, more color and more cheering and laughing. This year there were ponies doing tests in top hats with mustaches, a neon orange cone zone team, multiple capes, crowns and flowers and there seemed to be a lot of glitter. It was a blast and an experience I can't wait to do again.

Christoph Hess Symposium

A Participant's View - Part 2

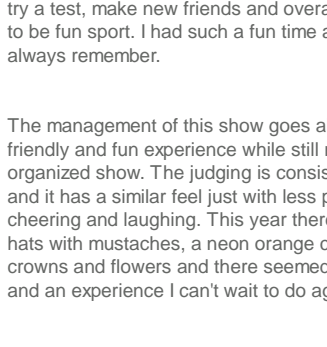
by Andree Hunt

The two day symposium with Christoph Hess was packed with so much great information. It was hard to summarize everything in one article. I am happy to share with you some more detailed observations that relate to riding at different levels. All riders were professional FEI riders with horses at different level. A BIG thank you to all of them for letting the auditors observe their work and witness their various challenges. It was a wonderful learning experience and my hope is that you will get a lot from reading this article and that you can apply these principles to your daily riding and training.

Christoph's philosophy is that it is important to find out the reason behind the problem. With that in mind, he reinforced the need for the perfection of the BASIC work because the better the basics, the better the end result. All riders should follow the scale of training to help the horse to be trained in a better way. You should start a training process where gymnasticism is the most important part. You start today, with lower level horses, to develop them to the upper levels. There is no need to wait for the horse to be ready but to make him ready by following the training scale and setting a goal to progress to the next level. By doing so, the rider has to get out of his/her comfort zone. Difficulties must be seen as "challenges", we are not here to criticize but we want to make the horse as easy as possible to ride.

On the second day of the symposium, all horse and rider combinations were asked to get out of their comfort zone. The reason for this, as I mentioned above, is to help the horse progress smoothly and naturally to the next level.

[Read more](#)



It's just around the corner - Dressage With Altitude!

RMDS Championships will be held in Estes Park, CO this year. Whether your goal is to compete or volunteer, make your plans now.

We are looking for Class Sponsors, Dinner Sponsors, Special Awards and advertisers for the Championship Program. Placing an ad in the program is a great way to thank your trainer, your barn, your family for all their support!

If you know someone who is interested in any of these opportunities, please contact either Beverly Swanson, RMDS Championship Show Liaison at [ShowLiaisonRMDS@gmail.com](mailto>ShowLiaisonRMDS@gmail.com), or Show Manager Heather Petersen at slush@drwg.net.

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Thanks to Sage Creek, our most recent sponsor!!