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Dancing Horses Benefit for Jr/YR Teams

The RMDS FEI Juniors & Young Riders and Friends present An Afternoon of Dancing Horses to benefit USDF Region 5 Teams for the 2013 North American Junior and Young Rider Championships.

This exhibition of dressage freestyles from First Level through International FEI Levels is Sunday, June 9, at Autumn Hill International Equestrian Center, 9417 N. Foothills Hwy., Longmont, from 2 to 4 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students, \$6 children 10 and under, \$30 family/ maximum at the door. Refreshments will be available for sale.

For more information, call 720-341-5033 or email labr57@gmail.com.

Correction to Chapter Meeting Schedule

Colorado Springs Dressage Association meets every 3rd Tuesday at City Hall. Contact Pat Leech (719) 749-2860.

Junior Camp

Many of you are beginning to talk about your summer plans. Please include the RMDS Junior Camp which is going to be June 19-22 at Tomora Training Center.

[Click for flyer](#)

Region 5 Youth & Adult Team Competition

This event provides an opportunity for youth and adults to compete in a team-like atmosphere, and encourages camaraderie and support for youth and adults competing at any level.

[Click for flyer](#)

EHV-1 Tracker Map

This is a great resource for staying up to date on the EHV-1 outbreak. If it affects any RMDS events, we will keep you updated on [Facebook](#).

[Click for Tracker Map](#)

Members

View and print your membership card.

Not a member yet? Join now.

[Click for Membership](#)

Calendar

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

[Click for Calendar](#)

Chapters

Latest Chapter news coming in July. RMDS has 12 chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region. If you would like to change your chapter affiliation you must personally notify the central office in [writing](#).

[Click for Chapters](#)

Scholarships

RMDS awards scholarships annually in four categories. Applications are due Nov. 4th.

[Click for Scholarships](#)

USDF Region 5

For the latest updates and current Region 5 news.

[Click for Region 5](#)

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Our Marketplace advertisers support RMDS while promoting their businesses.

[Click for our advertisers](#)

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Spring cleaning your tack room? List your items in our classifieds, or see what is for sale.

[Click for Classifieds](#)

Advertise with us

RMDS has many print, show season, championship and online advertising opportunities to reach your targeted equine market.

[Click for Ad info](#)

Facebook

RMDS and many of our chapters are on Facebook, like our page to keep up with us.

[Like us here](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

May has been a month of change. Spring finally showed up and the snowstorms have faded. The show season is upon us, as well as many clinics and other riding opportunities. We are blessed to live and work in a beautiful part of the country. Some states are suffering with adverse weather and lives have been lost, both animal and human. With adversity comes change and growth. RMDS is in a growth stage now as new leaders dedicate themselves to continued progress. Lori Mitchell resigned as President to pursue other endeavors and some other Board members of RMDS have chosen to resign, as well.

RMDS will rebuild to finish the 2013 year; I am hoping that soon we will have a new Vice President and Show Committee Chair.

I do not intend to make changes on the agenda for 2013; my goal is to finish the year with the agenda in place. I am hoping that new people will join us and that fresh ideas and perspectives will enhance RMDS as we move forward. RMDS is respected in the USDF community for its ability to educate and empower our membership through opportunities to grow as riders and horsemen and horsewomen.

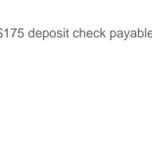
Alois Podhajsky wrote a book titled, "My Horses My Teachers." He looked at every interaction as a chance to learn from these great and noble animals. I believe every member feels this way and that is why we train and work with our horses. Whether you show, use the dressage training method as a tool to ride better at home or on the trail, you have the same goals. The goal, of course, is to enjoy our horses. Let us not lose sight of this goal.

I hope to move forward and help the RMDS membership achieve goals with their horses. We have a good budget that was established in November of 2012. We need to keep working on the budget, as needed, to achieve the educational goals and sustain our championship show. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss how I can help you and the organization move forward.

For Our Horses,
RMDS President Gwen Ka'awaloa

Fun and Dressage Pyramid Focus of Jr/YR Dressage Camp

Time is running out to experience the enjoyment and learning at the 2013 RMDS Young Rider Dressage Camp June 19 to 22 at Tomora Training Center, Greeley. Riders must be 10 years old or older. Plans include scavenger hunts, a vaulting demonstration and, as always, enjoying horses and the art of dressage.



Campers pictured at 2012 camp are, in front, Natalie Ellis (2013 camp director), and from left to right in back: "Bug" (Emily) Karls, Ally Price, Tecla Gough and Danielle Iwanick.

Participants camp in tents and spend four busy days together making new friends, riding with top local trainers, learning from area horse experts and riding in a schooling show.

The cost is \$375 per camper. This includes stabling, meals, lessons, activities and schooling show entry. Campers must provide their own horse, tack, transportation/trailer, horse feed and bedding, and human cots/bedding. A \$175 deposit is required for pre-registration.

For more information, contact RMDS Youth Coordinator Julie Haugen at 970-290-8360 or by e-mail at deliancesport@q.com

Mail the completed [pre-registration form](#) and \$175 deposit check payable to RMDS to:

Julie Haugen
417 Promontory Dr.
Loveland, CO 80537

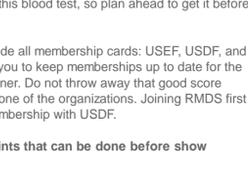
Are You Ready to Show? Avoid These Common Show Entry Errors

By Beth Geier

I have contacted a couple of other show secretaries to find out what their "pet peeves" are regarding submission of entries.

Make Entry Legible:

RMDS now allows you to fill out the entry form online. Do this for all the information that remains the same for every show, save it to your computer, and then hand write in the particulars for each show. The show secretary really appreciates being able to read the information.



Sara Porter and her mare Trudi. Photo by Jordan Hobbs.

Read the Show List:

For each show as the details, fees and requirements change for each show and each facility. Follow the directions for that show.

Fill in All the Blanks: If you do not give a phone number or an e-mail address, how can we contact you with ride times or any changes that occur at the last minute? To be sure that your scores count include your membership numbers.

Trainer: This is the person responsible for the horse on the show grounds and is there. It is not the person who teaches you.

Adult Amateurs: If you are entering the adult amateur division, you must include a copy of your current U. S. Equestrian Federation Adult Amateur card with the entry, otherwise you will be placed in the Open division.

Drug Fees: Pay these for USEF/U.S. Dressage Federation-recognized shows. Do not pay this for the RMDS-only shows.

Emergency Contact: A must. Should something happen to you, we need a name and a phone number to call.

Coggins Test: If the phone list says you need one, please include this with the entry. Most barns do require this. It takes awhile to get the laboratory results back on this blood test, so plan ahead to get it before show opening date.

Membership Cards: Include all membership cards: USEF, USDF, and RMDS. This will also help you to keep memberships up to date for the rider, the horse and the owner. Do not throw away that good score because you forgot to join one of the organizations. Joining RMDS first does give you a Group Membership with USDF.

Here are some helpful hints that can be done before show season:

- Using one sheet of paper, copy all the membership cards on one side and the Coggins test results on the other side. Make two-sided copies of this piece of paper for each show.
- On the RMDS Entry Form, also using one sheet of paper: Fill out all the lines that never change for the season, save to your computer, print out this page 2 and obtain all the signatures needed. When it is time for a show, fill in page 1 with each show's specific information and print out page 1 of the entry form on the unused Page 1. Page 2 already is completed and printed.

Beth Geier is RMDS Central Office manager, an experienced show secretary, and a USDF 'L' graduate.

Major Changes Come to USDF Instructor/ Trainer Program

By Sarah Martin

USDF has recently initiated many exciting changes in United States Dressage Federation programs, from the institution of national head-to-head championships for Adult Amateur and Open Riders to a new format for the "L" program and now major changes to the Instructor/Trainer Program.

The vital aspect that all riders need to realize is that now the Instructor/Trainer Program has solidified a stepping stone process for education that can lead to an individual who chooses to start the process of becoming certified, or simply allow for riders who are interested to participate as either auditors or participants in the workshop process without any "qualification requirements" (other than interest) being necessary!

USDF offers workshops in lunging, riding and teaching. The workshops are tiered so they can be offered for Training and First Level, Second Level, or Third and Fourth Level. (Lunging is only offered at Training/First, then Second Level.) The workshops are intended, much like the A, B and C phases of the "L" program, to educate participants and auditors on what is expected in terms of understanding a common vocabulary, having an understanding of the "basics" involved at each level, developing an eye and an understanding of correct muscular development in the horse at each level, and enhancing both participants' and auditors' ability to think in an organized approach to the basic knowledge that should be being communicated whether the individual is in a lunging, riding or teaching situation.

After more than 20 years of development, the Instructor/Trainer Program has now developed a system designed to educate not just the professional, but the serious Amateur or Young Rider who wants to know what the world standard for dressage education is. Through close interaction with dressage professionals in the U.S. and Germany, the Instructor/Trainer Program has grown and fleshed out to become far more than simply a "testing" system to identify individuals with correct basics. It now is designed to provide an educational process so that the general public can be educated as to what they should be expecting a professional to know, and professionals can get exposure to what these standards are, and hone them in their own practice.

In addition, the program has fleshed out to incorporate the many, many professionals who contribute to the education of riders at Training and First Level, but may not yet have riders or horses competing at Second Level or above. USDF wants to be able to draw these professionals into the pipeline of access to education, such as the annual FEI Trainers conference held in Wellington, Fla., each year, and the FEI Day held for certified instructors at any level of certification which follows that conference, and is closed for participation to certified instructors only. This allows an intensive day of learning and conversation, plus professional networking, that is more intimate than the FEI conference and gives certified's an insight to more training techniques at the FEI level.

As such, USDF is now also offering a certification testing process for Training and First Level. The progression starts with getting certified at Training/First, then Second, then Third and Fourth Level. In addition, USDF is developing an FEI certification process for PSG/I-1, and in the pipeline is a process for I-2 and Grand Prix.

Due to the broad expansion of workshops, USDF has also worked hard to expand the opportunities for certified instructors to progress into a faculty position. To serve the needs of workshops at Training and First Level, faculty are being trained from a pool of interested professionals who have graduated from Third and Fourth Level certification with scores over 80%. These individuals can apply to be trained through an apprenticeship process so that they can teach Training and First Level workshops in lunging, riding and teaching. After two years, they can apply to become "full" faculty, where they are then able to enroll in an apprentice program that will educate them on being able to teach workshops for Second, Third and Fourth Level.

RMDS is pleased to announce that a workshop series will be offered in 2013 starting with the Training and First Level workshops at Phenter Hill Farm in Fort Collins, CO. Contact the Central Office and watch the website for dates. Up to seven participants and unlimited auditors are invited for each workshop, with no prerequisites for attending. For those interested in using the workshops to progress into testing, requirements can be found at usdf.org under Education, and then Instructor/Trainer.

RMDS member Sarah Martin is on the faculty of the USDF Instructor/Trainer Program, eligible to teach the program's workshops through Fourth Level. Sarah is a certified instructor through Fourth Level, a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist, and an "L" graduate with distinction. She trains from Taka Chi Dressage Stables in Blanca.

New Committee Can Serve Dressage Professionals

By Gwen Ka'awaloa, RMDS President

I proposed that RMDS consider creating a committee to represent dressage professionals. The idea was very well received by the Board in March, and we decided to work on this to see how many professionals would be interested in supporting it. In November at our annual Board of Governors meeting, we can then evaluate and vote on making the Professionals Committee and its Chair a permanent part of RMDS.

The idea is to form a list of professionals in dressage who are riders, trainers or instructors. Anyone who would like to be part of the committee and/or who would like to be on its mailing list should contact RMDS to add your information to what we hope will be a large group.

My wish is that we can put together a group that will have riders and Adult Amateurs, to add to the voices of the Junior/Young Riders and the Adult Amateurs. The professionals in RMDS affect how shows and clinics are received and attended. If we have a voice, then we can participate and influence the future of RMDS in a positive way. My vision for this committee is to see the professionals take an active role in RMDS and, through their knowledge and experience, help lead RMDS into even more activities that will benefit the membership.

RMDS already has a reputation as a leader in providing quality clinics and opportunities to its members. RMDS can expand and grow, and I hope that when represented at meetings, the professionals can add their expertise to the direction the membership takes in the future. More participation means more ideas.

Gwen Ka'awaloa is RMDS President, a U. S. Equestrian Federation 'Y' judge and dressage sport horse breeding judge.

Plan Now to Apply for RMDS Scholarships

This is a shout out to wonderful RMDS Scholarship Program applicants. In order to apply for these potential scholarships, each applicant needs to complete eight hours volunteering for a chapter and/or RMDS event prior to applying. Applicants can earn their volunteer hours at shows, educational events and at their local chapter.

Scholarships are granted on the basis of financial need and volunteerism. Applicants must have completed a minimum of eight hours of volunteering at RMDS events in the year prior to the scholarship year for which they are applying for a scholarship. Recipients must complete an additional eight hours of volunteering at RMDS events during the year in which they were awarded the scholarship. Volunteer hours must be documented using the Volunteer Hours Form found on the RMDS website. Click on <http://rmds.org/Publications/>

Four Scholarship Categories

The RMDS Scholarship Program awards money to riders in the following categories:

- The Leg-Up Scholarship** is awarded to riders, regardless of age, who are training at Intro, Training or First Level.
- The Solid Seat Scholarship** is awarded to riders who qualify as U. S. Equestrian Federation Adult Amateurs. Applicants must have a current USEF AA card on file with the RMDS Central Office. This scholarship is available to riders over the age of 21 and for any level.
- The Junior/Young Rider Scholarship** is awarded to a rider under the age of 21 and is available to riders of any level.
- The Opening Doors Scholarship** is awarded to riders/riding instructors of any age who are considered professionals, according to USEF rules. This scholarship is available to professionals, whether they compete or not, to help support their continuing education and/or competitive goals.

Applications need to be received by the Scholarship Committee by Nov. 30. Click [here](#) for more details. For questions, contact Scholarship Committee members [MaryJo Hoepner](#) and [Heather Petersen](#).

Welfare of Horse Topic of Live USEF Town Meeting Broadcast

From the USEF Communications Department

Welfare of the Horse in the 21st Century and Meeting the Needs of the Performance Horse in a Changing Environment are topics at a town hall-format meeting broadcast live on USEFNetwork.com on Monday, June 3, at 8 p.m. MST. This interactive broadcast replaces meetings scheduled nationwide, including one June 14 at Colorado Horse Park.

A panel of USEF representatives, owners, trainers and veterinarians will gather in Lexington, Ky., to take questions and suggestions throughout the webcast from a live audience, as well as from equestrians tuned into the webcast. Members anywhere in the country will be able to view the webcast at USEFNetwork.com live.

The broadcast also will be available free to view on demand on USEFNetwork.com after June 4.

The webcast on USEFNetwork.com is open to all USEF equestrians from every breed and discipline.

Topics will include:

- Welfare of the horse today
- Overview of USEF and FEI medication rules
- Proposed Catastrophic Incident Protocol for USEF Competitions, which will include plans for death, collapse and disease report mechanisms and processes.
- Introduction of proposed additions to horse welfare rules described as Prohibited Practices, which include competition day injection rules, veterinarian membership requirements, review of training and preparation practices and more.
- Owner-trainer-veterinarian relationship and responsibilities, with means to greater accountability for horse's welfare and well-being.
- Regulatory reform resulting in increased testing and more stringent penalties for rule infractions.
- Next steps - Call for industry reform

E-mail responses to these topics to horsewelfare@usef.org

Meeting materials will be distributed prior to the nationwide broadcast and posted on the [USEFNetwork Town Hall pages](#).

The vision of the United States Equestrian Federation is to provide leadership for equestrian sport in the U.S. by promoting the pursuit of excellence from the grassroots to the Olympic Games, based on a foundation of fair, safe competition and the welfare of its human and equine athletes.

For more information, click on <http://usefnetwork.com/>.

The Happy Horse

Successful trainers often refer to the importance of the horse's happiness. Riders must remember that the horses' emotions are not influenced by an occasional carrot or by the rider's exuberance after a good ride in the ring.

It is important not to treat a horse as a human friend who will understand periods of separation, silence and excuse our frailties. The horse's happiness depends on the daily routine and the environment. Most important is the balance of demand and reward in the training period.

We must be patient, repetition must be measured and reward must be frequent with every sign of progress.

Treated with balanced requests during training sessions and relaxed rides around the property or in the country, the horse will be happy. It will show signs of joy that make a "good ride" brilliant.

Dr. Rudolf Vlatten, a former USEF "S" dressage judge, wrote small pieces that he called "From the Judge's Point of View" which he sent to various newsletters. His daughter, Dorie Vlatten-Schmitt, provided this from her father's files.