



e-Centaur

A ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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USDF Defines Western and
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Calendar

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

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Chapters

Welcome to our newest chapter,
On the Bit Dressage, covering
the Wyoming area. 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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Scholarships

RMDS awards scholarships
annually. Congratulations to
2013 recipients C. C. Ross,
Jennifer Quigley, Kristi Wysocki
and Sandy Hotz.

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USDF Region 5

For the latest updates and
current Region 5 news.

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chapters are on Facebook, like
our page to keep up with us.

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In March Centaur

New USEF Rider Tests
Explained

Clinic Recap

Kristi Wysocki's Continuing
Education (for Gary Rockwell)
George Williams' The Training
Scale

Classified MarketPlace

Member Fun Facts

And More...

Welcome to Debut of RMDS e-Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the monthly RMDS e-Centaur newsletter distributed online via members' e-mail address. There are many advantages to the change, both to readers and advertisers. Our only limits are our members' and advertisers' imaginations. The online issues are designed to meet member recommendations and needs. Watch as e-Centaur evolves with new online advertising and articles to connect RMDS members with equine products, services and information.

Plans are to produce e-Centaur online six times annually for even months. Print issues mailed to members are scheduled for odd months.

For content, contact RMDS Communications Chair Linda Gaber writers@evcohs.com.

To advertise, contact Beth Geier at the RMDS Central Office rmds@rmds.org.

Newsletter and advertising deadlines are the 7th of every month before publication.

Linda Gaber, RMDS Communications Chair

Continuing Ed. Workshops Benefit All Riders

Add TD, Show Management Skills

Would you like to learn how to schedule and run a horse show? Do you want to know the newest show rules?

Two continuing education workshops are offered to riders, as well as to technical delegates and show managers/secretaries, on Feb. 9 in Castle Rock. Register now for reduced fees.

A morning session for technical delegates focuses on Inner Workings of a Show from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., presented by Deeda Randle, a United States Equestrian Federation TD.

The afternoon program details responsibilities for show managers/secretaries with Heather Petersen, RMDS secretary and United States Dressage Federation Region 5 director. Logistics, forms and duties are discussed. A handbook is available for \$30.

Sessions are at Comfort Suites, 4755 Castleton Way, Castle Rock, CO., (303) 814-9999.

Cost for RMDS members is \$35 for one session; \$50 for both. For nonmembers, cost is \$45 for one session; \$60 for both. At-the-door price is \$65 for everyone.

To register and for more details, click [here](#). Registrations are required to determine the number of handouts.

Register with entry form and mail with payment to Michelle Anderson, 302 Lionel La., Elizabeth, CO 80107, or Jon Haugen, 417 Promontory Dr., Loveland, CO 80537. Pay with a check by mail or with PayPal [here](#).

Reach Jon with questions deffancesport@gmail.com.

RMDS Sponsors Symposium

Dressage Master George Williams in Greeley

George Williams might have dressage in his blood. The youngest of nine children whose mother was a dressage rider, riding was part of the family's life. A New Hampshire Pony Club member at 8 years, his dressage trainer was Hans Kreis, a U.S. dressage pioneer. "His English was not the best and what I remember most vividly is always being in tears by the end of the lesson," George is quoted as saying in Phelps Equine World online.

"But, ultimately, what I came away with was a reverence for dressage and a respect for the importance of perfection." Bea DeGrazia, Lendon Gray and Kathy Connelly also are former Pony Club members.

Riding dressage seriously since 1973, George is a U.S. Dressage Federation president and gold medalist, an award-winning international competitor, trainer and clinician. RMDS is sponsoring his symposium on The Training Scale in Greeley the weekend of Feb. 23 and 24. Instructors can attend a special evening session with him Friday, Feb. 22. For details and registration forms, check the RMDS website [here](#). Pay with a check by mail or with PayPal [here](#).



The symposium is at Tomora Training Center, 11000 Hwy 34 Bypass, Greeley, CO 80634. Use I-25 to exit 257A onto Hwy 34 Bypass, east towards Greeley. Drive approximately 7.5 miles to Tomora Training Center on right (south) side of 34 Bypass.

George began studying dressage in 1973 and earned his German bronze rider medal at the Reitinstutute von Neindorff training with Egon von Neindorff in Germany, many years as a student of Karl Mikolka and training with former U.S. dressage team coach Klaus Balkenhol. He was resident trainer for the Tempel Lipizzans in Illinois for 20 years where he trained Lipizzans and Warmbloods, alike, to Grand Prix. In 2000, he moved to Gypsy Woods Farm in Richwood, Ohio.

George's involvement in the USDF and United States Equestrian Federation stems from his desire to develop programs that help transform young riders into future high performance riders. "That's the main reason for my involvement. That's why I'm most involved with the high performance and young rider programs. I want to make certain our future is secure," George said in Phelps Equine World online.

While George was the director at Tempel, his wife Roberta was director of Program Development for 12 of those years. Roberta managed the horse shows, clinics and performances. She also handled the horse sales, public relations, media and rode in the performances. They have a daughter Noel, 19. Noel was the 2005 USEF FEI Junior National Champion. In 2006 she earned her USDF Silver Medal and in 2007 she was on the Region 2 NAYRC Silver Medal team.

"Horses have pretty much meant everything to me. They have shared basically all aspects of my life - as a boy growing up, my first adventures away from home as a young man, my career as an adult, and I met my wife through horses. They are the reason I live where I live. I can't think of much that they have not influenced. I feel very fortunate, for how many people can make a career out of their passion?"

From Phelps Equine World online

USDF Executive Board Releases Official Position on Western and Gaited Dressage

During their meeting on Dec. 4, 2012, held at the Adequan/USDF Annual Convention, the USDF Executive Board approved the following official position on western and gaited dressage:

* USDF will in no way imply or encourage a position that "western dressage" or "gaited dressage" and dressage as defined by the Fédération Equestre Internationale are the same thing.

* USDF will take no action that would indicate any preference of any "western dressage" organization over another, or imply that any has been designated an official voice or national affiliate of USEF or any other standing that would, by other disciplines or breed, be perceived as equivalent to USDF as the USEF recognized affiliate for dressage.

* USDF will stand firm on a position that the USDF, USEF, and FEI dressage rules, including terminology and criteria, cannot be used in a way that uses traditional concepts and terminology to mean something "different".

* USDF will identify USDF educational programs and materials that would appeal to individuals interested in dressage, including western and gaited study, or who have students with that type of horse, as it relates to dressage as defined by the FEI.

* USDF will consider providing applicable website links to other organizations.