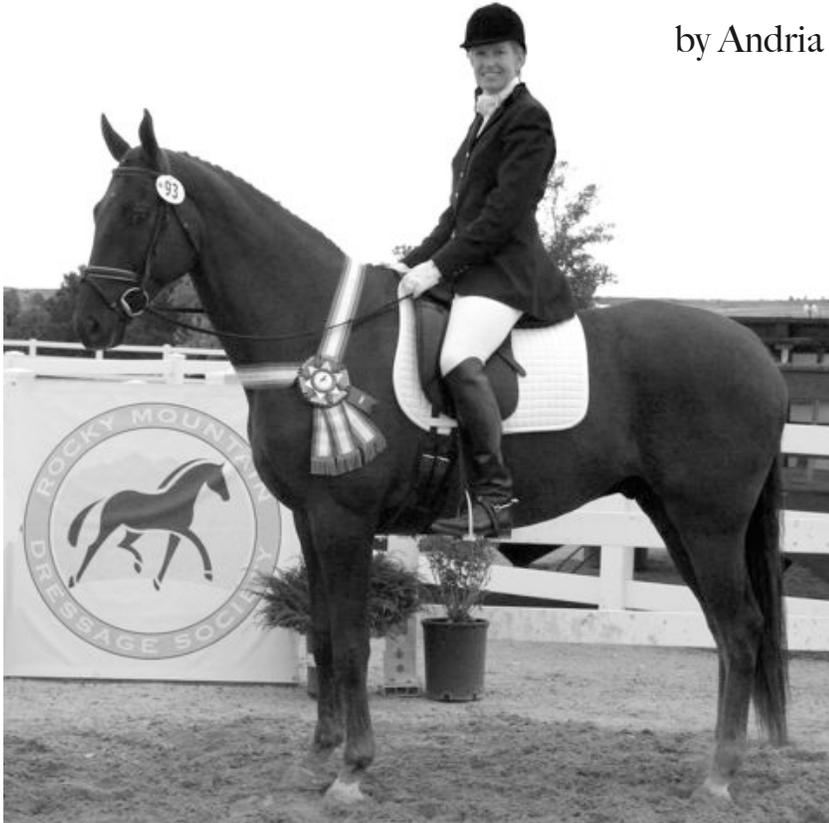


# THE CENTAUR

## Falling For Dressage... an Eventer's Experience

by Andria Allen



I am a three day event rider. I love Eventing because of the challenge of training for and competing in three different disciplines in one competition. The three phases include a dressage test, a timed cross country jumping course with natural obstacles that include water, ditches, drops and banks, and stadium jumping.

It's great that both you and the horse must be proficient in three things versus one. It's challenging mentally and physically for the horse and rider and keeps riding very interesting. Of course, many eventers say they only do dressage and show jumping for the thrill of the cross country. Let's face it, it is a thrill! Most event horses are thoroughbreds or Tb crosses because of the stamina and speed required for the cross country phase. It's hard to find a horse that can be proficient in all three phases.

I started Eventing about 25 years ago. Prior to that I had ridden quarter horses in western and English pleasure. When I bought my first event horse, my first experience with dressage was frustrating to say the least. I couldn't make the horse do anything. I didn't know anything about bending, connection, outside rein, or collection. I got connected with a local dressage trainer who helped me get started. I once asked her, "Don't you ever just sit still?" It seemed so "athletic" and active compared to riding a western or English pleasure horse.

In the last two and half years, I have had the pleasure of working consistently with two very good, local trainers, Glenda Needles and Dolly (Janet) Hannon. In my first lesson with Glenda, I was again dismayed. I thought I was a pretty good rider as I had been very successful in eventing. My first

### *In This Issue...*

An Eventer's Story.....1  
 RMDS Education events .....2  
 Educational Events Calendar .....3  
 Remembering Russ Fawcett.....6  
 Florida Virus Outbreak .....11  
 Dressage Fundamentals .....21

### *Regular Features...*

President's message .....5  
 Editor's Scoop.....5  
 Region 5 Message.....11  
 Trainer Talk with Sarah Martin.....13  
 Calendar .....14-15  
 Judges, Instructors, TDs.....21  
 Classified Ads .....22  
 Chapter News .....24  
 Biz Card Ads .....26-27

few lessons were frustrating. But, as I learned the language of classical dressage and started to understand some of the basics, it became a lot more fun.

The lessons I'd had with event trainers didn't go nearly as deep into the basic gaits and carriage of the horse and the seat and position of the rider. My prior lessons felt like they just scratched the surface of true dressage. It was enough to get by in lower-level Eventing. As Eventing evolves (I am speaking here of the modified version that doesn't have the steeple chase and roads and tracks phases) a good dressage score is even more important. I realized that I needed to have great dressage scores to be competitive in Eventing.

I started competing in local RMDS/USDF dressage shows last year, 2005. I wanted to hone my dressage skills at a "real dressage show." I do the same with jumping by going to local hunter/jumper shows. I was a little bit intimidated at what I considered my first big dressage show at High Prairie in the summer of 2005. One of the main differences I noticed was the barn or stable tack stalls and barn camaraderie.

# RMDS Education in the Forefront Again!

Having just returned from the 2006 USDF convention, I can't help but be amazed. Once again it occurs to me (and to several others from RMDS who also attended the convention) that RMDS is one of those organizations that is blazing a trail across this country in terms of education.

We are pretty much the only Group Member Organization (GMO) in USDF that has a continuing education requirement for our L graduates. We are also one of the only organizations that offers a GMO Technical Delegate program. We were one of the first two regions in the country to roll out the new Competition Management educational seminars and we're leading the way again with the creation of our Instructor/Trainer continuing educational program - way to go Sarah and Beth!

We are also offering our third "L" program, we've done "r" judge programs, a full course of Training-Fourth Instructor certification and oh so much more! When USDF or USEF needs a program run, RMDS is one of the first organizations they come to. One great exciting opportunity to look forward to in 2008 will be the presence of the USDF Convention and National Symposium in Denver once again. We will have a world class symposium in our laps at

the National Western Complex and many other fabulous educational opportunities during the University session at Convention. Mark the first weekend in December, 2008 on your calendars!

Coming up more quickly are some other important RMDS events - don't forget the RMDS Introduction to the New Tests. This will be January 14th, starting at 1pm, and hosted by Canon Ridge Farm in Castle Rock.

Also coming soon will be the first session of the 2007 L program, February 3-4. The classroom portions will be at the Longmont Radison and the mounted portions will be at Paragon in Berthoud, Colo. The cost is only \$60 for the entire weekend and you will get so much out of it. The registration form is at the bottom of this column. Please be sure to check out the information concerning the rescheduling of our Instructor/Training continuing ed program. It has been set for February 17-18 at the Fort Collins Equestrian Center and will feature Rachel Saavedra, an USDF Instructor Program Faculty member and a USDF Gold Medalist. Finally (and do I need to illustrate how much we offer), we have our Judges' Continuing Education program January 27-28 at Freedom Farms with

Kristi Wysocki and our TD and Show Managers Continuing Education February 10 with Cat Siemiet, Joan Clay and Heather Petersen at Table Mountain Ranch. Sign up sheets for both of these events are available in the Centaur. Auditing for all the programs I've written about is open to everyone! Don't let the names or subjects stop you - come and learn - we'd love to have you!

Please don't forget that more information on all these programs can be obtained from the RMDS website - [www.rmids.org](http://www.rmids.org), from Beth Geier at the Central Office (720-890-7825, [rmids@rmids.org](mailto:rmids@rmids.org)) or from myself, Heather Petersen [slush@drwgw.net](mailto:slush@drwgw.net), phone (719-683-8435).

I look forward to a great "enlightening" year and if you have any suggestions for programs, please feel free to contact me with any and all suggestions!

The L program auditing fee is \$60 per session - advanced sign up is recommended - fill out the form below, with a check for \$60 made out to RMDS and send it to Heather Petersen, 12395 Gull Lane, Peyton, CO 80831. Session A is February 3-4, 2007 in Longmont/Berthoud, Colorado.

*by Heather Petersen,  
RMDS Education Committee*

## RMDS "L" PROGRAM AUDITOR'S SIGN UP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Session Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Session dates are: Feb. 3-4, Longmont/Berthoud; March 10-11, Longmont/Berthoud; April 14-15, Elbert; June 9-10, Parker)

Mail Form and \$60 payment to **Rocky Mountain Dressage Society** to:

Heather Petersen  
12395 Gull Lane  
Peyton, CO 80831  
719-683-8435

# THANK YOU KAREN WHITMAN

And Singletree Farm

## Special Addition

2006 RMDS Dutch WB  
Horse of the Year 68.982%



## Cary

2006 RMDS Grade  
Horse of the Year 68.049%



Linda Block Gandy

Mary Stack

Your grateful clients and students

# Winter Series Dressage Schooling Show

At

*Mariah Farms*

January 27, February 24, March 31

Offering training level through second level using 2007  
USDF Tests – A great opportunity to try out the new USDF  
dressage tests for 2007!

Series cumulative high-point awards for AA, JR/YR

Shows open 30 days before show date and close 7 days  
before show date.

**Fees \$15 per class, \$20 office fee**  
**Stalls available \$20**

Use forms from RMDS web site: [www.rmids.org](http://www.rmids.org)  
Show secretary Lisa Lamke, [LLAMKE@MSN.COM](mailto:LLAMKE@MSN.COM)  
Telephone: (303) 660-2456

## RMDS SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

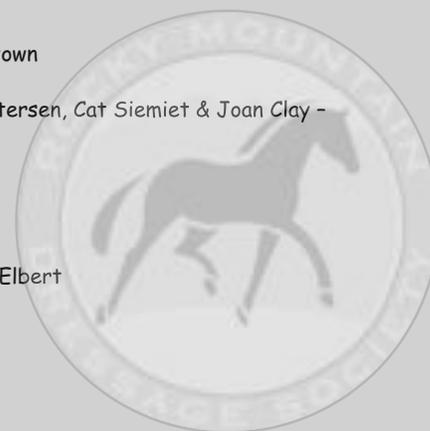
ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE TO AUDIT OR PARTICIPATE  
(UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED).

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE YOUR LEARNING!

Jan 14	New Test Clinic - Janet Foy - Canon Ridge Farm
Jan 27-28	Judges Continuing Education - Kristi Wysocki-Freedom Farm-Franktown
Feb 3-4	USDF "L" Session A - Lois Yukins - Paragon - Berthoud
Feb 10	Show Managers/Secretaries & TD Continuing Education-Heather Petersen, Cat Siemiet & Joan Clay - Table Mountain Ranch-Golden
Feb 17-18	Rachel Saavedra Clinic - Ft Collins Equestrian Center
March 10-11	USDF "L" Session B - Janet Foy - Paragon - Berthoud
March 24-25	RMDS Winter Wake Up Show - Penrose Stadium-Colorado Springs
March 31-April 1	USDF FEI JR/YR Clinic with George Williams
April 14-15	USDF "L" Session C - Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez - Somewhere Farms - Elbert
June 9-10	USDF "L" Session D1 - Lois Yukins - Colorado Horse Park
July 8-13	Junior Camp-CSU-Ft Collins
Sept 26	Breed Show and Breed Championship - Colorado Horse Park
Sept 27-30	RMDS Open and Championship Show - Colorado Horse Park
Sept 27-30	Region V Championships-Colorado - Colorado Horse Park
Oct 13-14	USDF Adult Clinic featuring Jane Savoie - Phantom Hill Farm - Ft Collins

USDF "L" contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 [slush@drgw.net](mailto:slush@drgw.net)

For details on these and other RMDS events, Read the Centaur, Go on the website - [www.rmids.org](http://www.rmids.org)  
or Contact the RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 or [rmids@rmids.com](mailto:rmids@rmids.com)  
Heather Petersen, Education Chairman 719-683-8435 [slush@drgw.net](mailto:slush@drgw.net)



## 2007 RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....	Jane McBride	719-598-4496	mcbride@pcisys.com
Past-President.....	Heather Petersen	719-683-8435	slush@drwgw.net
Vice-President .....	Laura Speer	970-378-7573	riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com
Secretary .....	Alex Curnutte	303-663-0358	curnutttes@msn.com
Treasurer .....	Lisa Wiggins	303-598-3619	Lisawiggins1@aol.com

## PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Adult Amateur.....	Brenda Haley	719-275-0118	shininghorse@copper.net
Awards.....	Barb Goldman		boelandjarb@hotmail.com
Results.....	RMDS Central Office	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Championship Show.....	Debbie Wilke	303-646-8937	ddwilke@concentric.net
Communications.....	Nicole Bizzarro	303-939-0110	nicoleb@burkedes.com
Centaur Production .....	Gavin Ehringer	719-471-8764	gavinehringer@earthlink.net
Omnibus Production.....	Burke Design-Nicole Bizzarro	303-939-0110	nicoleb@burkedes.com
RMDS Central Office.....	Beth Geier	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Webmaster .....	Michael Petersen	719-683-8435	webmaster@rmds.org
Education .....	Heather Petersen	719-683-8435	slush@drwgw.net
Junior/Young Rider.....	Colleen Diamond	719-330-6238	Haltatx260@earthlink.net
Membership.....	RMDS Central Office	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Registration Officials .....	RMDS Central Office & Show Standards	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Scheduling & Insurance.....	RMDS Central Office	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Scholarship.....	Kathy King Johnson	303-494-0905	kathykingjohnson@uswest.net

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Boulder Valley.....	Claudia Barkmeier	303-417-1675	cbarkmeier@rwbaird.com
Colorado Springs.....	Simone Windeler	719-540-2000	wjsimone@msn.com
Foothills .....	Kathy King Johnson	303-494-0905	kathykingjohnson@uswest.net
Grand Valley.....	Tiger Adams	970-523-7464	tiger@thehorseinsport.com
High Plains .....	Alex Curnutte	303-663-0358	curnutttes@msn.com
Northern Colorado.....	Laura Speer	970-378-7573	riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com
Penrose .....	Cat Siemiet	719-942-5311	catsbarn@aim.com
Tri State .....	Tammy Fagan	307-856-5451	tfagan@wyoming.com
Western Colorado.....	Judith Family	970-923-8832	dns@rof.net

## GOVERNING BODIES

RMDS is a USDF Group Member Organization.  
 RMDS members are automatically USDF Group Members.

United States Dressage Federation (USDF)  
 4051 Iron Works Pkwy. Lexington, KY 40511  
 859-971-2277

RMDS Central Office: [rmds@rmds.org](mailto:rmds@rmds.org)  
 2942 Park Lake Rd.  
 Boulder, CO 80301  
 Phone: 720-890-7825

US Equestrian Federation (USEF)  
 4047 Iron Works Pkwy. Lexington, KY 40511  
 859-258-2472

USDF Region 5 Director  
 Theresa L. Hunt  
[hunterry@mindspring.com](mailto:hunterry@mindspring.com)  
 USDF YR Rep North: Susan Gregg

Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)  
 Ave. Mon Repos 24, PO Box 157  
 1000 Lausanne 5, Switzerland  
 41 21 310 47 47

©2007 *The Centaur* is the official publication of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. Its content may not be reproduced in print or electronic media without permission of the publisher. Copying for personal or educational use is allowed. Editorial questions, article suggestions, article submissions, corrections, and letters to the editor may be sent to: Gavin Ehringer, editor, *The Centaur*, PO Box 9, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; phone (719) 471-8764; e-mail: [gavinehringer@earthlink.net](mailto:gavinehringer@earthlink.net). Advertising questions and copy should be directed to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301; phone (720) 890-7825; e-mail: [rmds@rmds.org](mailto:rmds@rmds.org).

# Editor's Page

## *From the desk of RMDS President Jane McBride...*

Hello! I am Jane McBride, your new President of the RMDS for 2007.

I would like to thank Heather Petersen for her service and leadership this past year. I would also like to thank the entire RMDS board of directors for the valuable work they performed. I suspect that the majority of the RMDS membership has little idea of the time and effort these people put in. Beth Geier runs the RMDS Central Office and deserves a special note of appreciation. The RMDS needs its membership to share its innovative ideas and provide constructive feedback if it is to succeed, and I hope to hear from many of you in the upcoming year.

New Year's means new beginnings, and to me that means new lists. The following is a list of necessary actions at this time, so you won't find yourself scrambling at the last minute:

- Renew RMDS Membership.
- For those with new horses, establish a RMDS horse lifetime membership.
- Have your veterinarian perform a Coggins test for use in 2007.

The following is a list of actions that may prove valuable depending on your intentions during the upcoming year:

- Establish USEF and USDF member-

ships for yourself and your horse. This is important if you plan to show. These organizations provide a great deal of valuable information. Take a look through the rule books if you plan to show!

- Have your veterinarian perform a thorough physical exam of your horse. Training problems can be avoided if you know how your horse is feeling. I wish the horses could talk.
- Have a thorough safety check performed on your trailer. A trailer mechanic is best.
- Examine the list of upcoming events in the Centaur or on the RMDS website and determine which events interest you.
- In order to participate in shows it is necessary to submit copies of your memberships with the show application form to the show secretary. I suggest making multiple copies now, so they will be ready when you need them.

Onto a business note: here's a short synopsis from the Board of Governors meeting held November 11:

Election terms for President have changed. The President is now elected for a two-year term. The Vice President is elected for a one-year term and is not required to serve as President the following year.

Some standards for "L" judging graduates have changed. Be sure to check your Omnibus.

There will be a \$5.00 late charge for memberships received after January 1<sup>st</sup>. This charge is to cover the extra costs caused by late renewals.

Please check your new Omnibus for all the changes.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year as your President, as a technical delegate to RMDS shows, and as a rider. I hope to meet each and every one of you sometime this year. Please let me know about your ideas or concerns.

As a last note, I want to thank all of you for sending me to the USDF convention in December. I will be organizing my notes and sharing my experiences with you in the future.

Have fun throughout the new year!

*Jane*

## *The Scoop from the Editor's Stall...*

I owe you all an apology...

December was a month filled with frustrations and setbacks for myself. Just as I was about to put *The Centaur* to bed, my computer crashed like an airplane that lost an engine.

All of the hard work that I had put into *The Centaur* was lost, along with all the ads and everything else that goes into this publication. I had failed to run a backup on most of the content, so I scrambled to try and recover the data from the broken hard drive.

Needless to say, trying to get customer service for your computer during the holidays is a nightmare. Having to deal with shortened holiday work schedules forced me to scramble all about the state and snowstorms added to the difficulty of trying to get my ailing computer repaired.

Alas, the final verdict was, nothing could

be salvaged.

Meanwhile, I bought a new laptop on which to do *The Centaur*, confident I would have it all done no later than New Years.

After a day of set-up, I turned it on to find: no Internet signal. My Internet Service Provider had cut off my signal during the first big storm. How was I to get all the necessary information from the RMDS office?

So, thinking quickly, I changed to a new Internet Service Provider. But, in so doing, I didn't take into account my phone company, who couldn't process the order. And, of course, it was the holidays...

Well, as I sit here working away, already past the New Year's Day deadline, I still don't have Internet service. Well, actually, my new computer miraculously began picking up a rogue signal from a neighbor's wireless network just this morning. I am

crossing my fingers that it won't shut down. Should that happen, I will have to report to work at the local coffee house, which has WiFi Internet.

Explaining this all makes me feel like I am telling my teacher that my dog ate my homework.

One promise I made when I took over the editorship of *The Centaur* was that I would strive to get each issue to the membership by the 1st of each month. Alas, circumstances conspired to make that impossible this month. I hope all of you will forgive me and accept my promise to have everything done on time in the future. We all rely on technology, until it lets us down. Thank goodness for horses, who seem not to care a wit about our technological woes and love us, even when our frustrations seem utterly overwhelming.

*Gavin*

# Remembering Russ Fawcett, Beloved Dressage Rider

I had word January 2 that Russ Fawcett had passed away. He and his wife Susan had retired to Arizona a few years ago, but we still kept in touch.

Russ and Susan spent most of their 'dressage' time in Casper, Wyoming. I first met Russ in the early 1980's when he appeared at Table Mountain Ranch for a few lessons with me and a clinic with Bodo Hangen.

Russ was as skinny as a beanpole and stood a towering 6-foot 5" inches. He jumped out of his truck after the drive from Casper, fully dressed in boots, britches and helmet. He had curly shoulder-length hair and a great handlebar mustache. That was our first impression.

What all of us who came to know Russ and Susan found out, the heart inside of the person is something one doesn't see at

first glance.

Russ and Susan spent their lives giving hope to others. They started the handicapped riding program in Wyoming. They had a barn full of school horses. Many top Wyoming riders had their first dressage lessons at this barn on those horses. Russ continued to ride with me...from Table Mountain Ranch, to Capricorn Farms, to Bara Farms and finally to the Latigo Trails, where I had my last training barn. He also had me up to Casper at least four times a year for clinics.

Even as he approached his eighties, Russ never felt he had learned enough. He came to USDF Adult Camps in El Paso, Texas.

He rode with Uli Schmitz and Gerd Zuther in Phoenix. He came to my clinics in Arizona. At the time of his death, he

was still riding his Holsteiner stallion. He participated in all of the Lindgren workshops in Colorado for years.

Russ was a sponge. And he shared his knowledge with his students. I must say his students may not have had the best warmbloods, but they all sat beautifully and had harmonious aids. Why? Russ put them on the lunge line over and over again.

Russ was also in my opinion a master at the long lines. He has a special place in Heaven working with God's horses.

I know that I will miss him, but will keep him in my heart and remember him fondly. He made a wonderful contribution to the sport of dressage in our region. Thank you Russ.

*Janet Brown Foy*

## Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

*In cooperation with Janet Foy and Heather Petersen*

### Presents

An Introduction to the New Tests  
with FEI I Judge, Janet Foy  
January 14th, 2007 – Starting at 1pm  
Canon Ridge Farms, Castle Rock, CO

Sunday afternoon, January 14th, Janet Foy will present the new tests for next year at Canon Ridge Farms near Castle Rock, Colorado. Demonstration riders will ride each of the new tests while Janet walks us through the movements and collective requirements. Get a head start on your competition and get to know what the judges will be looking for first hand!

The cost for RMDS members is \$25 dollars at the door (Non-members pay \$5 more). Beverages and snacks will be provided but we do ask you to bring your own chair. The facility is climate controlled and it will be held in an indoor arena. If you are interested in participating as a demonstration rider or have any questions, please contact Heather at [slush@drwg.net](mailto:slush@drwg.net) or (719) 683-8435

*Directions to the facility: From I25 take Wilcox Street Exit 181 toward Plum Creek Parkway (east). From Plum Creek Parkway turn right onto South Lake Gulch Road or CR-11. Take South Lake Gulch Rd to Stone Canon Ranch Rd – turn right on Stone Canon Ranch Rd. At "Y" in road, follow road to right. Farm at end on left – 2940 Canon Ridge Rd.*

Please make checks out to RMDS.

Registration fee \$25 for RMDS members, \$30 for non-members, payable at the door.

# Andria Allen

BRINGING PEOPLE AND PROPERTIES TOGETHER



*In the last three years, I have helped over 40 families find their dream home or sell their current home. I'd be honored to help you, your family and friends with the purchase of your next property or the sale of your current home.*

*Call me as your trusted real estate advisor.*

## PRICE REDUCED!



### 40 ACRE HORSE PROPERTY IN LOVELAND

70x140 indoor arena, 20x220 outdoor arena, round pen, pastures, 5 post-tubs. House has 5 beds, 3 baths, study, eat-in kitchen, fenced yard. Surrounded by open space. MLS # 488178  
**PRICE SLASHED! \$640,000**



### 10 ACRE DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN BERTHOUD

Mixed use development potential bordered on two sides by Gateway Park. Survey and annexation map completed. Home and several outbuildings on the property. Annexation to town of Berthoud with transitional zoning is in progress. Develop to suit. MLS # 492958 Price \$1,300,000.



**SOLD!** 307 Lucerne Drive,  
Lafayette, CO \$240,000

### BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITE IN BERTHOUD

on 10 acres in NW Longmont. Fantastic mountain views. Fire hydrant on property and all utilities at property line. MLS # 459155 **NEW PRICE \$288,000**

*Ask me about my referral program!*



**COLDWELL BANKER**

**REALTY GROUP**

Each office individually owned and operated

*Andria Allen*  
PROPERTIES

*For more photos and information on these properties visit us online at*

*Call me for professional, personal service*

**www.AndriaAllen.com • 303.810.8375 • Office: 303-772-5800**

## CONTINUING EDUCATION: The View from "C"

OPEN TO ALL!

Want to become a judge? Want to learn what the judges are looking for?  
Need to clarify your thoughts? Already a judge and need to stay sharp?  
Interested in freestyle judging?

Please encourage others to join you for a successful workshop!

We will provide morning coffee and some snacks. Bring your own lunch/drinks/munchies if you want more!

Kristi Wysocki

At Freedom Farm – 2142 Delbert Road-Franktown

From High Prairie go East on Bayou Gulch Road to Flintwood. Go South on Flintwood to Grant.  
Go East on Grant to Delbert Road. Turn North on Delbert Road to 2142 Delbert Road—first driveway on the  
left side of Delbert Road. Barn phone number is (720) 842-0643.

Saturday, January 27

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday January 28

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

	Members	Nonmembers	At the door-everyone
Saturday	\$60	\$75	\$80
Sunday	\$30	\$40	\$50
Both days	\$75	\$90	\$100

We need reservations so we can plan on numbers for any handouts.

Please fill out the form and return with a check made payable to RMDS to:

RMDS Central Office  
2942 Park Lake Drive  
Boulder, CO 80301

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*RMDS Continuing Education Clinic: The View from "C." Saturday, Jan. 27, Freedom Farm with Kristi Wysocki.*

**ARE YOU DEDICATED  
TO DRESSAGE?**

*Learn, Ride & Win  
with Cañon Ridge Farms*

We Invite You To Visit Our Brand New Facility



- 28 stall heated barn with daily turnout
- Customized care including high quality feeding program
- Personalized instruction with our top trainers
- Sand/rubber footing in our 110 x 225 indoor arena and our full size outdoor arena

**CAÑON RIDGE  
FARMS**

BOARDING, TRAINING, SALES  
303-663-3243

WWW.CANONRIDGEFARMS.COM  
Castle Rock

*Amazing Sporthorses*



PROVIDING AMAZING HORSES FROM WEANLINGS TO BROODMARES.  
CALL US TODAY TO CHOOSE YOUR WINNER.

ph: 303.621.8512 fax : 303.621.8511  
email: harmony\_sporhorses@yahoo.com

Advertisement

**EXTRA EXTRA!!  
DRESSAGE FOR THE CURE Gives  
Away New Featherlight Trailer!**

Littleton Co.

**C**oming May 12 2007 Dressage for the Cure changes the way you think about Dressage shows again! Renee's Friends Fund and Cottonwood Riding

Club team up to offer your horse a new set of wheels.

No Raffles, No High Point, No Best test anyone can win! But you have to ride! See website for details.

[www.DressagefortheCure.com](http://www.DressagefortheCure.com)

**CONTINUING EDUCATION - "TD" & SHOW MANAGERS**

**Saturday, February 10, 2007**

**OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

**Technical Delegates: 8:30 am - 12:15 pm with Cat Siemiet (USEF TD) & Joan Clay (RMDS 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**

Arena set up

What are the responsibilities of the secretary vs. show manager

Handbook available for \$30

RMDS is strongly encouraging all show managers to attend. This past year there were several changes that still need clarification.

**This workshop is for you!**

Table Mountain Ranch  
19000 W 58<sup>th</sup> Ave - Golden

**COST**

**One session only \$35 Non RMDS members \$45**

**Both sessions \$50**

**Non RMDS members \$60**

**At the door - \$65 for everyone.**

**Directions to Table Mountain Ranch:** Take I-70 west to Colorado Hwy 58. Go west on Hwy 58 to Hwy 93. Go north on Hwy 93 approximately 2 miles to W 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn right (east) on W 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Table Mountain Ranch is 1/2 mile on the right (south). 303-279-4546

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:

RMDS Central Office

2942 Park Lake Drive

Boulder, CO 80301

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TD or Show Manager \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**We will provide morning coffee and some snacks. Bring your own lunch/drinks/munchies if you want more!**



## January Region 5 Message...Theresa Hunt, Director

The 2006 USDF Salute Gala presented "Dressage and All That Jazz" at the convention in Kansas City. The USDF Volunteer of the Year was announced (drum-roll, please) our region's own, Veronica Holt. Susan Gregg was recognized as Region 5 GMO volunteer of the year. Congratulations! Hall of Fame inductees included Major Robert Borg, Sally Swift, and the stallion, Roemer. It was a fun evening, with a live jazz band, combining awards with history of dressage in our country.

The Board of Governors was lively at the end. Heated debate of ways to balance the 2007-2008 budget ended with someone "calling the question". This resulted in a roll call vote, passing a motion to raise some competition fees and abolishing the refund of \$15 for participating memberships that are also GMO members. Less than 50 votes decided the outcome, so the GMO's that did not send a member or proxy could have

made a difference. The 2006 BOG Council and Committee Reports have been posted on the USDF Web site. The web addresses are as follows:

[webmail.atl.earthlink.net/wam/www.usdf.org/aboutus/governance/index.asp](mailto:webmail.atl.earthlink.net/wam/www.usdf.org/aboutus/governance/index.asp)

[www.usdf.org/aboutus/governance/index.asp](http://www.usdf.org/aboutus/governance/index.asp)

More details of the convention and symposium will be in the February issue of the USDF Connection magazine. Next year the convention will be in Orlando, Florida and I hope to see many of you there. It is a great opportunity to participate in the governance of our sport. I would like to thank all of the participating member delegates, GMO delegates, and regional coordinators.

With the start of a new year we have new dressage tests, and of course, more rule changes. They are available on line and a blue paged supplement. A few changes in-

clude that ring steward must check bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least 1/3 of the horses in each class, and adjustable-length whips are not allowed to be carried by riders. Now would be a good time to review all the rules, as well as the rule changes. All these changes would be a good educational session for GMOs.

Our new FEI Junior/Young rider co-ordinator is Tammi Fitch, [tfitch@lcfsystems.com](mailto:tfitch@lcfsystems.com), 602-617-1282. Please contact her if you are considering qualifying this season. We need to start fundraising and building our team spirit for the championships in Virginia.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and Happy Riding all year!

Theresa Hunt  
Region 5 Director

## News Brief

### Florida Equine Herpes Virus Outbreak

TALLAHASSEE -Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson says the department's Division of Animal Industry is continuing the investigation into the presence of Equine Herpes Virus - type 1 (EHV-1) in several areas of the state including Wellington, Jupiter and the Ocala area. EHV-1 can be a serious disease of horses and the virus can spread through the air from the respiratory route of affected horses. Transmission can also occur through contaminated equipment, clothing and hands.

So far, seven horses have tested positive for the virus through lab tests. All confirmed cases are under quarantine. The Division of Animal Industry is working closely with veterinarians and equine facilities in the impacted locations to monitor the animals and assist with testing. Owners with sick horses should contact their private veterinarian to examine and treat their horses. Veterinarians suspecting EHV-1 with neurological signs are advised to contact state officials and follow protocols for collecting and submitting appropriate samples for laboratory diagnosis. Horse owners in the impacted areas are being asked to follow biosecurity measures until the virus is controlled.

For updates: [www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/ehv1/index.shtml](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/ehv1/index.shtml)

**Jill Cantor-Lee**  
*Dressage*

COMPETITIVE RIDING \* LESSONS  
WORKSHOPS \* CLINICS \* SALES

- \* International Level Competitor
- \* USDF Certified Instructor
- \* USDF Silver & Bronze Medalist

Adhering to Classical principles, developing elegant riders and happy horses at ALL LEVELS.

Located at the Fort Collins Equestrian Center, a state of the art facility, offering professional care, close to downtown Fort Collins.

Your dreams are my business.  
**970.209.8491**  
[WWW.JCLDRESSAGE.COM](http://WWW.JCLDRESSAGE.COM)

TERRI MILLER

# A BIT OF TACK

WE SPEAK HORSE  
PREVIOUSLY DISCOUNT HORSE SUPPLY

For All Disciplines  
Show Clothing Riding Apparel Tack Grooming & Stable Supplies Gifts and More

INTRODUCING  
**NEW OWNERS,  
NEW NAME,  
SAME LOCATION**  
WE SPEAK HORSE

**Toll Free  
866.766.8225**

**Local  
303.841.9128**

Located 10 min.  
North of Colorado Horse Park



12543 N. State Highway 83 (2 blocks N. of Lincoln on Parker Road), Parker, CO 80134 • [www.abitoftack.com](http://www.abitoftack.com)  
Open 7 days a week • M-F: 10-6 Sat: 10-5 Sun: 10-4  
Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express • We ship UPS!

# Trainer Talk with Sarah Martin

## HALF-HALT INSIGHTS

What is a half halt and how do you ride one? Aside from the timeless human query of “why am I here?” this may be the most commonly asked question amongst Dressage riders. As with any widely asked question, there are a myriad of answers. In this article I will be addressing just a few of the many insights into half halts.

Half halts come in many forms, and are used for a range of reasons, from rebalancing a horse to making transitions, to redirecting a horse’s focus. Distilled down to bare bones, however, you want to remember that the half halt is a sequence of aids from the rider to the horse designed to increase engagement of the back.

The aids themselves are:

A quick, light closing of the calf or spur

Followed by a tucking action of the rider’s gluteus [butt] muscles

Into a temporary restraint from the rider’s hand over the rein

Immediately followed by a release [without dropping- that’s the hard part!] of the hand

Supported by an immediate repetition of closing the leg.

Aside from being able to keep a continuous flow of energy from the horse’s abdominal muscles into their back, allowing a deeper step of the hind leg and creating a stronger bascule over the topline, the rider must be able to allow this energy unimpeded through their own body in order not to block the horse. This requires feel, and it actually can be both taught and learned by those not naturally gifted in this area [and believe me, very few riders truly have this degree of natural feel]. The answer lies in teaching yourself “timing”.

Ideally, a half halt is ridden within the space of time that it takes a horse to place one of his feet on the ground and lift it back off again. Half halts timed to the moment of impact influence and create transitions, one’s ridden while the leg is airborne influ-

ence lateral yielding.

To understand this, first teach yourself to feel each of the horse’s legs as they impact the ground. Start at the walk and learn one leg at a time- for example, start with the right front. Once you know the feeling of the leg hitting the ground, start the sequence of the half halt as described earlier. Be sure that by the time the leg is leaving the ground you are ending with the last, light closing of your leg. All within the moment of the right front leg impacting the ground, bearing weight, and preparing to lift, you close your leg, tuck your seat, restrain the rein, release the rein and close your leg again. That is how quick you will become.

Teach yourself to do this with the movement of each leg- right front, right hind, left front, left hind. Start with the walk, then move to the rising trot. Then the sitting trot. Then the canter. Really! Like watching a Karate Master whose hand seems to move faster than light, as you practice this sequence and learn to feel each leg in each gait, you will find it more easily each day, until eventually it does not seem fast at all.

Now that you know the sequence and the timing, what is a half halt used for? Done correctly, the half halt stimulates the horse’s abdominal muscles, causing the back to be lifted and allowing an increased range of motion for the hind leg. An active hind leg enables the horse to become more round through his back and lifted underneath your seat, which you can feel underneath your sit bones and thighs. In the beginning stages of warm up this is often accompanied by the horse sneezing, coughing lightly, releasing gas or passing manure. This is due to the fact that engaging these muscles stimulates the horse’s muscle memory, and at the beginning, these are the actions the muscles remember. As time goes on [or the warm up continues] the memory of lifting the back to sneeze is replaced by

the memory of responding to a half halt.

In this fashion, the half halt, much like engaging the clutch in a car with a manual transmission, is used to engage the horse’s back to help with their balance during a transition, to aid the balance during a stronger moment of bend, to cultivate carrying power from the hind leg, to maintain balance and focus, and to direct the horse’s attention even during an actual halt.

The other mystery surrounding the half halt comes with these questions:

1. How long?
2. How strong?
3. How often?

These are some general answers-

Try to keep it to the moment of the foot-fall, although this will change as training develops the horse’s carrying power.

Play with the intensity of your individual aids to determine this answer. You must experiment in order to learn! Try adding more leg- next time more seat- next time more rein- ideal responses result in the horse coming rounder in his back and neck without bracing. The topline lifts and engages rather than flattening. The bascule of the neck where it emerges from the shoulder gets wider immediately in front of the withers [the trapezius muscle].

On an attentive horse, half halts can be ridden anywhere from one to three times in a row. Try not to ride more than three half halts in a row- even interspersing one stride of “leaving them alone” will often allow a horse to rebalance even when you did not think they were ready.

Perfecting the half halt is part of every rider’s routine, from the world class trainer to the starting rider. None of this is remedial! Only practice will lead you to the answers- so, off to the barn and give it a try!

*By Sarah Martin*

# 2007/2008 Shows & Events

## JANUARY 2007

- 8-10 **Clinic with Siegfried Winkler**, Ft. Collins Equestrian Center  
contact Jill Cantor Lee (970)209-8491
- 11 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-6:** 30 pm Perkins Restaurant  
I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 14 **New Test Clinic** with Janet Brown-Canon Ridge Farm-  
1-4 pm contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435  
slush@drwgw.net
- 14 **"Synergistic Biomechanics" Workshop**, All About the Half-  
Halt, at the Fort Collins Eques. Center contact Jill Cantor Lee  
(970)209-8491
- 18 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairranch.com
- 27 **Mariah Farms Dressage Schooling Show** Series Castle Rock  
contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 llamke@msn.com
- 27-28 **Judges Continuing Education** Kristi Wysocki OPEN to all  
Freedom Farm-Franktown Contact RMDS Central Office  
720-890-7825 rmds@indra.com

## FEBRUARY 2007

- 3 **High Plains Show Readiness & Volunteer Seminar**  
Rec Center Stroh Ranch contact Alex Curnutte 303-663-0358  
curnuttes@msn.com
- 3-4 **USDF 'L' Program-Session A-Lois Yukins**-Paragon-Berthoud  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 10 **TD's and Show Managers Continuing Education** –  
OPEN to all-Table Mtn. Ranch-Golden Contact RMDS Central  
Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 11 **Freestyle Clinic with Barbara Gardner** - Phantom Hill Farm,  
Fort Collins (snow date February 25) Contact Janet Duvall  
970-484-8757 jsduvall@frii.com
- 15 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairranch.com
- 17-18 **Rachel Saavedra Clinic**-Ft Collins Equestrian Center  
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org
- 24 **Mariah Farms Dressage Schooling Show Series**-Castle Rock  
contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 llamke@msn.com

## MARCH 2007

- 3 **High Plains Spring into Dressage Show**-Freedom Farm-  
Elizabeth-RMDS contact Alex Curnutte 303-906-7083  
curnuttes@msn.com
- 8 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-6:** 30 pm Perkins Restaurant  
I-25 & Buchtel-Denver  
Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 10-11 **USDF 'L' Program-Session B**-Janet Foy-Paragon-Berthoud  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 22 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairranch.com
- 24-25 **RMDS Winter Wake-Up** Colorado Springs, CO-USEF-YR  
Qualifier Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435,  
slush@drwgw.net

- 31 **Mariah Farms Dressage Schooling Show Series**-Castle Rock  
contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 llamke@msn.com

- 31-Apr. 1 **USDF FEI JR/ YR Clinic**-George Williams  
contact RMDS Central Office or USDF

## APRIL 2007

- 12 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairranch.com
- 14-15 **Paul Belasik Clinic**-Cottonwood Farm-Grand Junction  
Contact Lynea Schultz-Ela 970-872-3961 lynea@direcway.com
- 14-15 **USDF 'L' Program**-Session C-Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez-  
Somewhere Farm-Elbert Contact Heather Petersen  
719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net
- 21-22 **World Cup-Las Vegas**
- 28-29 **Dressage at the Peak Mid-Spring**-Colorado Springs-USEF-  
YR Qualifier Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435  
slush@drwgw.net
- 28 **Boulder Valley Schooling Show**- Singletree-Boulder  
Contact Patti Taylor 303-772-3087 patti\_taylor@earthlink.net
- 29 **Boulder Valley Spring Fling**-Singletree-Boulder-RMDS  
Contact Patti Taylor 303-772-3087 patti\_taylor@earthlink.net

## MAY 2007

- 5-6 **Columbine Show #1**-Columbine Equest. Center-Littleton-  
USEF Contact Dorothy Rohrbach 303-646-2309
- 10 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting-6:** 30 pm Perkins Restaurant  
I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 11-13 **Grand Valley Spring Show #1 & 2**-Grand Junction-USEF  
Contact Candace Graus 970-245-2886
- 12 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series #1**-Saturday-Longmont- RMDS  
contact Jane Donnelly 970-669-5775 dendy20@msn.com
- 12 **Dressage for the Cure**-Cottonwood Riding Club-Littleton  
RMDS Contact Tara Gandomcar 303-791-7656
- 20 **Foothills Spring Dressage Show**-Table Mtn Ranch-Golden  
RMDS Contact Kathy King Johnson 303-494-0905
- 24 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairranch.com
- 25-27 **Dressage in the Plains I & II**-Peyton-USEF  
Contact Camille Griffin 719-488-2812 camillegriffin@msn.com
- 26-27 **Dalwhinnie Dressage Show I & II**-Ridgway-USEF-YR Qualifier  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drwgw.net

## JUNE 2007

- 5-7 **Karl Mikolka Clinic**-Ft Collins Equestrian Center  
Contact Ann Hagaman 970-493-4662
- 8-10 **Dressage at High Prairie #1,#2,#3**-Parker-USEF-YR Qualifier  
contact Glenda McElroy 818—841-3554
- 9-10 **USDF 'L' Program-Session D1**-Lois Yukins-Colorado Horse  
Park Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drwgw.net

# 2007/2008 Shows & Events

- 16-17 **NCD A Rocky Mountain Dressage Classic**-Ft Collins-USEF  
contact Jane Donnelly 970-669-5775
- 16-17 **Black Hills Dressage Show**-Rapid City, SD USEF  
Contact Sue Hinker 605-348-2816 thinker@rapidnet.com
- 21 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com
- 22-23 **Sage Creek #1 & #2**-Charleston, UT-USEF-YR Qualifier  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net23
- 23-24 **Columbine Show #2**-Columbine Equest. Center-Littleton-  
USEF Contact Dorothy Rohrbach 303-646-2309
- 30-7/1 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festival I**-Longmont, CO-USEF-YR  
Qual. Contact Jane Donnelly 970-669-5775 dendy20@msn.com

## JULY 2007

- 8-13 **Junior Camp**-CSU-Ft Collins Contact Hollee Price  
720-275-8311 - hollee24k@comcast.net
- 12 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting**-6: 30 pm Perkins Restaurant  
I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 15 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series #2**-Longmont- RMDS  
contact Jane Donnelly 970-669-5775 dendy20@msn.com
- 19 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com
- 20-22 **Dressage at the Peak Summer Warm-Up & Show**-Colorado  
Springs-USEF Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435  
slush@drgw.net
- 27-29 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festival II**-Longmont, CO-USEF  
Contact Jane Donnelly 970-669-5775 dendy20@msn.com
- 28-29 **Sage Creek #3 & 4**-Charleston, UT-USEF  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

## AUGUST 2007

- 3-5 **Dressage in the Rockies #1,2,3**-Parker-USEF  
contact Glenda McElroy 818—841-3554
- 11-12 **Cheyenne Dressage & Eventing Dressage Show**  
**CANCELLED** Expect to return in 2008 - contact  
rlheckert@msn.com
- 18 **Dressage at Sun Prairie**-Sun Prairie Farm-Peyton-USEF  
Contact Camille Griffin 303-663-0041 719-488-2812 camille  
griffin@msn.com
- 19 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series #3**-Longmont - RMDS  
contact Jane Donnelly 970-669-5775 dendy20@msn.com
- 23 **Janet Foy Clinic-Black Forest Area** contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com
- 24-26 **Paragon Dressage I,II,III**-Colorado Horse Park-Parker-USEF  
contact Martha Fischer
- 25-26 **Utah Dressage Society Annual Show I II**-Charleston, UT-  
USEF Contact Eva-Maria Adolphi 801-254-3247  
adolphi@redrock.net

## SEPTEMBER 2007

- 1 **Aspen Ridge Schooling Show**-Monument, CO Contact  
Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 1 **Grand Valley Fall Show**-Grand Junction-USEF  
Contact Candace Graus-970-245-2886
- 2 **Western Slope Championship & Open Show** contact  
Candace Graus 970-245-28862
- 2 **Aspen Ridge Dressage**-Monument, CO-RMDS  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 8 **Boulder Valley Schooling Show** Somerset-Longmont  
Contact Jeannette Hillery 303-494-7718  
jmhillery915@comcast.net
- 9 **Boulder Valley So Long to Summer Show** Somerset-  
Longmont-RMDS Contact Jeannette Hillery 303-494-7718  
jmhillery915@comcast.net
- 13 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting**-6: 30 pm Perkins Restaurant  
I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 20 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com
- 26 **RMDS Breed Championships & Open Breed Show**  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
- 27-30 **RMDS Dressage Championships & Dressage Open Show** -  
Parker-USEF Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435,  
slush@drgw.net
- 27-30 **Region V Championships**-Parker-USEF  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net

## OCTOBER 2007

- 11 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com
- 13-14 **Paul Belasik Clinic**-Cottonwood Farm-Grand Junction  
Contact Lynea Schultz-Ela 970-872-3961 lynea@direcway.com
- 13-14 **USDF Adult Jane Savoie Clinic**-Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins  
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

## NOVEMBER 2007

- 8 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com
- 10 **RMDS Board of Directors & Awards Banquet** -  
NCD A Chapter

## DECEMBER 2007

- 6 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area contact Patricia Janssen  
719-749-9866 patricia@parfairtranch.com

## SEPTEMBER 2008

- 25 **RMDS Breed Championships & Open Breed Show**  
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
- 26-28 **RMDS Dressage Championships & Dressage Open Show** -  
Parker-USEF Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435,  
slush@drgw.net

**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 Gavin Ehringer, PO Box 9, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 ph. 719-471-8764, e-mail gavinehringer@earthlink.net.

**ADVERTISING**

RMDS office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301 ph. 720-890-7825, e-mail rmds@rmds.org.

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**

For information about corporate advertising and/or sponsorships, please contact Beth Geier (contact info above).

Artwork (ads) must be provided in electronic format only. Acceptable forms include: JPG, PDF, TIFF, EPS, Quark XPress (include all fonts and image files). IF UNSURE ABOUT AD FORMATTING, please contact editor (contact info above) for consultation and advice. Microsoft Word IS NOT an acceptable form of advertisement submission, except in the case of classified ads.

*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 e-mail 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**

E-mail ads to: RMDs@rmds.org, and cc the electronic copy to: gavinehringer@earthlink.net. Send payment and hard-copy to: RMDS Office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301.

**AD RATES AND SIZE SPECIFICATIONS.**

Classified.....\$12 per item for sale.  
w/photo .....\$22 per item for sale.  
Full page .....\$125.....7.5" x 9.5"  
Half page .....\$85.....7.5" x 4.75"  
Outside back half.....\$100.....7.5" x 4.75"  
1/4 page.....\$50.....3.75" x 4.25"  
1/8 page (business card) .....\$25.....3.625" x 2.25"  
Ask about discounts for multi-month or annual ad contracts.

**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, not necessarily the RMDS, its officers or employees.

**TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS - Get on the World Wide 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: Michael Petersen, 12395 Gull Lane, Peyton, CO 80831, ph. 719-683-8435 or e-mail: webmaster@rmds.org (note on the subject line "trainer info").

Please include your name, phone number(s), postal addresses, e-mail, locations where you train and other pertinent info, i.e. awards, certifications, lesson types, schooling horses, etc.

The website averages 200 hits per month on the trainer page and RMDS receives 25-30 e-mails per month requesting names of trainers/instructors 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 webmaster is notified in advance (webmaster@rmds.org), the ad will be removed from the website once the date of the event advertised has passed.

Please limit content of the ads to 20 words. E-mail and website addresses will be displayed as links.

Because of the implicit connection to the RMDS, we reserve the rights to:

- 1. Refuse any ad.
- 2. Edit ad content.
- 3. Limit the number of ads displayed at any one time.

**Be Creative! Centaur Writers & Photographers Sought!**

Features: 750-1,500 words.  
Clinic reviews: 750-1,000 words (be sure to include date, place, & instructor's name and background).  
Junior Corner: 500-750 words. Get a jump on a career as an equine journalist! Tell us about your horse, a contest, or anything YOU think is cool!  
Trainer/Judge/Vet Talk: Submit your questions, we will find an expert to write a reply.  
Editor: gavinehringer@earthlink.net



# HIGH PLAINS SPRING INTO DRESSAGE SHOW

RMDS # 1054

Location: . . . . . Freedom Farms, 2142 Delbert Rd, Elizabeth CO  
Show Date: . . . . . March 3rd, 2007 OPENS: Feb 16, 2007 CLOSES: Feb 24, 2007

MANAGER: . . . . . Alexandra Curnutte CURNUTTES@MSN.COM 303-906-7083  
SECRETARY: . . . . . Kate Engel, kengelco@yahoo.com 303-717-6764 (also show phone)  
MAIL ENTRIES to: . . . . . Kate Engel, 19172 E Clear Creek Dr, Parker, CO 80134  
JUDGE: . . . . . Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez ( S )  
TD: . . . . . Jane McBride

Divisions offered all classes: O= Open, J=Junior/Young Rider, A=Adult Amateur

#	Class #	Class #	Class	Class	Class
1	Training 1	7	First 3	13	Third 1
2	Training 2	8	First 4	14	Third 2
3	Training 3	9	Second 1	15	Third 3
4	Training 4	10	Second 2	16	Fourth 1
5	First 1	11	Second 3	17	Fourth 2
6	First 2	12	Second 4	18	Fourth 3
				19	FEI Test of Choice1 *
				20	FEI Test of Choice2* *Indicate which test

ENTRIES: \$25.00 per class, \$30.00 office fee per horse rider combination (includes lunch ticket). Please enclose proof of RMDS Horse/Rider/Owner Membership. If entering Adult Amateur division, a photocopy of your current USEF Amateur card is REQUIRED. NO USEF drug fees, non-member fees or bridle tag deposits. \$15.00 fee for changes made after closing. Please use 2007 RMDS entry form. Post entries accepted, if space permits, with \$15.00 late fee and secretary's approval. \$30.00 bad check fee and any collection/bank fees charged. Make checks payable to HIGH PLAINS DRESSAGE. Send entries to Secretary.

STABLING: Limited over night full door stalls: \$25/night- contact Barn Manager, Deb Wilke 303-829-3805, Day pens \$20/day same contact.

REFUNDS: To close date, no excuse necessary; however, Office fee is non-refundable at any time. After close date, refunds only if ride(s) refilled from waitlist. Management reserves the right to determine weather cancellations.

TIMES: Include Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) with entry or provide valid EMAIL address. Ride times will be sent out Tues prior. Emailed times sent Wed.

AWARDS: Ribbons to sixth place for each division. All ties broken EXCEPT 1st Place. High score ribbon/prizes for each division, each level, with minimum 3 entries (otherwise combined as needed).

FOOTING: Indoor 20 x 60 sand arena, sand outdoor warm up.

VET/FARRIER: On call- Numbers posted by office

EMT: Onsite.

CONCESSIONS: Lunch ticket provided with entry. Morning Coffee/Tea provided by HP. Refreshments and additional lunches available.

DIRECTIONS: From Parker Road, take Bayou Gulch Road east, turn right onto Flintwood. Turn left/east onto Grant. Turn left/north onto Delbert Rd. Freedom first right.

OTHER: No dogs, please.

## HIGH PLAINS CHAPTER SHOW READINESS SEMINAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 9:30-2:30  
CREEKSIDE REC. CENTER, STROH RANCH, PARKER  
FEATURING KATE ENGEL'S "ENTRIES 101"  
and  
VOLUNTEER HOW TO'S

### SESSIONS TO BE INCLUDED:

ENTRY & MEMBERSHIP 9:30-10:30 & 12:30-1:30

See the new entry form and how to fill one out. Get help on which memberships you need and how to join.

SCRIBING & SCORING 10:30-11:30 & 1:30-2:30

Using real tests and with the help of an L judge, learn how to scribe and total score sheets.

RING STEWARD AND EQUIPMENT RULES

Learn the rules on bits & whips. Find out what a ring steward really is suppose to do.

BE A WELL DRESSED COMPETITOR

See for yourself the protocol of show attire. When is a Top Hat appropriate? Spirit Horse Saddlery will help you.

All day.

GROOMING TRICKS AND BASICS

Frances Carbonnel will present ideas and tips for proper turn out of your horse. Do you need to braid and what kinds of braids? Ask Frances.

RSVP BY JANUARY 30TH

\$5.00\$ RMDS MEMBERS

\$10:00\$ NON-MEMBERS

CONTACT KATE ENGEL e-mail [engel@yahoo.com](mailto:engel@yahoo.com)

303 840-1559

OR

ALEX CURNUTTE e-mail: [curnuttes@msn.com](mailto:curnuttes@msn.com)

303 663- 0358

There are few "eventing barns" in Colorado, so decorated stalls from a specific stable or trainer aren't a common sight. I didn't know very many people so I just started talking to folks when I had questions. It was a great learning experience just watching and talking to people.

I do feel a little "left out" at times as I'm not part of a dressage barn represented at the competition. Dolly (Janet) Hannon didn't have her tack room set up at this show. While people are nice, there is a sense of barn cliques. Eventers are a hardy lot and are very open and friendly. They welcome all newcomers to the sport, especially amateur adults. Because Eventing is fairly dangerous, eventers are very supportive of one another. The competition is more you and your horse against the course (preserving your dressage score) versus competitors feeling that they are competing against each other.

The judging seemed similar to the scores and comments I receive at events. However, it's my opinion that event judging can be a bit more inconsistent in the scores for certain movements. I have found that the scoring for the stretchy/chewy trot varies some. I have been scored lower at events if the horse's nose doesn't come out even though his head and neck are below his withers and he's maintained the elasticity of the gait. Dressage judges seem to expect "more" (in terms of straightness, connection, balance and impulsion) of each movement than event judges do.

In Eventing, we always use the smaller arena, that is 20 meters x 40 meters. I find it difficult to get as forward and brilliant a ride in this smaller venue. I feel I ride well in the larger arena because I ride more forward and have more time to prepare for transitions. I much prefer riding in the larger arena. The judge's comments tend to be consistent between the two types of competitions. The US Eventing Assoc. is trying very hard to educate their dressage judges to have consistency throughout USEF. Many times, the Eventing judges are dressage judges as well.

In 2005, I was thrilled to win my classes at training level and qualify for the RMDS/Region V championships. I attended the 2005 American Eventing Cham-

ionships in North Carolina. What a thrill it was to travel all the way to North Carolina to compete with eventers from all over the US. The event was run very well with good footing in the arenas and a great cross country course. The cross country course wound thru the trees with some hilly ter-



*Andria Allen's dressage training has helped propel her toward overall success as a competitive eventer. Her athleticism is apparent in this jump!*

rain. We had two water obstacles. My favorite jump was the painted wooden mushrooms. It was fun to watch Olympic and national level riders compete. I competed at novice level. I was second after dressage with a score of 76. Of course, I still had to complete the cross country course and stadium jumping. I rode both the cross country and stadium phases with no faults or time penalties. But, I have no doubt that my dressage was a key component of my success.

This year I moved up to first level. What a thrill as I have never done this before! I worked hard thru the winter with Janet (Dolly) Hannon as we introduced both my horse and myself to first level movements and requirements. This year we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the RMDS championships and won the RMDS amateur and open first level horse of the year. I couldn't have been more surprised or thrilled. It never occurred to me that I could or would win a dressage year end award.

I find that my dressage work helps both my horse and me with our jumping. The precision of dressage translates well to stadium jumping because it helps the horse develop his longitudinal flexibility and through a better lateral response and more suppleness improves the ability to place the horse at the right spot to the jump. It's im-

portant as the technical aspects of the courses get more challenging to be able to rate your horse not only in reference to pace, but adjustability in terms of placement over the jump as well as the take off point. Your horse must be able to be longer or shorter in the take off "spot" and hit a precise point

on the jump to make the time and not take down rails. On the other hand, cross country requires that the horse be able to think on his feet, fend for himself a bit and have a strong self preservation instinct. I think a good gallop keeps both of us fresh, fit and happy. The three phases of eventing provide for great cross training, both physically and mentally enhancing the horse and rider connection.

I ride five days a week with two dressage rides, one day of jumping, a trail ride, and lunging one day. I work gallops and cross country jumping into this regimen as well. I find the riding is quite a workout in itself but try to

stay fit with jogging three days a week, weight lifting two days a week and mountain biking and hiking on the weekends. (Yup, it takes a lot of time and energy). I feel riding well requires as much fitness from the rider as it does from the horse with good cardiovascular fitness needed to ride the cross country phase well.

When I told an event friend that I went to a dressage show, she asked me if I was totally bored. I replied that I have never been bored because I have a great appreciation for the work, dedication and effort that it takes to achieve correct dressage movements. I have really enjoyed going to dressage shows, meeting dressage riders, and working on my own skills. I look forward to my lessons with Dolly and the constant challenge of moving forward in dressage. In 2007, horse soundness willing, I plan to move up to second level, a first for me and my horse. I know this will only help me with my Eventing and be a lot of fun too.

Of course, nothing beats a successful cross country jumping gallop!

*The author wishes to thank Dolly Hannon, trainer, coach and friend, for her editing assistance and her encouragement in preparing this article. The Centaur wishes to thank Andria for this excellent and interesting contribution.*



**WESTMANTON STABLES** Established in 1984



**3 instructor/trainers:**

**Grant Schneidman**  
USDF Silver & Gold Medals

**Sharon Schneidman**  
USDF Gold Medal & 35 years of FEI dressage

**Nicole Gluesenkamp**  
German FN Bereiter

[www.westmantonstables.com](http://www.westmantonstables.com)

<b>Cañon Ridge Farms</b> 2940 Cañon Ridge Road Castle Rock, Colorado 80104 USA	<b>Westmanton Stables LLC</b> 7493 Windlawn Way Parker CO 80134 Tel & Fax #: 303.841.5280 E-mail: gsschneidman@comcast.net
---	--



**Quality Care & Personalized Instruction  
Equal a Winning Combination**

- ❖ Box stalls with daily turnout.
- ❖ Blanketing included with board.
- ❖ Full size indoor and outdoor arenas with excellent footing.
- ❖ Conveniently located just minutes from Parker.
- ❖ Four feedings per day.
- ❖ Flexible training packages for you and your horse from our instructors.

**For Boarding Information, contact:**  
**Deb Wilke, Manager**  
303.829.3805 (cell) or 720.842.0643 (barn)

**Freedom Farms**  
2142 Delbert Road, Franktown, CO 80116  
John and Pat Propp, Owners  
[www.freedomfarmsinc.net](http://www.freedomfarmsinc.net)

## Technical Delegates, Judges & Certified Instructors

### Dressage Judges Ratings & Levels Qualified to Judge

Status	Status	Levels	Status	Status	Levels
"L"	Learner*	Training-Second (RMDS only)	"S"	Senior	All Levels
"r"	Recorded	Training-Second	"I"	International	All Levels
"R"	Registered	Training-Fourth	"O"	Olympic	All Levels

\* May only judge at RMDS shows.

Any class ridden before a judge not qualified to judge at that level must ride "Hor's d'concours" (score does not count).

<b>FEI 'I'</b>	Simone Ahern-Harless*
Janet Foy	719-749-9274
719-260-1566	Francie Brashear
	303-840-7626
<b>USEF 'S'</b>	Gigi Brittain
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez	303-681-2516
303-642-7708	Julie Burt
Sandra Hotz	719-852-5269
303-817-2030	Rae Ann Cook *
	970-225-1408
<b>USEF 'R'</b>	Emmy Detlof
Janet "Dolly" Hannon	719-495-4188
303-919-4112	Kathleen Donnelly*
Kristi Wysocki	970-310-8729
303-648-9877	Marti Foster *
	303-277-1132
<b>USEF 'r'</b>	Beth Geier
Amy Jablonovsky	303-673-9840
970-493-2833	Ilyse Gold
Suzanne Zimmer	970-588-3859
303-478-8325	Jan Goodrich-Spear
	303-664-0152
<b>USDF 'L' Graduate –</b>	Gwen Ka'awaloa *
Schooling & RMDS only	303-646-4363
recognized shows	

Sarah Martin *	719-379-3716
Linda Ohlson-Gross *	303-840-9818
KC Parkins-Kyle	303-841-9953
Sally Robertson	303-237-6915
Kathy Simard*	720-981-4448
Maria Wasson	303-682-9594
Regina Wendler	970-879-7505
Simone Windeler	719-540-2000
<b>Dressage Sport Horse</b>	
<b>Breeding Judge</b>	
Janet Foy 'R'	719-260-1566
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez	'R'
303-642-7708	Kristi Wysocki 'r'
303-648-9877	

<b>TECHNICAL DELEGATES</b>	Susan Selby	303-646-9059
USEF	970-227-9530	Bridget Milnes
Eva-Maria Adolphi (UT) -r	M. Elaine Thomas	303-660-4986
801-254-3247	719-495-1510	Kristi Wysocki
Veronica Holt - R		303-648-9877
303-646-3829	<b>USDF CERTIFIED IN-</b>	
Laurie Mactavish - R	<b>STRUCTORS</b>	
970-390-5160	<b>TRAINING – 2ND</b>	
Deeda Randle (WY) - R	Julie Burt	
307-638-6737	719-852-5269	
Catherine Siemiet - r	Jill Cantor Lee	
719-942-5311	970-686-9163	
Dianne Stanley	RaeAnn Cook	
(MT) - 406-652-4061	970-225-1408	
Libby Stokes - r	Janet "Dolly" Hannon	
303-688-2795	303-279-4546	
<b>RMDS</b>	Sabine Kallas	
Joan Clay	307-733-9497	
970-490-1927	Ellene Kloefer	
Rusty Cook	303-828-3879	
505-877-1456	Clayton Martin	
Jeannette Hillery	719-379-3716	
303-494-7718	Sheri Mattei-Mead	
Jane McBride	970-669-3733	
719-598-4496	Kathryn Meistrell	

<b>USDF CERTIFIED IN-</b>	<b>STRUCTORS</b>
<b>TRAINING – 4th</b>	
Simone Ahern-Harless	
719-749-9274	
Nancy DeVaney	
303-681-2516	
Loma Fowler	
303-841-0417	
Sarah Martin	
719-379-3716	
Kathy Simard	
720-981-4448	
Melinda Weatherford	
970-484-5218	
	*Denotes graduating with distinction

# Classified Ads

## HORSES

**Big beautiful 16.3hds chestnut Oldenburg gelding.** Loves to work! He is intelligent, calm and affectionate. Trained through 3rd level, son of Fabriano. Sadly must Sell. \$9,500 or Best (303)525-4849.

**Andalusian/TB 16hh 6yo bay gelding** for sale. Expressive movement with three pure gaits and big canter. Intelligent, willing, sweet. Easy ground manners and 120 days dressage training at Phantom Hill Farm. \$18,000 Call Sara 970.568.3986

**Roswell Wizard. Rheinlander gelding.** Imported from Germany, earned various USDF and RMDS awards, most recent including 2005 USDF Region 5 Reserve Champion Second and Third level. RMDS Champion Third Level. Also shown in Washington state and Canada, received numerous high point awards in Second & Third Level. He would make a wonderful FEI Young Rider prospect as well. He is energetic, has a great personality. Roswell's owner has moved to Germany to train. \$43,000. Dave: Loonchiro@AOL.com. 303-838-4700.

**Flashy, 5 year old DWB** of color out of Art Deco. Showing at 1st level dressage and jumping 2'6". Excellent training and sweet temperament. She is a great junior/young rider dressage or hunter horse and she enjoys the trails. Asking \$12k, neg to good home. For sale or lease. Contact Colleen at 719-330-6238.

**Holsteiner Bay Gelding 10 years old.** Sound, 16.1, Brilliant and Expressive movement with WOW factor. Going 2nd/3rd Level. Excellent for Jr. Rider, in dressage or H/J. Ability to go Grand Prix. Too much movement for me. Call Francie @ 303-840-7626 Eve. M-F after 6 pm and weekends all day and can leave message.

**Wonderful 14 year old 15h2 chestnut grade QH gelding,** 2006 Reserve Champion Training Level Junior Rider Year End Award first year shown. Scores consistently mid 60's. Very tolerant, kind, sound, unflappable, loves trails. Perfect first dressage horse. To good home! \$6500. Frances 720-979-3120 or Kristen 303-346-2475

**Are you ready to buy** that first horse after taking lessons on those school horses? This is the horse for you. For Sale: Uncomplicated 9 yr old APHA mare, 15.1 hh, bay, black, white tobiano. Training level

Dressage, schooling First and some Second. Some Western training. Super trail horse. In full training with Colleen Diamond at Crooked Willow Farms. AA or Jr. Loving home required. \$7500.00/negotiable to good home only. Contact Colleen at 1-719-330-6238

**Dutch Warmblood Gelding.** 16' 3 Grey 11 years old. Iron Springs Farm Bred and Bought (Famous Sire Roemer). Beautiful mover & Great Temperament. Recent 3rd Level RMDS Champion and RMDS Horse of the Year. Daughter has lost interest Horse must go. Interested please Call Ross @ 303-888-7279.

## TACK/EQUIPMENT

**New Ariat Dress zip boots,** size 8.5, worn twice, \$300 obo. Serena 303-507-9422

**County Competitor 2000 Dressage Saddle,** 17 1/2" seat, medium-wide tree. Excellent condition. \$1,200. Mary, 970-351-6971, 970-302-0059.

*Providing Expertise in Performance  
Horse Medicine and Breeding Management  
~ Convenient Haul In Facilities ~*

**KERRI A. BELSITO, DVM, MBA**

*Equine Performance Specialists of the Rockies*



**Areas of Interest**

- Lameness diagnosis & rehabilitation
- Performance Dentistry
- Acupuncture

**970-215-6856**  
Berthoud, Colorado

VETERINARY & MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, INC.

---



**Richard Wheeler, DVM**  
Diplomate ACT  
Board Certified, Reproduction  
Fort Collins, Colorado

PHONE (970) 484-4466 • MOBILE (970) 227-2320

# DRESSAGE BY THE LETTERS

## An Introduction to the Sport

Dressage (a French term meaning "training") is a path and destination of competitive horse training, with competitions held at all levels from amateur to the Olympics. Its fundamental purpose is to develop, through standardized progressive training methods, a horse's natural athletic ability and willingness to perform, thereby maximizing its potential as a riding horse. At the peak of a dressage horse's gymnastic development, it can smoothly respond to a skilled rider's minimal aids by performing the requested movement while remaining relaxed and appearing effortless. For this reason, dressage is occasionally referred to as "Horse Ballet." Although the discipline has its roots in classical Greek horsemanship, mainly through the influence of Xenophon, dressage was first recognized as an important equestrian pursuit during the Renaissance in Western Europe. The great European riding masters of that period developed a sequential training system that has changed little since then and classical dressage is still considered the basis of trained modern dressage.

Early European aristocrats displayed their horses' training in equestrian pageants, but in modern dressage competition, successful training at the various levels is demonstrated through the performance of "tests," or prescribed series of movements within a standard arena. Judges evaluate each movement on the basis of an objective standard appropriate to the level of the test and assign each movement a score from zero to ten - zero being "not executed" and 10 being "excellent." A score of 9 (or "very good") is considered a particularly high mark.

### Dressage horses

Any riding horse can benefit from use of Dressage principles and training techniques. However, horse breeds most often seen at the Olympics and other international FEI competitions are in the Warmblood horse breeds category. In the non-competitive performances of Classical dressage that involve the "Airs above the ground" described below, the "Baroque" breeds of horses, most notably the Lipizzan, are most often seen. Another popular breed for Dressage is the Friesian horse. However, Dressage is an egalitarian sport in

which all breeds are given an opportunity to successfully compete. Therefore, many other breeds are seen at various levels of competition.

### Competition

Dressage has many different skill levels, your skill level is based on how well your horse is trained and how well you control your horse. You have to make your horse walk, trot, canter, and many other dressage moves like the half pass by subtle reining commands and leg cues. Horses and riders advance through a graduated series of levels, with tests of increasing difficulty at each level, until the most accomplished horse and rider teams compete at the Grand Prix levels and international competition, such as the Olympic games.

Apart from competition, there is a tradition of Classical Dressage, in which the tradition of dressage is pursued as an art form. The traditions of the Old Masters who originated Dressage are kept alive by the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria and the Cadre Noir in Saumur, France. This type of schooling is also a part of the Portuguese and Spanish bullfighting exhibitions.

### Olympic level

The dressage tests performed at the Olympic Games, which were accepted as sport in 1912, are those of the highest level-Grand Prix. This level of test demands the most skill and concentration from both horse and rider.

Gaits and movements performed at this level include collected and extended walk, trot, and canter; trot and canter half-pass (a movement where the horse travels on a diagonal line keeping its body almost parallel with the arena wall while making both forward and sideways steps in each stride); passage (a slow-motion trot); piaffe (an approach to "trot in place"); one and two tempi changes (where the horse changes from one lead to the other in the canter); and pirouettes (a 360-degree circle that is almost in place).

Tests ridden at the Olympic Games are scored by a panel of five international judges. Each movement in each test receives a numeric score and the resulting final score is then converted into a percent-

age, which is carried out to three decimal points. The higher the percentage, the higher the score.

Olympic team medals are won by the teams with the highest, second highest, and third highest total percentage from their best three rides in the Grand Prix test.

Once the team medals are determined, horses and riders compete for individual medals. The team competition serves as the first individual qualifier, in that the top 25 horse/rider combinations from the Grand Prix test move on to the next round. The second individual qualifier is the Grand Prix Special test, which consists of Grand Prix movements arranged in a different pattern. For those 25 riders, the scores from the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Special are then combined and the resulting top 15 horse/rider combinations move on to the individual medal competition-the crowd-pleasing Grand Prix Freestyle.

For their freestyles, riders and horses perform specially choreographed patterns to music. At this level, the freestyle tests may contain all the Grand Prix movements, as well as double canter pirouettes, pirouettes in piaffe, and half-pass in passage. For the freestyle, judges award technical marks for the various movements, as well as artistic marks. In the case of a tie, the ride with the higher artistic marks wins.

### The Training Scale

The dressage training scale is arranged in a pyramid fashion, with "rhythm and regularity" at the bottom of the pyramid and "collection" at the top. The training scale is used as a guide for the training of the dressage horse (or any horse, for that matter). Despite its appearance, the training scale is not meant to be a rigid format. Instead, each level is built on as the horse progresses in his training; so a Grand Prix horse would work on the refinement of the bottom levels of the pyramid, instead of focusing on only the highest level: "collection." The levels are also interconnected. For example, a crooked horse is unable to develop impulsion, and a horse that is not relaxed will be less likely to travel with a rhythmic gait.

*Article is a copy-right free work provided on the Internet website Wikipedia, and may be reproduced in its entirety.*

# Chapter News

## Boulder Valley Dressage

Welcome to 2007 – I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that you are looking forward to an exciting and happy 2007.

This year there are new tests, so be sure to read the Centaur for upcoming clinics and ride a test opportunities. As we look forward to 2007 the club is planning many activities; in addition to our **Spring Fling** and **So Long to Summer Show** we are planning an adult amateur camp, a ride a test clinic before each of the shows and if there is interest a quadrille clinic and a Ride-a-Test to discuss the new tests before the show season starts.

Coming up in the immediate future, our annual banquet is scheduled for January 19, 2007 from 6:30 to 10:00 at the Spice of Life Catering Center. This year we would like to put together a slide show of members' activities through out the year. Please email any pictures you would like to share to either me or Glenda Needles. Her email address is PinsAnd@aol.com. This is your big chance to see yourself on the big screen!

At the banquet will be also be honoring our year end award winners. We will also be announcing the winner of the drawing for turning in your questionnaires. Please email me if you would still like to respond or if you need a new one. Our theme this year is "An Italian Feast" and the cost will be \$35 per person. Please see our website for more information and a reservation form. If you can help out with the banquet please contact Glenna and let her know. As always we welcome all comments and suggestions on how we can make the club better for you remember to check our website for show schedules, upcoming clinics and of course the Banquet Reservations forms. <http://www.bvdressage.org> See you all in January.

*Claudia Barkmeier*

*Club President*

[cbarkmeier@rwbaird.com](mailto:cbarkmeier@rwbaird.com)

303-417-1675

## High Plains Dressage

What a great Holiday party we had! Thanks to Susan Mikula for organizing it. The meeting beforehand was wonderful. Lots of old and new faces, thanks to everyone for showing up. We got a lot of things discussed and planned.

The **Show Readiness Seminar** is all put together. Check out the flyer in the Centaur and on the web site. It should be a wonderfully informative day. Thanks to Kate Engel for getting it started in the first place. This kind of information is invaluable to new members and potential members. I hope that some of you can plan on attending.

Our **Spring into Dressage** show prize list is in this month's Centaur. This show could be a great practice for the Winter Wake Up show later in the month. We are very excited to have Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez as the judge.

High Plains is working on a June 16th and 17th RMDS show at Colorado Horse Park. We are hoping to offer a clinic during the show, geared for the lower level rider and horse combo. We will provide more details as they are available.

The chapter has decided to move their meeting days to the third Tuesday of each month. The start time is moving to 7pm. The January meeting will be at Jock and Jills in Parker, Co. 7pm, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Call Alex Curnutte for more info 303 663 0358 or email [curnuttes@msn.com](mailto:curnuttes@msn.com).

## Foothills Chapter

### **Congratulations to Maureen Yaskanin, the 2006 Foothills Volunteer of the Year!**

Maureen Yaskanin was Secretary of the Foothills Chapter and previously acted as Vice President of the Chapter for three years. She has been a member of RMDS for 10 years.

Aside from attending nearly every monthly Foothills Chapter meeting and preparing meeting minutes, Maureen maintained the e-mail list of chapter members and sent out electronic newsletters, meeting reminders and other notices.

She co-managed the September Foothills show and filled in as Show Secretary. Maureen was coordinator for this 2006

RMDS Awards Banquet. In addition, Maureen owns and competes two horses. Maureen would like to emphasize that several other Chapter members were deserving of the honor of "Volunteer of the Year." For her outstanding contribution to the Foothills Chapter and to RMDS, Maureen is our 2006 Volunteer of the Year.

Foothills looks forward to a new year in 2007 with new officers Valerie Eric as Secretary and Jan Oxman as Vice President joining renewing officers President Kathy Johnson and Treasurer Laura Kaukenbush.

2006 was a rewarding year for Foothills. We started the year in January riding in the RMDS/USDF Judges Forum at Table Mountain Ranch. Seven chapter members volunteered to ride in a large "L" judge training session before Dolly Hannon and Lois Yukins.

The Dynamic Rider System: Pilates for the Equestrian April 13 with Mary Midkiff and Maggie Parker was the most highly attended meeting.

Ride-A-Test April 22<sup>nd</sup> at TMR with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez was well attended and got excellent feedback from our members. In May we inaugurated the \$750 scholarship program—winner Dolly Hannon was announced in June. The July Freestyle Fest and Pool Party provided great barbeque and a great break from the heat. The August and September RMDS shows went smoothly and both made a good profit. Foothills Chapter hosted the Board of Governors' meeting and Awards Banquet in November.

In addition, the chapter bought a large screen TV with DVD and video player to supplement the Foothills video library. We resurrected the website at [www.foothills-dressage.org](http://www.foothills-dressage.org), providing a valuable resource for our members with everything from show entry forms to a list of the video library.

Personally, I would like to thank my 2006 board members and team: Christian Hawley, Laura Quakenbush, and Maureen Yaskanin for all their support and hard work. We are looking forward to another great year in 2007.

*Kathy King Johnson, Foothills Chpt. Pres.*



## 2007 USDF/Region 5 Adult Clinic

*featuring Jane Savoie*

**“Believe You Can; Ride the Possibilities”**

**Generously Hosted By  
Phantom Hill Farm  
Fort Collins, CO  
October 13-14, 2007**

### Clinic Information

If you pre-registered to audit, your name will be on the registration list provided to the organizer and a pre-printed name tag will be available for you at the clinic which will serve as your ticket. If you walk in, there will be registration forms and blank name tags at the registration desk. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to facilitate planning, and current USDF members save up to \$15 if they pre-register. For the clinic, walk-ins should plan to bring a chair if possible, just in case.

**FOOD**  
TBA

### SPONSORS, DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

The use of Phantom Hill Farm has been generously provided and Beth Geier, Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, and other clinic staff, and volunteers have put forth considerable effort to ensure this clinic's success. USDF could not provide many of its programs without this type of generosity. Please make every effort to thank these individuals personally and consider sending a thank you note following the clinic.

### CLINIC SCHEDULE –8 am – approx. 5 pm Saturday and Sunday

The rides will start at training level and move up the levels from there.  
A more detailed schedule will be posted when riders are selected for this clinic.

### VIDEOTAPING/PHOTOGRAPHS

Riders may have their sessions videotaped for their own private use. Still photography for private use only is permitted. No video or photographic image from the clinic may be sold or distributed in any form without the prior expressed written consent of USDF.

### CLINIC ORGANIZER

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society  
Beth Geier  
720-890-7825  
[rmds@indra.com](mailto:rmds@indra.com)

### CLINIC FACILITY

Phantom Hill Farm  
970-225-1408  
[www.phantomhillfarm.com](http://www.phantomhillfarm.com)  
[phfdressage@msn.com](mailto:phfdressage@msn.com)

### USDF CONTACT

Katherine L. Robertson  
United States Dressage Federation, Inc  
USDF Senior Coordinator – Instructors & Trainers  
4051 Iron Works Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859-271-7877 or Fax 859-971-7722  
[adultclinics@usdf.org](mailto:adultclinics@usdf.org)  
[www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)

### HOTEL INFORMATION:

Contact local organizer for a list of local hotels

### DIRECTIONS TO Phantom Hill Farm, 7808 S. LeMay Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525

The following is the link to their website for further directions and information about the facility.

[www.phantomhillfarm.com](http://www.phantomhillfarm.com)

# Business Ads

Lunge Lessons Can Help You  
Develop Balance, Feel & Timing!

Your Horse or  
My GP Schoolmaster

Kelly O'Leary

720-480-8266



## Rocky Mountain Equine Massage Therapy

Carolyn Knapp-Nelson  
CEMT

A unique style to help your horse balance movement

Discounts for multiple  
horses at a single location

720-985-7107, cell  
Boulder to Parker, I-70



## Spirit Horse Saddlery

Michelle Albertus

www.spirithorsesaddlery.com

303.646.1049

Cell 303.910.0094

Fax 303.646.3976

241 East Kiowa Avenue

Po Box 814

Elizabeth, CO 80107

michelle@spirithorsesaddlery.com

## Steve's Farrier Services Professional Hoofcare

Hot and Cold Shoeing  
Trimming : Balancing

Certified by AFA &  
Arizona Racing Comm

1200 S Pratt Pkwy  
Longmont, CO 80501

720-353-0787

Give your horse that feeling  
of walking on air!

## Classical Legacy

PROMOTING CLASSICAL EQUITATION AND THE ANDALUSIAN HORSE

FRANCES CARBONNEL

USDF Bronze and Silver Medallist

303-646-0521 H • 720-979-3120 C

www.classicallegacy.com

SALES • CLINICS • INSTRUCTION

## Raian Kaiser, certified Instructor



Now offers the unique and gentle  
bodywork of The Equine Touch for  
your horse, and Vibromuscular  
Harmonization for you.

Part of a comprehensive training program  
with a focus on improving your seat  
and your horse's gaits.

(970) 203-0725

equinetouchinfo@yahoo.com

## JANET "DOLLY" HANNON



Dressage Instruction  
Training - Clinics  
USEF "R" Judge

Cell: 303-919-4112

Barn: 303-279-4546

E-mail: dollyhannon@msn.com

1364 Wyoming St., Golden, Colo.  
80403



## FOXCREEK

Mobile Equine Outfitters

(303) 413-0179

1750 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 86., Boulder, CO 80301

foxcreekmeo.com

# Business Ads



**HAPPY HORSE**  
TACK & SADDLE SHOP

**NOW SHOP ONLINE!!!**  
[www.happyhorsetack.com](http://www.happyhorsetack.com)

113 Peterson Street Ft. Collins, Colorado **970.484.4199**

-Featuring *Amerigo Saddles*  
-Custom Cavallo Boots  
-Tack & Blanket Repairs  
-Frequent Buyer Programs  
-Quantity Discounts for stable products and awards!

**FLYING STAR STABLES, LLC**




- ◆ Training - Boarding
- ◆ Lessons - Clinics
- ◆ Young Horses Started
- ◆ Horses and Tack for Sale

Albion Trained Saddle Fitter, Dealer  
Exclusive Colorado Duett Dealer



**Kim Benson**  
(303) 655-1815  
[FlyingStar@mesanetworks.net](mailto:FlyingStar@mesanetworks.net)  
[www.flyingstarstables.com](http://www.flyingstarstables.com)



**Duett**  
Saddles



*Professional, Artistic Images  
of Horses & Their People*

*Living Images*  
BY CAROL WALKER

phone 303.823.6642 • email [cw@LivingImagesCJW.com](mailto:cw@LivingImagesCJW.com)  
Visit our online portfolio at [www.LivingImagesCJW.com](http://www.LivingImagesCJW.com)

**Specializing in Sports Psychology  
for Equestrians**



**Gargot Farms**  
3833 West County Road 8  
Berthoud, CO 80513  
(970) 351-7121 • (970) 443-5467  
[www.mentaladvantagegf.com](http://www.mentaladvantagegf.com)

Dr. Margot P. Nacey (#1716)  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

The Mental Advantage Program  
EMDR  
Imagery & Visualization  
Performance Enhancement  
Seminars and Clinics  
Pony Camp

**RMDS BRIDLE  
TAGS  
Make Great Gifts!**

\$30 for a Pair  
Contact RMDS Central Office  
for more details  
(720) 890-7825

*Show Managers*

*Show Secretaries*

Wonderful booklet of  
"How To" information  
\$25, postage included  
Contact RMDS Central Office  
for more details.



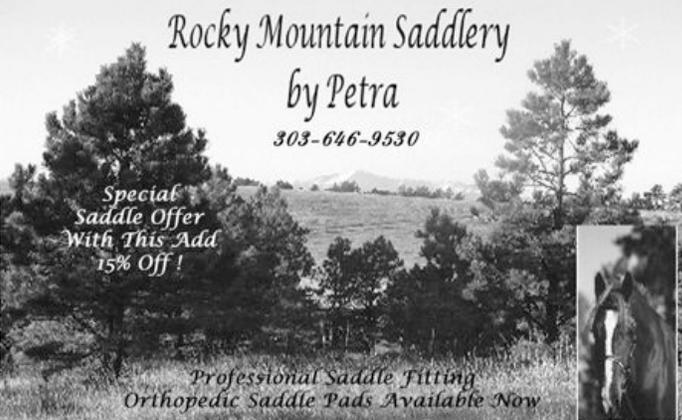
**Southwest  
Sport Horse**

Kristina K. Lee  
505-352-3789 (Phone/Fax)

505-980-3005 (Cell) 4705 Pepe Ortiz Rd. SE  
[KLee4@aol.com](mailto:KLee4@aol.com) Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
[www.southwestsporthorse.com](http://www.southwestsporthorse.com)

*Rocky Mountain Saddlery  
by Petra*  
303-646-9530

*Special  
Saddle Offer  
With This Add  
15% Off!*



*Professional Saddle Fitting  
Orthopedic Saddle Pads Available Now*

# Voyage à France

Hermès Corlandus

For expertise you can trust, arrange for an appointment at your place or ours. Beverly Harrison, certified saddle fitter with the Society of Master Saddlers, U.K. Ltd.

Store hours are 9 - 6 Monday through Saturday at:  
1355 Forest Park Circle in Lafayette  
(SE corner of 95th & Arapahoe)  
phone: 303/666-5364 • fax: 303/604-2783  
toll free: 866/303-TACK • email: info@tackcollection.com

[www.tackcollection.com](http://www.tackcollection.com)

HERMÈS • PRESTIGE • KEITH BRYAN • CLIFF BARNSBY • FRANK BAINES • PASSIER • OTTO SCHUMACHER • VERHAN



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE SOCIETY  
2942 PARK LAKE DRIVE  
BOULDER, CO 80301-5139

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Parker, CO  
Permit No. 22