

THE CENTAUR

Happy Holidays from RMDS!

The information in the Centaur Newsletter is the sole opinion and responsibility of the authors, and not that of RMDS.

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Holiday Smiles! or

HOW TO BECOME A BETTER EQUESTRIAN

-from the Newsletter of *Jane Savoie*

10. Drop a heavy steel object on your foot. Don't pick it up right away. Shout, "Get off, Stupid, GET OFF!"
9. Leap out of a moving vehicle and practice "relaxing into the fall." Roll lithely into a ball and spring to your feet.
8. Learn to grab your checkbook out of your purse and write out a \$200 check without even looking down.
7. Jog long distances carrying a halter and a carrot. Go ahead and tell the neighbors what you are doing - they might as well know now.
6. Affix a pair of reins to a moving freight train and practice pulling to a halt. Smile as if you are having fun.
5. Hone your fibbing skills: "See Hon, moving hay bales is FUN!" and "No, really, I'm glad your lucky performance and multimillion dollar horse won the blue ribbon. I am just thankful that my hard work and actual ability won me second place."
4. Practice dialing your chiropractor's number with both arms paralyzed to the shoulder and one foot anchoring the lead rope of a frisky horse.
3. Borrow the US Army's slogan: Be All That You Can Be -- bitten, thrown, kicked, slimed, trampled, frozen...
2. Lie face down in a puddle of mud in your most expensive riding clothes and repeat to yourself, "This is a learning experience, this is a learning experience, this is ..."
1. THE NUMBER ONE EXERCISE TO BECOME A BETTER EQUESTRIAN:
Marry money!

Special Business

Membership Renewals are now due for 2010. Dues are \$55 if paid by December 31st, after which they become \$60. **This is the last Centaur issue mailed unless renewal is paid by December 20, 2009.** Please Renew Now!

Contracts to be awarded in March: Centaur Production, Centaur Editing, Omnibus, Championship and Winter Wake-up Show Manager. Bids are due by February 15. More on pg 2...

RMDS Business

RMDS Paid Position Contracts Are Up For Renewal

RMDS is now accepting bids for two year paid positions for the following listed contracts. Job descriptions may be found on the RMDS website, rmds.org.

Contracts to be Awarded in **March 2010** to qualified bidders. Bids must be received by February 15.

- Centaur Production
- Centaur Editing
- Omnibus Production
- Championship Show Management, 2011/2012
- Winter Wake-Up Show Manager, 2011/2012

Contracts to be Awarded in **July 2010** to qualified bidders. Bids must be received by June 15.

- Website Maintenance and Hosting
- Central Office Manager

Bids may be sent via electronic or conventional mail to:

rmds@rmds.org

OR

RMDS Central Office
c/o Contract Bid
2942 Park Lake Drive
Boulder, CO 80301

For more information, contact the Central Office at 720-890-7825, or e-mail rmds@rmds.org.

Any questions or concerns regarding the RMDS organization may be addressed to the President of RMDS at president@rmds.org or by calling the Central Office at 720-890-7825.

Live Lessons with Lendon

-Dawn Fisher

Lendon Gray ain't no majorette. No fake smile and no perky striped skirt for this former Olympian. But the lady sure can twirl a baton. Gray imparted both whip-smart tips and flashes of humor at the RMDS continuing education clinic on Oct. 10 and 11.

"Ok, it's a whip," said the internationally renowned trainer as she stood twirling a black dressage whip in front of an audience of auditors seated huddled around heat lamps in the indoor arena at Somerset Farm in Longmont. Bundled in an ankle-length down coat, with the aura of an admiral, Gray nimbly demonstrated flipping her whip from one hand to the other, back and forth, as she spoke.

Next, she demonstrated an exaggeratedly awkward incorrect passing of the whip from one hand to the next, "I hate the 'drawing of the sword,'" she said. Next to her, the steaming lesson horse groaned loudly, as if in agreement. The audience laughs.

"Your whip change should be done like a baton twirler," she said, returning to flipping the whip correctly up over her wrists, "with a moment of release as it goes over the top of your hands. Practice it on the ground."

"How important is it that I carry the whip on the correct side?" asked an auditor.

"Don't worry about what side it's on," Grays said, "I guarantee you, if you smack him on the left side, the right side will go too." "The horse should fear the whip a little," she continued, after the chuckles died down, "The whip is a 'yo!' so the next time, he goes right from the leg."

Coaching vs. Teaching

Gray asked the trainers to decide whether they were teachers or coaches. "There's a big difference," she says. Teachers explain "What? Why? How? And When?" They come with a lesson plan with a beginning, middle and end. They distinctly complete each lesson. They give homework. "Today, there's way too much coaching and not enough teaching," she said.

Good teaching also includes knowing which days just aren't going to work with students – who have outside pressures and personal issues affecting their riding. "Some days, they just can't do it," she said. Gray said that on those days she simply tells her regular students "go for a waddle through the woods." "It's better than practicing badly. They learn what they practice."

How Tough is Enough?

Instructor Eileene Caffy asked student Maryellen Cambor to

Chapter News

Boulder Valley Dressage Chapter

“It is the very difficult horses that have the most to give you.” -Lendon Gray

It would be easy to think of this past year as one of loss; several of us have lost beloved family members, both 2 and 4 footed, or suffered job loss or economic setbacks, or had health problems which cost us mobility, or income, but I would like to think of what I've gained instead.

I have always been a “make lemonade if life gives you lemons” kind of person, and the lemonade that comes from heartbreak and loss is this: the realization that there are a lot of good people in the microcosm that is RMDS. People who do care, who are willing to help when it is needed most, not only when there is a show or clinic to put on, but when other members of this community need a helping hand, or a listening ear, or a caring heart.

As this year draws to a close, don't lose sight of the importance of making the most of every day, and letting your family, friends, and community know how important they are to you. We could lose any or all of it at any moment, with a simple twist of fate, but those that matter most to us will live forever in our hearts.

I am grateful and happy to have served Boulder Valley this past year as president; I have learned more than I ever could have imagined I would. I hope to keep learning for many years to come, and continue to be a member of this wonderful group of people that are RMDS.

“When God created the horse He said to the magnificent creature: I have made thee as no other. All the treasures of the earth lie between thy eyes. Thou shalt carry my friends upon thy back. Thy saddle shall be the seat of prayers to me. And thou fly without wings, and conquer without any sword. Oh, horse.” -The Koran

Happy riding
-Nicole Donohue, BVD President



Happy Holidays
From the Staff at
8th Heaven Farms
Sarah, Meghann, K.C., Roger,
Andi & Pam

Dressage Trainers: K.C. Parkins-Kyle
and Home of *Gigi Brittain Dressage*

Colt Starting by Roger Kyle and Andi Lee

8th Heaven Farms Features a Friendly,
Nurturing Atmosphere for the Horse *and* Rider!

For More Information about Boarding, Lessons, and
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www.8thheavenhorses.com

Legacy Hill Farms

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Premier Boarding & Training Facility

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- 6 horse Euro Exerciser
- 24-hour electronic monitoring
- 4x feedings per day
- Peaceful & supportive atmosphere
- Boarding discounts offered



Anna Wood, Trainer
2005 Region 5 NAYRC team and
individual bronze medalist

“My training emphasizes the communication and harmony between horse and rider. We follow a very systematic progression up the levels.”

Trainer opportunity available
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www.legacyhillfarms.com
 303.663.9494
 2909 Canon Ridge Road Castle Rock, CO 80104

Region 5 Report

Happy Holidays! This is a hectic time of year. Almost immediately after Thanksgiving, we have the USDF convention and symposium, multiple membership renewals due December 1, and holiday preparations. It is a time to celebrate with family and friends. I would like to thank everyone in the region for the time and energy you have donated to our sport on top of the demands of your own busy personal lives.

I attended the USDF Region 5 Adult Clinic featuring Charlotte Bredal-Baker, "The Quest of the Pyramid" in Scottsdale, AZ. It was great! Charlotte explained the training scale and with the demonstration horses, if there was a problem, it was back to the basics. She was positive and emphasized setting up the horse to succeed, using the training scale. Thanks to the organizer, Kay Lorenzen and all the volunteers from Arizona Dressage Association.

Many rule changes for 2010 are effective December 2009. Go to the USEF website to view all of them.

Our Regional Championships will be held September 2-5, 2010 at Colorado Horse Park. We had to move the dates earlier due to the 2010 World Equestrian Games September 25 – October 10 to get them at the Colorado Horse Park. You will need to qualify earlier next year, so you need to plan your shows accordingly.

Hug your horse! Our horses are such fragile, forgiving, and generous animals. They put up with our efforts and when we do it right, they give us their best!

Happy Riding!
-Theresa Hunt
Region 5 Director

Scholarship Reports, Final, 2009

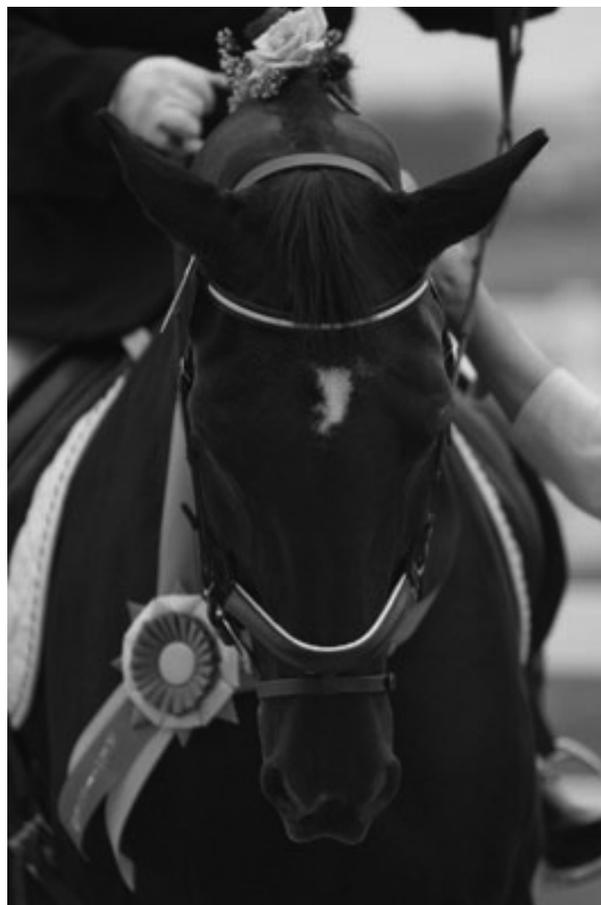
Sharon A. Gilbert and Black Manassis

Dear RMDS Members:

Having a scholarship to advance my Dressage skills in 2009 was an amazing gift for me. The year found me with little money to put towards this discipline that I love so much, Black Manassis, my wonderful horse, turned 25 in May this year, and my own cervical spine surgery had waylaid my plans to compete with him for more than a year. I needed a boost to get back in the saddle, and a way to achieve my goals. RMDS provided the funds to help me study my sport. Sarah Dodge brought her amazing skill set and wonderful attitude to my barn and Manassis come into the year sound. In addition, my improved riding skills helped me ride a challenging test for my NARHA Advanced Instructor certification, which I passed as well.

I have written updates for the *Centaur* twice, and volunteered at three different shows - including Championships this year. The scholarship money was used for lessons and fees for the "So Long to Summer" BVD show. I supplemented the money with funds of my own to make the \$\$s stretch.

My lessons have helped me grow immeasurably in my own teaching skills, and I am committed to more volunteering time in the years ahead to keep me sharp until the next horse (to compete with) comes into my life. My wonderful lesson partner, Manassis, is still carrying me around the pastures, although his competition days are over.



Black Manassis

Scholarship Reports, Final, 2009

So it has been a year of many milestones. Improving my “scribe” skills, getting the most from my horse in his golden years, and broadening my own teaching skills as a result of my scholarship award. There is a confidence in my riding that has been missing for some time, and that is a gift in the “priceless category.”

Thank you so much for creating this opportunity for myself and the other recipients, current, past and future. It has made a wonderful difference in my life.

Gratefully, *Sharon Gilbert*

Carol von Michaelis

This year I had so many plans! I finally had a well trained horse, I had a trailer, and I was ready to show! I carefully highlighted all the shows I wanted to compete in, paid all my membership fees, and was filled with anticipation and enthusiasm. However due to a chain of events, my plans changed and surprisingly for the better. I wasn't able to show, but instead went to clinics, took lessons with different trainers, bought a new saddle, and worked on my confidence.

I have always doubted myself and horses have always helped me. However this year more than others my self-doubt was really limiting me. I attended a Foothills RMDS sponsored “Winquest” clinic and realized that they may have some methods to help me change my way of thinking. My low confidence levels were helped by a phone consultation with the “Winquest” group. They emphasized the importance of thinking positively to succeed. I was letting every person, situation, or bad ride dictate how I judged myself. I was not enjoying horses or my life in general, and they gave me the tools I needed to help change.

My new saddle also really helped improve my riding! It is amazing how much easier it is to be balanced when you are sitting correctly on a horse. It is much more fun, and instead of fighting with your position you can focus on the one million other things it takes to ride correctly.

One lesson with Dolly Hannon, and several with Bridget Milnes, was all it took to start rebuilding my confidence. Taking lessons with different trainers really helps, one absorbs a lot of information and advice and can then process it into a style that slowly works for you. Here in Colorado we are so lucky to have access to many talented trainers and clinicians. My passion for dressage was reignited when they patiently helped me through some of the problems I had been facing.

I also volunteered at a number of shows. This allowed me to see that I wasn't alone in my imperfection. There were others who weren't Grand Prix riders! I saw other professionals struggle, mess up, and get frustrated. The realization that I wasn't the only one to have the perfect warm up only to freeze once entering the show ring was huge. They were still out there rid-

ing and competing after their mishaps. This was so important to see and realize! Volunteering perhaps was one of the best things I could have done. It helped me feel like I was part of the dressage community.

This RMDS scholarship has really helped me enjoy riding again and learn to make use of all the resources that RMDS offers. I am a better teacher because I realize that you don't have to have a perfect horse or be a perfect rider to enjoy dressage. While volunteering, I noticed that the people who were having the most fun weren't necessarily the ones winning. The competitors who left the ring with the biggest smiles were the ones who said, “This horse was terrible a year ago and now look where we are.”

The lack of pressure to show, to be an upper level rider, to be perfect and make everyone happy has also helped so much. I now enjoy just riding for the love of my horse, the pursuit to improve, and to chip away at the never ending knowledge that is dressage. Thank you RMDS for giving me the opportunity to learn so much and find mentors in our dressage community.



Carol von Michaelis

A Championship Diary

by *Simone Windeler*, Photographs by *Jennifer Miner*



Wed Sep 23

My car is full of pumpkins – 23 to be exact – which we'll use to decorate the two championship arenas and the photographer's corner. Today we are going to set up the arenas, the office and get everything ready for the 2009 RMDS Championship Show.

As I am driving up to Parker it starts to rain and the temperature does not ever go over 40 degrees Fahrenheit. By the time I get there the rain is solid. Our footing manager, Joe Coleman, and I go to survey the arenas. Wisely Joe and Heather Petersen have instructed the crew at the Colorado Horse Park to roll all the arenas so the water will flow off the top. That's our hope, anyway. Still, we need to set up several arenas to get ready for the Breed Championship, which begins the following day.

Joe and the park crew set arenas three and four during the day, digging rain ditches to channel the water off the surface. The rain feels like a very cold bathroom shower. We decide that we need to wait with the championship arenas since we are worried about driving on the slick mud. In the meantime, Heather and a platoon of helpers are setting up the show office and are getting everything ready to open shop. The first horses are starting to arrive. It is cold, miserable and there is no place to either ride or lunge. By now, most of the facility is more-or-less under water.

Thu Sep 24

It has stopped raining and Joe is setting up the triangle in arena two for the breed championships. Since everything is quite sloshy, we decide to not work any footing. As the horses are shown in-hand, firm footing is desirable. Since we had it rolled the day before it is usable. As the competitors walk and trot around the arena mud is flying and most handlers have it clear up to the backs of their heads. Undeterred, the horses are turned out impeccably – at least until they start to warm up. By mid-morning the sun is starting to peak out and in the afternoon things are starting to dry. The footing is starting to look decent and Joe and I have high hopes for Friday. We set up both championship arenas and I decorate with the pumpkins.

Most horses have now arrived and we are trying to set up a small lungeing arena since the facility arena designated for lungeing is not usable. Since there is a hunter/jumper show going on at the east side of the berm all of those arenas are off limits to us.

We decide to not open any of the championship arenas for schooling as the footing is just too fragile. Everyone gets to ride, however. The footing is almost dried off and we end the day on a happy note. Markel Insurance and Tami George host a wine and cheese welcome party – most of us desperately needed a glass of wine.





Fri Sep 25

Joe calls me at 6 am and asks me to bring my rubber ducky. Not good. Apparently a thunderstorm started around 2 am and has been dumping rain on the facility ever since. By the time I arrive everything looks even worse than it did on Wednesday. We briefly discuss the option to move the championship arenas around or combine some arenas. This turns out to be quite impossible since several riders are riding 3 or more horses (e.g. Simone Ahern and Petra Warlimont) and it would simply be impossible to reschedule all of it. Kudos to Heather though for earnestly trying to do this. And kudos to all the competitors that waded their way through the arenas and still had a good time. Fortunately, it does not rain all day and the temperatures, as well as spirits, are on the rise. In the evening Susan DeSylvia springs for pizza – lots of pizzas. The hungry competitors polish it off.

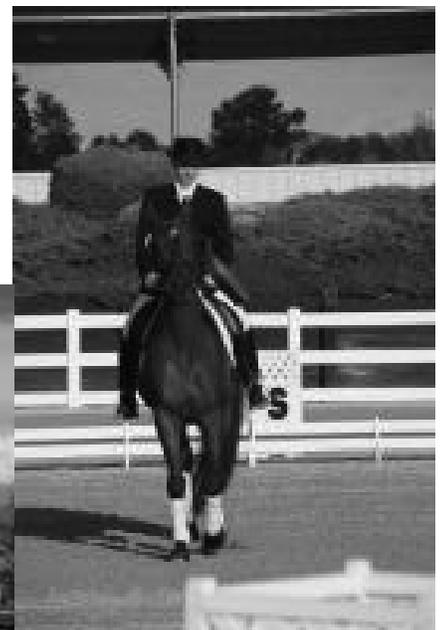
Sat Sep 26

Sunshine, and the footing is almost perfect. While I ran around in my skiing pants (honestly) on Wed for the set-up, I am now in short sleeves – we are going to top out in the mid-70s – what a difference from a few days ago. Joe is very excited – the footing has dried out enough that he actually needs to water it for

the first time in the afternoon. The competitors are having a good time, we even have quite a few spectators. Every once in a while a few hunter/jumper riders get lost in one of our warm-ups – some even tried to lunge there early in the morning. But they are getting the idea – the west side is ours. The vendors are doing brisk business – they do have some great sales. We finish the day with a chicken dinner sponsored by Gus' Hoof Dressing/Michael Joshua; High Plains Chapter of RMDS; and Normandy Farms.

Sun Sep 27

A perfect summer day – warm but not too hot, sunshine and high spirits. By now everything is running perfectly; the office crew, the grounds crew. It's amazing, and proof of the old saying: if you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes. Well, wait 'til tomorrow, anyway.



RMDS Championship Results 2009

Photographs by Jennifer Miner

RMDS Open Training Level Championships

1 Alison West	Montenegro	70.600%
2 Verena Diaz	Cinnamon	69.200%
3 Simone Ahern-Harless	Sir Isaac	68.200%
4 Christa-Elaine Wood	Kiosco SMDR	68.000%
5 Eileen Claffy	Figaro	67.600%

RMDS Adult Amateur Training Level Championships

1 Sandra Eckles	Arnoud	69.600%
2 Jacqueline Hickman	Tuxedo	68.800%
3 Lindsay Harr	Jubiloso SMDR	67.600%
4 Kathy Wilson	Dutchman	67.000%
5 Dana Lessie	Fagan	66.400%



4 Greta Barringer-Richers CF Godiva Chocolate

		65.000%
5 Eileen Claffy	Figaro	63.816%

RMDS Adult Amateur First Level Championships

1 Margi Evans Love	That Jazz	65.263%
2 Petra Roden	Maximus	65.132%
3 Robin Gay	Odyssey	63.553%
4 Lisa Shimonkevitz	Amiliano CWF	63.421%
5 Vanessa Eisenhauer	Winsome Dancer	61.974%

RMDS Junior First Level Championships

1 Shannen McKelvey	Dalwhinnie's Santos	66.053%
2 Caitlin McMillon	Final Fantasy	65.921%
3 Inga Fuengerlings	Milo	64.342%
4 Heidi Kirchner	MyKatas Questionnaire	63.553%
5 McKynzee Wiggins	Donatello W	62.763%

RMDS Young Rider First Level Championships

1 Claire Filkins	Rhythm and Blues	65.263%
2 Kelly Schick	Dance the Tide	61.053%
3 Rachel Dodd	Code Ninety Two	59.342%
4 Kristen Becker	Esperanza GPA	58.947%
5 Jessica Sheppard	Castlewood Brigadier	57.105%



RMDS Junior Training Level Championships

1 McKinley Harvey	Maverick	70.000%
2 Heather Howell	Squirrelolena	65.800%
3 Alexis Haynes	Doc's Peaceful Smoke	64.400%
4 Katie McKenna	Raggedy Ann	63.000%
5 Kailey DeVore	Fantasize	61.200%

RMDS Young Rider Training Level Championships

1 Ashley Eberhardt	Steel Magnolia	67.800%
2 Gabriela Flores	Keno	65.800%
3 Allison Fleskes	Suspense	65.000%
4 Rachel Dodd	Code Ninety Two	63.400%
5 Megan Rau	Fabhcun	63.000%

RMDS Pony Training Level Championships

1 Amelia Newcomb	Geneva	70.200%
2 Shannen McKelvey	Dalwhinnie's Santos	67.600%
3 Joan Clay	Little Miss Mariah	65.400%
4 Gabriela Flores	Keno	64.800%
5 Maryellen Cambor	Grey Haven Kelsey Kilcullen	64.000%

RMDS Open First Level Championships

1 Petra Warlimont	Hyperion SF	70.658%
2 Linda Ohlson	Gross Max	66.974%
3 Kim Elsner	Juruna Do Jao	65.263%

RMDS Pony First Level Championships

1 Greta Barringer-Richers CF	Godiva Chocolate	70.000%
2 Shannen McKelvey	Dalwhinnie's Santos	67.500%
3 Ruan Seville	Scarlet's Affair	66.711%
4 Joan Clay	Little Miss Mariah	64.079%
5 Michaela Schenk	Simply Sterling	63.816%

RMDS First Level Freestyle Championships

1 Jessica Sheppard	Castlewood Brigadier	65.417%
2 Susan Traylor	Jip van Stal Geurts	63.646%
3 Mary Chamberland	Bouke	57.708%

RMDS Open Second Level Championships

1	Stephanie Busley	Welkin	70.000%
2	Kim Elsner	Aragon	66.905%
3	Jenny Brauer	Alexandria DA	64.881%
4	Dee Kirby	SRS Wizard of Art	64.286%
5	Amelia Newcomb	Blue Fancy Dan	64.048%

RMDS Adult Amateur Second Level Championships

1	Susannah Lewis	Enviado SMDR	65.833%
2	Julie Breen Forman	Garand Paradox	62.024%
3	Mercedes Devitt	Pandora	61.429%
4	Kristen Alvarez	Grandmaster Flash	61.190%
5	Suzie Halle	Tennyson-ISF	59.881%

RMDS Junior Second Level Championships

1	Jordan Farr	Phoenix	67.857%
2	Connor McPeak	Passhawn	64.167%
3	Evan Hills	Megabucks	63.452%
4	Natalie Lewis	Best Blend	60.476%



RMDS Open Third Level Championships

1	Petra Warlimont	Carismo	69.535%
2	Stephanie Busley	Peteta	68.605%
3	Petra Warlimont	Matinee SF	67.326%
4	Shannon Dahmer	Delaney	65.349%
5	Jane Renner	Pashmina	64.186%

RMDS Adult Amateur Third Level Championships

1	Ann Edelman	Boucheron	64.884%
2	Otto Koch	Navarelle	63.256%
3	Lisa Scott Floyd	Bond 007	62.442%
4	Jennifer Kirch	Piks Crusader	58.953%
5	Nancy Brenckman	Earl Grey	57.326%

RMDS Junior Third Level Championships

1	Aylin Corapcioglu	Ruhmann	62.907%
2	Kevin Schauer	Bud Light	57.791%
3	Jessica Swenson	Jubilee Banjo	57.326%

RMDS Open Fourth Level Championships

1	Jenny Baldwin	Alexander	63.537%
2	Simone Ahern-Harless	Brisa	61.463%

RMDS Adult Amateur Fourth Level Championships

1	Beth Geier	Matador	58.049%
2	Ann Edelman	Boucheron	54.268%

RMDS Junior Fourth Level Championships

1	Victoria Fernald	O'Neal 6	2.073%
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RMDS Fourth Level Freestyle Championships

1	Andrea Doelling	Golden Gift	67.292%
2	Victoria Fernald	O'Neal	66.458%

RMDS Open Prix St George Championships

1	Jenny Baldwin	Fabrioso	68.684%
2	Beatrice Marienau	Magnifiek	62.237%
3	Deb Crooks	Riddle Me This	61.842%
4	Allison Dechant	Nimmo Romeo	59.605%

RMDS Adult Amateur Prix St George Championships

1	Pat Roark	Alvaro TCV	60.921%
2	Camille Griffin	Munesicht's Compassion	60.526%
3	Deborah Carter	La Vie Nouveaux	59.079%
4	Jennifer Kirch	Paladin	55.395%

RMDS Junior Prix St George Championships

1	Nicholas Sigler	Royal Diamant	56.447%
2	Victoria Fernald	O'Neal	55.395%

RMDS Open Intermediare I Championships

1	Nicole Glusenkamp	Eeltsje F.	66.579%
2	KC Parkins-Kyle	Olaf	59.868%

RMDS Adult Amateur Intermediare I Championships

1	Camille Griffin	Munesicht's Compassion	58.158%
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RMDS Intermediare Freestyle Championships

1	KC Parkins-Kyle	Olaf	67.875%
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RMDS Intermediare 2 Championships

1	Shannon Dahmer	Viva Las Vegas	59.211%
2	Allison Dechant	Nimmo A Gold Card	58.816%
3	Petra Warlimont	Oryko	57.368%

RMDS Grand Prix Freestyle Championships

1	Andrea Doelling	Prince	70.000%
2	Shannon Dahmer	Najinska	64.500%



RMDS Grand Prix Championships

1	Grant Schneidman	Superman	65.957%
2	Simone Ahern-Harless	Ravenelli's Wizard	63.298%
3	Andrea Doelling	Prince	61.915%
4	Lauren Smith	Lamiro	60.745%
5	Christa-Elaine Wood	Decoroso SMDR	58.404%

RMDS Futurity

1	Petra Warlimont	Hyperion SF	
2	Petra Warlimont	Dostojewski SF	
3	Christina Rudman	Palermo SW	
4	Christa-Elaine Wood	Kiosco SMDR	
5	Simone Ahern-Harless	Sir Isaac	

About RMDS

2009 RMDS Executive Board

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Omnibus Production	Burke Design-Nicole Bizzarro.....	720-890-7825	rm@rm@rm@rm.org
Webmaster	Michael Petersen	719-683-8435	webmaster@rm@rm@rm.org
Constitution, By-laws	Central Office	720-890-7825	rm@rm@rm@rm.org
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Insurance, Show Standards	Central Office	720-890-7825	rm@rm@rm@rm.org
Junior/Young Riders	Colleen McFadden	303-665-2631	Mcfadden_colleen@hotmail.com
Junior Camp	KC Parkins-Kyle	303-841-9953	murphyhors@aol.com
Marketing	Heather J. McEntee	719-338-9913	heather@hjmcdressage.com
Membership			
Horse Registration	Central Office	720-890-7825	rm@rm@rm@rm.org
Registration Officials and			
Show Standards	Central Office	720-890-7825	rm@rm@rm@rm.org
Scheduling	Central Office	720-890-7825	rm@rm@rm@rm.org
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Chapter Presidents

Arkansas Valley	Brenda Haley	719-275-0118	shininghorse@copper.net
Boulder Valley	Nicole Donohue	303-678-8870	hobbyhorse6789@yahoo.com
Colorado Springs	Simone Windeler	719-540-2000	simonedressage@gmail.com
Foothills	Dolly Hannon	303-919-4112	dollyhannon@msn.com
Grand Valley	Lisa Bins	970-243-8543	lbawprints@yahoo.com
High Plains	Alexandra Curnutte	303-663-0358	curnutt@msn.com
Northern Colorado	Laura Speer	970-371-2934	riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com
Tri-State	Darlene Vaughn	307-332-7261	popagieranch@hotmail.com
Wasatch Mountains	Sally Shaffer	435-640-8797	sshaffer4@yahoo.com
Western Colorado	Judith Family	970-923-8832	dns@rof.net

Governing Bodies

UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION

USDF 859-971-2277 www.usdf.org
 4051 Iron Works Parkway
 Lexington, KY 40511

USDF Region 5:

Director Theresa L Hunt hunterry@mindspring.com
 FEI JRYR Coordinator Susan Rudman 303-697-8528 sewrunred@msn.com
 Website www.usdfregion5.org

US EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC 859-258-2472 www.usef.org

USEF

4047 Iron Works Parkway
 Lexington, KY 40511

RMDS is a USDF Group Member Organization and RMDS members are automatically USDF Group Members.

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About RMDS

RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Arkansas Valley: 3rd Thurs., location TBD, 6 pm.
Brenda Haley, 719-275-0118,
www.horsetop.net

Boulder Valley: 2nd Mon., even months, location TBD,
Nicole Donohue 303-678-8870,
hobbyhorse6789@yahoo.com

Colorado Springs: 3rd Tues., Colorado Springs City Hall, Simone Windeler 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com
www.CSDressage.org

Foothills: quarterly meetings, location TBD, Dolly Hannon, 303-919-4112,
dollyhannon@msn.com

Grand Valley: 1st Thurs. each month, location TBD,
Lisa Binse, 970-243-8543,
Lbpawprints@yahoo.com

High Plains: 3rd Tues. each month, 7 pm, Warhorse Inn, Parker,
Alex Curnutte, 303-663-0358,
curnuttes@msn.com
www.highplainsdressage.com

Northern Colo.: 3rd Tues., each month, location TBD,
Laura Speer, 970-330-7233,
riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com

Penrose: Inactive for 2009,
Sharon Ghilarducci, 719-462-5760,
quailridgedrsg@hotmail.com

Tri State: TBA,
Darlene Vaughan, 307-332-7261,
popoagieranch@hotmail.com

Wasatch Mountains
Sally Shaffer, 435-640-8797
Location TBD

Western Colorado: Judith Family,
970-923-8832, dns@rof.net

Meeting Schedule of the RMDS Executive Board

All RMDS Executive Board meetings occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Steering Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of every even-numbered month. Board of Governor's meeting is held the second Saturday of Nov. Contact the Central Office for precise details.

RMDS SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

All events are open to everyone to audit or participate unless otherwise stated. A great opportunity to continue your education.

2010

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Jan 30 | RMDS Judges' Continuing Education featuring Janet "Dolly" Hannon. Ft Collins Equestrian Center. |
| Feb 13 | TD & Show Managers' Continuing Education-Comfort Suites-Castle Rock |
| May 15-16 | USDF L-Program D2 Session, Somerset Farms, Longmont |
| June 7-8 | RMDS Winter Wake-Up, Autumn Hill IEC-Longmont |
| June 13-16 | Junior Camp-8th Heaven Farms, Castle Rock |
| July 24-25 | RMDS L-Program Final Session, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont. CLOSED. |
| September 1 | Rocky Mountain Series-Sport Horse Breeding Finals & USDFBC Finals, Colorado Horse Park |
| September 2-5 | RMDS Open & Championship Show, and Region V Championships, Colorado Horse Park |

For details on these and other RMDS events:

- Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net - Education Chairman
- Read the Centaur, or go to the website at www.rmids.org
- Contact the RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825, or email rmids@rmids.org

The Centaur Newsletter

The Centaur newsletter is published monthly. To guarantee that ads and articles will run in a given month, they must be received by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 10 for the February edition. If not received by the deadline, articles and ads may be placed in the following issue, if not time sensitive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For article suggestions, articles, columns, letters-to-the-editor: Centaur Editor, Cathy Van Berg, 1767 Rose Petal Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80109, Phone: 303.916.6136, email: vanbergc@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING

RMDS Office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301, Phone: 720.890.7825, email: rmds@rmds.org

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

For information about corporate advertising and/or sponsorship, please contact Beth Geier (contact info above.)

Artwork (ads) must be provided in electronic format. Acceptable forms include: jpeg, pdf, tiff, eps, and doc. IF UNSURE ABOUT AD FORMATTING, please contact the editor (contact info above) for consultation. No substitutions may be accepted. If your ad is submitted in a file format other than those listed above, you will be contacted regarding an additional charge for reformatting or redesign. Hourly charge for redesign/reformat is \$35, in minimal units of one hour.

Please be sure to include a printed version of your ad with your payment so that the ad may be proof-read against the electronic version. Printed ad copy cannot be used as final art.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads may be submitted via email to the RMDS office (address above.) You may also type or hand-write a classified ad and mail it to RMDS headquarters, attn: Beth Geier, **The Centaur**. Please limit your classified ad copy to 50 words or less. Exceeding 50 words will result in additional charges per line.

PAYMENT AND AD COPY DELIVERY

Email ads to: rmds@rmds.org, and cc the electronic copy to vanbergc@yahoo.com. Send payment and hard-copy to the RMDS office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301.

AD RATES AND SIZE SPECIFICATIONS

Classified \$20 per item for sale (includes web listing.) 50 words maximum. Classified w/photo \$32 per item for sale.

Full Page.....	\$1507.5" x 9.5"
Half Page.....	\$907.5" x 4.75"
Outside back half	\$1057.5" x 4.75"
1/4 Page (Vertical Only)	\$553.75" x 4.25"
1/8 Page (Business Card)	\$30	.. 3.625" x 2.25" (horizontal only)

Ask about discounts for multi-month or annual ad contracts.

Payment for ads is due on the 10th of the month. If not received by the following 10th of the month, the person will be listed on the RMDS website under the suspended category.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Articles submitted for publication will not be returned. Please contact the editor before submitting unsolicited articles or photos. Articles represent the work and views of their authors, and not necessarily the RMDS, its officers or employees.

Utilize the RMDS Network:

Trainers and Instructors - Get on the Web and Build New Business

If you wish to increase business, you can place your information on the RMDS website at very low cost. Send information to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Dr, Boulder, CO 80301, Phone 720.890.7825, or email: rmds@rmds.org (note on subject line "Trainer Info".) Please include your name, phone, postal address, email, training locations and other pertinent info, i.e. award, certifications, lesson types, schooling horses, etc.

The website averages 200 hits per month on the trainer page and RMDS receives 25-30 emails per month requesting names of trainers in the RMDS region. Don't miss the opportunity to expand your client base and gain recognition.

Cost is \$50 annually. Mail check to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Drive. Boulder, CO 80301.

Advertise Events on the RMDS Website

Website ads on the RMDS site provide your event with high visibility. Your ad will run for one month from the date it first appears. Unless the RMDS Central Office is notified in advance (rmds@rmds.org), the ad will be removed from the website once the date of the event advertised has passed.

Please limit content of the ad to 20 words. Your email and website addresses will be displayed as links.

Because of the implicit connection to the RMDS, we reserve the rights to:

- Refuse any ad.
- Edit ad content.
- Limit the number of ads displayed at any one time.

Important Info on RMDS membership

Awards are based on the information on your membership card. Be sure to double-check everything very carefully.

Duplicate cards are available for \$2.00. If emailed to you, they are free. Request a new one by mailing the Central Office at rmds@rmds.org.

Proof of adult amateur status must be sent to the Central Office every year. Showing proof at shows is not enough for the year-end awards. Owner, rider, and horse MUST be current members PRIOR to any ride for the score to count towards qualifying for RMDS Championships and for qualifying for any year-end award. If PONY is not listed under breed and you have a pony, send a copy of the measurement form or the permanent pony card to the Central Office. Remember, membership and its details are your responsibility. Be sure corrections are made.

About RMDS

Technical Delegates, Judges, and Certified Instructors Dressage Judge Ratings and Levels Qualified to Judge

Any class ridden before a judge not qualified to judge at that level must ride "Hors d'concours" where the score does not count.

Status	Status	Levels	Status	Status	Levels
"L"	Learner*	Training - Second (RMDS only)	"S"	Senior	All
"I"	Recorded	Training - Second	"I"	International	All
"R"	Registered	Training - Fourth	"O"	Olympic	All

*may only judge at RMDS recognized shows.

FEI 'I'

Janet Foy 719-260-1566

USEF 'S'

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 303-642-7708
Sandra Hotz 303-817-2030
Anita Owen 303-953-9904
Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-919-4112

USEF 'R'

Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

USEF 'r'

Loni Gaudet 970-532-0852
Amy Jablonovsky 970-493-2833
Suzanne Zimmer 303-478-8325

USDF 'L' Graduates (Schooling and RMDS

Only recognized shows)

Simone Ahern-Harless* 719-749-9274
Barbara Bell (WY) 307-548-7079
Gigi Brittain* 303-646-1506
Julie Burt 719-372-6270
Alison Child* (UT) 435-640-3287
Rae Ann Cook* 970-225-1408
Marti Foster* 303-277-1132
Beth Geier 303-673-9840

Jan Goodrich-Spear 303-664-0152
Gwen Ka'awaloa* 303-646-4363
Linda Coates-Markle 303-469-0279
Sarah Martin* 719-379-3716
Kathleen Mayger* 970-310-8729
Linda Ohlson-Gross* 303-840-9818
KC Parkins-Kyle 303-841-9953
Kathy Simard* 720-981-4448
Maria Wasson 303-682-9594
Simone Windeler 719-540-2000

*Denotes Graduation with Distinction

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judges

Janet Foy 'R' 719-260-1566
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-642-7708
Kristi Wysocki 'r' 303-648-9877

Technical Delegates USEF

Eva-Maria Adolphi (UT), r 801-254-3247
Rusty Cook (NM), r 505-877-1456
Veronica Holt, R 303-646-3829
Laurie Mactavish, R 970-390-5160
Heather Petersen, r 719-683-8435
Deeda Randle (WY), R 307-638-6737
Catherine Siemiet, r 719-942-5311
Dianne Stanley (MT), r 406-652-4061
Libby Stokes, r 303-688-2795

TD, RMDS sanctioned shows only

Joan Clay 970-420-0887
Jeannette Hillery 303-494-7718
Susan Selby 970-227-9530
M. Elaine Thomas 719-495-1510

USDF Certified Instructors

Training - Second

Julie Burt 719-372-6270
Jill Cantor Lee 970-686-9163
RaeAnn Cook 970-225-1408
Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-279-4546
Sabine Kallas 307-733-9497
Ellene Kloepfer 303-828-3879
Clayton Martin 719-379-3716
Sheri Mattei-Mead 970-669-3733
Kathryn Meistrell 303-550-5130
Bridget Milnes 303-660-4986
Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

Training - Fourth

Simone Ahern-Harless 719-749-9274
Nancy DeVaney 303-681-2516
Loma Fowler 303-841-0417
Sarah Martin 719-379-3716
Kathy Simard 720-981-4448
Melinda Weatherford 970-484-5218



RMDS and USDF
JUDGES CONTINUING EDUCATION

OPEN TO ALL!

- **Want to know how your scores are given?**
- **Want to become a judge?**
- **Want to learn what the judges are looking for?**
- **Need to clarify your thoughts?**
- **Already a judge and need to stay sharp?**
- **Lecture and Demonstration horses will be used.**
- **Counts for RMDS & USDF Continuing Education for Judges and L Graduates.**

Please encourage others to join you for a successful workshop!

Presented by USEF "S" Dressage Judge:

Janet "Dolly" Hannon

At

Fort Collins Equestrian Center – 5400 E Mulberry St-Fort Collins, CO 80524

From Interstate 25 go East on Mulberry St/CO 14 (exit 269). Gate to facility in on the North side of the road approx. 1.5 miles. Barn phone number is (970) 221-3010.

Saturday, January 30, 2010

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

	Members	Nonmembers	At the door-everyone
Saturday	\$60	\$75	\$80

We need reservations so we can plan on numbers for any handouts.

Please fill out the form below and return with a check made payable to RMDS to:

Heather Petersen
12395 Gull Lane
Peyton, CO 80831

Name: _____

E-Mail _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Breakfast/lunch/drinks/munchies will be available for sale by the RMDS
Junior/Young Riders.

Call For Centaur Articles

Do you love to write? See your byline in the Centaur! Give back to the dressage community and share your enthusiasm through informative articles.

Do you have a specialty the rest of the community would benefit in knowing about? We want to know!

Contact: Cathy Van Berg, Centaur Editor at vanbergc@yahoo.com

Photographs are always welcome!

January Topic: **Planning the New Year**
 February Topic: **Training Resources**
 March Topic: **Training, Training, Training**

New Columns For the Centaur

The Centaur is initiating 3 new columns.

Book (Video, and Website) Reviews

Have a riding philosophy, training, or how-to book you love? Write a review for the Centaur. You don't need to be an expert, just have a fondness for that special book you just read. What was its focus? How did it help you and how can it help the next horseperson? Was it controversial? Tell us about it.

Trainer Spotlight

We have some of the best trainers in the nation right here in our own Front Range. Tell us about your trainer. What do they specialize in? What's their philosophy? Who did they train with and where? What have they accomplished in their careers? What are their goals? And why do you train with them? Become an investigative reporter and conduct an interview with your trainer. Then tell the rest of us what you've learned.

Through the Grapevine

Is one of us having a baby? Just married? In the hospital? Just had surgery? Moving? Got a new horse? Won an award? This is where to spill the beans about your friends and fellow RMDS members. This will allow us to "keep up" even though we're miles apart.

Email vanbergc@yahoo.com



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hotzdressage@gmail.com
 website:
www.hotzdressage.com

Graphic Design Beth Beymer

2009 - 2010 Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

DECEMBER 2009

- 7 **Sarah Martin Clinic, Triple Creek Farm, Longmont**
Contact Beth Geier, 303-673-9840 bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 8 **Janet Foy Clinic, Reiterhof Ranch, Franktown**
Contact Jody, 303-646-9520, www.geocities.com/ingolfin/
- 14 **Sarah Martin Clinic, Triple Creek Farm, Longmont**
Contact Beth Geier, 303-673-9840 bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 29 **Janet Foy Clinic, Reiterhof Ranch, Franktown**
Contact Jody, 303-646-9520, www.geocities.com/ingolfin/

JANUARY 2010

- 14 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-Perkins Restaurant- I-25 & Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 16 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 30 **RMDS Judges' Continuing Education, Janet "Dolly" Hannon, Ft. Collins Equestrian Center**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net

FEBRUARY 2010

- 13 **TD/Show Manager Continuing Education, Comfort Suites, Castle Rock.** Laurie Mactavish, Camille Griffin, Heather Petersen
Contact Heather Petersen, Education Chairman, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 20 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 27 **8th Heaven Spring Starter Series I, Castle Rock**
Contact Meghann Norris, 303-688-5727, eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com

MARCH 2010

- 11 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-25 & Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 12-14 **Rocky Mountain Horse Expo, Denver, CO**
[http://www.rockymountainhorseexpo.com/Denver/index.php?where=recent news](http://www.rockymountainhorseexpo.com/Denver/index.php?where=recent%20news)
- 20 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net

APRIL 2010

- 10 **8th Heaven Spring Starter Series II, Castle Rock**
Contact Meghann Norris, 303-688-5727, eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com
- 17 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 23 **Arabians For The Cure at the Peak, Norris Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 24 **Boulder Valley Ride-A-Test, Singletree Farm, Boulder**
Contact Jeannette Hillery, 303-494-7718, jmhillery915@comcast.net

- 24-25 **Dressage for the Cure at the Peak, Norris Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net

- 25 **Boulder Valley Spring Fling, Singletree Farm, Boulder**
Contact Jeannette Hillery, 303-494-7718, jmhillery915@comcast.net

- 30-2 **Ralf Schmitzer Clinic, Whispering Winds Farm, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com

MAY 2010

- 4-6 **Ralf Schmitzer Clinic, Whispering Winds Farm, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com
- 8 **8th Heaven Spring Starter Series III, Castle Rock**
Contact Meghann Norris, 303-688-5727, eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com
- 8-9 **Grand Valley Dressage Spring Show II, Grand Junction, USEF-YR**
Contact Lisa Binse
- 8-10 **Ralf Schmitzer Clinic, Whispering Winds Farm, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com
- 13 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-25 & Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 15 **Rocky Mountain Dressage Show 1, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 16 **Rocky Mountain Dressage Show 2, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 15-16 **RMDS L-Program D2 Session, Somerset Farms, Longmont**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 22 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 29-30 **Promontory Dressage Show I, Park City, UT, USEF**
Contact Adrianna Silvestri, 435-655-1272, asilvestri@promontoryclub.com

JUNE 2010

- 19-20 **Dressage Through the Levels, Steffan Peters & Janet Foy, Somerset Farms, Longmont**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 26 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festivals I, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 27 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festivals II, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net

JULY 2010

- 8 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-25 & Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 10 **Rocky Mountain Dressage Show III, Longmont, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 11 **Rocky Mountain Dressage Show IV, Longmont, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 16 **Dressage at the Peak Summer Warm-up, Norris Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net

2010 Shows and Events

- 16 **Wasatch Back Dressage Festival I, Salt Lake Equestrian Center, UT-USEF**
Contact Alison Child, 435-640-3287, achild@kirwin.com
- 17 **Wasatch Back Dressage Festival II, Salt Lake Equestrian Center, UT-USEF**
Contact Alison Child, 435-640-3287, achild@kirwin.com
- 17-18 **Dressage at the Peak II Summer, Norris Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 24-25 **JULY 2010 RMDS L-Program Final Session, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont**
Contact Heather Petersen, Education Chairman, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 24 **Autumn Hill Dressage III, AHIEC, Longmont-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 25 **Autumn Hill Dressage IV, AHIEC, Longmont-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net

AUGUST 2010

- 7-8 **Cheyenne Dressage & Eventing Dressage Show, Cheyenne, WY, USEF**
Contact Rowena Heckert, 307-632-4151, rlheckert@msn.com
- 13-15 **Dr. Gerd Heuschmann Clinic, Black Forest**
Contact Alex Robinson, 719-351-9721, therobinsons4@msn.com
- 20 **Paragon Dressage Shows I, Estes Park, CDI****
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 21 **Paragon Dressage Shows II, Estes Park, CDI****
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net

- 22 **Paragon Dressage Shows III, Estes Park, CDI****
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 29 **Boulder Valley So Long to Summer-Somerset Farm-Longmont**
Contact Jeannette Hillery, 303-494-7718, jmhillery915@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 1 **Rocky Mountain Sport Horse Breeding Championships & Qualifying Open Breed Show, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 2-5 **RMDS Championships and Open Show, Colorado Horse Park, Parker, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 9 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-25 & Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 11-12 **Promontory Dressage Show II, Park City, UT, USEF**
Contact Adrianna Silvestri, 435-655-1272, asilvestri@promontoryclub.com

NOVEMBER 2010

- 13 **RMDS Board of Governors Meeting**

For updates to the calendar, go to www.rmds.org

THESE EVENTS ARE DEPENDENT UPON VOLUNTEERS.
IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE EVENT ORGANIZER!



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(SE corner of 95th & Arapahoe)
phone: 303/666-5364 • toll free: 866/303-TACK
fax: 303/604-2783 • email: info@tackcollection.com

CONTINUING EDUCATION - "TD" & SHOW MANAGEMENT
Saturday, February 13, 2010

OPEN TO EVERYONE! Learn the Inner Workings of a Show.

Technical Delegates: 8:30am - 12:15 pm with Laurie Mactavish (USEF TD)

- Want to find out what happens behind the scenes of a show?
- Want to be a TD?
- Need to hone your skills?
- Need clarification of the rules and/or become aware of the new ones?
-

Show Managers/Secretaries: 1:00 pm with Heather Petersen, Laura Speer and Camille Griffin

- What are the responsibilities of the secretary vs. show manager
- Scheduling, general logistics, needed forms and information
- Handbook available for \$30

RMDS is strongly encouraging all show management to attend. There are more upcoming changes in the rules!!!

This workshop is for you!

Comfort Suites Castle Rock
4755 Castleton Way, Castle Rock, CO 80109

COST

One session only \$35 Non RMDS members \$45
Both sessions \$50 Non RMDS members \$60
At the door - \$65 for everyone.

Directions to Comfort Suites Castle Rock: Take I-25 to the Founders Parkway exit in Castle Rock. The hotel is on the southwest corner of that interchange. 303-814-9999.

Reservations are necessary for the number of any handouts.

Please fill out the form below and return with a check made payable to RMDS to:

Heather Petersen
12395 Gull Lane
Peyton, CO 80831

Name: _____ TD or Show Management _____

E Mail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Lunch/drinks/munchies will be available for sale by the RMDS Junior/Young Riders.

Scholarship Reports, Final, 2009

Connor McPeak and Passhawn

After receiving my RMDS scholarship I had a full show season ahead of me. I competed in 12 shows this summer, including RMDS Championships and USDF Championships in New Mexico. I also shared my experience with this wonderful scholarship with my trainer and other Jr/YRs that have applied for next year.

This summer I also spent a great deal of my time volunteering at various RMDS shows, and also went to Kentucky for the NAJYRC as a groom. This scholarship is a great thing to kick start your show season. It was an honor to have received it.



Connor McPeak and Passhawn

started helping plan and organize. I have also attended meetings and am helping with our year end awards.

I spoke to my current club, Colorado Springs Dressage, in September, about how easy it was to apply and how it was really helpful for me to continue my training in this sluggish economy. I hope that by my speaking it might have helped someone to take a leap and apply. I'm surprised at how many people think they don't have a chance so they don't even try, this goes for riders I talked to all across the state.

I attended 2 clinics this year, Debbie McDonald and Hilda Gurney. While watching Debbie was of course, very cool — she's Debbie McDonald — I feel I learned far more from watching Hilda, mostly because she worked with horses that were at the level of training I'm currently working in. It's nice to see upper level horses too, so that you can see what you are working towards and why the foundation I'm building now is so important. It was also nice to see talented riders on lower level horses, and the fact that they struggle too. I learned how important a rider is in how well the horse performs, which was great, because I feel sometimes the blame falls on the horse, and Hilda had no problem telling riders it was them. I truly enjoyed her honesty.

I also have written articles for RMDS about my use and education resulting from the scholarship I received. Thank you again for choosing me to receive the 2009 Scholarship, it made a very positive difference in my life and riding this year!



Sarah Haney and her horses

Sarah Haney and Thirsty May Storm

I spread out my scholarship money to cover many costs throughout the season. I mainly used it for lessons, some entry fees, and clinics. Without these funds, my activities would have been limited, and this has been a difficult year for me.

I volunteered this year at the Dressage for the Cure Show in Colorado Springs, putting many hours in before the event

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Trainer Spotlight: LAURA BACKUS

PENDRAGON STUD EQUESTRIAN CENTER IS VERY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT COLORADO'S OWN LAURA BACKUS HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE 2009 AMERICAN RIDING INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION "INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR"!! THIS IS A NATIONAL HONOR THAT IS BEING PRESENTED TO A WELL-DESERVING RECIPIENT.

Charlotte Kneeland, ARIA Director, said "There were a huge number of nominations in the Instructor of the Year category, and so many of them were worthy. It's always difficult for the committee to choose one winner, but Laura really stood out."

Some of her qualifications include:

- Holding her USDF Bronze and Silver Medals
- Level III ARIA-certified instructor in Eventing and Dressage,
- Majored in equestrian sciences at both Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, and the University of Colorado at Denver, Colorado
- Is an H-A level graduate of The United States Pony Club
- Trained with several notables in the world of Eventing and Dressage, such as Debbie Bowman, Denny Emerson, Major Lindgren, Elke Herrmann, Kim Walnes and Lucinda Green, to name a few
- Has taught Eventing and Dressage for over 25 years
- Has competed through FEI level in Dressage,

- Has trained students through 3rd level in Dressage
- Has trained horses through PSG level in Dressage

Laura teaches students of all ages and levels of ability in all aspects of Eventing. She also takes horses in training and competes throughout the United States. She held the positions of Coach for the Ball State University Equestrian Team, and Head

Trainer and instructor at Hartmeyer's Stable, both in Muncie, Indiana. She then accepted a position as Associate Professor in the equestrian program at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Terra Haute, Indiana. She now owns and teaches out of Pendragon Stud Equestrian Center in Larkspur, Colorado. She has been active in Pony Club since 1979, holding many offices and other positions of responsibility. She qualified for the Young Riders Championship and Rocky Mountain Young Riders team. In addition, she founded, and was District Commissioner of the Riders Unlimited Pony Club in Indiana.



Laura

She has trained hundreds of students and horses, many of which went on to receive awards at various levels of Eventing and Dressage within USEA, MSEA and USDF. Members of the 2007 Gold Medal National Championship Young Riders' team were her students. Laura's personal riding achievements include many local, Regional and National year-end awards.

Live Lessons with Lendon

-Dawn Fisher

Cont'd from page 2

move her mare forward. "C'mon," she said, "just a bit more. I'm not expecting perfection."

"I am!" shouted Gray from the corner. Gray paused the lesson and talked to Caffy about being stronger in her convictions and about raising expectations in general. She told Caffy to "get mean." And she did – well, a little.

"And her teaching improved, didn't it?" Gray asked the audience, who agreed.

"How do you know how far you can push a student before they become discouraged?" asked trainer Amelia Newcomb.

"That comes with experience," said Gray. "It's a tough, fine line, but in general, you need to set a higher standard." Throughout the day she touched on putting more responsibility on the rider to make a correction quickly, or to maintain a schooling figure. "A lot of it's rider discipline, not horse," she said. "Challenge people," she said. "And if they want to do it, if they want to improve, they'll get it done."

Trainers must be careful of saying things they don't mean. "All of you said 'go into the corners,'" said Gray, marching over to inspect the hoofprints near one corner. "I don't see one set of tracks 15 feet off this corner!"

"If you don't really care, don't say it," she said. "But if you do care, carry through. Don't let them get away with things."

Selecting a Trainer

"How do you choose the right trainer for you?" asked an auditor.

"There's no one teacher perfect for everyone," said Gray. "How do you know you have a good instructor? Ask yourself: Are you improving? When you ask the instructor to explain something, can they? Or do they say 'just do it.' And, there

has to be a good rapport between instructor and student, otherwise, forget it."

Respecting the Horse

Infused throughout Gray's instruction was her respect for the horse. "Remember," she told one student, "you're doing this out of a burning desire. He's doing this out of the goodness of his heart." She said that often when she's asked to explain the challenges of dressage, she uses a cultural reference. "Think about it like 'Dancing With the Stars,'" she says. "But imagine your partner has never seen dancing, speaks Swahili, and could care less if he does it. That, in part, is the horse."

"Why do horses let us do this?" she asked. "I'm just in awe. Here we are, asking him to trot in place. Is there anything stupider? But you get a wonderful schoolmaster with a rider pulling and pulling, going around and around and around and around.... They're just amazing creatures. And that puts so much responsibility on us to give as much as they do. They are truly remarkable. So let's do what we can to make it as easy as possible for them."

Raise the Bar

Overall, Gray said trainers – and riders – must kick it up a notch. "I think all of you just need to expect a higher standard. I get a lot of questions about the difference between dressage in Colorado and on the East Coast. There is no difference. Maybe there aren't as many hotshots around here, but you need to get rid



Lendon

of the inferiority complex."

Living in the boonies, far from a trainer, is no longer an excuse. Gray suggested finding a trainer you respect anywhere in the world, send them a video and pay them for a lesson. She also stressed watching – and analyzing – videos of good riders, as well as of your own rides.

"Decide to put Colorado on the map!" she said, to the biggest applause of the day. If she'd had a baton, she would have raised it in encouragement.

Hilda Gurney: Through the Levels

Three Points of View

by Katherine Simard, Kris Garrett, and K.C. Parkins-Kyle

Through the Levels

by K.C. Parkins-Kyle

The High Plains Chapter of RMDS sponsored the clinic "Through the Levels" on November 7 and 8, which was held at Freedom Farms in Franktown, Colorado. It clearly covered the levels of Dressage as well as presented a clear view of the training in between. There were 3 young horses to represent the Training Level and First Level horses. It was clear that some were lower Training Level, and others were on the higher end of that.

Kathy Simard had her 4 year old gelding , who started off with a good clear demonstration on lunging before mounting up to

stay forward, balancing the canter are the common challenges at this level with a young horse. Dolly Hannon's horse was in some ways a notch further ahead, but had work to do on being consistent in the bridle and balancing the canter. It was really nice to see two professionals working young horses and the challenges that one encounters during that process.

Kelly Boyd had a young Friesian who was clearly established at Training Level and working First Level. Hilda used the opportunity to talk about the challenges of the breed and how it is often an advantage to introduce the concept of Piaffe and Passage early with the Friesians, to assist in the engagement they will need in order to progress up the levels with more ease. She also had Kelly demonstrate how to introduce the shoulder-in to a young horse in a fairly simple manner. By asking for the

Hilda's auditor's in rapt attention



ride. Hilda went over the equipment and technique in clear detail. Using this young horse she demonstrated what to look for in the walk. Although well behaved, it was clear that this horse was just getting ready to be at Training Level. Learning how to

shoulder-in on the 1/4 line, the horse has the freedom to figure out where to put his feet without fear of running into the wall; then proceed to a short diagonal out of the shoulder-in. On the second day, she had them demonstrate how to introduce

the haunches in, by turning on the 1/4 line, leg-yielding to the wall, keeping the hind quarters off the wall. In this way, the movements are easier for the young horse to achieve.

Jane Ann Lake, Debbie King and McKynzee Wiggins were our demonstration riders for the First and Second Level riders. These horses brought about the need for bending to improve in order to move more successfully up the levels. Also we

el demonstration riders. With Stephanies's horse we focused on using the loft of the medium trot to improve the quality of the collected trot. Using the exercise of half-pass to the quarter line, medium trot to the next 1/4 line, resuming half-pass to the wall, we could see the loft of the horse's trot improve.

We also witnessed the process of teaching the beginnings of the flying changes with Kim's horse. This is a big stumbling



Dolly Hannon during her ride with Hilda.

noticed how the neck length of each horse was different and how to evaluate if the neck was being carried too short or too long. The physical differences in the horses were very useful in this demonstration. As a general rule (to which there are always exceptions), Hilda quoted Jo Hinnemann: "2/3 of the neck length is too long, 1/3 of the neck length is too short. 1/2 the neck length is just right." This allows you a guideline based upon what the horse is given conformationally, not just what it "looks" like.

The various differences in these riders and horses was nice to see. Because all were clearly on the right path, they still had small difficulties that were different for each one. One horse tended to be too strong in the bridle, to which Hilda suggested a try in the double bridle. Even though the horse was not Third Level yet, it gave the rider and horse a little additional needed control and the horse a chance to become accustomed to it before it had to perform in it. This introduction to a double bridle is rarely seen outside the confines of a trainer and their barn and it gave the auditors an opportunity to discuss this with Hilda.

Kim Elsner and Stephanie Leahey were our Second/Third Lev-

el block for many horses and riders aspiring to Third Level. Ms. Gurney discussed, and had the riders demonstrate, the clear control over the canter lead needed in order to begin flying changes. She also discussed the training process:

- "There are two things we do in training the horse.
1. Extinguish behaviors- through punishment (via corrections) and
 2. Teach a Behavior - through reward or a lessening of discomfort. It's the reward that trains."

Shannon Dahmer and Kristi Wysocki were our demonstrators for the Grand Prix and Intermediare Levels. While they warmed up, Hilda noted how these horses basically went through the levels in their work out. The differences in their movement was easy to note, and yet the solid training both the horses had was very evident. Hilda helped Kristi come to a plan in learning how to get the 1X changes with her horse. She also had Kristi approach the piaffe in a way that would not hinder the collected walk. By having Kristi practice free walk, collected walk at the end of her ride, her horse's collected walk became clearer and less anticipatory (of the piaffe).

With Shannon's horse Hilda addressed the need to improve on the quality of the straightness in order to improve upon the reliability of the 1x changes. Shannon's horse gave us the chance to see how a horse's trot can become more expressive with good training techniques, even if it's not an exceptional trot in the warm up. The importance of straightness was again emphasized in the passage in order to avoid irregularities in the rhythm. It's important to note that an irregularity in the passage or piaffe does not mean lameness; it often occurs with lack of straightness.

Regardless of the level of rider, Hilda would note and comment on how the rider's position is extremely important to the horse's balance and ability to perform the task requested. It is a relief to see that this too, is an on-going process that needs to be constantly re-evaluated and corrected. She had many suggestions to help correct common position problems; and good explanations of how the aides should be applied. "Dressage should never look forced or tense". Good rider position is how that is achieved.

Regardless of the level of rider, Hilda would note and comment on how the rider's position is extremely important to the horse's balance and ability to perform the task requested.

Always with a bit of humor, Hilda was relentless in her corrections with each rider, and improvement was quickly seen. Although it sounds like we focused only on the flaws of each horse and rider, this was not the case. The caliber of horse and rider was exceptional and was recognized by Ms. Gurney on numerous occasions. These are the problems all riders face from time to time; and it takes a lot of courage to demonstrate that for the people of the audience. Many thanks to the riders and Freedom Farms for sponsoring such a wonderful educational opportunity!

Hilda, Through the Lens

by Kris Garrett

KriswithaKamera.com

I never thought I would have the opportunity to film an Olympian at work, let alone the Olympian who formed one of my most lofty goals as a young teenager. Yes, I was one of those horse crazy girls who dreamt that someday I would ride in the Olympics. I never even got close to that achievement, but I've always remembered how I would lie on my bed and stare at the ceiling as I daydreamed about riding my big thoroughbred up to the podium and having that glistening gold medal placed around my neck. I figured 1988 was going to be my year.

Now that I'm middle aged, and my middle has grown beyond recognition (sigh), my goals are much more down to earth. But I've never forgotten the excitement I felt when I collected all the magazine articles I could find about Ms. Hilda Gurney riding

her amazing horse Keen to a Bronze Medal in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. I had them plastered all over my bedroom walls, along with my posters and torn-out magazine pictures of the Spanish Riding School's Lipizzans in Vienna.

Here it is, thirty-three years later, and I still smile at those memories. Never in my childhood dreams could I have imagined that someday I would have the exciting honor of filming the famous Hilda Gurney at work. I was thrilled to be asked to video the Hilda Gurney clinic, hosted by the High Plains Chapter of RMDS, and I jumped at the chance to be included.

The wonderful thing about being the videographer is, you get a front row seat, and you never miss a moment. To spend almost 20 hours capturing one of the best in the business on film as she worked her craft was invaluable to me as a horse-woman. As grateful as I am for the business, it was the opportunity to rub elbows with a legend that made my hands shake with excitement as my husband and I set up our equipment at Freedom Farms in the dark of the early morning. For two days, I got to watch some of Colorado's best dressage riders work with a true Master, and see how even the best of the best could improve under her expert eye. I had the advantage of a

powerful telephoto lens in my video camera, so I could zoom in on the rider's hands or the bit to really focus on what Hilda was talking about and see the effect the instructions were having on the horse. I hope the riders find this helpful as well when they view their videos.

Hilda is a tough taskmaster, but is also fair and honest. She teaches with clear intention to move a horse up the levels, always with the ultimate achievement of Grand Prix in mind. She may not expect Grand Prix out of every horse, but it is obvious that moving up in the training levels is her goal for both horse and rider. As a judge, her mention of the score she would award for a particular movement was very helpful for those of us who want to develop our eye for the best quality that can be mastered in each element. Her lessons were peppered with encouragement even as she growled her signature "Augh! Awful!" when a movement wasn't so good. She is always on the horse's side, even when she demands all the horse can give. She calls it like she sees it, and every horse and rider who attended the clinic showed visible improvement in the movements they worked.

The crowd of auditors asked fabulous questions that were answered with complete information and often with a brief demonstration. Ms. Gurney is obviously a seasoned pro at giving clinics, and was adept at including the audience in the learning experience, every bit as much at the rider. Corrections were explained and the lessons were clear, no matter what level of movement was being discussed.

The facility at Freedom Farms was beautiful and the footing perfect. Even the lunch was healthy and elegant. Yes, I'll admit that many people needed more bathrooms, but that was the only complaint I heard. The clear, crisp weather was very appreciated, as were thoughtful heaters in the viewing area to take off the morning chill. John and I discovered that we needed to bring more speakers (and LOTS more speaker cord!) to set up in the arena for the riders to hear better at the far end, but Hilda graciously made do, and repeated her instructions when necessary.

ride! I had trained for two weeks at Hilda's Keenridge Farm about ten years ago with my former PSG horse. Since then, I had seen Hilda a few times over the years, but this was my first time back in the saddle to learn from her. I knew going in that I was bringing the youngest most inexperienced horse to the clinic. He is a good horse, but not a flashy horse. I love his mind and the fact that I am able to ride him because I almost lost him twice! Hilda was able to pick up on all of that without me having to tell our soap opera story. She puts her love of the horses first and foremost.

Hilda making a point to the gallery.



Saturday evening we met at a hotel in Parker for hors d'oeuvres and wine, and a lecture and video demonstration. Ms Gurney brought videos of her own horses and horses in training to demonstrate what can be achieved by proper work. She explained the movements and pointed out the changes in collection as the horses became more fit and moved up the levels. She was very gracious and approachable, answering questions and encouraging people to get out there and ride.

I just don't know how High Plains could have done a better job of organizing the event and making it a wonderful experience for everyone involved. As someone who often attends clinics and shows, either as the videographer or participant, I was very impressed with the High Plains Chapter's skill at putting it all together. I know what an incredibly huge job that is, and they pulled it off with aplomb. KUDOS to you all!

A Rider's Perspective

by *Katherine Simard*

In a few words....Leave your ego at the door. Shut up and

During the lessons, Hilda is quick to point out your faults. She is especially terse in her comments when she feels you are in any way being unfair to the horse. She is just as quick to give you a compliment when you are riding well. On the second day of the clinic, there were some remarks about elements of the riding being better than the day before, but her eye is amazing and she had many more things to address. After my ride, I found myself saying "well she did not pick on me for that today, so I must have improved on it from yesterday!" Hilda reiterates to the riders that this is a life-long pursuit. She has spent her life pursuing and learning, and demands the same from her riders. As riders, she wants us to raise ourselves to the level of riding and horsemanship that our horse's deserve. In her eyes, anything less is unfair to the horse. At the end of the clinic, she had remarks for each one of us. Compliments, warnings, advice regarding our own and our horse's levels of fitness, nutrition, and health. Each were said in a way that only Hilda can say. It leaves you with the feeling of: it is only an opinion, but you would be a fool to ignore it. As I said, to ride with Hilda Gurney....Leave your ego at the door!



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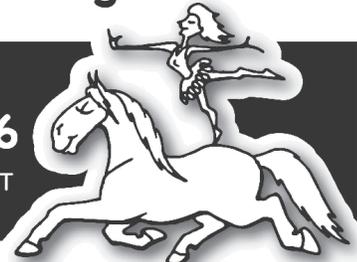
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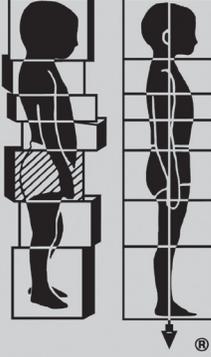


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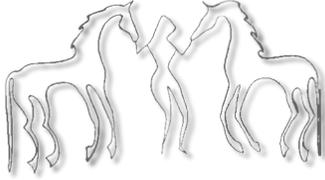
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