



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD 2014

In This Issue

December 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BOG, Awards Banquet Report

RMDS Wins GMO Awards

Focus on Schooling Horse & Rider

Scribing for the USDF Nationals



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Editor's Note

In Thank You to Our Sponsors on page 7 of the November Centaur, the correct sponsor of the Sunday Morning Brunch should be the riders and families of Dressage Pacifico/Greta Vowell and Wild Rose Farm/Julie Barringer-Richers. - From Julie Barringer-Richers

2014 Jr/YR Camp Director Position

This position is open for bids. Please go to [rmds.org](#) for guidelines.

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See the upcoming USEF/RMDS Show Schedule, clinics, schooling shows and events.

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RMDS has 12 chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region. If you would like to change your chapter affiliation you must personally notify the central office in [writing](#).

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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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The holiday season is here and we are all so busy. The Board of Governors meeting and the Awards Banquet were successful and those who attended the banquet had the chance to enjoy all the fun and festivities.

Your 2014 leaders are as follows, President Gwen Ka'awaloa, Vice President Aline Brandau, Treasurer Sharon Soos and our new Secretary Nina Felsenthal.

As you prepare to celebrate the season remember to make sure that your horses are cared for and that you plan your riding for the temperature of the day. As good horsemen and horsewomen, we owe our equine partners the extra care needed in the winter months.

Aline and I will be attending the 2013 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention Dec. 4 - 8 in Lexington, Ky., and are hoping to learn what is new and improved. We will bring back all the information to the January Executive Board meeting and share it with all. The two of us are proud to represent RMDS and look forward to sharing the success of our organization with everyone. Of course, we will be joined by our Region 5 Director, Heather Petersen. As a group, we will strive to learn and work for our organization.

Please take the time to congratulate your fellow dressage equestrians on their accomplishments. So many members are being honored with riding and volunteer awards and they all worked very hard. As you plan for 2014, you will notice the changes to the show schedule and the many educational opportunities for your success, as well.

Do not forget that we need every member's input to plan the year. So if you have an idea, please share it. Your chapter or the RMDS Education Chair may be able to help your idea find a venue.

RMDS is here for the members. So if you show, train or just plain enjoy dressage, we are here to help you achieve your goals. Let's work as a team and help each other to learn and enjoy the sport we love and the beautiful horses we share it with.

Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing you in 2014.
Happy Riding . . .

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

BOG Meeting and Awards Banquet

Bring Officers, Competitors to Denver

The annual RMDS Board of Governors meeting was very productive, with current President Gwen Ka'awaloa presiding. Agenda items included:

Election of Officers:

- President: Gwen Ka'awaloa
- Vice President: Aline Brandau
- Secretary: Nina Felsenthal
- Treasurer: Sharon Soos

The budget was presented by Sharon Soos and passed. The 2014 Show Schedule was given out, and will be printed in the January edition of the Centaur. Bylaws and Standing Rules changes were made, check your Omnibus for the updates or contact the Central Office. Chapter and Chair reports listed many accomplishments for 2013 and some great plans for 2014.

Awards Banquet

Applause was almost continuous as scores of awards were announced and presented to youth through adult competitors at all levels, plus volunteers, horses and riders.

Of special interest were awards to Region 5 RMDS Volunteer of the Year Natalie Ellis and Nicole Roach-Reinsvold and RMDS Volunteers of the Year Beth Geier and Shannon Lemons. Chapter Volunteers of the Year were Kathleen Burke, Jeannette Hillery, Sharon Meazell, Jan Danis, Arlene Rhodes, Joan Clay, Heather Petersen and Shannon Lemons, Laura Speer and Terrece Pearman.

There were 26 "Over 60 Years Old and Still Showing" goblets presented, and two to "Over 70 Years Old and Still Showing" riders. The Russ Fawcett Memorial Award for lifelong dedication to the sport of dressage through education and "giving back" was presented to Veronica Holt. Among the new awards this year was Outstanding Sportsmanship by a Junior/Young Rider who exhibits the qualities of fair play and sportsmanship. It was presented to Gaylen Davis.

A complete list of all 2013 RMDS Year-End Awards is online at [rmds.org](#), click on Awards/Scores.

USDF GMO Awards for RMDS

GMO Newsletter Awards

First Person Experience Article:

Honorable Mention: Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, Centaur, May 2013: Love, Devotion and Dressage: The Story Behind the Capt. Michael D. Jablonovsky Trophy by Amy Jablonovsky

General Interest/Informational Article:

First Place: Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, Centaur, May 2013: Exceptional George Williams Clinic Clarifies Training Scale by Janet "Dolly" Hannon

GMO Website Awards

Best User Experience:

Honorable Mention: Rocky Mountain Dressage Society ([www.rmds.org](#))

Regional GMO Volunteers of the Year:

Region 5: Alison Child (Park City, UT - Utah Dressage Society)

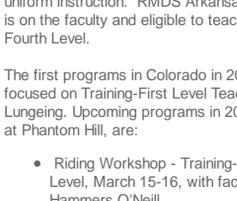
See complete list [here](#).

RMDS Focuses on Schooling Horse and Rider

*By Linda Gaber
Centaur Editor*

New Instructors' Workshops Underway

Education is a foundation of RMDS, dedicated to educating horse and rider as partners. Among the programs aimed at improving education of both students and their teachers are the new USDF Instructor/Trainer Program workshops.



Nine participants seeking USDF instructor certification, 12 demo horses and riders, and 15 auditors participated in workshops Oct. 12-13 and 14-15 at Phantom Hill Farm in Fort Collins, CO. Annie Morris was the faculty member. The program continues in 2014, with sessions March 15-16 and May 3-4, also at Phantom Hill Farm.

Open to all, they give juniors, adult amateurs and all interested in learning, as well as the certification candidates, an opportunity to learn about classical theories of riding, training, teaching and lungeing using the latest techniques and theories, leading to uniform instruction. RMDS Arkansas Valley member Sarah Martin is on the faculty and eligible to teach the workshops through Fourth Level.

The first programs in Colorado in 2013 focused on Training-First Level Teaching and Lungeing. Upcoming programs in 2014, also at Phantom Hill, are:

- Riding Workshop - Training-Second Level, March 15-16, with faculty Vicki Hammers O'Neill.
- Refresher/Pre-certification - Training-Fourth Level May 3-4, with faculty Debbie Bowman.
- Final testing is Oct. 24-26, with no auditors. However, demonstration riders and horses are needed.

RMDS has secured the Oct. 24-26, 2014 dates for final testing of the Instructor/Trainer Program. At the moment, it will be held at Phantom Hill in Fort Collins, but that may change if the numbers change for the testing.

Kathy Robertson at USDF has suggested that those interested in testing send her a general application to get their name on her "radar" and to help with the planning. Do not send fees at this time.

To contact her with questions: Katherine L. Robertson, USDF Education Programs Senior Coordinator, 4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511, 859-271-7877 fax: 859-971-7722, [www.usdf.org](#).

The cost for RMDS members per workshop is \$45 per day, \$80 both days, \$55 per day at the door. For nonmembers, the cost is \$50 per workshop, \$90 both days and \$55 at the door. Checks should be made payable to RMDS and mailed to RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Drive, Boulder, CO 80301. Print and mail application available at [rmds.org](#) or call Beth Geier at RMDS Office at (720) 890-7825 for details. Also watch for a new Auditor Registration Form.

Youth Learn With George Williams

USDF President George Williams worked with junior and young riders at a USDF Region 5 JR/YR Clinic Oct. 26-27 at Autumn Hill in Longmont, CO.

Continuing Education for L Graduates

A continuing education clinic for 'L' graduates is scheduled Feb. 1 and the Larimer County Fairgrounds. Bill Solyntjes, 'S', is the instructor for this all video program with lunch. All are welcome to come, clinic is not limited to judges.

Learn About TD Duties and Show Management

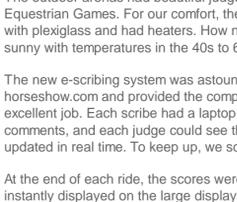
This popular program is scheduled this year Feb. 15 at the CSU Extension Building at the Douglas Count Fairgrounds. Presenters are Heather Petersen with Two White Feet management company and Victoria Holt discussing TD requirements.

For more information on all of these programs, watch the Centaur Shows and Events Calendar, the [rmds.org](#) website or contact Education Committee Chair Jon Hagen at (970) 217-7820, [defiancesport@q.com](#).

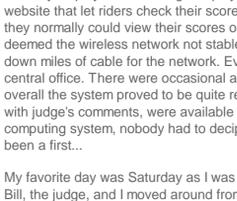
My Trip to the Inaugural US Dressage Finals

By Simone Windeler

During the USDF Region 5 and RMDS Championships in Colorado this year, Heather Petersen asked me if I would be interested in being a scribe for the first-ever USDF "Dressage in the Bluegrass" and the USDF National Championships.



I met with MerrilLynn Griffin who was responsible for selecting and coordinating scribes. I was honored to be one of the 13 scribes nationwide that she chose.



Heather and I made arrangements to fly from Colorado Springs to Atlanta and from there to Lexington, KY. We arrived on Wednesday, the day before the show, to get an orientation on how to use the new e-scribing system and figure out the layout of the Kentucky Horse Park.

The show had about 300 horses competing in four arenas, which displayed beautifully with flowers and greenery. The most visually stunning of all was the indoor AllTech ring, which was the place for many of the championship finals. Several classes were held here in the evenings and were well attended with enthusiastic spectators.

The outdoor arenas had beautiful judge's booths used in the World Equestrian Games. For our comfort, the booths had been totally enclosed with plexiglass and had heaters. How nice! The weather was mild and sunny with temperatures in the 40s to 60s.

The new e-scribing system was astounding - Kevin Bradbury (who runs [horseshow.com](#) and provided the computers and software) did an excellent job. Each scribe had a laptop to input scores and judge's comments, and each judge could see the score sheets as they were updated in real time. To keep up, we scribes had to be very quick typists!

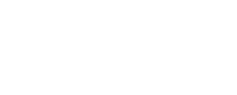
At the end of each ride, the scores were sent to the main office and instantly displayed on the large displays in each arena. There was also a website that let riders check their scores - by the time they left the arena, they normally could view their scores on their smart phones. Since Kevin deemed the wireless network not stable enough, he and his team put down miles of cable for the network. Every booth was hard-wired to his central office. There were occasional and nerve-racking crashes but overall the system proved to be quite reliable. Printed copies of the tests, with judge's comments, were available to the riders. Thanks to the computing system, nobody had to decipher handwriting. This may have been a first...

My favorite day was Saturday as I was able to scribe for 40+ freestyles. Bill, the judge, and I moved around from M to C to E which allowed me to see freestyles from every angle. It was an eye-opening experience. While the judges appreciate creativity, many times movements were hard to recognize and therefore difficult to score properly. I certainly learned what to stay away from when designing a freestyle.

On Saturday evening, the USDF hosted a VIP dinner during the Intermediaire Freestyles. It was well attended. The Kentucky Horse Park mounted police presented the flag and a tenor began the evening by singing The National Anthem. As a highlight, there was a liberty exhibition by Kim Barteau and the Friesian stallion GP Booter.

Those who came to the show were not disappointed. There was a large selection of vendors in the AllTech arena and USDF sold out of most merchandise that sported the new US Dressage Finals logo.

As scribes we were treated to a wonderful jacket, ball cap, vest and T-shirt. We felt quite spoiled, of course. USDF also provided breakfast, lunch and dinner for the vast number of volunteers and staff that helped with the show.



During some of my breaks, I strolled the Horse Park and saw the Hall of Champions and the Rolex Stadium, got close to the cross country field and of course petted many of the horses that live there. The Kentucky Horse Park celebrates its 35th anniversary this year and is certainly the biggest and most beautiful facility I have visited. On Monday before our return flight we went back to view the Man O' War Memorial. Probably the most impressive fact about the famed racing stallion was that he had a 28-foot stride (yes, you read that right) which is vividly displayed at the memorial. As you pace off the 28 feet, you cannot fathom that this was just one stride for this horse; it made it easy to see why he won 20 out of 21 races he started and set many track records. We also had the chance on Monday to see the Thoroughbred auction at the Keeneland Race track. Clearly the world of race horses is one of breathtaking amounts of money. Heather and I would not make it in that world though as we consistently picked horses that sold for the smallest amounts. If you can call \$25,000 a small amount. On the other hand, some horses we were less impressed with went for \$100k plus. Guess we should stick with dressage horses.

If you did not have the chance to attend this year, plan to be there in 2014. USDF made everyone feel welcome and appreciated. I talked to many riders and they are all planning on coming back, provided they qualify. The show was managed incredibly well by Lloyd Landkammer and his team. Everything went without a hitch. The award ceremonies were impressive and fitted the occasion in their grandeur. I certainly am planning on adding this to my yearly calendar.

Watch for more news on RMDS members at Dressage Finals in January Centaur.