

**e-Centaur
February 2018****REMEMBER TO CLICK FOR LINKS!****HIGH PLAINS YOUTH
CLINIC
MAR. 10****USDF INSTRUCTOR
TRAINER WORKSHOP
FEB. 24-25- AZ****ROCKY MTN HORSE EXPO
MAR. 9-11****TD/SHOW MANAGEMENT
CE
FEB.10****CIRCLES IN THE SAND-
JOAN CLAY & NCDA
MAR. 24-25, 2018****AA CLINIC - WILLIAM
MCMULLIN
APR. 21-22, 2018****Professional's Clinic with Lilo Fore!**

May 18-19: Apply now!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

After a very successful and fun evening at the RMDS Awards Banquet we are ready to begin a new year of education and showing of our equine partners.

RMDS continues to work towards a clear and precise goal to provide for our membership. Committee Chairs are hard at work getting ready for clinics, symposiums and team competitions.

We are planning for 2019 as some changes need to be made so we can streamline a few events and make our season a bit more fun.

Several Committees will be looking for new chairs so we encourage you to intern or observe what each committee does. Perhaps you can join us in moving RMDS forward. Try it. You may like it, and can contribute to our growth.

My goal this year is to clarify the expectations of each Committee and to get a clear road map for incoming executive board members. We are also still finding a few glitches in our standing rules and will work to get clarification before the BOG in November.

So as you dream of green pastures, warm weather and more time to ride please keep in mind that the RMDS Executive Board is working hard to help all members benefit from education and show opportunities.

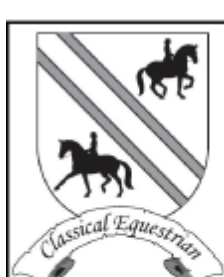
Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRESIDENT, GWEN KA'AWALOA

Gwen has just received her 'R' judge certification.

Also, please check the current judge/TD/Instructor listings on the website. There have been several updates since December 2017.



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

Kelly Boyd, USDF Silver Medalist
720 480 8266

olcarykelly@hotmail.com • classicalequestrian.com

2018 Banquet Silent Auction Nets \$5349

There was a TON of work involved in getting all the items, creating the gift certificates for every single one you saw at the banquet, and organizing the bid sheets, etc.

I want to especially thank Anclaire Spaulding, and Michelle Stevens for their help in garnering items. Also to our chapters for their donations. Finally, I want to thank Beth Geier & Stephanie Figgins for helping me cash out the 77 items that people bid on this year!

Una Schade, Marketing Chair and Silent Auction Organizer

CALL FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY FUNDS

We are well into the 21st century and technology has increasingly become part of our everyday lives.

Whether you own the latest iPhone, or have Siri or Alexa giving you and your household directions, or are a Luddite like me still texting with a slide out Qwerty keyboard, we are all using technology that was only developed in the last decade, and was unheard of 20 years ago.

RMDS has been very fortunate to have been guided into the 21st century with the assistance of tech savvy members and their family members.

Our website not only allows you to look up dates of events, download registration forms or locate an important contact number, it even enables you to view and verify scores during the show year.

Behind the web scenes our capable office manager Beth Geier is using that technology to track membership by chapter, horse registrations, "L" graduates CE credits, insurance and other paperwork for our many shows and educational events, and volunteer hours for every member.

Unfortunately the hardware and software we all depend on to keep the RMDS organization running smoothly dates back to the 1990s, making it a dinosaur in technology terms!

RMDS has begun the process of taking that next step into the 21st century, ensuring our members continue to receive the highest quality of information and support from their central office.

We need your help!

While members of our executive board assemble the requirements for a planned hardware, software and database upgrade and plan a request for bids in the near future, we also need the funding for this major project. Initial estimates range up to \$30,000 to position RMDS for future growth and improved membership services.

Tax day is approaching soon. As you review your expenses for 2017, would you please consider a TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to Rocky Mountain Dressage Society for 2018, earmarked for our computer upgrade? We are a 501c(3) as designated by the IRS and your donation will greatly help us continue to serve our members well into the future.

Let's help RMDS continue to provide the outstanding membership services and support we all depend upon!

**THE COLORADO HORSE PARK****FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

Educational members and horses owned by education members are **NOT** eligible for RMDS year-end awards or qualifying for RMDS Championships. Riders and horse owners must be general members.

Also, we have received notice that **Somerset** will no longer be holding shows.

NCDA Presents: Circles in the Sand, with Joan Clay

A three-part workshop exploring the geometry of the dressage ring, for riders of all disciplines looking for ways to improve their training. Whether you are training a youngster and not sure what his strengths will be, working to improve your reining pattern, working equitation, dressage, or simply wanting your horse more balanced and fit dressage exercises can help achieve your goals!

A large part of the effectiveness of dressage training is understanding the geometry of the figures used in dressage. Does your youngster tend to fall in on one shoulder? Do you want to improve the flow from movement to movement? Do you often wonder while riding a 20 meter circle if it's really round, and 20 meters? Are your flying changes a zig-zaggy line instead of straight? Do you question where those serpentine should touch the wall, or where and how a transition should take place? These are situations that everyone in all riding styles can relate to.

We have the answers for you!! Or, I should say, Joan Clay does! How accurately the geometry of figures are ridden can improve your training and boost your scores. And, the more you know about how to ride the geometry, the better you and your horse will do! We all work too hard at our riding skills, and improving the partnership with our horses, to lose training and showing success to geometry inaccuracy.

This March, join NCDA as they host Joan Clay and Circles in the Sand: a three-part riders' workshop to better understand, and execute, the geometry of dressage figures. Everyone is welcome to take part and improve their skills, whether preparing for the 2018 show season, trail riding season, or starting a young horse. Circles in the Sand will be held at Tomora Training Center, March 24 and 25, and April 8. Sign up to secure your spot and participate with your horse, or as an unmounted participant. Contact NCDA at events.ncda@gmail.com

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