

THE CENTAUR

Dit en Dat

“This and That” — Dutch

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

A New Sales Approach Allows Horse Buyers to Access a Fine Lineup of Sport Horses in the Rocky Mountain Region

-All Photography by Steve Gandy Photography
www.stevegandy.com/photography

Equestrians and horse enthusiasts of all ages joined in the festivities at **A Horse Lover's Holiday Event and Sale Horse Preview**, hosted at Normandy Farm and Stables in Littleton, Colorado on December 12th, 2009!



Guests enjoy a Holiday Pas de Deux with Jasmin Becker on Romie MI, and Shannon Dahmer riding Viva Las Vegas.

The first event of its kind in Colorado featured a live presentation by Mane Imports, LLC of fourteen exceptional sport horses offered for sale, and was attended by a crowd of over 100 spectators. Tickets sold out in advance and there was standing room only offered at the door!

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Special Business

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

Audit: RMDS would like to notify the membership that the financial audit for 2007 has been completed. Hard copies are available upon request for a fee of \$5. Please contact the Central Office to order a copy.

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 Management, 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.

Region 5 Report

Ravel, USEF Horse of the Year, and Steffen Peters (for the second consecutive year) won the title of USEF Equestrian of the Year. What a great way to start 2010!

With the new competition year, as usual, we have rule changes. Be sure to look them up on the USEF web site. This is also the first year that dressage has different levels of competition. The rule change is DR 126.2, but the chart on the USEF web site shows the different levels and criteria. The good news is that Level 3 and lower may offer "Opportunity Classes" that provide riders new to dressage the ability to show without all the membership requirements.

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/DressageLevelsChart.pdf>

USDF has several new executive board members and is providing orientation information for them, and the rest of us as well. As many of your organizations have had recent elections, now is a good time to review your policies and procedures, and provide them to new board members.

FEI JR and YR qualifiers are underway, and we need to raise funds for our team. Please contact Susan Rudman, sewrun-red@msn.com if you are going to declare as a competitor, or if you would like to help with fundraising for the team.

Our region, as well as the rest of the country, has had some crazy weather this year so far. We have Canadian visitors here in Arizona who truly appreciate our weather and dressage education, not to mention the shopping.

Happy Riding!
-Theresa Hunt, Region 5 Director

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.

Chapter News

Boulder Valley Dressage Chapter

Boulder Valley chapter held our awards banquet at the *Spice of Life* in Boulder on January 9th. Sandi Rosewell did a super job as always organizing the banquet and creating a dressage version of "Who Wants To Be A (Dressage) Millionaire?" which was lots of fun for everyone, with great prizes for the winners. Sharon Gilbert did an outstanding job emceeing for the evening, and many thanks are also due to Barb Goldman for organizing the awards that were presented.

We elected officers for 2010. President, Nicole Donohue; Vice president, Jeanette Hillery; Secretary, Kathy Hibbard; Treasurer, Beth Geier. As continuing president, I would love to see more faces at our meetings; chapter meetings are where the planning and decisions about what shows and events we will sponsor are made, so if you have any ideas or events you would like to see happen, come to a meeting and let your voice be heard!

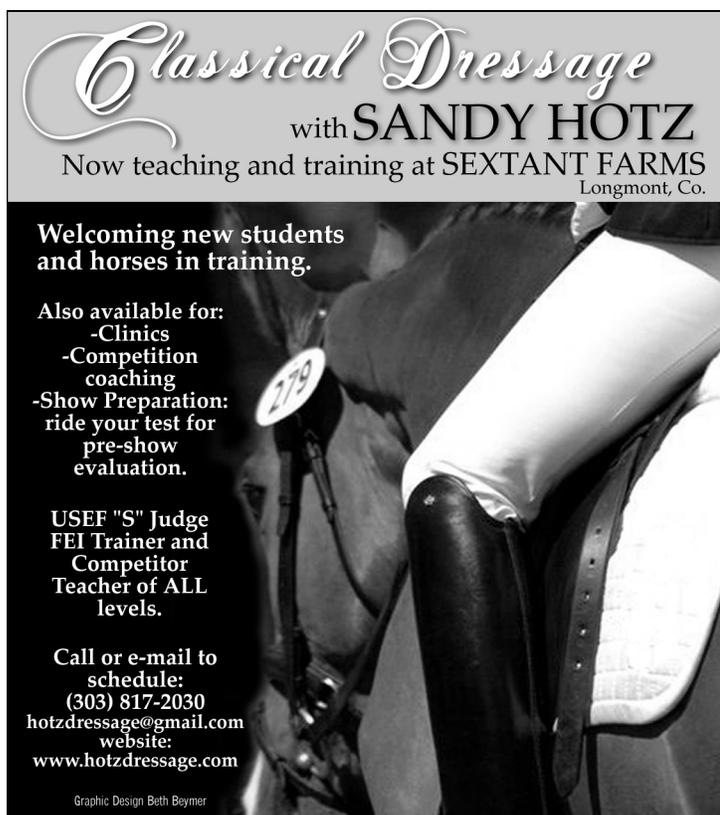
Attendance at 2 meetings or volunteering for 4 hours at the Boulder Valley Ride-A-Test on April 24th, Spring Fling Show April 25th, Autumn Hill Sunday Series shows, or the Boulder Valley So Long To Summer Show August 29th will also get Boulder Valley members a \$45.00 discount on the auditing fee for the Steffan Peters/Janet Foy Through The Levels clinic at Sommerset June 19th & 20th!

Another don't miss event is the Pilates For Dressage clinic with author Janice Dulak and trainer Sarah Martin, April 16-18 at Cappaleigh Farm, AND, since it was so much fun last year, the USDF Region V Youth & Adult Team Competition will again take place at Autumn Hill on August 14th.

The plan for Boulder Valley meetings this year is to continue holding them at different area barns, with a demonstration on a horse or rider related topic preceding each meeting. We covered Rolwing, show rules and rider turnout, long-lining, retirement for horses, theraputic riding, and the anatomy and function of the rider's hip joints last year - I would LOVE some ideas for topics in 2010!

"Yet when all the books have been read and reread, it boils down to the Horse, his human companion, and what goes on between them."
- Walter Farley

-Nicole Donohue, BVD President



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Message from the President

Hello to all RMDS members and fellow riders:

Winter means cold, snow and ice – at least here in Colorado. But for me it also means a chance to catch up on some reading and training videos and prepare for the upcoming season. RMDS offers some great continuing education seminars. Hopefully many of you had a chance to attend the judges' continuing education – these seminars are open to everyone and always a great start to the new year.

Recently I had the chance to talk about judging with Janet Foy. As you may know she is the top judge in our region with an FEI rating of "I." Janet always strives to improve judging as a whole and feels that it is very important that the USEF committee gets feedback and evaluations on judges. Forms for this are always available at your show office or online and your observations will be confidential. To truly improve the judging your feedback is of utmost importance, so plan on giving feedback (positive or negative) for at least one of the shows you attend this year.

Did you know that judges should give comments for all scores 6 and below? If you ride for a judge that does not do that, you should speak up. Tests should help you get an honest evaluation of your riding, so do use them as a tool. Talk with your trainer, maybe you even have a video of your test that you can watch as you try to understand why you got certain scores.

Bear in mind, a judge can only judge what they see that day. The atmosphere of the show, your own nerves and overall excitement can sometimes produce a lesser result than what you would get at home. The best remedy is to go to more shows. There are a great many schooling shows that are inexpensive and can give you a great way to tackle your show nerves. Many of these shows are judged by local "L" graduates and you get pretty accurate feedback from them. I would recommend that you ride schooling shows in your show outfits because those pants and stiff boots that we often only wear for shows make a difference in our seat and general feel on the horse.

If you wanted to learn more about the inner workings of show management and all the behind-the-scenes elements, attend the show management and TD workshop on Feb 13th in Castle Rock. All the information on this is on your RMDS website – www.rmids.org in the calendar section.

There is also a great clinic coming on March 6th and 7th with Holly Mason on "Biomechanics of the Horse and Rider." The clinic will be held at Bridlewood Stables in Evergreen. Holly Mason's book "It's Never too Late" was reviewed in *Dressage Today* in the Dec. 2009 magazine. She sounds intriguing and I certainly plan to spend at least one day at the clinic. More information on the RMDS website.

Next we have another great clinic coming in April with Janice Dulak and our very own Sarah Martin on April 16th and 17th at Cappaleigh Farm in Longmont. Janice is a published and certified Pilates instructor and will show how Pilates can help riders develop the necessary core strength to improve their rid-

ing. There will be a lecture, Pilates mat classes, and of course riding lessons. Sounds like another must attend for me. Again more information on the website.

And if you just can't get enough, may I recommend some reading. Both November editions of *Dressage Today* and *Equus* feature articles about the co-founders of "Cavalialia," who have just published a new book, "Gallop to Freedom." I am looking forward to reading it. The authors talk about golden principles of horse training and one of them strikes me as especially important: "Never adopt standard or inflexible methods of training but recognize that each horse develops as an individual and reacts differently to the same stimulus." Certainly something to give serious thought to.

Another book I literally stumbled across in the library is "The Revolution in Horsemanship and What It Means to Mankind" by Robert M. Miller DVM and Rick Lamb. This book gives an overview of the development of horsemanship recently and also talks about its early history all the way back to Xenophon. In addition, there are hands on tips and tricks – quite a worthwhile book. There are two principles that Dr. Miller talks about that I would like to highlight for you.

Principle 1: Observe, remember, compare. Too often when we are riding we get so busy with creating a certain movement that we forget to observe. Only with observation can you truly appreciate if you were able to create what you wanted, and to compare this with earlier training sessions. While you might not have gotten the desired final result yet, you might need to appreciate how far your horse has come already and give him or her a little more credit (and while you are at it – pat yourself on the back too). Positive mental attitude can help a lot in your riding.

Principle 2: You are not working on your horse, you are working on yourself – The horse is simply a mirror of your body expression. If a horse falls in our out on the circle, if he is tense – examine your own body and your position first and make sure you are as correct as possible. Only a good position and correctness in your body will allow for good results in your horse.

Which brings us back to the two great clinics I mentioned above. A better intellectual understanding of biomechanics coupled with some exercises that help you improve your posture and body control surely will improve your riding. I certainly intend to take advantage of all the great programs that RMDS has to offer.

Happy new and improved riding!
-Simone Windeler, RMDS President

P.S. Kudos to Jasmin Becker for putting on the first Horse Lover's Holiday Event and Sport Horse Preview on Dec 12, 2009. Held at Normandy Farms this was an event much like the German auctions and horse previews and it was well attended by many RMDS members. Grapevine has it that there are more of these events to come – I am certainly looking forward to them.

2010 NORTH AMERICAN JUNIOR & YOUNG RIDER CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 28th thru August 1st
at the Kentucky Horse Park
Lexington, Kentucky

Riders! Declarations of Intent Due by March 1st.
Horse & Rider FEI registration numbers needed
4-6 weeks prior to your first ride!

Contact: Susan Rudman 303-697-8528 or email sewrunred@msn.com
if you are intending or interested in being a part of the
USDF Region 5 team!

GO REGION FIVE!



8th Heaven Farms

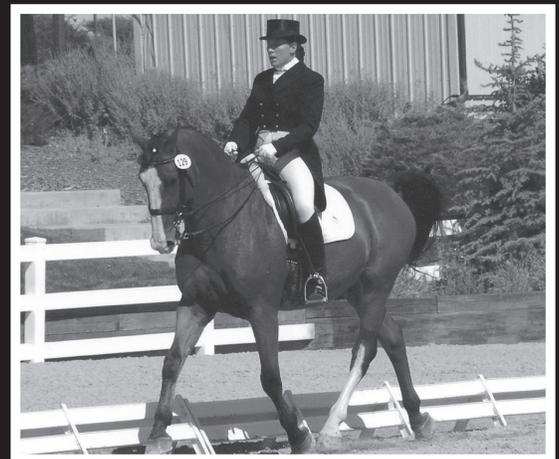
a Friendly, Nurturing Environment
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Upcoming Events

- Spring Starter Series Show 1
February 27, 2010 (RMDS Recognized)
- Paul Belasik Clinic March 27-28, 2010

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

Colt Starting by
Roger Kyle and Andie Lee



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Principe

16.1 hand, 1996 Lusitano Stallion

Owned and imported by Carolyn Brimhall

Trained and shown by Margo Gogan

Bred in Portugal by Eduardo Veiga de Araujo

Certificate of Origin #71985

EVA Negative

Principe is an elegant Lusitano stallion with classic Portuguese conformation, movement and natural ability that allows for extravagant extensions, balance and collection. His kind, cooperative temperament and trainability make him a pleasure to ride and train. He passes these inherent qualities on to his foals.

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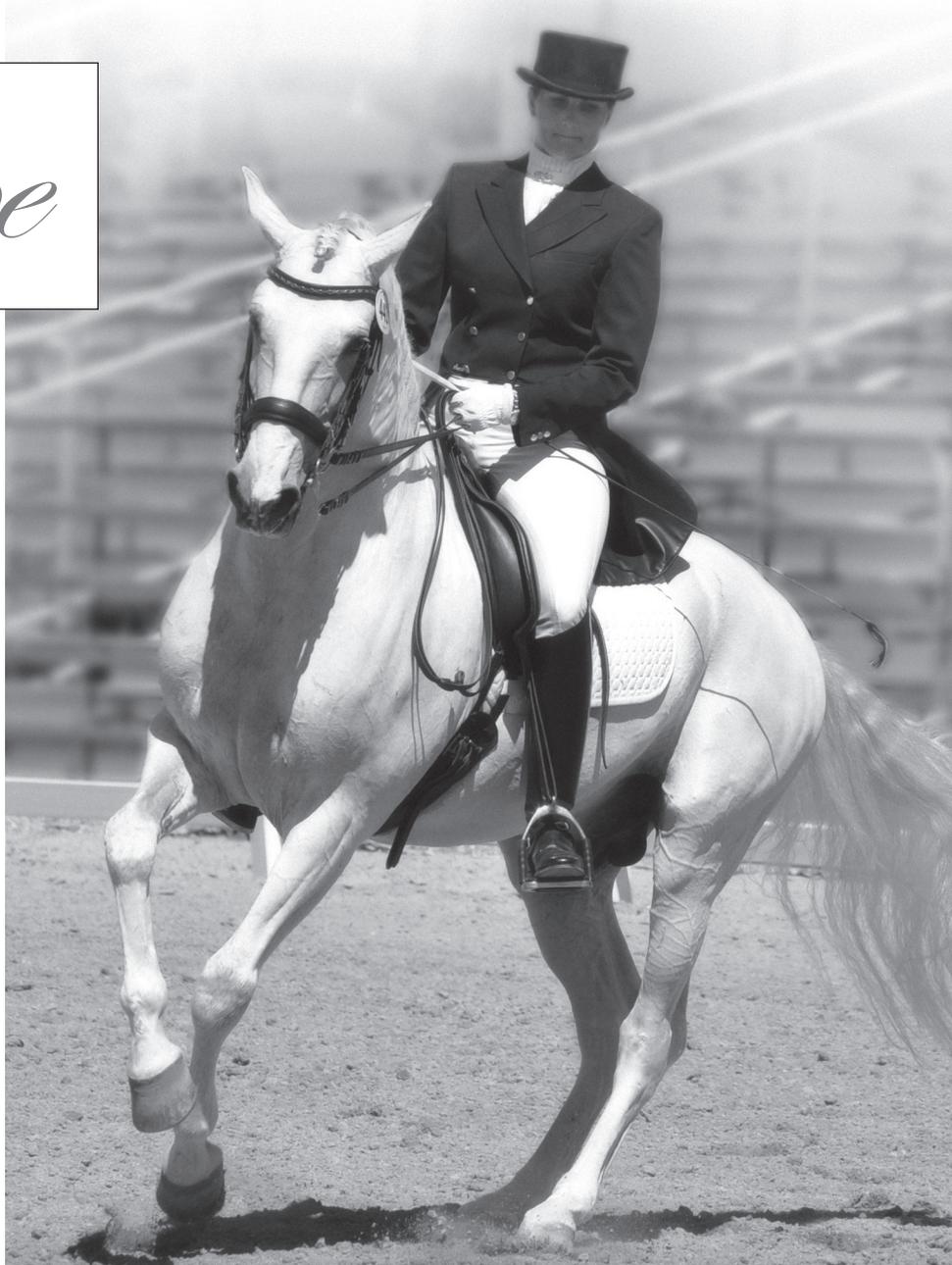
2009 Fee: \$2000

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Collection fee \$200

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will stand at stud until sold



B. Gogan

2009 Reserve Champion Open, Grand Prix, UDS

2008 Champion, Intermediare II, USDF All Breeds

2008 Champion, Open Intermediare II UDS

2007 Champion, Intermediare II, USDF All Breeds

2007 Champion, Open Intermediare II, UDS

A Clinic with Catherine Haddad

by Susan Alvey, Member of the Grand Valley Dressage Society



Susan soaks up advice in her lesson with Catherine Haddad.

This past August Catherine Haddad stopped by in Western Colorado on her way to visit friends and family. I was fortunate enough to ride and watch four days of lessons with her. Because she lives and works in Germany, she does very few clinics in the USA, which is a great shame, because her ability to assess and instruct is amazing. Perhaps part of what she has is an innate affinity for horses, but she also has spent many years working with and observing the top dressage riders and trainers from throughout Europe. Catherine truly misses the United States and her many ties here. She chose to work in Europe on advice from her US trainers and because she wanted access to the greatest amount of information. She's like that...open to all information and willing to discuss all options.

The clinic last August was made up of three FEI level riders, one young rider, a few 2nd to 3rd level riders, and a large number of auditors.

With the most experienced of the upper level riders though, it was really enjoyable to watch happy horses doing their GP moves. The best was listening to Catherine change the exercises in small ways. This might be as simple as replacing a flying change with a simple change, or changing where in the exercise a movement occurred. By making these changes the horses would be able to balance more easily, the rider relax, and the movement become more expressive.

The young rider's mare was quite the firecracker, but obviously enjoyed her owner. Catherine worked to keep the horse's mind calm and the rider non-reactive. We all know that not

reacting is really hard! Catherine achieved this with exercises that encouraged the mare's balance and kept her interested without over energizing her. No more running off in the flying changes.

My gelding and I are just stepping up into PSG together. He has what we call his Trakehner wake up call...if I lose his attention, he might just test my adrenaline level. As I work to learn harder movements myself, my mind wanders, his mind wanders and away we go. Catherine explained that I needed to have my horse completely relaxed and warmed up, then expect him to start the

work in a through, balanced way. I wasn't establishing enough lightness in the bridle and forward movement from behind. Because he was not quite through, the half halts were ignored. We did lots of transitions. We worked on keeping the ride fluid, rather than thinking movement to movement. What happened over the four days was that I stopped thinking about whether my aids were correct or whether my position was right. I began to ride the fluidness of the horse's movements, trying to keep the smoothness going. It felt very much as if we created a 'bubble' for ourselves. It was a great feeling of partnership.

Catherine left us all feeling better able to communicate through feel and clear aids. But also, that as riders we must be very disciplined about asking for, and more importantly, receiving the full response we need to accomplish the next step. I certainly didn't become a perfect rider overnight. But I did get a glimpse of what the perfect partnership can be.

I hope we can have Catherine Haddad return to Colorado, so she can be available to more riders.

A New Sales Approach Allows Horse Buyers to Access a Fine Lineup of Sport Horses in the Rocky Mountain Region

cont'd from pg 1

Participants enjoyed shopping, quite literally, at the stall... instead of the mall, from a variety of vendors providing everything for the discerning horse fancier's holiday wish list. Delicious catered holiday fare and libations were served throughout the evening. An entertaining Holiday Pas de Deux was performed by Jasmin Becker and Shannon Dahmer on their respective Grand Prix mounts Romie MI, and Viva Las Vegas.





A sincere thank you to all our guests and participants from Normandy Farm and Stables, and Mane Imports, LLC!

About RMDS

2010 RMDS Executive Board

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| President | Simone Windeler | 719-540-2000 | simonedressage@gmail.com |
| Past President | Laura Speer | 970-371-2934 | riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Mary Jo Hoepner | 719-495-3648 | vicepresident@rmds.org |
| Secretary | Susan Rudman | 303-697-8528 | sewrunred@msn.com |
| Treasurer | Sharon Soos | 303-904-7534 | sksoos@mesanetworks.net |

Permanent Committees

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Adult Amateur | Lori Mitchell | 303-816-2375 | baffleddressage@aol.com |
| Awards | Lauren Smith | 303-478-0144 | laurenjs@msn.com |
| Results | Central Office | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Championship Show | Debbie Wilke | 303-646-8937 | ddwilke@msn.com |
| Communications | Cathy Van Berg | 303-916-6136 | vanbergc@yahoo.com |
| Centaur Production | Cathy Van Berg | 303-916-6136 | vanbergc@yahoo.com |
| Omnibus Advertising | Central Office | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Omnibus Production | Burke Design, Nicole Bizzarro..... | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Webmaster | Michael Petersen | 719-683-8435 | webmaster@rmds.org |
| Constitution, By-laws | Central Office | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Education | Heather Petersen | 719-683-8435 | slush@drwgw.net |
| Insurance, Show Standards | Central Office | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.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 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Registration Officials and | | | |
| Show Standards | Central Office | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Scheduling | Central Office | 720-890-7825 | rmds@rmds.org |
| Scholarship | Loni Gaudet | 970-532-0852 | lonigaudet@earthlink.net |

Chapter Presidents

| | | | |
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| Arkansas Valley | Brenda Haley | 719-275-0118 | shininghorse@copper.net |
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| Colorado Springs | Elaine Haberman | 719-358-1577 | stabiledicavallo@gmail.com |
| Foothills | Dolly Hannon | 303-919-4112 | dollyhannon@msn.com |
| Grand Valley | Lisa Binse | 970-243-8543 | lbpawprints@yahoo.com |
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| Wasatch Mountains | Sally Shaffer | 435-640-8797 | wasatchmtnsdressage@yahoo.com |
| Western Colorado | Judith Family | 970-923-8832 | dns@rof.net |

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www.usdf.org

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Lexington, KY 40511

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Susan Rudman

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Website

www.usdfregion5.org

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USEF

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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, 303-827-6150,
hobbyhorse6789@yahoo.com

Colorado Springs: 3rd Tues., Colorado Springs City Hall,
Elaine Haberman, 719-358-1577,
stabiledicavallo@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,
Mary Buckley, 303-627-4413,
topbuckley@comcast.net
www.highplainsdressage.com

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Feb 13 | TD & Show Managers' Continuing Education-Comfort Suites-Castle Rock |
| April 16-18 | Pilates and Dressage: with Half Halt Press author Janice Dulak, and USDF Gold Medalist Sarah Martin |
| May 15-16 | USDF L-Program D2 Session, Somerset Farms, Longmont. CLOSED. |
| 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. |
| August 14 | USDF Region V Adult & Youth Team Competition- Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont |
| 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 |

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.

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..... | \$150 |7.5" x 9.5" |
| Half Page..... | \$90 |7.5" x 4.75" |
| Outside back half | \$105 |7.5" x 4.75" |
| 1/4 Page (Vertical Only) | \$55 |3.75" 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 4*

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
Linda Coates-Markle 303-469-0279
Kathleen Donnelly* 970-310-8729
Beth Geier 303-673-9840

Jan Goodrich-Spear 303-664-0152
Jessica Greer 970-581-5613
Gwen Ka'awaloa* 303-646-4363
Sarah Martin* 719-379-3716
Linda Ohlson-Gross* 303-840-9818
KC Parkins-Kyle 303-841-9953
Kathy Simard* 720-981-4448
Patti Thurman* (UT) 435-640-1362
Maria Wasson 303-682-9594
Simone Windeler 719-540-2000

*Denotes Graduation with Distinction

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge

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

FEI Chief Steward

Veronica Holt 303-646-3829

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

Technical Delegates, 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 970-209-8491
RaeAnn Cook 970-225-1408
Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-279-4546
Ellene Kloepper 303-828-3879
Clayton Martin 719-379-3716
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
Sarah Martin 719-379-3716
Kathy Simard 720-981-4448
Melinda Weatherford 970-484-5218



Through the Grapevine

In memory of my Friend Joanne (Jo) Stafford

A, Enter working trot... And that is how I first met my friend Joanne (Jo) Stafford way back in the early 70s in Colorado. I was scribing for Herman Friedlander at the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society's (RMDS) first recognized show. Here she came down the center line, all 5'2" on her 17.2 quarter horse Gorgeous George, all the way from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She had a big smile on her face. We were instant friends.

Jo had George until he was 35 years old, and through her skill and determination brought him to Intermediare+ level. Darn good for an isolated rider in Nebraska. Every judge or clinician who saw George thought he was Grand Prix material and I must admit he was a big handsome fellow. Never took a lame step in his entire life.

Jo raised a few sport horses for her own pleasure and continued to grow with her art work. Her artistic ability grew into a successful business she created and named J & S Sculpture. Her love and knowledge of horses was evident with her unique equine awards and related artwork. She developed her own casting medium and technique to enhance her beautiful awards. I am proud to have won some of those lovely awards for myself.

When I lived in Colorado Jo would come for visits on weekends or call and we would talk for hours about horses and art. How lucky to know someone to share two passions...and, most important to me, mutual respect for our endeavors.

I shall miss my good friend and confidant but she will forever be riding with me down life's center line.

-Diane Laws

Founder of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

Founding Member of the USDF

Member of STRIDE Dressage & Driving Club



CONGRATULATIONS!

Heather Petersen and Prince Yi Yi QT, also known as "Joey," is US 3rd Level Paint Horse of the Year!! Joey is on the cover of the *Paint Horse Journal*!



There is a new website, www.DressageMarket.com, that is starting up. They are offering a free listing until Feb 15th for sale items/horses. Its much cheaper than DressageDaily and is national. People who browse DressageDaily might be interested to know there is an alternative. -Alex Curnutte



Congratulations to Kelly O'Leary and her mustang Andrew for being written about in an overseas publication! It's the story of JB (=Jailbird) Andrew, a horse who never competed internationally, never won championship medals, but is still is one of the "Greatest Oldies," as he was the first mustang to reach the FEI level in dressage. Andy's story has been recently published at <http://www.eurodressage.com/reports/interview/oldies/jbandrew.html>. It reports what is going on with him currently and includes some wonderful pictures.

What's happened in your life lately or with the friends you hold dear?
Tell us "Through the Grapevine" at vanbergc@yahoo.com.

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!

March Topic: **Training, Training, Training**

April Topic: **Getting Ready to Show**

May Topic: **Horse Health**

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



**The
Diamond
DoubleT
Ranch**

Blue Fancy Dan
AQHA Blue Roan
Sport Horse Sire



offspring for sale

Diamonddoubletranch.com 303-915-6444

2010 Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

FEBRUARY 2010

- 13 **TD/Show Manager Continuing Education, Comfort Suites, Castle Rock. With Laurie Mactavish, Camille Griffin, Heather Petersen**
Contact Heather Petersen, Education Chairman, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 20 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 20 **Boulder Valley Youth Connection-Vaulting Clinic, Atlantis Farm, Ft Lupton**
Contact Gwen Dordick, 303-885-3363, gwendordick@msn.com
- 27 **8th Heaven Spring Starter Series I, Castle Rock**
Contact Meghann Norris, 303-688-5727, eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com

MARCH 2010

- 6-7 **Holly Mason Clinic, Bridlewood Stables, Evergreen, CO**
Contact Lori Mitchell, baffleddressage@aol.com, www.dressagebydesign.com
- 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
- 27-28 **Paul Belasik Clinic, 8th Heaven Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Meghann Norris, 303-688-5727, eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com

APRIL 2010

- 10 **8th Heaven Spring Starter Series II, Castle Rock**
Contact Meghann Norris, 303-688-5727, eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com
- 16-18 **Pilates for Dressage: with Half Halt Press author Janice Dulak, and USDF Gold Medalist Sarah Martin, Cappeleigh Farms, Longmont**
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303.816.2375, baffleddressage@aim.com
- 17 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 17 **Whispering Winds Schooling Show 1, Whispering Winds, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simoneddressage@gmail.com, windelerdressage.com
- 23 **Arabians For The Cure at the Peak, Norris Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 23-24 **Bill Woods Clinic, Taos Equestrian Center, Taos, NM**
Contact Katherine Pettus, kp91@newmex.com
- 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@drwg.net
- 25 **Taos Schooling Show, Taos Equestrian Center, Taos, NM**
Contact Katherine Pettus, kp91@newmex.com

- 25 **Boulder Valley Spring Fling, Singletree Farm, Boulder**
Contact Jeannette Hillery, 303-494-7718, jmhillery915@comcast.net
- 30 **Dressage at the Horse Park I, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 30-May 2 **Ralf Schmitzer Clinic, Whispering Winds Farm, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simoneddressage@gmail.com

MAY 2010

- 1 **Dressage at the Horse Park II, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 2 **Dressage at the Horse Park III, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 4-6 **Ralf Schmitzer Clinic, Whispering Winds Farm, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simoneddressage@gmail.com
- 7 **Grand Valley Dressage Spring Show I, Grand Junction-USEF**
Contact Lisa Binse, 970-243-8543, lbpawprints@yahoo.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, 970-243-8543, lbpawprints@yahoo.com
- 8-10 **Ralf Schmitzer Clinic, Whispering Winds Farm, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simoneddressage@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 I, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 15-16 **USDF L-Program D2 Session, Somerset Farms, Longmont -CLOSED-**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 16 **Rocky Mountain Dressage Show II, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 22 **Mariah Farms Schooling Show, Mariah Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact Lisa Lamke, 303-660-2456, www.mariahfarms.net
- 22 **Whispering Winds Schooling Show 2, Whispering Winds, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simoneddressage@gmail.com, windelerdressage.com
- 23 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series I, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont**
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers, 720-341-5033, jbarringerichers@comcast.net
- 28 **Dressage in the Plains I-Sun Prairie Stables, Peyton-USEF**
Contact Simone Ahern-Harless, 719-339-2286, simone@sunprairiestables.com
- 29-30 **Dressage in the Plains II, Sun Prairie Stables, Peyton-USEF**
Contact Simone Ahern-Harless, 719-339-2286, simone@sunprairiestables.com
- 29-30 **Ned Marshall Memorial Show, Grand Junction-USEF**
Contact Lisa Binse, 970-243-8543, lbpawprints@yahoo.com

JUNE 2010

- 4 **Dressage at High Prairie I, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 5 **Dressage at High Prairie II, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com

2010 Shows and Events

- 6 **Dressage at High Prairie III, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 7-8 **RMDS Winter Wake-Up (In the Summer) , Autumn Hill, Longmont-USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 12-13 **NCDA Rocky Mountain Dressage Classic, Ft Collins Equestrian Center-USEF**
Contact Laura Speer, 970-371-2934, riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com
- 13-16 **Junior Camp, 8th Heaven Farms, Castle Rock**
Contact KC Parkins-Kyle, 303-841-9953, murphyhors@aol.com
- 18 **Sage Creek I, Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber City, UT-USEF-YR**
Contact Jennifer Layman, 435-901-3480, jenn_layman@yahoo.com
- 19 **Sage Creek II, Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber City, UT-USEF-YR**
Contact Jennifer Layman, 435-901-3480, jenn_layman@yahoo.com
- 19 **Pendragon Stud RMDS Dressage Show, Pendragon Farms, Larkspur**
Contact Leslie Terry, 303-688-4147
- 19-20 **Dressage Through the Levels, Steffen Peters & Janet Foy, Somerset Farms, Longmont**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 20 **Centaur Rising Dressage Show I, Anchorage Farm, Pine**
Contact Kris Cooper, 303-838-5086
- 26 **Whispering Winds Schooling Show 3, Whispering Winds, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com, windelerdressage.com
- 26 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festivals I, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 27 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festivals II, Longmont, USEF-YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.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@drwg.net
- 11 **Rocky Mountain Dressage Show IV, Longmont, USEF-BREED**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 16 **Dressage at the Peak Summer Warm-up, Norris Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs, USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 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
- 18 **Centaur Rising Dressage Show II, Anchorage Farm, Pine**
Contact Kris Cooper, 303-838-5086
- 18 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series II, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont**
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers, 720-341-5033, jbarringerrichers@comacast.net
- 24 **Whispering Winds Schooling Show 4, Whispering Winds, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com, windelerdressage.com
- 24 **Autumn Hill Dressage III, AHIEC, Longmont-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 24-25 **USDF L-Program Final Session, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont -CLOSED-**
Contact Heather Petersen, Education Chairman, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 25 **Autumn Hill Dressage IV, AHIEC, Longmont-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 28-Aug 1 **NAJYRC, Lexington, KY**
Contact Susan Rudman, 303-525-8305, sewrunned@msn.com
- 31 **Sage Creek III, Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber City, UT-USEF-YR**
Contact Jennifer Layman, 435-901-3480, jenn_layman@yahoo.com
- AUGUST 2010**
- 1 **Sage Creek IV, Sage Creek Equestrian, Heber City, UT-USEF-YR**
Contact Jennifer Layman, 435-901-3480, jenn_layman@yahoo.com
- 1 **Foothills Last Chance, Table Mountain Ranch, Golden**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 6 **Dressage in the Rockies I, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 7 **Dressage in the Rockies II, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF-BREED**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 7-8 **Cheyenne Dressage & Eventing Dressage Show, Cheyenne, WY, USEF**
Contact Rowena Heckert, 307-632-4151, rlheckert@msn.com
- 8 **Dressage in the Rockies III, Colorado Horse Park, Parker-USEF**
Contact Glenda McElroy, 818-841-3554, glenda@glenroys.com
- 12 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-25 & Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org
- 13 **Utah Dressage Society Show I, Heber, Utah-USEF**
Contact Susan Jero, 801-330-5763
- 13-15 **Dr. Gerd Heuschmann Clinic, Black Forest**
Contact Alex Robinson, 719-351-9721, therobinsons4@msn.com
- 14 **Utah Dressage Society Show II, Heber, Utah-USEF**
Contact Susan Jero, 801-330-5763
- 14 **USDF Region V Youth & Adult Team Competition, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont**
Contact Lori Mitchell, 303 816-2375, Colleen McFadden, 303-618-8198
- 14-15 **Dressage at Sun Prairie, Sun Prairie Stables, Peyton-USEF**
Contact Simone Ahern-Harless, 719-339-2286, simone@sunprairiestables.com
- 15 **Centaur Rising Dressage Show III, Anchorage Farm, Pine**
Contact Kris Cooper, 303-838-5086
- 15 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series III, Autumn Hill IEC, Longmont**
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers, 720-341-5033, jbarringerrichers@comacast
- 20 **Paragon Dressage Shows I, Estes Park, CDI*-BREED**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 21 **Paragon Dressage Shows II, Estes Park, CDI*-2011 YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net
- 21-22 **Grand Valley Dressage Fall Show & Western Slope Championships, Grand Junction-USEF**
Contact Lisa Binse, 970-243-8543, lbpawprints@yahoo.com
- 22 **Paragon Dressage Shows III, Estes Park, CDI*-2011 YR**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drwg.net

2010 Shows and Events

- 28 **Whispering Winds Schooling Show 5, Whispering Winds, Monument**
Contact Simone Windeler, 719-540-2000, simonedressage@gmail.com
windelerdressage.com
- 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@drgw.net
- 2-5 **RMDS Championships and Open Show, Colorado Horse Park,
Parker-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen, 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
- 9 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-25 &
Colorado Blvd**
Contact RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825, rmds@rmds.org

OCTOBER 2010

- 16-17 **Debbie McDonald Clinic, Plum Creek Hollow Farm, Larkspur**
Contact Debbie Landy, 303-435-2000, deblandy@mac.com

NOVEMBER 2010

- 13 **RMDS Board of Governors Meeting, High Plains Chapter Hosting**

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!



Getting ready for last December's
A Horse Lover's Holiday Event and Sale Horse Preview.

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.

Trainer Spotlight: Sarah Martin

By Tara Nolan

Let me introduce you to Sarah Martin and her process for developing horse and rider combinations. Sarah Martin is a:

- USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist
- USDF Certified Second and Fourth Level Instructor Trainer
- USDF "L" Program Graduate with Distinction
- Trainer for USDF Horse of the Year horses and riders from Training Level through Prix St Georges

I first met Sarah in 2003 when I was stationed at Little Rock, Arkansas flying C-130s. New to the area I had been hopefully looking around for a dressage instructor when I came across a flyer advertising a dressage clinic. I signed up eager to learn how to get my quarter horse and pinto mare "on the bit." I am one of those students that drive an instructor crazy because I have to process information logically and have to know why I'm doing everything. In my initial flood of questions I asked Sarah about my body position and she responded, "Well, in dressage we prefer the rider is more like an exclamation point than a question mark." With one simple image, I understood exactly what I was doing wrong and had a good visual of how to fix it. This was a trainer with good communication skills—and a sense of humor.

Sarah has a lifetime of experience with many breed of horses and styles of riding and I think this contributes to her ability to train. As a child, Sarah's attraction to horses was a mystery to her parents, but, they recognized and supported her passion. From Shetland ponies to donkeys to Arabians, anything that resembled a horse would satisfy Sarah's need to touch, ride and spend time with these special friends.

In high school Sarah was able to participate and compete in 50 mile competitive trail events. College years found Sarah selling her own horse but in every location she worked or studied, Sarah would find a horse to work with. Graduating and starting work in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park, Sarah realized her only truly happy times were spent with the pack horse she used for moving her research gear around the park. When her project was finished, Sarah bid the research life good-bye and headed back to re-ignite her life with horses.

Helping her lifelong friend Penny Malone, Sarah was back in the world of Arabian show horses. From Snaffle Bit Futurities to Western Pleasure, cutting horses and Arabian hunters, Sarah worked with Penny and her training stable. Hooking up with the local Pony Club, Sarah met Cila Yantis, a trainer from Linda Zang's Idlewilde Farm in Davidsonville, Maryland. Intrigued by Cila's eye for detail and understanding of dressage, Sarah moved back to Maryland to work for Cila.

From Maryland Sarah was offered a job as assistant trainer for Sue Curry in Boulder, Colorado. Moving to Colorado in the summer of 1985, Sarah lost all desire to move anywhere else: Colorado was and is home.

For the next two decades Sarah continued to ride, work and study with the mentors she observed as having the skills she wanted to cultivate. Her interest was always in "how to" so she sought out trainers who could explain, and who had the life experience of developing horses from nothing to something – and something had to be Grand Prix on a World Class level. As such, her time was invested with Sarah Hall from Linda Zang's barn. Many years, including 3 months immediately after Sarah and Clayton were married, were spent studying with Carol Lavell. Moving their training westward again, Sarah and Clayton both spent time with Hilda Gurney. Through a clinic, Sarah met Kathy Connelly and became fascinated with what long lines could accomplish, especially with the development of piaffe and passage.



Through her husband Clayton, Sarah was introduced to and had the opportunity to work with Karl Mikolka for many years. From all of these working relationships deep friendships have developed. Sarah has a long list of accomplished horses and riders, and feels she owes it all to the tutelage and mentoring of these wonderful people.

Meshing this lifetime of experience an invaluable skill Sarah offers to riders and their horses is her goal setting process. And what makes it truly unique is the one-on-one attention to detail Sarah dedicates to creating their plan. She carefully interviews the rider to determine the horse and rider's fitness level, day-job work schedule, funds available for showing and lessons. She then discusses with the rider what their goal is whether it be to qualify for regional's or to learn to sit a trot. Sarah will pull out a calendar and ensure milestones are attached to specific dates. The end result is goals realistic for the horse and rider combination.

As an Air Force Reservist I now have a warmblood, Donzer, and am putting to good use all the training I got from Sarah on my quarter horse, Red. Over the past two years I have used Sarah's goal setting tools and surprised myself by being Reserve Champion at AA Training level in 2008, and despite a lot of down time and a late start to the show season, Donzer and I were able to end our 2009 season as Region 5 AA Second Level Champions. In conclusion, between the vivid visual imagery and the clear structure of her lessons, I am confident Sarah will see Donzer and me all the way up the Dressage ladder!

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Plan + Team = Success

By Tara Nolan

After 10 years, breaking the adult amateur barrier to 2nd Level

I started dressage with big dreams of riding Grand Prix like many riders do. Although I still want to ride Grand Prix I am learning to enjoy the steps along the way. As I progress I am more impressed with the dedication and skill it takes to move up the levels. So it is with a great amount of pride I share my current success when 10 years ago I would have thought this was a very minor stepping stone along the way to Grand Prix.

Why it took 10 years...

I was a new C-130 pilot stationed in Abilene, Texas in late 2000. I had just gotten back into horses as an adult. I had spent my youth trail riding any horse I could beg a ride on. I was looking for some English-type riding lessons and I was given the name of Michie C. I made an appointment to go meet her and as I walked down the side of her arena I saw a horse cantering more slowly than I was walking. This is the moment I became hooked on dressage--well before I even knew what dressage was.

Needless to say I spent a good portion of the next 8 years flying over the sand of the Middle East or in flight training to go back to the Middle East. So, I tormented my Impressive bred Quarter horse, Red, with dressage in-between deployments. It seemed like each time I got home we were starting over with basics such as: you can trot and allow me to touch your face. We never did agree to have a trot canter transition without some extra flourish of a head and/or tail toss.

We had a nice ride at 2nd level test 2 and ended up with a blue ribbon—our first of the season. Sarah [Martin] said, “Good job, was there anyone else in the class?”

A plan develops...

When I moved to Colorado from a flying position into a teaching job at the Air Force Academy, I decided to find a warmblood that could take over for my 20 year old Quarter horse, Red. My trainer, Sarah Martin, found a horse for me named Donzer and we quickly progressed to first level. I was thrilled to find that the “feels” I had developed on Red not only transferred to Donzer but that Donzer could do a trot canter transition without much effort. I was excited that in 2009, I had a shot at breaking the first level barrier and started to imagine what it would be like to ride second level. Despite my high hopes for the season, my year began with a lame horse. After 2 months of rest we finally confirmed a vertical tendon tear in the right hind leg. Dr. Friedly performed regular chiropractic adjustments to keep Donzer’s back and hips aligned as his leg healed up. Donzer finally became sound in June—a month I was scheduled to be out of the state for nearly the entire month.

I was frustrated because I wanted to do all the training myself. However, I knew that we’d lose the entire season if Donzer

didn’t get back to work quickly. I sent Donzer to Sarah Martin for the month while I was traveling extensively. I was starting to come around to understanding that getting to my goal of second level was going to be a team effort. I entered Donzer in a show and was only able to get in two rides. Since he’d been with Sarah for the month, we were still working out some of the differences between how I asked for the canter versus how Sarah asked. Horses can be particular if they don’t think you’re asking just right.

I entered my first show and scored 51%. I could not feel when Donzer was on the wrong lead and was afraid to look down as the judge may see me peeking (ha ha, like the judge might not notice my perfect 10 meter counter canter circles). I was happy to get through the test without forgetting the pattern and I had a clear idea of the new skills I needed to develop for second level. I was also starting to come around to the idea that it was time to get a new saddle.

The plan develops...

My first saddle

I decided that I would get myself a saddle when I earned a 65%—luckily this happened early in the season. I scheduled a Custom saddle fitting and was fully prepared to be unimpressed with the process. Deb Decon came to my house and spent 4 hours having me ride in different models and finally fitted a saddle for Donzer. I explained to her that I had achieved my target score and was rewarding myself with a saddle and

she said, “Oh, you’re one of those.”

I also asked her not to mention to Sarah that I’d gotten a new saddle because I was still not convinced a new saddle would matter all that much. At my next lesson it took Sarah all of 45 seconds to say, “What saddle is that?”

Deb had me try all of her saddles, even after she knew which saddle was the best fit. It was amazing but I did not even like the most expensive saddle in the truck—Deb told me I wouldn’t like it but I still had to try it. Believe it or not my saddle was easy to pick. It was not the cushiest saddle and certainly not the one I would have picked in the store but it let my legs drape down around the horse in an uncharacteristic way for me—correctly without fighting for a good position. My seat improved instantly and I had a secure place to half-halt from.

Teaching by braille

I got an amazing Pilates lesson from Janice Dulak combined with a riding lesson by Sarah Martin. I learned about the “wrap”

muscle and I haven't had a problem with going fetal and losing a stirrup since. In pilot training we had a saying that what is learned first is learned best—with the emphasis on learning correctly from the beginning. In one of my first English-type lessons I had an instructor tell me that for a good seat I should hold a soccer ball between my knees and relax my butt muscles completely. This notion was further backed up by someone else telling me that your butt should be like a freshly cracked egg across the saddle. I worked hard to learn to ride without using my butt and ended up relying on my hip flexor muscle leading to a fetal position. When Janice Dulak, who self-professedly teaches by braille, showed me the “wrap” muscles to use, my seat improved nearly instantly.

Enter a Schoolmaster

At the recommendation of Janet Foy, I began taking lessons with Linda Gross on her schoolmaster, Mashnee, while Donzer was down with his torn tendon. This was and continues to be a both humbling and exhilarating experience. I have a hard time getting the canter and Mashnee always thinks I'm asking for Piaffe—it doesn't help that I think this is also fun and enjoy it for a moment. Having lessons on Mashnee helps when I go back and ride Donzer and can feel with authority what he should be doing.

It takes a village—3 trainers, 1 saddle fitter, 1 Pilates instructor...oh, and a good horse

My team has consisted of 3 trainers, Linda, Janet, and Sarah, a correctly fitting saddle by Deb, a whole new set of muscles to recruit thanks to Janice, and a horse with a good attitude. Did I mention I have a husband who can give me an eye on the ground and load the horse in the trailer?

After my first show I set an aggressive goal to score a 60% by the end of the season. After we got a 65% my goal was to qualify for regionals. I didn't think we'd be competitive, I just wanted to qualify—and we did by the skin of our teeth. I actually broke into tears—very abnormal for me and funny that I had been on pins and needles over a dressage test more than for my flight performance evaluations.

After we qualified I knew we had a month to work and I wanted to get stronger and develop better communication. By this point Donzer knew the drill but needed the strength for the gaits.

Off to regionals in Albuquerque

At regional's Donzer felt good. We did a walk around the night before the show and Donzer thought all the trash cans were going to eat him but got over this the next day.

We had a nice ride at 2nd level test 2 and ended up with a blue ribbon—our first of the season. Sarah said, “Good job, was there anyone else in the class?” I replied, “There were

6 of us, thank you very much.” The next day we went in and rode our best test of the season. Overall I felt we were improving but I was really feeling how much on the forehand we were and how we were still just beginning to learn to sit and carry weight behind (I guess this never ends). In any multistep program the first step involves knowing there is something wrong that need to be fixed—right?



The championship ride was at 9:30 and the awards ceremony was at 11:00. After my test I went to see if I could load up and go home or if I needed to go to the awards ceremony. No scores were posted but since there were only 6 entries in the class I was told I better go to the ceremony. I showed up in the brand new wraps we'd just bought. The show staffer looked at me and asked me why I was there—I was feeling a little presumptuous attending the ceremony and a bit defensively said, “Well the schedule said it was time for my class ceremony and the show office said I should come.” My husband arrived and showed them the page of the program—turns out they were on the wrong day of the program.

I love it when a plan comes together...

I was chatting with the rider next to me when the show staffer walked up and asked, “Can I put this on your horse?” I looked down and saw a blue ribbon and do still not quite believe it today.

Aaahhh...

I took Donzer on a trail ride and we took a picture in Homestead Park. I had put in a lot of hard work over the last 10 years but it was creating the overall plan so I was also working smartly that allowed me to progress to second level. I can say that it was the synergy of my team that allowed for our (Donzer and I's) success. My goal is still to ride Grand Prix but I will not overlook or take for granted any of the successes along the way.

When you Take Off the Line All you Have is the Truth

By Colleen (CC) Bonilla-Ward

Something really exciting happened to me tonight and I'm bursting to share it with you. It was the realization of a dream, and a dream that I can only say I never imagined would happen to ordinary me! There's many a little girl, and adult alike, who dream of having a horse that will be their very best friend. A horse that will go everywhere with them and they'll do everything together. A horse that you imagine riding off into the sunset with, your hair whipping round your face as his flying hooves set the earth shuddering beneath you, his mane dancing in the wind! Well tonight I didn't gallop off into the sunset with Journey, but we achieved a connection more meaningful and tested our relationship to the fullest.

Pat Parelli says "when you take off the line all you have is the truth", meaning when your horse is not attached to you by bridle or rope, how he really feels about your relationship, the extent of his trust and faith in you, how much he really wants to be with you, will be evident. There is nothing that will stop him leaving if he wants to.

Journey and I have been achieving some pretty exciting stuff at liberty (off line) in the arena just lately. Without a line attached, not only will he (usually) stick to me (stay next to me) in walk, trot and canter wherever I go, but he will side pass away from me or towards me, back-up through gateways with me behind him, go over obstacles, do figure eights etc., he'll even come cantering across the arena right to me, halting hard in front of me. One of his favorite things is to play with the enormous green ball with me, and boy does he get into it! All this has suddenly blossomed from small beginnings over past months, and the speed with which he's learning is blowing me away. I can hardly think of new things to teach him quickly enough. He's stretching my imagination beyond belief! In fact, until I started on the Parelli program I really didn't have an imagination when it came to teaching and challenging my horses!!

...when your horse is not attached to you by bridle or rope, how he really feels about your relationship, the extent of his trust and faith in you, how much he really wants to be with you, will be evident.

So with all this buzzing in my brain feeding my confidence, and armed with more ideas from Parelli Natural Horsemanship, I decided to put my horse's and my relationship to the ultimate test. And this is what just happened:

I played with Journey a little in the arena to get his mind and heart with me. Well, I had intended to play but his heart wasn't

quite in it, so mostly I sat on a block, scratched his favorite itchy spots and gave him some cookies until he showed me that he was in the mood to do something. Once I sensed he had reached that "sweet spot" where he was mentally engaged and emotionally able, we set off out into the dark. Andrea had her super smart, willful black mustang warmed up, saddled and ready to go, and my dogs, eager as always for an adventure didn't need asking twice. The night was lit by a huge golden orb of a full moon which was hanging in a stately manner above the hill, its light silhouetting every scrub oak and bush, and illuminating the snow till it sparkled. There was a gentle wind, chill enough to make you thankful you threw on a sturdy barn jacket and send you digging for your gloves in your pocket. I was on foot with Journey on a 12' line and Andrea was in Yukon's saddle. We started up the hill and into the 450 acres of Walter's land next door. Making sure to honor each threshold my horse encountered, I stood quietly, reaching out a hand to reassure him whilst I waited for a subtle signal in his body language that would tell me he was ready to move forward. The dogs, boundless in energy and enthusiasm, raced on in front, tracking back and forth like ghouls in the dark searching for a soul to snatch.

To start, Journey was super alert and understandably tense but by listening to and honoring his thresholds (concerns/fears) he soon softened and I knew the time was upon us. At first I simply lay his lead rope across his strong back, his withers providing a natural resting place for it, and walked on confidently sucking him along in the wake of my energy. Horses are natural followers and love it when you have, and execute, a plan with confidence. At first he slipped in behind me and as I tested the strength of our connection I found that he would go where ever I went, stopping when I stopped. I could lag well behind Andrea and Yukon and he'd stay right with me, I could overtake them and he'd follow, I could take a different direction and he was there unhesitatingly. This being the case, I

removed his rope and lay it over my shoulder. He was well and truly free, what would he do?

At first all went smoothly. As we started down the first steep hillside lined with natural ridges in which the snow still lay deeply, we could see, dotted across the dark horizon, the welcoming lights of homes, bright with the business of their occupants.

Two neighboring indoor arenas to the east of us were lit up like spaceships and I almost expected to hear the crackle of static electricity and the hum of engines building in strength in preparation for departure! Journey suddenly anchored up sharp, his head high, his mane lifted by the breeze, ears pricked as he strained into the darkness. I could see an occasional glint of an eye in the moonlight as he searched the eerie black ahead. I waited and then walked on, my body language asking him to come with me, and he did. His pace slowed and he fell behind a little, again coming to a dead stop. I went back to him. Reaching out a hand to smooth his soft coat I was alerted by

He came with such speed and passion that when he stopped in front of me he had to sink down on his hocks, the energy still coursing through his body lifting his front feet off the ground in a controlled rear.

the steely tension in his muscles and let my hand slide down his neck to his chest. There I found, as I suspected, a pounding pulse gaining in intensity, this was no ordinary threshold, he was seriously worried. Suddenly his feet sprouted wings and he sped away across the snow up ahead of me. Immediately I "asked" for his attention. He whirled around about 50m ahead, acknowledging my request, and straight away I drew backwards drawing him in to me. It was the most amazing sight and feeling, one I will never forget. He came cantering to me, gliding over the snow, his head high, the moon glinting in his eyes, and it seemed every flying hair of his mane was etched against the night sky. He came with such speed and passion that when he stopped in front of me he had to sink down on his hocks, the energy still coursing through his body lifting his front feet off the ground in a controlled rear. At that moment I remembered the fictional "Champion the Wonder Horse" of my childhood. He was magnificent! And you know what the most amazing thing was? He didn't run over to his best buddy, Andrea's horse Yukon he ran to ME for safety!

I clipped the rope back on at that point, wanting to set my horse up for success, and as I peered into the night I realized that there was a herd of cows close to us just down in the dip looking equally as startled! I walked for a little ways with Journey still in hand allowing his confidence to build until I felt he was ready to turn loose again. I started by laying the rope across his back and again he walked and trotted close to me, sometimes beside me, sometimes behind, and occasionally feeling cocky enough to give me a shove between my shoulder blades to test my conviction and leadership! I was just about to unclip the rope when again he pulled up sharp. This time I was faster about hearing my horse and quietly picked up the rope from his back. At that moment we saw the flying silhouettes of two galloping horses bearing down hard on us. Tye (my border collie) sensing the impending disaster, sprang into action, trying to head them away from us but they simply circled and came about hard again. This was the perfect opportunity to reinforce my ability as leader of my "herd of two" and to protect my horse. I met the galloping horses, matching their energy, driving them away hard with my "carrot stick," the string meet-

ing fair and square the nose of one very surprised feisty mare! They wheeled in retreat before coming again, and again we drove them away hard, Journey now 18 hh whirling behind me, every fiber in his muscles taught ready for flight. They probably came at us hard 3 or 4 times before realizing that we had the stronger intention. As our intrepid party climbed out of the basin and up the hill a third horse appeared from our right but from his demeanor we deduced he'd seen our display and was convinced! They caused us no more bother as we went our separate ways.

Journey, obviously impressed by my mean mare impersonation, settled back into the swing of things quickly but it was a little while before I turned him loose again. If those horses had sprung another surprise attack from the rear or the flank I could have lost him on 450+ acres and would have had to have gone back for the truck to find him!! Nah, not at the end of a loooong day!

Finally, convinced that I had convinced those horses, I started over, rope over Journey's back till I was sure he was hooked on to me, then rope removed. Then ensued the last third of our adventure, uninterrupted and harmonious, just woman and horse traveling the snowy, moonlit landscape connected by invisible ropes of trust and understanding. Where I walked he walked, where I turned he turned, when I ran he mirrored me sometimes cantering slowly along side. To say it was magical doesn't do it justice. I was spellbound and time stood still. Never could there have been a more perfect setting against the backdrop of the mountains, the moon quietly looking on, my dogs and close friend all part of the intricate tapestry of events unfolding around me.

As we walked down the hill to the gate above the barn I wondered what would happen next. Usually when riding down this last hill above the barn, Journey tries to bowl down, loving to let momentum take over. This time however he stayed perfectly balanced and quietly at my side. And, as if for an encore, as I opened the gate and asked him forward, he waited perfectly still by my side to allow Andrea and the dogs through, and as I turned to close the gate he executed a perfect turn on the forehand, stepping up with me to latch the gate. Still loose by my side we wondered back to the softly lit stable, me mesmerized by the soft look in his gentle eyes and the incredible events of the last hour and a half, he eager for carrots!

The miracle of the horse's heart and generosity never ceases to astonish and surprise me. The enormity of what horse and human can achieve together when "principals are put before goals" and the "relationship is put first" inspires and drives me onward.



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2009 Adult Team Competition

By Helen Shofron

Being a newcomer to Colorado dressage, I was intrigued with the idea of a horse show with a "fun" atmosphere. I had been out of the sport for seven years while living overseas in North Yorkshire, England. Traveling around Europe was rewarding, don't get me wrong, but getting back into riding after all that time was difficult, especially since a physical handicap made it an even bigger challenge. The USDF Team event sounded like a perfect way to meet new folks with similar interests, and a low stress venue to test the waters of competing after seven years of virtually not riding at all.

First, I asked around the eventing barn I was boarding at, to find a companion for the adventure. With "fun" in mind, I recruited Lori, who had never competed at a dressage show. We were informed as to what the topics of our "written tests" would be, such as "unusual colors of horses", and we had a study session, after research on the internet.

Over the next few weeks, we practiced our dressage tests, then packed the trailer, and hauled the horses to Autumn Hill, where the event would take place. The horses settled in, and we enjoyed a relaxing picnic by the stream as we went through our final review. In the meantime, another rider from our barn, Carol, would be bringing her horse the next day, so we arranged some logistics as far as travel, for the show day.

The first evening we were assigned to random teams, distinguished by colored scarves and frivolous names that each team came up with on their own. The three riders from my barn were each on different teams, my team being the "Purple Haze." What a great way to meet new people!

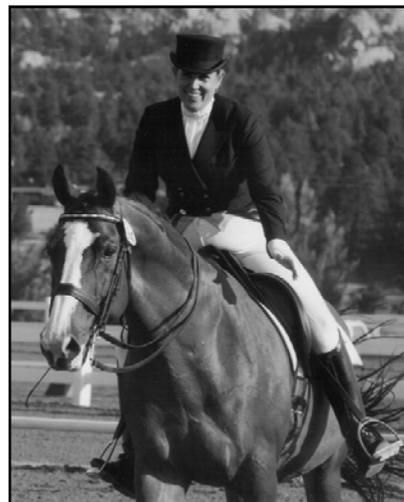
The day of the show was all about support and encouragement. Riders supported the members of their teams, and everyone helped each other throughout the two day event. Some friends of mine from North Yorkshire, who had also recently moved to Colorado, showed up to cheer me on, and family and friends of other riders were all around to lend a hand. Each of the participants rode two dressage tests, and also went to the office to take the written test at any time during the day that was convenient for them.

Of course, the many volunteers at the show cannot be thanked enough, and the funding from the USDF made the whole experience very affordable. In the end, all teams were awarded ribbons and prizes. The photographer took a group photo of all of us for the USDF. We went home with some positive show experience for ourselves and our horses, and some new friends in our lives.

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- Horses must be registered with RMDS to be eligible for year-end awards and for horse-of-the year award.
- Eligibility starts on the date the envelope containing this form and check is postmarked.
- The name & all information on this registration must be the same as that used on horse show entry forms.

Lifetime Horse Registration Fee - \$40.00 Changes (i.e., owner or horse's name) \$15.00

Horse Name _____ Sex _____

Breed (if known) _____ Registration No. (include copy of papers) _____
(list grade if no registry papers available.)

Owner Name(s) (one owner must be an RMDS member) _____

Address of Owner _____

Owner's Phone (Home) _____ (E-Mail) _____

Name of Representative (If owner is a business) _____

Membership & horse registration acknowledged via postcard. Mail completed form with check made payable to RMDS
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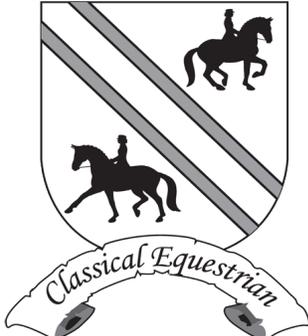
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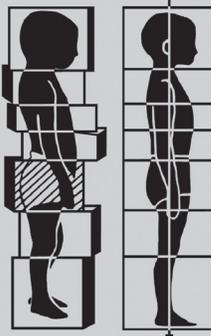
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