

CENTAUR

educating horse and rider as partners

JANUARY 2014

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Century Rider Shares
Her Secrets to a
Long Life of Riding

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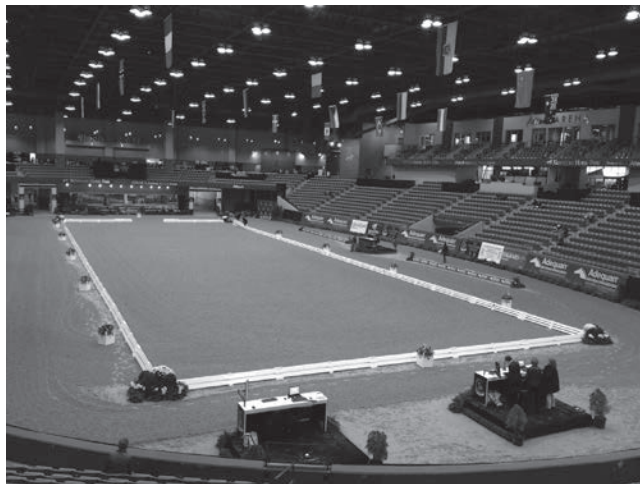
RMDS, Region 5 Members See Top Riding

Many Minds Create Successful New National Dressage Finals

By Sarah Martin

Sarah Martin of Blanca, CO, is a USDF Gold Medalist and member of the the USDF Certified Instructor Faculty.

As one of the representatives from Colorado who stood up at the microphone at many USDF conventions to lobby for a national head-to-head dressage championship, getting to see this inaugural event Nov. 7-10, 2013 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington was important to me. I was part of the task force that hashed through endless structural details that are the backbone of this type of competition: A national showcase for competitors in Adult Amateur and Open divisions, at Training Level through Grand Prix, including Freestyles.



The indoor arena at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Where to have it? How do people qualify? Will we have Wild Cards? How will we fund it? Who will run it? Anyone who gets involved in organizing anything knows how this works – opinions run strong in motivated and competitive people. As we worked through the questions, hours and hours of conference calls were completed.

Once an event like this gets off the ground, the momentum it creates rapidly erases any memory of arguments over whether or not it is a good idea. However, that was a major issue for USDF members and the USDF Executive Board to settle. There was a brief period in the early 1980s when the U.S. had a National Dressage Finals, sponsored by Insilco and held in Kansas City, as that was a “central” location. As one can imagine, that made nobody happy, as most of the U.S. dressage riders were coming from either the East or West Coast. Along with many other issues, this led to the cancellation of the National Championships in that form. Regional Championships were created – with organizers correctly acknowledging that this is one huge country, and that regions were far more capable of putting their championships on at a time of year that best suited their constituents.

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President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2014 IS HERE

The New Year means new goals and dreams. My wish is that everyone can achieve their goals and reach high for satisfaction in all their riding.

For the first time I had the privilege to attend the USDF Convention and represent RMDS. To top it off I had a wonderful traveling companion in our Vice President, Aline. We had a great time attending educational meetings and participating as delegates. 2014 will bring more opportunities to explore and host some of the new educational events proposed at the Convention.

As we meet in January at the Executive Board meeting we will be discussing the educational opportunities.



Gwen Ka'awaloa earned her USDF Gold Medal in 2012 with her horse Safarie.

After a successful show season in 2013 RMDS hopes to make a super show in 2014. We welcome ideas and participation at the September RMDS and Region 5 Championships. Each

Chapter needs to work on their goals for their members too since smaller groups can offer more hands on training and discussion.

Read the entire Centaur and keep up with the website as RMDS has many educational opportunities planned and more may be scheduled in February. Remember this is your organization so let us know what we can do for you. Check out all the ways RMDS and USDF have to further your dressage education. I hope that this letter finds everyone in good health and happiness and your equine partners are doing well.

Aloha,

Gwen Ka'awaloa, President, RMDS

Vice President's Message

What a great holiday season we have had in Colorado! I want to thank every member of RMDS for being part of our dynamic and inspirational dressage community. I was pleasantly surprised at the USDF Annual Convention (December 4-8th 2013), to find that we are one of the most active and supportive dressage clubs in America. Some states are lucky to have ONE show per year! Most dressage societies have not experienced the growth RMDS has in membership, clinics, education, and shows. For most states, this kind of dressage "mania" is unheard of, and the dressage clubs struggle. I visited with some of those clubs and marveled at our wonderful fortune to have such educated and generous members.

The convention is well-organized, but there is a lot of work involved when the entire dressage community of America comes together to vote, brainstorm, educate, and train future dressage leaders. RMDS made a great



Aline Brandau with her 8-year-old black Hanoverian "Aline's Sara" out of Simply Spruce Meadows bloodline.

showing at the Board of Governors cheering the loudest and winning the most GMO Baskets!

The USDF Annual Convention gives RMDS a voice in the voting process for how dressage will be taught and grown in America. There were four days of meetings focused on commit-

tees working to educate and include more riders in dressage. Veterinarians and specialists held continuing education classes on the dressage horse. These speakers were the best in the country. The effect of the camaraderie was a general attitude of ebullience, and an overflowing of joy. There is great power in being positive, and RMDS needs each volunteer, and each rider to join with us, attend some meetings and let your voice be heard.

I want to thank RMDS for letting me serve the great dressage community in Colorado. I was proud to attend the convention and met many judges, TDs, and officials who are the inspirational backbone of the sport. Please feel free to call me with any questions! I am here to strengthen communication within RMDS and to address all concerns you may have this year.

Warmest Regards,

Aline Brandau, Vice President, RMDS

Arkansas Valley Chapter

AVDA had a great year with 2 Ride-a-Tests and a schooling show. We have had several new members join and love the new growth! Some of AVDA's members participated in RMDS shows in 2013. We want to congratulate the following members: Adult Amateurs Karen Randall on General with 3 scores 60% and above at 1st Level and Margie McNew on Stampin' Pirate with 2 scores above 60% in 3rd Level. In Junior/YR we have Summer LaDeau on Cassidy with 6 scores above 60% in Training Level. And in the Open division we have 3 members to congratulate: Mimi Junick rode 3 different horses with 17 scores from Training to 2nd Level. Horses were Butterfly Kisses (TR), Big Idea (1st and 2nd L) and Medicine Man (1st Level). Of Mimi's scores, 5 of them were above 70%! Jamee Amundson rode Durango at 3rd Level with one score above 60%. Tara Nolan rode Donzerarlylite, earning one score above 60% in 4th Level and Prix St George. Sarah Martin on Bapolita at 2nd L had 1 score above 60%. We are excited to have such a great roster of members and looking forward to growing more and learning more in 2014! Also we are thrilled that Sarah Martin is a member of the Region 5 council of the USDF Instructor Trainer Committee and a USDF Instructor/Trainer Program faculty member. She always strives to be the best and is definitely an asset to our dressage community!

Our Volunteer of The Year was Kathleen Burke and she certainly deserved this with so much dedicated hard work and everlasting enthusiasm! One of the highlights of 2013 was putting on a show in Nathrop at the fabulous facility of Rusty Hall & Leslie Harrison, which was graciously donated. It was well attended and we received lots of kudos. We hope to

do one again in the future. The show committee and judge Emmy Detlof spent the night at Mt Princeton Hot Springs and a delightful time was had by all!

By the time this is being read we will have had our Christmas party at Dirito's Italian Restaurant in Canon City. Our planning meeting is scheduled in January; come if you can – bring your goals and wishes with you and let's have more fun than ever in the New Year!

Brenda Haley, President, AVDA
arkansasvalleydressage.org

Pikes Peak Chapter

Pikes Peak officers for 2013 ran unopposed and remain for 2014:

- President – Michelle Anderson
- VP – Heather Petersen
- Secretary – Nina Felsenthal
- Treasurer – Erin Ashby
- Awards – Shannon Lemons
- Education – Judy Carnick

Our January meeting will be on Jan. 14 and we are planning to have farrier Chad Toney speak about shoeing and how it contributes to (or detracts from) movement and soundness. It will be held at IHOP on Barnes and Powers in Colorado Springs at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 4 will be our chapter awards dinner in the private room at Olive Garden, by the Citadel Mall on South Academy at 6:30 p.m. We have an exciting new chapter awards program. This is a recognition program that rewards riders for their personal achievements, regardless of what color ribbon they might have received or how their horse compares to others. Bronze, Silver and Gold medals (similar to military medals, rather than on-neck ribbons) will be awarded for individual scores at each

level in any show judged by at least an "L" graduate. Awardees must have applied by Dec. 31, 2013 using the forms available from our website or by contacting Awards Chair Shannon Lemons (lemons_shannon@yahoo.com).

March 4 we plan a veterinary speaker and in April a lunging/long lining clinic.

We are also very excited to offer our first RMDS-recognized show on April 12 judged by Simone Windeler. It will be held at Gwen Ka'awaloa's facility in Elizabeth, CO. (April 13 snow date.) Check the RMDS calendar for entry details.

Our chapter also is seeking ways to increase member participation, including the use of Evite to arrange carpools to meetings and events, and door prizes for attendees. We also are considering sending out a member survey with a prize drawing for respondents and have begun an electronic chapter newsletter.

As always, the most current information for our chapter is available at our website at <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

– *Michelle Anderson, President, PPDA*

Wasatch Chapter

Our Officers for 2014 were re-elected at our Annual Meeting and are:

- Sally Shaffer - President
- Terrece Pearman - Vice President
- Amanda Trickett - Secretary
- Connie Wright - Treasurer

– *Sally Shaffer, President, Wasatch Mountains*

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Artists Salute Year of Horse All Year In Art, Events, Education and Donations

Fort Collins, CO, equine artist Barb Haynie and watercolorist Cheri Isgreen of Montrose, CO, have scheduled the year-long traveling art show HIGH POINT: The Art of Showing Horses to celebrate the horse throughout the year. Tied to the horse show venue, it celebrates the deep connection horsewomen share with their horses in a variety of settings and riding disciplines.



"Peace & Plenty" by Cheri Isgreen.

A long-time RMDS member with the Grand Valley Dressage Society, Cheri is a life-long horsewoman, retired art teacher, GVDS Education Chair, education specialist for Your True Nature and Teacher Education Regional Coordinator for Western Colorado State University. Cheri sees art and education as a way to share her passions.

The shows either benefit a local horse-related nonprofit or educational char-

ity. Events in conjunction with each venue include pet parades, painting on horses, pas de deux exhibitions, equine film festival, workshops, food, spirits, live music and the Colorado Horsecare Foodbank continuing benefit. Artwork will be 2-D paintings: watercolor and acrylic with about 24

paintings from 7" x 14" to 29" x 37" and the majority of work 21" x 16". Prices are \$100-\$500. There also will be a half-dozen found art sculpture horses for sale.

Here is their schedule, opening on Chinese New Year's Day, Jan 31, 2014 is the Year of the Horse. A show will be held in Denver at a Santa Fe Arts District gallery. Some show dates and venues are to be determined and will

be listed in upcoming issues of Centaur. At the time of this article, scheduled dates for the 2014 show are:

Grand Opening Jan 31, the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Horse at 45 Degrees Gallery, 2528 B W Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs.

The show will benefit the Colorado Horsecare Foodbank with Juliana Lehman speaking about the foundation, sale of hand-painted monoprint cards, and a silent auction of equine paintings to benefit the Foodbank. Also Chinese New Year-themed food, horse treats, libations and live music. Artists workshop creating sculpture from found objects follows on Saturday, "Finding Your Muse." The show runs through Feb. 28. To register for the workshop or other questions, contact the gallery at (719) 434-1214.

March – Salida, SteamPlant Event Center
April – Boulder; Celebrating Dancing Horses
May – TBA
June – Montrose, A&Y Gallery
July – Gunnison, Gunnison Arts Center
August – TBA
September – Redstone, Redstone Art Center
October - November – Hotchkiss, Creamery Arts Center
December – Fort Collins, Creekside Gardens & Gallery

Chapter News

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Northern Colorado

Our 'Fall Back Schooling Show' was a great success! We had 29 rides. The nice weather helped attendance.

We had some good ideas for activities in 2014 at the November meeting as well as re-electing all the current officers to another term. Renee Martig president, Didi DeKray vice president, Kathleen Kilkelly secretary, and Pat Cole treasurer.

January we will have a pot luck and review training videos with Julie Haugen.

In February Hana Van Campen, a professor at CSU, will give a talk about vaccines. Lately there has been some controversy about the routine vaccinations we give our horses. Dogs and humans alike are immune to certain diseases after receiving vaccinations early on, or at least for a longer

period of time. There is a test available to help determine the horses immunity before overloading and causing severe reactions. Hana will be addressing these concerns.

We hope to have a cross training clinic, another schooling show, a 'Get Ready to Show' clinic and a possible Musical Freestyle clinic with Christa Elaine Wood. Joan Clay will be doing a fundraising clinic with donations going to the 'Horse Food Bank of Colorado'.

Our Christmas Party was a lot of fun. As usual the dinner was great! Our 'Thanks' to Pat Cole for hosting the event and providing the 'Name That Carol' on the piano. Thanks to those who donated the awesome door prizes!

Happy New Year, see you in 2014!

Renee Martig, NCD Chapter President

New FEI Tests Released!

Federation Equestre Internationale announced the release of two new FEI tests, Intermediate A and Intermediate B, along with revisions to the Intermediate II, Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special effective Jan.1, 2014. The updated tests are available for download on the FEI website.

Note that the rest of the FEI tests, including the Prix St. George and Intermediate I tests, published in the 2014 USDF member guide, are current for the 2014 competition year. The Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special have changes to the coefficients, but the movements remain the same. Refer to the FEI website for the new Intermediate A and B, the revised Intermediate II, Grand Prix, and Grand Prix Special. FEI Intermediate II is going away internationally and will only be used nationally through 2014.

Age Does Matter in Competitions

A competitor's age is calculated as of the calendar year. It is not based on the type of membership that a competitor has with USEF or USDF. While you may be considered an Adult for dressage competition purposes, you still may be eligible for Youth Participating Membership.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, anyone born in 1992 will turn 22 and is considered an adult for the purpose of competing in a dressage competition. Remember that USEF DR119.3 states the following: For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division: Individuals are eligible as Juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18. Individuals are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21. Competitors shall compete as Adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 22. Individuals possessing current amateur certification are only eligible as Adult Amateurs from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach age 22.

2014 USEF Developing Dressage Program Seeks Future Talented Combinations

The United States Equestrian Federation has announced plans for the 2014 USEF Developing Dressage Program. The program is made possible by a gift from Akiko Yamazaki and Red Husky Foundation through the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation. The goal for the program is to provide funding following the winter/spring season for selected developing combinations to use towards European training and competition experience.

Debbie McDonald returns in 2014 as USEF Developing Coach, as the program seeks to identify talented, developing combinations with potential for future team and international success. The program will first focus on observing combinations at pre-determined observation competitions, from where selected combinations who have submitted an application will be named to take part in mandatory outings, e.g., training sessions with McDonald.

Anyone interested in being part of the 2014 Developing Dressage Program should plan to attend at least one of seven competitions selected for observation. At these competitions, combinations will be observed by up to two selectors.

The following individuals have been named as selectors by the USEF High Performance Dressage Committee: Debbie McDonald, USEF Developing Coach; Robert Dover, USEF Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor; Jeremy Steinberg, USEF Youth Coach; and Scott Hassler, USEF Young Horse Coach.

Observation competitions include:

- Wellington Classic CDI-W/1*/U-25 Wellington, Fla., Jan. 22-26.
- Mid-Winter Dressage Fair CDI-W Burbank, Calif., Feb. 20-23.
- Wellington CDIO3*/3*/1*/U-25 Wellington, Fla., Feb. 19-21.
- Palm Beach Derby CDI-W/U-25 Loxahatchee, Fla., Feb. 26-March 2.
- Capistrano Dressage Classic CDI-W San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Mar. 21-24.
- Global Dressage Fair CDI5*/3*/1*/U-25 Wellington, Fla., Mar. 26-30.
- Golden State CDI3*/U-25 Rancho Murieta, Calif., Apr. 3-6.

Any competitor in the following classes at these competitions will be observed:

- CDI Classes: Prix St. Georges, Intermediaire I and U-25 Young Adult Grand Prix.
- National Classes: Developing Horse Prix St. Georges, Grand Prix and USEF "Brentina Cup" class.

The application process for training sessions and grants will be announced at a later date. For further information regarding the 2014 USEF Dressage Developing Program, visit <https://www.usef.org/documents/highPerformance/dressage//2014/2014DevelopingDressageProgram.pdf>.

For additional information, contact Jenny Van Wieren-Page at 859-225-6949, or via email at jvanwieren@usef.org.

Lavell Scholarship Gives 'Booster' to Feel, Training For Shannon Lemons and Her Horses

Editor's Note: Shannon Lemons, RMDS Adult Amateur from Divide, CO, was able to spend a week training with her horses, thanks to a grant from the Carol Lavell Gifted Fund. Here is her report on her experience to The Dressage Foundation, Lincoln, NE., www.dressagefoundation.org.

Graduate School Dressage

By Shannon Lemons

Shannon is RMDS Awards Chair and Pikes Peak Chapter member.

As adult amateurs, we have to fit time for our passion for dressage in between work, family and a myriad of other commitments. Often, this means that we lack consistent instruction or dedicated time to devote to our training. In a sport as complicated as dressage, does finding a block of dedicated time make a difference in your ability to advance in your training? This summer, I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of a Carol Lavell Gifted Fund Scholarship, and I found that the answer, at least in my case, is a resounding "Yes!".



Shannon Lemons and Deven

When I started riding dressage about 6 years ago, I was looking for a challenge beyond trail riding. I assumed it would be like high school, where

showing up for class was enough, or perhaps similar to college, which required studying for a day or two before finals, but still not a lot of commitment to succeed. As all of you currently laughing at me know, I found out that dressage is much more complicated, and to my mind it is more like graduate school. In order to be successful, you not only have to show up to class and study for exams, you have to devote time to studying techniques, watching accomplished riders, and training your body and your horse's body to create the movements of classical dressage.

In my week of training with Sarah Martin, what happened was that the concepts that she has been talking about all along were put into practice day after day. Each day we were able to build on the previous one, resulting in a solid base of physical muscle memory and mental training for both my horses and me; she was teaching me to "feel". No, we haven't shot up two levels in a summer, but I have been able to start applying the strategies solidified during

that week of training when I am on my own. The result is that now I can be a "thinking" rider, using techniques previously learned to achieve the desired feel.

Here are some of the things that I learned (and relearned!) during and as a result of my week of training:

1. Remember to be flexible, and not just in your hips in the sitting trot! My second level horse is an Arab/Paint cross who is quite talented at using his lower neck against me. When I find myself in a bit of a wrestling match trying to get him to release, I now know to change my approach. If we are having a day where he doesn't want to be straight, I can use that to my advantage by repeatedly changing the position of his shoulders and haunches. I can use that lateral tendency to make him more supple laterally, going from shoulder in to haunches in or traversers. Horses are not machines and can have off days, just like we do, so you may have to be flexible in your training plan and ride the horse you have that day.
2. Everything moving forward has to come from behind. We've all heard this before, but after feeling it day after day for a week, I finally get it, both in my mind and how my body should feel. My young horse is a Dutch Warmblood with a tendency towards a little bit of laziness. Why work through his back in a big forward moving trot when he can use his natural gait and long legs to "get by", leaving his hind legs trailing? The result is a hollow back and lack of connection in the front. A comment from Sarah that I try to keep in my mind is that if I am not using some effort to ride this big guy's trot, then he is not pushing enough from behind, and we're just out on a Sunday drive!
3. Forward is (almost) always the answer! Everything we do in dressage is supposed to be forward thinking. It has taken a lot of work to teach my Arab/Paint that forward should happen without a leg aid at every stride, but now my energy can be directed towards attaining an uphill balance because the forward is there now! Applying this to the young horse can be a bit intimidating, because I'm not always sure what he is going to do when I have to go to the whip with more than just a tap because he has ignored the light aids, but the bottom line is that if I can't get him moving forward now, we definitely will not be able to go forward up the levels. The result of finally getting him moving forward is a big swinging, ground covering trot - even if I do sometimes have to chant "Forward is the answer, forward is the answer"!
4. This is NOT the World Wrestling Federation! I often tell people that although he is not a typical dressage

horse, my Arab has taught me more than four other horses would have. Not only does his conformation make working through his entire back and topline difficult for him, his conviction that his way is the right way means that I have to be very correct in my riding and consistent in my aids. Because we are both stubborn creatures, I have to remember that getting into a fight with him by wrestling with the reins is a no-win situation. I use resistance rather than pulling or backward pressure (remember, forward is the answer!) to provide a boundary. As soon as he gives me what I want, that pressure is released. I finally “feel” the difference between providing a boundary versus getting into a cage match with The Rock!

5. Horses learn to be dull to our aids because we shout at them. If you are always banging away with your leg or pulling on the rein without giving a release, your horse will start to ignore you as something that is just white noise rather than actual direction. Sometimes you have to take a step back in order to go forward; in other words, you may have to go back to one aid at a time, insisting that you get the correct reaction with a light aid before adding another. You have to give him a step to react to the aid before increasing the intensity of that aid; why should he listen to the whisper if you are only going to shout at him anyway?

The benefits to my dressage training and progress with both of my horses have continued well past our week with Sarah Martin in July. As a medical professional, I liken it to the increase in immunity following a vaccination series. Booster shots to an initial vaccine are called boosters because they do exactly that: they boost the immune system’s reaction beyond that of a single inoculation to the point that the whole (immunity) is greater than the sum of its parts (individual shots). This week of training has “boosted” our training mentally and physically for all of us beyond what seven individual lessons spaced weeks apart could have done. Thanks to Carol Lavell’s Gifted Fund and The Dressage Foundation, I have reaped the benefits that a week of dedicated training can provide. I plan to continue going to “graduate school”, and I hope to make this an annual “boosting” to our continued climb up the levels!

Jennifer Quigley Wins 2014 Lavell Scholarship

For Training With Sarah Martin

U.S. Dressage Federation Region 5's Jennifer Quigley of the RMDS Grand Valley Dressage Society in Colorado is one of nine riders awarded a \$1,000 Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Scholarship for Adult Amateurs. The award is designed to enable these riders to set aside quality time in concentrated training with a horse they own, with a trainer of choice, away from the daily pressures of job and family. Jennifer also won a RMDS Solid Seat Scholarship in 2013 for Adult Amateurs over the age of 21.

Jennifer and her horse, MidKnight Attraction, will train with Sarah Martin in Blanca, CO. Jenny Johnson, administrative director of The Dressage Foundation, announced the winners in December, for use in 2014.



Mark 2014 Funding Due Dates

TDF Grants, Scholarships Support Learning

The following applications have a set due date. All applications must be in The Dressage Foundation office on or before the due date listed.

Help for Dressage Instructors

- Continuing Education for Instructors - Individual: 2/1/2014 and 7/1/2014
- Trip Harting Fund Grant: 3/25/2014
- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund: 6/1/2014
- Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship: 9/30/2014
- USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award
- Nomination Period: 1/1/2014-6/1/2014
- Applications Due: 8/1/2014

Help for Dressage Judges

- Trip Harting Fund Grant: 3/25/2014
- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund: 6/1/2014

Help for Young Riders

- Trip Harting Fund Grant: 3/25/2014
- International Dream Program: To be determined
- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund: 6/1/2014
- Heldenberg Training Center Fund: 7/1/2014

Help for Breeders

- Elysium Farm Fund for U.S. Breeder Excellence: 5/1/2014

Help for Adult Amateurs

- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund: 6/1/2014
- Heldenberg Training Center Fund: 7/1/2014
- \$1,000 Gifted Memorial Fund Scholarship: 9/15/2014

Help for High-Performance Dressage

- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund: 6/1/2014
- \$25,000 Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Grant: TBD
- \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize: 12/13/2014

The following applications have a due date of at least 90 days prior to the event:

- Violet M. Hopkins Grants for Educational Clinics/Seminars
- Dancing Horse Grants for Freestyle Clinics
- Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors GMO Grant
- Sally Swift Grants for Centered Riding Clinics

The following applications are accepted at any time, at least 30 days prior to event/training:

- Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund Grants for Young Riders and Professionals

For more information and applications, contact The Dressage Foundation, 1314 O St., Suite 305, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-434-8585, info@dressagefoundation.org.

Many Minds Create Successful New National Dressage Finals

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Leveling the Field for Every Rider

USDF worked hard at developing sponsors and creating a process to enable competitors – at all levels and all divisions – to have an annual “target” championship. In theory, one could look at their scores and placing and get a “general” sense of how they stood in the country overall. In addition, for those who show at a minimum of five USDF/USEF-recognized shows, there are the annual Horse of the Year standings. Of course, there can be competitors who figure out the system, pick the generous judges and make a concentrated effort to manipulate the numbers, avoiding the “hard” judges to assure their standings. But, not everyone does this. Horse of the Year does mean something. But, how would these horses and riders do if they were put in an arena, all together, on the same day, in front of the same judges, under more or less the same conditions?



Rolex Stadium.

As the Regional Championships were created, a \$10 “qualifying” fee was attached, a portion of which was set aside as “fund money” for the next National Finals. Literally decades passed, and the fund grew, as did championship competitions for Young Riders, (riders aged 16-21 competing at PSG) Juniors (riders 14-18 years competing equivalent to Third Level tests) 4-, 5- and 6-year-old “Young Horse” finals, PSG and GP “Developing Horse” finals, and the ever-present “Festival of Champions” for PSG/Intermediare 1 and Grand Prix National Champions. (This is where both Olympic and Pan Am members are selected in their accordant years). It also expanded to incorporate the “Brentina Cup” for young riders up to age 25 riding a modified Grand Prix test.

As all of this grew, I grew more frustrated with several questions repeating in my mind: Who makes up the bulk of riders in this country? The Adult Amateur. Who trains the bulk of these riders? Open Division professionals.

Where was a competition that highlighted the abilities of these riders? Where was a competition that could highlight and train this level of rider to move up to international competition before they had an international horse? We send four (now three) riders to the Olympics once every four years. Dressage Today magazine has 12 issues a year. USDF Connection magazine has 11 issues a year. How is a consumer to figure out what “good” is – especially “good” at the level they ride?

Along with other concerned professionals, USDF President and world-class competitor George Williams appointed a task force to create the USDF National Finals when he assumed the office in 2010. Over years of details large and small, the task force prevailed and finally the USDF National Finals for Adult and Open riders was launched, and the first competition was held in November 2013. Regional Championships suddenly became more relevant, as the Champion and Reserve Champion at every level would be eligible to attend (as long as scores were over 55% – not an issue at any level this year). Wild Card scores were attached that also allowed high-scoring horse/rider combinations to attend the National Championships. The details were, and still are, difficult to negotiate. A rider must make a Declaration of Intent, then must follow that once they qualify with a “Nominating” notice, unless, ironically, they qualify with a Wild Card score. Then they simply were allowed to “jump in”. This caused quite a bit of confusion and, hopefully, will be ironed out for 2014. The scores to qualify vary by level and this also is confusing. It is imperative for anyone in the process to be very “tech savvy” and to stay in touch with the USDF website to stay on top of developments. However, the process is worth the end result.

Riders, Judges, Spectators Pleased

From my perspective, the entire endeavor proved to be worth all the effort as both Adult and Open riders came together from all over the country at the Kentucky Horse Park this past November. Adult Amateurs had the opportunity to compete in a world-class environment: The same Alltech arena that hosted the World Equestrian Games was groomed and turned out to the 9s. Outdoor arenas had a very cold breeze blowing Thursday and Friday, but the judges were protected and warm, and the weather was not impossible for riders. In fact, spectators suffered the most. All FEI and Freestyle tests were held in the climate-controlled Alltech arena, where open seating allowed spectators to choose optimum and warm seating. While West Coast entries were minimal (four horses from California, one competitor from Washington State), the East and Midwest were heavily represented. Wild Card

entries made up 80 of the 302 rides over four days, proving that idea to be popular and useful. The judging panels worked so well together, under the rigors of the electronic scoring system, the judges were frequently within 2 percentage points of each other throughout the many levels over all four days.

I assume results will be published in a bigger publication, but I was so satisfied to see a really lovely professional rider from Alabama, Debbie Hill, win the Training Level Open Division with a 76%. We can all agree that Alabama is not our first thought for a “heavy hitting” dressage program, but Debbie showed two horses that could not have been



Kentucky Horse Park Museum.

more regular, rhythmic and correct. The Training Level Adult division was won with a 73% while reserve and 3rd place were in the low 70s, also underscoring that there are Adult Amateur riders out there who really are doing their homework and capable of stepping up to prove it!

For me, the very best aspect of this show was that at any time, on any of the four competition days, you could watch absolutely top riding at any level, from Training to Grand Prix. You could watch the competition ring or, even better, watch the warm-up rings where our nation’s top riders and trainers were schooling their riders. Have you been curious about how Mike Poulin wants to see his riders go? Or Scott Hassler? And Pam Goodrich? There is no doubt in my mind that this competition provides an incredible educational opportunity for spectators and riders, alike, and I look forward to it becoming a steady feature on the USDF calendar. Circle Nov 6-9 now for the 2014 Championships also at Kentucky Horse Park.



Colorado/Region 5 Member Views

We were fortunate in Colorado to have two judges invited to attend the National Finals, and RMDS show organizers Heather Petersen and Simone Windeler were invited to scribe. (See the December E-Centaur for Simone's article about scribing.) Numerous competitors from Colorado and Region 5 also made the trip to the finals. Here are their descriptions of their experiences:

Janet Foy, FEI judge from Colorado Springs

How far did you travel?

I flew from Colorado Springs to Chicago to Lexington. I was asked to judge about 18 months in advance.

Did it go as you expected?

I enjoyed the experience so much! There was a great team of judges, and all got along very well and judged well together. The management went out of its way to have the booths safe from wind (which was great as it was really windy out there) and also with little portable heaters! My scribes and I stayed very toasty. The only hard thing was when there was an off course, you had to leave your booth out the backdoor and run around to the front and wave at the rider. The VIP area was awesome and we never did use our suite as we loved all gathering and watching the rides from the VIP area in the Alltech Arena.

What would you tell riders who want to go next year?

I would recommend to anyone coming to ride there that they go to a lot of big shows, like Estes Park, and ride in the main arena, or to High Prairie where there is traffic and lots of things going on. The horses that were used to the atmosphere did well and, unfortunately, there were some horses that were terrified with it. Riders need to school outside in the rain, wind, etc. The warmups also were very busy. So, get your horses used to lots of other horses coming and going. As far as the travel, go early, plan around the weather. If you body clip, do it before you go, and maybe leave a patch of hair where your spur would sit. We had one winner have to be eliminated due to a small amount of blood on a freshly clipped horse.

Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director and scribe at the Finals

How far did you travel to get to the Finals?

Over 1,200 miles, but I did it by plane.

Cont'd on pg 10

Member Views

Cont'd from pg 9

What motivated you to go?

I wanted to participate in the first-ever National Championships and I was asked to come scribe since I was computer-savvy and would learn the new computer method quickly. I also felt as regional director it was important to participate and support the riders from our area attending.

How far in advance did you plan to go?

I started working on planning at the end of August.

What did you learn?

Four wonderful days scribing and watching rides with an Olympic judge, are you kidding me?

What would you tell others who might want to go?

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and compete with riders from all over the country and share the dressage experience. It was so much better than I thought it would be: Amazing great new scribing system, amazing volunteers, wonderful to see competitors working so well together.

Simone Windeler, scribe from Colorado Springs, CO

How far did you travel?

It is about 1,300 miles one way from my house. Heather Petersen and I flew from Colorado Springs to Atlanta and from there to Lexington.

What motivated you to go?

I was asked to be a scribe

How far in advance did you plan to go?

In September at RMDS Regional Championships

Did your trip go as expected?

Yes, great.

What did you learn from the experience?

Fantastic opportunity to learn (I am a USDF L graduate) especially the 40+ freestyles I was able to see on Saturday. I scribed for William Solyntjes and was able to see rides from every position as he got moved around. Working with the new technology also was a great experience. Riders literally got their scores by the time they walked out of the arena.

What would you tell others who think they may want to go?

Go and experience this! The facility is breathtaking (all the green just makes you drool). The awards ceremonies were beautiful and exiting. Everything was decorated to the hilt: It certainly felt grand and important. You also get a chance to meet people from all over the country and to see how you stand.

Sandy Hotz, "S" judge from Boulder, CO

How far did you travel?

I flew to the Finals because I was asked to judge there. I did learn that computer scribing, though not without its initial glitches, allowed me to make more comments than usual on the test sheets.

What would you tell others who think they may want to go?

For those who want to go, this is a wonderful, well-organized show that felt really "big time". The venue is beautiful, surrounded by miles of rolling green hills and incredible

barns. The riders seemed to be happy, and all the ones I spoke to felt it was worth the effort they had made to get there.

Stephanie Busley, professional Dressage Trainer from Basalt, CO

How far did you travel?

I drove from Basalt to Lexington, Ky., more specifically the Kentucky Horse Park). It took me a total of 51 hours, round trip. The most difficult part of my drive was getting down our barn driveway with the truck and trailer after it had snowed the evening before.

When did you know you were going?

Usually our last competition is the RMDS Regional show. I remember my (horse's) owner, Mandy Gray, asking me the year before when the Nationals were and I had to tell her that there was none. So when the USDF started advertising for the Nationals, I was so excited to let Mandy know that we could try to qualify. I'm a pretty competitive person so I knew I wanted to try for the inaugural Nationals. I have a wonderful string of horses, along with some incredibly supportive owners and I knew that this would enable us to see what we had, compared to the rest of the country. From the first day I had known about the inaugural Nationals, I began planning that competition into my schedule.

Did your trip go as expected?

The trip itself, in both directions, went very smoothly. Of course, I would have preferred to win. But, being able to compete and represent Region 5 in the inaugural Finals was a huge accomplishment. I soaked everything in, from the quality of horses and riders (incredible) to the show setup,

Cont'd on pg 16



RMDS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Individual Membership - \$60.00 (\$65 after January 1-late fee) Additional family members (same address) - \$45

Business Memberships - \$100.00 Centaur newsletter only - \$35.00 Life Membership - \$750.00

Life Business Membership \$1,000.00 - Transfer Life Business to new owner \$100.00

All business memberships include one individual membership.

Please include all information for person designated as individual member. If an adult amateur, include current copy of USEF AA card. All individual members will receive Centaur newsletter & the Omnibus.

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

Indicate Local Chapter (only one):

Arkansas Valley

Foothills (Golden, Evergreen)

Pikes Peak (Colo. Spgs. area)

Boulder Valley

Grand Valley (Grand Junction)

Platte River (Greeley, E. Colorado)

Colorado Springs

High Plains (Parker, Littleton, Aurora)

Wasatch Mountains (Utah)

N. Colorado (Ft. Collins, Loveland)

Western Colorado (Aspen, Vail etc.)

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (E-Mail) _____

USDF No. _____ Occupation _____

Names, DOBs, & USDF #s of additional family members _____

I pledge \$ _____ to go towards the RMDS Scholarship Fund. (Include amount with your membership check)

____ Please remove my name from lists sold by RMDS ____ Renewing member: Needs binder **include additional \$8.00**

____ Referred by: _____: _____ Permanent Bridle Tag (a pair) **add \$50**

RMDS Horse Registration Form

Horses must be registered with RMDS to be eligible for year-end awards and for horse-of-the year award.

Eligibility starts on the date the envelope containing this form and check is postmarked.

Both rider AND horse AND owner must be current before scores count toward year end awards and qualifying for RMDS championships.

The name and all information on this registration must be the same as that used on horse show entry forms.

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

Horse Name _____ Sex _____ Breed (if known) _____

Registration # (include copy of papers. List grade if no registry papers available.) _____

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

Address of Owner _____

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

Name of Representative (If owner is a business) _____

Colorado Rider Hit Century Goal

No Plans to Stop Riding, Showing at 90

Editor's Note: "Think positive and keep doing it" is the advice RMDS Arkansas Valley Chapter member Ginny Wegener gave me in a recent phone conversation on her enthusiastic participation as a rider, backyard horse owner and dressage show entrant this year at age 90. In 2014, she and a friend will continue to trailer together to their weekly First Level dressage lessons to prepare for more Ride-A-Tests and area schooling shows, she said.

A beginning rider at age 58, Wegener's Norwegian Fjord, Loki, and she completed their second Century Club ride at age 87 in 2010. Ginny also is a pilot who worked for the Federal Aviation Administration as a pilot examiner, according to The Dressage Foundation. With about 30,000 hours flying, she has flown in the national Powder Puff Derby and came in second place the year she flew with her daughter.

The Dressage Foundation recognizes senior dressage riders and their horses, whose ages must total at least 100 years, when they complete any level dressage test with a judge or dressage professional present. — Linda Gaber

By Jenny Johnson

Ginny Wegener of Canon City, CO., recently turned 90 years old but isn't letting age slow her down. She is a two-time member of The Dressage Foundation's Century Club and continues to ride and care for her horse, "RT Loki." She said, "I plan to continue my horse activities until at least 95. I always had it in my head and heart to be an active rider and participate in horse activities. Exercise keeps me moving and clinics increase my knowledge and keep my brain moving. Determination, passion, as well as good genes have gotten me here. Seniors can do it!"

Sidelines magazine caught up with Ginny and asked her to share some stories from her horse life, as well as advice she has for other riders:

How did you become involved with horses and dressage?

My first involvement with horses was as a 16-year-old in Kansas, where I lived with my family. I would ride my bike many blocks to the riding stables. I made friends with one of the stable men and he would let me ride the horse to my house, even over train bridges and waterways. It was thrilling to me. I didn't own my own horse until I was 58 years old. At that time I said to myself, "I would like to become a rider," so I purchased a young Arabian geld-

ing named "MHR Handsome," "Sam" for short. Sam was my teammate for my first Century Club ride in October 2002 and he was with me until after his 39th birthday. We shared many adventures!

Do you have a favorite horse-related memory?

My favorite memory . . . well, of course, there are many. But to pick one, I remember when Sam was in a horse show and received a blue ribbon. We were all standing under a tree and I had Sam standing close to me. A friend had brought champagne and glasses. As we all raised our glasses to make a toast to Sam, he reached over my shoulder and slurped every drop of the champagne. He was quite surprised and we all laughed!



Ginny Wegener and Loki.

What do you enjoy most about riding dressage?

After Sam came into my life, there were several dressage shows in my area and I was really drawn to learning how to become a dressage rider. I enjoyed the challenge of riding to the tests and increasing my abilities, as well as Sam's. Sam was very well suited to the discipline. Now that Sam is no longer here, I ride my Norwegian Fjord, Loki, and did

my second Century Club ride on him in May 2010 at the age of 87. Loki is a great guy. He is 14.2 (hands) and I am 5-feet tall, so we are a perfect match at this time in my life.

What advice do you have for young riders?

When I was raising my three girls, Carol, Diane and Su, the older two became interested in having horses. I think the involvement my teenage girls had with their horses and animals kept them busy and out of trouble, as well as teaching them so many life skills. To this day, they love their horses, as do some of their children. To the younger generation I would say: "Follow your passion. (I hope it is horses). Always love your work, stay positive, and honor the commitment to protect and care for such wonderful partners in your life as horses!"

About the writer: Jenny Johnson is the administrative director at The Dressage Foundation in Lincoln, Neb. In addition to that full-time job, she also has the full-time job of being a wife, a mom to three children, and "mom" to her 20-year-old quarter horse who she has owned for 19 years.

— Reprinted with permission from Sidelines August 2013.



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NEW LOWER PRICE!



Wow, what a year 2013 was for the local real estate market. Let's start with the results from November. Normally there is a seasonal dip of about 13% in November. Not this year. Not only did we dip just 2.2%, we closed more sales in Longmont this past month than any November in the past 7 years. Plus, the rationale here is that, technically, more people can afford to sell their home. List it and sell it with me!

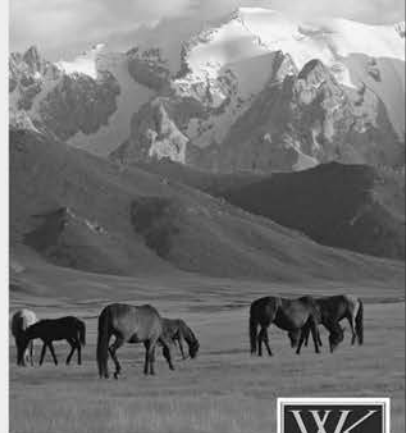
Homes are selling in an average days on market of 55 – in 2007 that number was exactly double that at 110. As of mid-December we had just 153 homes available... or about 1.7 months of inventory. Truly a seller's market!!

- NOVEMBER 2013 LONGMONT RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS**
- Highest YTD Sales Total since 2007
 - 15.8% Increase in Median Sales Price (\$249,000)
 - 19.0% Decrease in Active Listings (255)
 - 9.3% Increase in Average Sales Price (\$275,668)
 - 32.9% Decrease in DOM (55)

For unincorporated Boulder county the numbers don't look so great. They look good, but not astronomical like the other areas. I believe they suffer from the Seasonal Activity Disorder (SAD) more than most markets because of their naturally higher price point. In mid-December, there were 41 homes in Longmont listed at \$400,000 or more and over the past 3 months 36 had sold for over \$400k (87% sold). In unincorporated Boulder county, November saw 37 total sales with 24 of them being over \$400k. Even though twice as many of them sell out there every month, there is a lot more on the market and so, naturally the Days on Market, and sales price will accelerate less during the slower winter months... even in an up market.

All indicators point to a great 2014 as well with 5-8% appreciation predicted. Email me or call me to let me know your thoughts

Visit my blog for interesting information, statistics and articles about the real estate market at www.andriaallen.wordpress.com



To see photos and more information about any of these properties, please visit my website at

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Saturday, February 15, 2014

OPEN TO EVERYONE! Learn the Inner Workings of a Show.

Technical Delegates: 8:30 - 12:15 pm with Veronica Holt

- 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: 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm with Heather Petersen

- What are the responsibilities of the secretary vs. show manager
- Scheduling, general logistics, necessary forms and information
- Handbook available for \$35

RMDS is strongly encouraging all show management to attend. There are more upcoming changes in the rules!!!

This workshop is for you!
CSU Extension Building
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COST

One session only \$35 Non RMDS members \$45
Both sessions \$50 Non RMDS members \$60
At the door - \$65 for everyone.

Reservations are necessary to determine the number of handouts.

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

Jon Haugen
417 Promontory Drive
Loveland, CO 80537

Name: _____ TD/Show Mgt./Both _____

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Fandango del Sol

2014 Stud Fee: \$1500

(LFG/Cooled Ship/Live Cover)

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He has it all: beauty, gentle nature, movement and athleticism. Trained by Heidi Chote out of Wilton, CA, he debuted at Prix St Georges in 2009, advancing to I-1 in 2010. He finished that year out as top scoring American Warmblood Society horse at that level. In 2011, Heidi showed Grand Prix scoring in the mid 60s. Cadence has also trained with Alfredo Hernandez for many years and has developed a natural piaffe and passage.



Cadence sires foals that are gentle and easy to handle. He consistently improves bone, foot, hind end and topline. You are sure to be noticed with his flashy pattern as well. Hemingway, his 2008 colt was 2nd highest scoring AWS colt in the US.



In 2010 and 2011, his offspring received Blue Preferred from AWS, with the inspector commenting on the consistently nice head, neck, topline, quality gaits, and expression.

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Photos By Kathleen Bryan, Howie Schatzberg, & Julie Haugen

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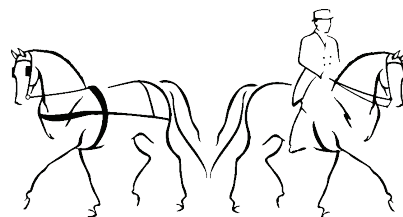
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RMDS/USDF Region 5 Members Nationals Experience

Cont. from page 10

which felt like an important event. The Alltech Arena felt like I was riding in a European competition. I especially liked the emphasis on Amateurs. I told my students that I was bringing them next year.

What did you learn from the experience?

Personally, I learned how much I need to work on the details of my test. My competitors rode perfect tests. The horseflesh was amazing and I'm excited for the future of U.S. dressage. I met some wonderful people that love this sport just as much as I do. All in all, the Finals motivated me beyond belief, in my own riding, as a teacher and a trainer. Anything is possible if you are willing to work hard!

What would you tell others who might want to go in the future?

This is a completely attainable goal. It's a chance to find out where you stand with the rest of the country. There were top professionals with uber fancy horses. But, there also were people with unregistered, non-Warmblood horses that came without a trainer. I rode a pony in my Second Level Final. I had a great time, met some wonderful people and I look forward to representing (hopefully) Region 5 at the Finals in 2014. I look forward to more Region 5 riders joining me. The Kentucky Horse Park is a premiere facility and definitely worth the drive. I'd like to thank the USDF and Adequan for providing a national stage for us to compete on.

I'd also like to thank Mandy Gray, my horse's owner, for allowing me to follow my dreams. None of this is possible without her support. I rode her pony, Dutch Chocolate, to a 13th place finish with a 65% in the Second Level Open Finals and my own horse, Welkin, to an 8th place finish in the

Fourth Level Open Finals with a 64%! I am so proud of my horses, who really seemed to understand the importance of this event. I'd also like to thank Holly Roof, who works tirelessly to make my horses look their very best.

Heather Irbinskas, Dressage Trainer in Sonoita, Ariz.

How far did you travel?

For the Nationals, Melanie Amhowitz, who owns "Polar Star," and I took five days and 1,850 miles to bring "Polar Star" in the most careful fashion. Worry about his health and loss of schooling time took away from us being able to show our best, but we scored a 60.3% and didn't embarrass ourselves.

When did you know you were going?

The first year of the National Finals coincided with a successful year of training "Polar Star" to Intermediare II. Knowing that this year would be the first-ever Dressage Finals set me on a mission to qualify for Regionals and do well enough that I could come to Lexington Ky. It was something that Mel and I set our sights on early this year.

Did your trip go as expected?

There was difficulty along the way, as "Polar Star" developed kidney problems on the trip to Regionals and I was lucky to have gotten him shown. I rested him for three weeks when I got home. For the Finals, Melanie and I enjoyed our trip cross-country, seeing places and meeting nice people we would have otherwise not met. I had some friends fly in to root me on and Melanie had family come in, as well. What did you learn from the experience? For me, the Dressage Finals represented my own personal Olympics and a special accomplishment beyond the Regionals, itself. I had a devastating riding accident five years

ago, where amongst other injuries I sustained a traumatic brain injury with symptoms that took several years to disappear. To be able to fully train horses again to that level and compete at something so special as the Dressage Finals is truly a personal victory.

What would you tell others who might want to go in the future?

The Kentucky Horse Park, the people who ran the show, and the festive atmosphere in Lexington with all the other competitors made coming to the Dressage Finals something I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Amanda Apesos, Amateur Rider from Half Moon Bay, Calif.

How far did you travel?

I travelled from Half Moon Bay, Calif. My horse came from the farthest West of any horse in the competition. (She started her dressage riding career as a member of RMDS and moved to California to finish school.) I have a two-horse bumper pull and a very high-mileage truck in California, neither of which were suitable for a cross-country journey. So, I chartered an air ride van and searched Region 7 for other riders who would like to share the charter for their horses. After an exhaustive search, I found that only four horses total were attending the final from Region 7. One flew and the other three were on my chartered van.

When did you know you were going?

I have had a strong desire for much of my life to know what it is to be a top dressage rider. I don't really care about ribbons or trophies, but I do enjoy the structure of competitive dressage. My end goal is to become a rider capable of producing the level of suppleness and power of a grand

RMDS/USDF Region 5 Members' Nationals Experience

Cont. from page 16

prix horse. Competitive dressage gives me a framework to reach that goal, and attending the National Finals at training level was a step in the right direction. When the National Final was officially announced in early 2013, I immediately made my hotel reservation. I was determined to go, though I did not yet know how it was going to happen. In June of 2013 one of my long-time patients, a hunter who did not want to jump anymore, became my new dressage horse. We quickly put ourselves together as a dressage team and, by some miracle, qualified for the Regionals and Finals. It was very satisfying to check into the hotel for a reservation I had made as a dream that had become real. That experience taught me yet again the power of intention.

Did your trip go as expected?

My rides did not go as planned at the Finals, but I learned so many things I will do differently in the future!

What did you learn from the experience?


I learned that even top dressage coaches, judges, trainers and professionals are very approachable. I met people every day that I had previously only read about in dressage news articles. Scott Hassler, the USA Young Horse Coach, helped me with Shakes at a moment that I really needed a calming influence. Francis Verbeek, an 'O' judge from Holland, made time to coach me very, very early in the morning before my warm-up class. I

learned that the more I find ways to involve myself with the most experienced dressage professionals, the more they are willing to teach and support an ambitious rider. Showing up at the National Finals is important!

What would you tell others who might want to go in the future?


The camaraderie among the Adult Amateurs was great. I met other dedicated dressage riders from all over the country who also thought the National Finals was important, and made the effort to be there. If you qualify... just go!






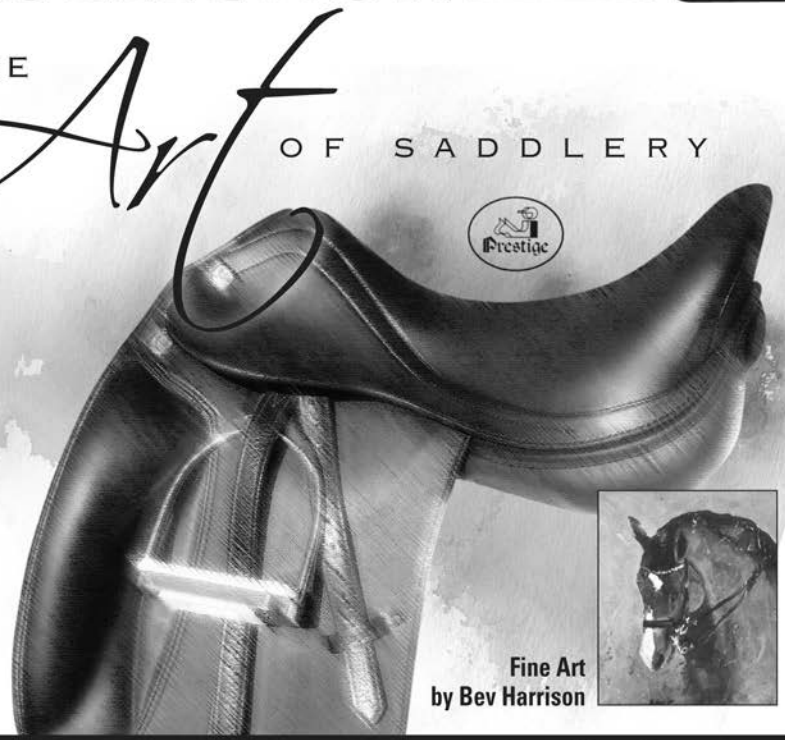
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2014 RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Vice President.....	Aline Brandau.....	720-323-0578	alinebrandau@gmail.com
Secretary	Nina Felsenthal	530-515-8986	ninafelsenthal@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sharon Soos.....	303-904-7534	sksoos@mesanetworks.net

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Adult Amateur	Jennifer Glass	719-749-2293	saglass25@msn.com
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Omnibus Production	Nicole Bizarro.....	303-939-0110	nicbiz@indra.com
Webmaster	Michael Petersen.....	719-683-8435	webmaster@rmds.org
Constitution, By-laws.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Education.....	Jon Haugen	970-217-7820	defiancesport@q.com
Insurance, Show Standards	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Junior/Young Riders.....	Julie Haugen	970-290-8360	defiancesport@q.com
Junior Camp 2013	TBA		
Marketing	Sharon Soos.....	303-904-7534	sksoos@mesanetworks.net
Membership and Horse Registration.....	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Professional Trainers/Riders	TBA		
Registration Officials and Show Standards	Central Office.....	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
RMDS Show Liaison	Beverly Swanson	720-401-0357	ShowLiasionRMDS@gmail.com
Scheduling	Central Office	720-890-7825	rmds@rmds.org
Scholarship	MaryJo Hoepner	719-495-3648	scholarship@rmds.org
Western Dressage Liaison.....	TBA		

Chapter Presidents

Arkansas Valley.....	Brenda Haley	719-275-0118.....	brendahaley@q.com
Boulder Valley	Sarah Barnes.....	303-817-2783	sarahvbarnes@yahoo.com
Colorado Springs	Pat Leech	719-749-2860	pat.leech@skybeam.com
Foothills.....	Lori Mitchell	303-816-2375	klassicalride@aol.com
Grand Valley	Tammy Fagan.....	970-858-1604	tfagandressage@wyoming.com
High Plains.....	Jacquelin McIntyre	303-789-1263	jacquehm4@comcast.net
Northern Colorado	Renee Martig.....	970-278-0500	silverpony@friei.com
On the Bit Dressage.....	Jessica Ford.....	307-797-2478	aprilscomet97@yahoo.com
Pikes Peak.....	Michelle Anderson	303-646-1375	michand@hotmail.com
Platte River Dressage.....	Laura Speer	970-371-2934	riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com
Wasatch Mountains.....	Sally Shaffer	435-655-3323	sshaffer4@yahoo.com
Western Colorado.....	Barbara Graham Terry	970-963-4649	bgterry1@comcast.net

GOVERNING BODIES

United States Dressage Federation (USDF)	859-971-227	www.usdf.org
4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511		

USDF REGION 5

Director	Heather Petersen	719-683-8435	slush@drwg.net
FEI JRYR Coordinator	Joan Clay.....	970-420-0887	jnclay@comcast.net
Website			www.usdfregion5.org

US Equestrian Federation, Inc (USEF).....859-258-2472 www.usef.org
4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

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

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RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Arkansas Valley: 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., location to be determined. Brenda Haley, 719-275-0118, brendahaley@q.com

Boulder Valley: 2nd Monday, even months, location TBD, Sarah Barnes, 303-817-2783 sarahvbarnes@yahoo.com

Colorado Springs: 3rd Thursday, for location information, contact Pat Leech, 719-749-2860, pat.leech@skybeam.com, www.CSDressage.org

Foothills: quarterly meetings, location TBD, Lori Mitchell, 303-816-2375, bandwdressage@aol.com

Grand Valley: 3rd Thursday each month, location TBD, Tammy Fagan, 970-858-1604 tfagandressage@wyoming.com

High Plains: Bi-monthly meeting, location TBD, Wendy Cibis, 720-570-6413, wcibis@comcast.net, www.highplainsdressage.com

Northern Colorado: 3rd Tuesday, each month, location TBD, Renee Martig, 970-278-0500 silverpony@frie.com

On the Bit Dressage: Jessica Ford, 307-797-2478 aprilscomet97@yahoo.com

Pikes Peak: 2nd Tuesday of each month, location TBD, Michelle Anderson, 303-646-1375 michand@hotmail.com

Platte River Dressage: Meeting time and location TBD, Laura Speer, 970-371-2934 riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com

Wasatch Mountains: Location TBD, Sally Shaffer, 435-655-3323 sshaffer4@yahoo.com

Western Colorado: Barbara Graham Terry, 970-963-4649 bgterry1@comcast.net

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

All RMDS Executive Board meetings are open to all and occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Meeting dates in 2014 may be variable, please check the calendar or the website. Contact the RMDS Central Office for location.

RMDS PAID POSITIONS

Every two years, RMDS goes through the open bid process for the paid positions. The following positions are up for bid and/or renewal:

Bids due by February 28, 2014

- Centaur Production-effective with May issue 2014
- E-Centaur Production-effective with June issue 2014
- Omnibus Production-2015/2016 Omnibus (new tests in 2015)
- 2015/2016 Championship Show Management

These are paid RMDS positions for qualified persons. Contracts will be awarded at the March Executive Board meeting.

Call the RMDS Central Office, email rmds@rmds.org or go to the RMDS website for guidelines for each position.

Bids must be received by February 28, 2014. We hope you will plan to attend the March 8 Executive Board meeting as there may be questions asked of you.

March 13 Executive Board meeting: Romano's Italian Restaurant-32 W. Springer Drive - Highlands Ranch, CO 6:30 PM

Bids Still Open for Jr/YR Camp Director

RMDS is accepting bids for a director for the 2014 Jr/YR Camp Director.

The program aims to be a fun experience that expands riders' dressage education. The director is responsible for camp planning, supervision and liaison with campers' parents and other participants.

Visit the RMDS website at rmds.org for Camp Director guidelines.

Questions?

Contact the Central Office: rmds@rmds.org.

The Centaur Newsletter

The Centaur newsletter is published monthly. To guarantee that ads and articles will run in a given month, they must be received by the 7th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 7th 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: RMDS Office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301, Phone: 720.890.7825, email: rmds@rmds.org

ADVERTISING

RMDS Office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301, Phone: 720.890.7825, email: rmds@rmds.org

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

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

Artwork (ads) must be provided in electronic format. Acceptable forms include: jpeg, pdf, tiff, eps, and doc. IF UNSURE ABOUT AD FORMATTING, please contact the editor (contact info above) for consultation. No substitutions may be accepted. If your ad is submitted in a file format other than those listed above, you will be contacted regarding an additional charge for reformatting or redesign. Hourly charge for redesign/reformat is \$50, in minimal units of one hour.

Please be sure to include a printed version of your ad with your payment so that the ad may be proof-read against the electronic version. Printed ad copy cannot be used as final art.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads may be submitted via email to the RMDS office (address above.) You may also type or hand-write a classified ad and mail it to RMDS headquarters, attn: Beth Geier, The Centaur. Please limit your classified ad copy to 50 words or less. Exceeding 50 words will result in additional charges per line.

PAYMENT AND AD COPY DELIVERY

Email ads to: rmds@rmds.org, and cc the electronic copy to nicbiz@indra.com. Send payment and hard-copy to the RMDS office, Beth Geier, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301.

AD RATES AND SIZE SPECIFICATIONS

Classified \$20 per item for sale (includes web listing.) 50 words maximum. Classified w/photo \$32 per item for sale.

Full Page \$150 7" x 9.5"

Half Page \$90 7" x 4.5"

Outside back half \$105 7" x 4.5"

1/4 Page (Vertical Only) . \$55 3.25" x 4.5"

1/8 Page (Business Card) \$30 3.5" x 2"

(Horizontal only)

Ask about discounts for multi-month or annual ad contracts.

Payment for ads is due on the 7th of the month. If not received by the following 7th of the month, the person will be listed on the RMDS website under the suspended category.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Articles submitted for publication will not be returned. Please contact the editor before submitting unsolicited articles or photos. Articles represent the work and views of their authors, and not necessarily that of RMDS, its officers or employees.

Utilize the RMDS Network

Trainers and Instructors

Use the RMDS Website to Build New Business

If you wish to increase business, you can place your information on the RMDS website at very low cost. Send information to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Dr, Boulder, CO 80301, Phone 720.890.7825, or email: rmds@rmds.org (note on subject line "Trainer Info".) Please include your name, phone, address, email, training locations and other pertinent info such as awards, certifications, lesson types, schooling horses, etc.

The website averages 200 hits per month on the trainer page and RMDS receives 25-30 emails per month requesting names of trainers in the RMDS region. Don't miss the opportunity to expand your client base and gain recognition.

Cost is \$50 annually. Mail check to: RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Drive. Boulder, CO 80301.

Advertise Events on the RMDS Website

Website ads on the RMDS site provide your event with high visibility. Your ad will run for one month from the date it first appears. Unless the RMDS Central Office is notified in advance (rmds@rmds.org), the ad will be removed from the website once the date of the event advertised has passed.

Please limit content of the ad to 20 words. Your email and website addresses will be displayed as links.

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

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

Important Info on RMDS membership

Awards are based on the information on your membership card. Be sure to double-check everything very carefully.

Duplicate cards are available for \$2.00. If emailed to you, they are free. Request a new one by mailing the Central Office at rmds@rmds.org.

Proof of AA status must be sent to the Central Office every year. Showing proof at shows is not enough for the year-end awards. Owner, rider, and horse **MUST** be current members **PRIOR** to any ride for the score to count towards qualifying for RMDS Championships and for qualifying for any year-end award. If PONY is not listed under breed and you have a pony, send a copy of the measurement form or the permanent pony card to the Central Office. Remember, membership and its details are your responsibility. Be sure corrections are made.

Technical Delegates, Judges, and Certified Instructors

Dressage Judge Ratings and Levels Qualified to Judge All Current RMDS Members

Any class ridden before a judge not qualified to judge at that level must ride "Hors d'concours" where the score does not count.

Status	Status	Levels	Status	Status	Levels
"r"	Recorded	Training - Second	3*	(FEI C)	All
"R"	Registered	Training - Fourth	4*	(FEI I) International	All
"S"	Senior	All	5*	(FEI O)	All

FEI 4*

Janet Foy^ 719-260-1566

FEI PARA Dressage 4*

Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

FEI 3*

Sandra Hotz ^ 303-817-2030

USEF 'S'

Janet Foy ^ 719-260-1566

Janet "Dolly" Hannon ^* 303-919-4112

Sandra Hotz ^ 303-817-2030

Anita Owen 303-953-9904

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez ^* 303-263-0768

Kristi Wysocki ^* 303-648-9877

^ = FEI Young Horse Certified

* = Dressage Seat Equitation Certified

USEF 'r'

Amy Jablonovsky 970-493-2833

Gwen Ka'awaloa 303-917-3679

USDF 'L' Graduates (Schooling and RMDS

Only recognized shows)

*Denotes Graduation with Distinction

Simone Ahern * 719-749-9274

Julie Burt 720-347-8084

Kathleen Donnelly* 970-310-8729

Beth Geier 303-673-9840

Jessica Greer 970-581-5613

Julie Haugen* 970-290-8360

Sarah Martin * 720-891-1369

Linda Ohlson-Gross * 303-840-9818

KC Parkins-Kyle 303-841-9953

Kathy Simard* 720-981-4448

Stephanie Soule* 970-201-0747

Simone Windeler 719-287-2040

L FACULTY

Janet Foy 719-260-1566

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 303-263-0768

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge

Janet Foy 'R' 719-260-1566

Gwen Ka'awaloa 'r' 303-917-3679

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-263-0768

Kristi Wysocki 'R' 303-648-9877

USDF Sport Horse Seminar Faculty

Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-263-0768

Kristi Wysocki 'R' 303-648-9877

FEI Level 1 Dressage Steward

Rusty Cook 505-249-7586

Debbie Moloznik 818-515-0377

Heather Petersen 719-683-8435

Dianne Stanley 406-690-9450

Technical Delegates USEF

Eva-Maria Adolphi (UT), r. 801-254-3247

Rusty Cook (NM), r 505-249-7586

Laurie Mactavish (CO), R . 970-390-5160

Debbie Moloznik (CO), r ... 818-515-0377

Heather Petersen (CO), r . 719-683-8435

Catherine Siemiet (CO), r . 719-942-5311

Dianne Stanley (MT), R 406-690-9450

Technical Delegates, RMDS recognized shows only

Joan Clay 970-420-0887

Jeannette Hillery 303-494-7718

Mary Jo Hoepner 719-495-3648

Mindy Maguire 720-301-0089

Dee Stiers 970-876-2987

USDF Certified Instructors

Training - Second

Julie Burt 720-347-8084

RaeAnn Cook 505-249-7586

Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-919-4112

Clayton Martin 719-379-3716

Bridget Milnes 303-660-4986

Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877

Training - Fourth

Simone Ahern 719-749-9274

Loma Fowler 303-229-5108

Sarah Martin 720-891-1369

Kathy Simard 720-981-4448

USDF Instructor/Trainer Junior Faculty

Training - 1st Level

Kathy Simard 720-981-4448

USDF Instructor/Trainer Faculty

Training - 4th Level

Sarah Martin 720-891-1369

Note: If you are a TD, Judge, or Certified Instructor and a current RMDS member and your name is not listed here, please contact the Central Office at 720-890-7825 or email: rmds@rmds.org

Shows and Events

All shows are RMDS recognized except schooling shows.

JANUARY 2014

- 11 Winter Clinic Long Lining-Lazy H Ranch-Colo Springs, CO**
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 simonedressage@gmail.com
- 18 Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 www.mariahfarms.net

FEBRUARY 2014

- 1 Judges Continuing Education with Bill Solyntjes 'S' Larimer Cty Fairgrounds-5280 Arena Circle-Loveland, CO**
Contact Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 15 TD/Show Management Clinic-Douglas Cty Fairgrounds-CSU Extension Bldg.-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 15 Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 www.mariahfarms.net

MARCH 2014

- 15-16 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop: Riding/Training-2nd Level. OPEN to all - auditors welcome!**
Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 15 Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 www.mariahfarms.net

APRIL 2014

- 12 Pikes Peak Dressage RMDS Show-Kaimana Farm-Elizabeth, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 26 Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 www.mariahfarms.net
- 25-27 Dressage for the Cure Warm-up & At the Peak USEF Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 26 BVD Ride-A-Test-Singletree Farm-Boulder, CO**
Contact Beth Geier 303-673-9840 bethgeier1@comcast.net
- 27 BVD Spring Fling-Singletree Farm-Boulder, CO**
Contact Beth Geier 303-673-9840 bethgeier1@comcast.net

MAY 2014

- 3-4 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop/Refresher Training-4th Level. OPEN to all - auditors welcome!**
Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com
- 3-4 GVDS Schooling Show I-Mesa Cty Fairgrounds-Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Tammy Fagan 970-858-1604 tfagadressage@wyoming.com
- 10-11 Rocky Mountain Dressage I, II-USEF Somerset Farm, Longmont, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 17 CDEC Ride-A-Test-Cheyenne, WY**
Contact Jane Swanhorst-Ringolsby 307-634-2870 www.cheydressageandeventing.com
- 18 Autumn Hill Spring into Summer-AHIEC-Longmont, CO**
Contact Simone Windeler 719-287-2040 simonedressage@gmail.com

- 23-25 Paragon I, II, III-CDI 3*-USEF Stanley Park Fairgrounds-Estes Park, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 24 Mariah Farms Schooling Show-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 www.mariahfarms.net

- 30-June 1 High Prairie Dressage I, II, III-USEF Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO**
Contact Jennifer Killinger 818-841-3554 jennifer@glenroys.com

- 31-June 1 GVDS Schooling Show II Mesa County Fairgrounds-Grand Junction, CO**
Contact Tammy Fagan 970-858-1604 tfagadressage@wyoming.com

JUNE 2014

- 7-8 CDEC Open Dressage Show - USEF Laramie Community College-Cheyenne, WY**
Contact Bill Gentle 307-634-1743 sbgentle@hotmail.com

- 14-15 Rocky Mountain Summer I, II- USEF Somerset Farm, Longmont, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 20-21 Sage Creek I & II-Utah-USEF**
Contact Sue Jero 801-330-5763 dressageshowsec@aol.com

- 21-22 Autumn Hill Dressage Festival I, II, Longmont, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 29 USDF Adult/Youth Team Competition**

JULY 2014

- 5-6 Rocky Mountain Dressage I, II-USEF Somerset Farm, Longmont, CO-**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 5-6 Millbrook Farms Summer Dressage Show-Fairfield, UT USEF**
Contact Jan Lawrence 801-631-2516 millbrk@xmission.com

- 11-12 Dressage at the Peak Summer Warm-Up & Dressage at the Peak II-USEF Fountain Valley School-Colorado Springs, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 20 Centaur Rising Dressage Show-Anchorage Farm-Pine, CO**
Contact Kris Cooper 303-838-5086 kris@anchoragefarm.com

- 25-26 Sage Creek III & IV-Utah-USEF**
Contact Sue Jero 801-330-5763 dressageshowsec@aol.com

- 26-27 Autumn Hill Dressage Festival III, IV, Longmont, CO-USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

AUGUST 2014

- 1-3 Dressage in the Rockies I, II, III-USEF Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO**
Contact Jennifer Killinger 818-841-3554 jennifer@glenroys.com

- 9-10 Millbrook Farms Dressage Show-Fairfield, UT USEF**
Contact Jan Lawrence 801-631-2516 millbrk@xmission.com

- 10 Centaur Rising Dressage Show-Anchorage Farm-Pine, CO**
Contact Kris Cooper 303-838-5086 kris@anchoragefarm.com

- 15-17 Estes Park I, II-CDI 2*-USEF Stanley Park Fairgrounds-Estes Park, CO**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 15-17 USEF r Judges Program - Estes Park -**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

- 23-24 Utah Dressage Society Annual Show I & II-USEF Wasatch County Special Events Center-Heber City, UT**
Contact Corinne Cody 435-901-3181 corinnenpc@gmail.com

30-31 **GVDS Fall Recognized Show-USEF**
Mesa County Fairgrounds-Grand Junction, CO
Contact Tammy Fagan 970-858-1604
tfagadressage@wyoming.com

SEPTEMBER 2014

6 **Pendragon Stud Equestrian Dressage Show-Castle Rock, CO**
Contact Leslie Terry (303) 688-4147 lt2@kellin.net

7 **Last Chance Show-Foothills Chapter-Rising Star Equestrian Center-Arvada, CO**
Contact Jan Danis 505-490-2805 jandalusian@gmail.com

17 **RMDS Breed Championships & Open Show/ USDF/Great American Breed Championships-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drwg.net

18-21 **RMDS Championships & Open Show/ USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships-Colorado Horse Park-Parker, CO USEF**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drwg.net

20-21 **USEF Judges Continuing Education - Colorado Horse Park –**
Contact Chuck Walker at USEF for more information

27 **CDEC 2-Phase Schooling Show-Cheyenne, WY**
Contact Jane Swanhorst-Ringolsby 307-634-2870 www.cheydressageandeventing.com

OCTOBER 2014

11-12 **GVDS Schooling Show III-Mesa County Fairgrounds-Grand Jctn, CO**
Contact Tammy Fagan 970-858-1604 tfagadressage@wyoming.com

24-26 **USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Refresher-Training-4th Level-OPEN to all - auditors welcome! Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office-720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or Jon Haugen 970-217-7820 defiancesport@q.com

NOVEMBER 2014

6-9 **National Championships, Lexington, KY**

15 **RMDS Board of Governors Meeting-Renaissance Hotel-Denver, CO**
Contact RMDS Central Office

15 **RMDS Awards Banquet**

AUGUST 2015

14-16 **USEF r Judges Program - Estes Park –**
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drwg.net

For updates to the calendar, go to www.rmds.org

**THESE EVENTS ARE DEPENDENT UPON VOLUNTEERS.
IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE EVENT ORGANIZER!**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS
Open to all – 2nd Thursday of the odd months, 6:30 pm.
Contact RMDS Central Office for location

2014 RMDS-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

All events are open to everyone to audit or participate unless otherwise stated. A great opportunity to continue your learning!

Feb 1 Judges Continuing Education-Bill Solyntjes-Laramie County Fairgrounds-Loveland, CO

Feb 15 TD/Show Management Workshop-CSU Extension Building at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock.

Mar 15-16 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Riding-Vicki Hammers-O'Neil-Ft Collins, CO

May 3-4 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Refresher-Debbie Bowman-Ft Collins, CO

Sep 17-21 RMDS Championships & Region 5 Championships-Parker, CO

Oct 24-26 USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop-Final Testing-TBA - Closed to auditors

Nov 15 RMDS Board of Governors' and Awards Banquet-TBA

For details on these and other RMDS events:

- Contact the Education Chairman: education@rmds.org
- Read the Centaur
- Go on the website - www.rmds.org
- Contact the RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

It was another wonderful week at the USDF Convention in Lexington! Many thanks to those of you who joined us. It's always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. Our two regional meetings went very well and a lot of great information was exchanged. I enjoyed seeing so many people at our meetings! The weather wasn't the greatest this year starting on Thursday and many people had a hard time getting home, but the fellowship and education was outstanding.

Convention Topics and Decisions

Some key things to come out of the Regional meetings:

- New committee representative for the Adult Programs committee – Gwen Ka'awaloa.
- Many thanks to Cat Siemiet for her years of service.
- We voted to continue the \$200 reimbursement grant for those attending the USDF Convention as USDF Region 5 PM Delegates for the 2014 USDF Conventions.



USDF REGION FIVE

Arizona | Colorado | Eastern Montana | New Mexico | West Texas | Utah | Wyoming

- There are many great things happening in the Sport Horse Committee this coming year and lots of growth in that program this past year. The inaugural USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development program was a great success.

- USDF National Championships were very well received. Financials will be available shortly, but feedback from competitors was excellent.

- Discussions were held on the 2013 and 2014 Regional Championships and possible bids for the 2015 Regional Championships.



Region 5 delegates.

- Freestyle Committee is extremely active and has a great new continuing education program for judges.

Region 5 also had a couple of full tables at the USDF Awards Banquet. Congratulations to everyone on their medals, their Horse of the Year standings and their All Breed Awards. We had a lot of award winners this year!

Congratulations also to Madison Bigler for winning the Junior Scholarship to attend the USDF convention and also to her mother, Michelle Bigler, for winning the Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant to attend the convention. It was great to have so many people at the Regional meetings, and representing Region 5 in the meetings and the Board of Governors meetings.

In 2014 we'll attend the USDF Convention in Cambridge, Mass., and in 2015 we will be in Las Vegas!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a good start to the New Year!

Till next month!

Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director

RMDS Online - www.rmnds.org

Forms Online:

- USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshop Application
- RMDS 2014 Membership Forms
- Judges Continuing Education-Bill Solyntjes-Laramie County Fairgrounds-Loveland, CO
- TD/Show Management Workshop-CSU Extension Buidling at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock.

Find Complete Awards list from The Dressage Foundation: www.dressagefoundation.org

2014 USEF Dressage Developing Program: www.usef.org/documents/highPerformance/dressage//2014/2014DevelopingDressageProgram.pdf.



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2014 Clinics

March 10-11-12, 2014	Alfredo Hernandez Dressage Clinic
June 9-10-11, 2014	Alfredo Hernandez Dressage Clinic
August 25-26-27, 2014	Alfredo Hernandez Dressage Clinic
October 16-17-18, 2014	Alfredo Hernandez Dressage Clinic
TBD, 2014	Anne Howard Dressage Clinic
TBD, 2014	Jessica Jo Tate Dressage Clinic

2014 Schooling Shows

	<u>Judge</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
May 10, 2014	TBD	04/12/14	05/07/14
June 21, 2014	TBD	05/24/14	06/18/14
July 19, 2014	TBD	06/24/14	07/16/14

Visit website for additional clinics and events



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