

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SUPER EVENTS COMING!****REMEMBER TO CLICK FOR LINKS!****LARS PETERSEN
PROFESSIONALS CLINIC
MAY 18-19**HIGH PLAINS CHAPTER
2017 YOUTH CLINIC
FEB. 26, WESTMANTON
STABLES**LARS PETERSEN OPEN
CLINIC
MAY 20-21****DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM
MAY 20-24
COLORADO HORSE PARK**TD/SHOW MGMT CE
FEB. 4, DOUGLAS CO.
FAIRGROUNDS**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With the first Executive Board Meeting RMDS has begun to organize and confirm plans for 2017. I am looking forward to a busy and productive year for RMDS and our membership.

RMDS is now a working partner with the Colorado Horse Park. We will work together on clinics and shows to grow the sport of Dressage in the Rocky Mountain Region.

USDF has introduced a new program: The National Education Initiative. This program will help smaller GMOs and chapters of GMOs to hold educational programs to benefit their members, with guidelines and grants to help with costs.

Our show schedule is evolving as we have lost some shows and others are moving to new locations. We have new shows as well. Adult Amateur clinics and JR/YR clinics are in the works. CHP and RMDS are holding a MEGA clinic in May. Details are still in the works but mark your Calendars from May 20 to 24th. Our Professionals clinic will be the 18th and 19th at CHP.

We need to start now to get donations and sponsorships for our Championship Show. I am hoping that all our Chapters will get on board with our Marketing Chairperson to make this show a success.

Last year flew by and I suspect this year will move quickly as well so start your plans for 2017 now and we can all succeed. Let's work together to provide education and showing opportunities to all of our membership.

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

**THE COLORADO HORSE PARK****JANET FOY, HEATHER PETERSEN APPOINTED TO USEF COMMITTEE**

Congratulations to our own Janet Foy and Heather Petersen on being appointed to the newly developed and restructured 13 member US Equestrian Federation Dressage Sport Committee. This is a four year appointment. The purpose of this Committee is to develop the Dressage Sport and oversee the various Dressage Sport Programs, including High Performance and development, with consideration to international influence all while being cognizant of current and future issues arising in the sport.



Now accepting *Young Horses*
in training - establishing a
solid foundation with a
well-rounded education.

Kelly Boyd, USDF Silver Medalist
720 480 8266

olearykelly@hotmail.com • classicalequestrian.com

Attending Rolex Three-Day Event

From Tony and Didi DeKrey

Tony and Didi DeKrey live in Fort Collins, CO. She is Northern Colorado Chapter president. They have three horses.



Now when I say for the novice, I don't mean a novice horseman, I am talking about a novice when it comes to eventing and the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event (RK3DE). I was a Western rider when I met my wife and frankly knew nothing about dressage, jumping or eventing. The first dressage show I went to was, to be honest, as exciting as watching paint dry. I had no idea what was going on and my wife was in the show so I had no one to explain it. I watched as each horse and rider entered the arena, walked here, trotted there, stopped and saluted the judge. I wondered at the end what in the world they were getting ribbons for. It took my wife 15 years to get me back to a show.

She has spent years casually trying to educate me on the many skills required for dressage, like a simple lead change. Which as we know at lower levels can be anything from well, nothing, to a jump or a full-out buck. I was completely unimpressed with the world of dressage.

About this time my wife started to visit her best friends from high school who had both moved to Kentucky. She went out one year (2003 or 2004) and they went to the RK3DE. She came back completely thrilled with the experience and convinced me to join her the next year (about 2009). After that trip we now make it an annual pilgrimage (for seven years now) to the event. (Photo 1) Didi and Tony at leader board

The Kentucky horse park is like nothing I have ever seen. Basically, it is a 1,226-acre park dedicated to our relationship with the horse. First thing to know, wear comfortable shoes. You will spend a lot of time walking around this park and shoes that don't fit will really ruin your time here. I could spend a few thousand words telling you about the park alone but I recommend you visit its web page if you are interested at <http://www.kyhorsepark.com/>. They have much more than just the RK3DE there.

It's Not Really Just Three Days

One thing to understand is that the name is not entirely accurate. The Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event is at a minimum four days long if you want to be present for all the competition. I believe when it first started 16 years ago, they were able to get this done in three days. But with the popularity of this event they started this year with 71 riders at the start of dressage on Thursday. We make it a point to arrive in Lexington early on Wednesday of that week to make it to the park in time to watch the horse and riders parade in front of the Grand Jury to verify health before the event begins. This makes it more of a five-day event than three. But, it's well worth the time as you get to see the competitors in all their splendor along with about 400 to 600 spectators depending on the weather. This year it was raining and around 400 folks stood on the terraced hill to watch the show.

[Read more](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[BOARD AND
CHAPTERS
CONTACTS](#)

[USDF REG 5
MESSAGE](#)

[MARKETPLACE](#)

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)