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Happening This Month

- 6-7 Cheyenne Dressage and Eventing Open Show I & II
303-648-3164
- 6 Mariah Farm Schooling Show
303-660-2456
- 7 Foothills Chapter Schooling Show
303-847-9862
kris@anchoragefarm.com
- 12-13 Sage Creek Dressage Shows I & II
801-330-5763
dressageshow@sue@aol.com
- 13-14 Rocky Mountain Summer Dressage I & II
520-906-5545
dfseabury@gmail.com
- 13-14 Fountain Valley Dressage NAJYRC/Young Horse
303-648-3164
slush@drwg.net
- 13-14 GVDS Schooling Show II
arlene@skypony.org
- 14 Dressage Schooling Show Erie, CO
303-532-9381
- 19-21 Alfredo Hernandez Clinic
719-495-7004
- 20-21 Autumn Hill Dressage Festival I & II-NAJYRC/Young Horse
303-648-3164
slush@drwg.net
- 20 Cottonwood Riding Club Dressage Schooling Show
303-791-7656
- 20 Clinic-Perfect Transitions with Simone Windeler
719-287-2040
simonedressage@gmail.com
- 26 Showing On A Shoestring-Melissa Creswick
435-640-3287
achild@kirwin.com
- 28 USDF Youth & Adult Team Competition
720-890-7825
rmds@rmds.org

Go to [Calendar](#) to see complete list of upcoming USEF/RMDS Show Schedule, clinics, schooling shows and events.

Nominations due for Photography Awards!

Nomination Forms for GMO Newsletter, Website, and Photography Awards can be found [online](#). Nominations are due to USDF no later than August 31, 2015.

Chapters

RMDS has 12 chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region. Check for changed days/times/venues of meetings! If you would like to change your chapter affiliation you must personally notify the central office in [writing](#).

[Click for Chapters](#)

USDF Region 5

Click [HERE](#) for latest report from Heather Petersen, USDF Region 5 Director.

For the latest updates and current Region 5 news. [Click for Region 5](#)

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

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Spring Showers Bring Summer Fun!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since May was a wet and wintry mix I am hoping that June will be sunny and bright, with just enough rain to keep us from drying out. I am happy and proud to report that the first ever RMDS Trainers Symposium* was a success. The Open Clinic with Christoph Hess was received well too, and both riders and horses made great progress. I rode in the clinic and learned so much with my mare, Tia.

With the success of this weekend the RMDS Board hopes to continue to educate our trainers while also providing education to all our members through clinics and more symposiums. We learned about a few changes that can be made to help the sessions run more smoothly while still providing a great educational experience.

I want to thank all the participants in the Symposium and Clinic for supporting this new format for education. I hope that everyone who attended shares their knowledge so all members can benefit from the experience.

A busy summer is ahead and my wish for all RMDS members is that they find the time to enjoy their horses. Please free to contact [me](#) and our [Centaur Editor](#) with news of your accomplishments and wishes for this season.

Happy Riding
Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

* Watch for complete articles on Hess in the July issue of the Centaur!

World Cup Vegas 2015: My First Time Attending!

By Beth Hart

President, RMDS Arkansas Valley Chapter



Click to see Slide Show

It was my first big show. Watching from TV or computer screen just doesn't come close to the real thing. Incredible riders with magnificently trained horses. The Grand Prix was the first competition. As each rider rode through the test, I was able to figure out the next moves they would make. It was breathtaking. The stadium was full, the crowd so quiet, all in unison holding our breath until the horse and rider were finished.

Then roars, whistles, thunderous clapping for a spectacular job well done. It was electrifying. Charlotte held her title and brought the house down, standing ovations, shouts and whoops for a most fabulous ride!

I only took 4060 photos of the World Cup. Now granted, quite a few came out blurred and have been deleted. I made the pictures small for this email. I wish you could see the detail more clearly! The concentration, grimaces and smiles as the competitors work through their test, the sweat and froth on their horses as they perform. They all strive to give their utmost, their very best.

Now you will need to forgive me as I am not a fan of crowds. I live in SE Colorado, Fremont County, population 47,000, where less than 20,000 of us live in town. There were throngs of people with very little room and with the amount of noise we humans make, it was a bit much. However, once I took my seat in the sports arena and the competition began, it was as if I was the only one there. It was just mesmerizing.

Sure, there's lots to do and see in Las Vegas but I spent most of my time at the arena. Oh, and the entertainment at the show was fabulous with Batman & Super woman, Cowboy & Indian, John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John and finally the quadrille with Elvis and his show girls. There was also a mustang driving around in a car and a demonstration of well trained horses pulling a carriage. I had no idea there was so much fun to be had!

What else did I see? The jumpers competed. Wow were they cool and crazy! The crowd, again, is so quiet until the horse and rider is through the course. Then thunderous, well deserved clapping from the spectators came after each ride. The jumps seemed so high and close together, the competition was fierce.

Will I go again? Probably, I am grateful for the opportunity to see some of the most spectacular riders of our time. World Cup 2017 is in Omaha. Maybe I can get a press pass and get even better photos! I hope you have enjoyed my short story of the adventures of World Cup 2015. Truly, it was amazing. If you haven't gone to the World Cup, try to find time to do it just once. You'll be glad you did.

Harmony Equine Center Holds Annual Open House May 16th

From the Editor



Looking for a great companion horse? Or maybe a nice trail or husband horse?

At the Harmony Equine Center in Franktown, I discovered a well-run program that re-homes horses that have been removed by law enforcement. Whether youngster or oldster, these horses are rehomed with care at this wonderful facility.



Several booths, adoption dogs from "Buddy Center" in Castle Rock, music, eats, tours and more drew many interested folks - and more than a few excited kids - for the four-hour event.

The Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center™ provides a safe haven for Colorado horses, ponies, donkeys and mules that have suffered from abuse and neglect.

and been removed from their owners by law enforcement authorities. At the center, equines find relief from suffering and opportunities for new lives. Top-quality care is provided by a knowledgeable, professional staff that is on the premises seven days a week. Once the animals are restored to health, they are offered to responsible new owners through an application and interview process.

Competing in Dressage After an Injury

By Kristi Wysocki, FEI 3* dressage judge

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Can I Compete Down a Level After Coming Back From an Injury?

Q: I have a horse that is in rehab from a tendon injury. He was shown at Prix St. Georges before his injury. I really want to get back into the show ring but was wondering about etiquette in reference to returning to the show ring after injury. Can I show my horse down a couple of levels (Third Level) or show down a single level (Fourth Level) while he is coming back? Or is it improper to show down levels, and should I wait until he's ready to be back at Prix St. Georges?

Name withheld by request

Kristi Wysocki

A: The first consideration as you decide when to show your horse after any injury is, of course, that he has completely recovered from the injury and is fit enough to pursue the level of interest, no matter what that level is. The higher levels of competition are more strenuous on a horse's soft tissues so he may need more time prior to returning to training. Some injuries may permanently limit a horse's ability to return to the higher levels of training. That should be discussed at length with your veterinarian prior to returning to training of any level.

The lateral work and extensions place higher degrees of strain on the horse's legs than other dressage movements. I would highly recommend that the horse be completely healed and extremely fit prior to attempting either of these exercises, even when training at home. Many veterinarians recommend no turning at the trot or canter for a significant length of time during rehabilitation, thus minimizing the strain on the injured tendon. Lateral work and extensions are the last training allowed after the horse has become quite fit, perhaps even more fit than prior to the injury.

In regard to the level you compete at following an injury, there are no rules that limit competing at a lower level than you previously competed at, other than championship classes. The rules for each championship class can be found in the rules for that championship. But for regular open dressage competitions, choosing to ride at a lower level, or more importantly, needing to ride at a lower level than you did prior to the injury is perfectly legal and may be the smarter thing to do. That is simply showing that you are concerned for the welfare of your horse, which is the first priority, and that you are being cautious in your progress.

As far as which level to start competition at, remember that Fourth Level movements are very similar to Prix St. Georges movements, with a lesser degree of collection required. If the horse was competing at Prix St. Georges prior to the injury and you are considering a lower level of competition to reduce the physical stress for him, a level lower than Fourth may be warranted.

The final decision comes between you and your veterinarian. Factors including the location of the injury, severity of the injury, rate of healing, degree of healing, scarring, etc., all need to be weighed when determining if, when and at which level you return to the competition ring. I personally would err on the cautious side of time, regardless of the level I chose for my comeback with my equine partner. Remember, it's just one horse show. There are many others to come.

New USDF Rider Awards Announced for 2016

Lexington, KY (May 20, 2015) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) announced today the new Dressage Seat Equitation Rider Awards, to first be awarded in the 2016 competition year. Available to both USDF Participating and Group Members, riding in any division, these awards are designed to recognize riders' achievements in equitation and will be awarded at three levels; Elementary, Accomplished, and Elite. For each level, riders must earn five scores of 65 percent, 72 percent, and 80 percent, respectively.

As with other USDF Rider Awards, scores do not expire and do not need to be earned within one competition year. While the first USDF Dressage Seat Equitation Rider Awards will not be awarded until the 2016 competition year, scores from current or past Dressage Seat Equitation classes may be eligible. Winners of these awards will receive a certificate of recognition as well as a specially designed USDF lapel pin, in yellow, red, and blue for the respective levels.

USDF Awards Committee Chair Peggy Klump explained, "We are so pleased to be able to provide the well deserved acknowledgement and recognition to those individuals excelling in dressage equitation. This is an important aspect to our sport and these awards further USDF's mission of recognizing achievements, as well as providing yet another national level honor to be bestowed upon not only USDF Participating Members, but Group Members as well, in any division of competition."

For more information about the USDF Dressage Seat Equitation Rider Awards, or other USDF Rider Awards, visit the USDF website at [www.usdf.org](#), or contact the USDF office at [riderawards@usdf.org](#).

Founded in 1973, the United States Dressage Federation is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit [www.usdf.org](#), e-mail [usdressage@usdf.org](#), or call (859) 971-2277.