

THE CENTAUR

The Purity of the Gaits

by Kathryn King Johnson, M.Ed.

Rhythm and *tempo* dictate the purity of the gaits. Rhythm is to dressage as it is to music. In dressage it is the arrangement of the horse's footfalls; in music it is the arrangement of notes. Tempo is the speed of the footfalls, or the speed of the notes.

In some of the gaits, we also have a moment of suspension, when none of the horse's legs are on the ground. Suspension is similar to a rest in music.

We all know the correct rhythm of the gaits: the walk has four beats, the trot has two beats, and the canter has three beats.

But what happens when things go wrong?

The Walk

The correct rhythm of the walk is: 1,2,3,4. The sequence of legs in motion is: 1. left hind 2. left front 3. right hind 4. right front.

Deviations in the walk can happen when the walk is pushed too fast, or when precipitous collection occurs. The walk can become lateral as the rhythm changes. A lateral walk begins to feel side to side, and the count changes, becoming 1-2, pause, 3-4, pause. The sequence of the legs remains the same, but the rhythm changes.

If a lateral walk is pushed harder and the horse allowed to hollow, it can become a pace, a gait usually seen in gaited horses and camels. The count of the pace is 1,2,1,2. The



sequence of legs is: 1. left hind/left front 2. right hind/right front.

Because there is no moment of suspension in the walk and usually not enough impulsion in the walk, it is the easiest gait to destroy and the hardest gait to fix.

The Trot

The correct rhythm of the trot is: 1, suspension 2, suspension. The sequence of the legs is: 1. diagonal pair right hind/left front, suspension, 2. diagonal pair left hind/right front, suspension.

A trot can become flat, a jog, when it loses its moment of suspension. The count becomes 1,2,1,2. While this is not technically impure, it is not correct for dressage.

The trot, technically two beat, can become a four beat gait. Deviations in the trot are being studied on stop action video and are sometimes discussed as "positive diagonal advanced placement" and "negative diagonal advanced placement." For our purposes, we will use the classical terms when discussing the deviations.

The trot can become four beat in two different ways.

In the first scenario, the horse falls on his forehand, and his front foot touches the ground before its diagonal hind leg partner.

Get fit for Spring! Optimizing your saddle for better performance

With show season on the way, we wanted to discuss the importance of a well-fit saddle, particularly in regard to competing.

Saddle fitter Jennifer drew up a set of common questions and answered them in hopes that, you, the reader, would know the basics of finding and fitting the right saddle for your horse.

How do you check for a properly fitting saddle?

My first priorities are placement and bal-

ance. A correct saddle should have a natural resting point on the horse's back. That placement should give clearance for the horse's shoulder, be away from his lumbar back, and the billets should line up with the girth line. The balance of every saddle is unique, however most agree that the pommel should be lower than the cantle and the lowest point of the seat should be in the approximate center of the saddle. If your saddle doesn't meet these criteria then you should get a second opinion.

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In "The Complete Training of Horse and Rider," Podhajsky says, "one of the most common faults in the trot is the hurried steps of the forelegs in which they reach the ground before the diagonal hind leg, so that two separate hoof beats are heard instead of one. These horses carry a greater proportion of their weight and that of their rider on their shoulders." This type of four beat trot is often seen when Western pleasure horses are slowed too much, with their heads lowered too much.

In the second scenario, often seen in modern extended trots in the show ring, the horse becomes "hasty behind" or "dwells in front."

continued on pg. 2

What are some common saddle fit problems?

The most common problems I see are narrow saddles. I fit many Quarter horses, Morgans, and draft crosses. They all tend to have low, broad withers and short backs. Unfortunately, saddles tend to block their shoulders and transfer pressure into their lumbar back. I see some pretty surprising pad solutions too.

What is the most unusual saddle fit problem you've encountered?

During my last training in Virginia we worked with a lovely Grand Prix show

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Purity of Gaits, cont. from pg. 1

The hind leg touches the ground before its diagonal front partner.

Podhajsky says, "if the hind leg is put down before the diagonal foreleg and again two hoof beats are heard, it is known as a hasty hind leg.... In terms of riding the horse promises more in front than he can show with his hindquarters."

The Canter

The rhythm of a pure canter is: 1,2,3, suspension. The sequence of the legs on the left lead is: 1. right hind 2. left hind (leading)/right front 3. left front (leading leg), suspension.

When the canter is slowed too much, or collected incorrectly, it can become four beat. In the same way the trot becomes four beat in several ways, so can the canter. The first happens when the horse is slowed, but not collected, and the head pulled in too much, putting him on the forehand. The second beat of the canter breaks down. The diagonal pair does not strike together; rather the front foot touches first, then the hind partner. The beat of suspension disappears. The sequence of a four beat left lead canter is: 1. right hind 2. right front 3. left hind (leading) 4. left front (leading).

The canter can also become four beat

when it is collected too strongly. This often happens in the pirouette canter or school canter, and when the horse is in a pirouette. The second beat of the canter breaks down again, but this time the hind leg touches down first, then the diagonal front partner. Slow motion studies of Olympic horses show that many modern pirouettes are four beats, rather than three. The sequence of a four beat left lead pirouette canter is: 1. right hind 2. left hind (leading). 3. right front. 4. left front (leading).

The purity of the canter can be compromised when the horse is slowed so much he is trotting behind. In this form of four beat canter, too often seen in Western pleasure horses, the horse appears to be on the correct lead in front, but not taking any lead behind. The hind legs are symmetrically trotting. The sequence of the left lead is: 1. right hind 2. left hind (neither hind leg leads). 3. right front. 4. left front (leading). There is no moment of suspension.

The canter can appear lateral, almost two beat, when it becomes too flat and loses its jump. The beat of suspension disappears. The horse appears to be pacing, with the legs on one side hitting almost at the same time. There will still appear to be a lead, as both legs on the inside go further forward than the legs on the outside. This canter is sometimes seen on gaited horses and on dressage horses

when they tire. The sequence of a lateral left lead canter appears: 1. right hind/right front 2. left hind/left front (leading).

Yet another way the purity of the canter suffers is when the horse becomes disunited, taking one lead behind and the other lead in front. This is also called cross cantering or cross firing. It happens when a flying lead change is late behind, but sometimes happens when a horse is not strong enough behind and loses the back lead when turning. Although the disunited canter is awkward and uncomfortable for horse and rider, it is still three beats. The sequence of the disunited canter, left lead, is: 1. left hind 2. right hind (leading)/right front 3. left front (leading)

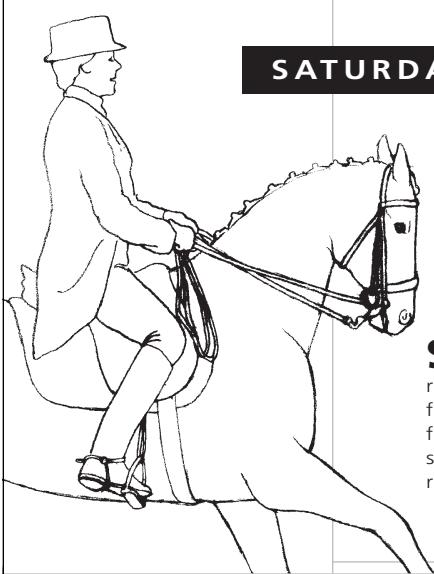
The rider should always keep in mind the purity of the gaits, especially when trying to amplify the gaits. A showy, big gait is not always correct. Because impurities in the gaits reflect incorrect training, they will be penalized heavily in the show ring.

Kathy King Johnson, author of The Theory of Collection, is a former college professor with a masters in education. She teaches dressage at Table Mountain Ranch in Golden, Colorado.

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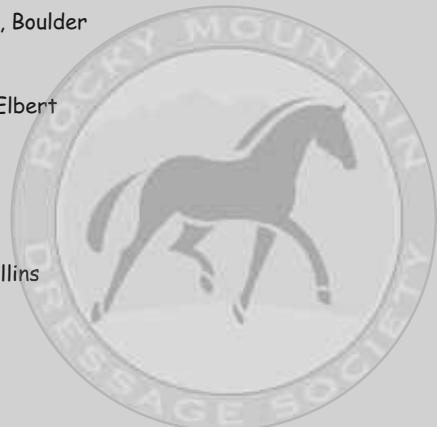
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USDF "L" contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net



For details on these and other RMDS events, Read the Centaur, Go on the website - www.rmds.org
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Editor's Page

From the desk of RMDS President Jane McBride...

Dear Members,

WARNING!

Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.

We've probably all read this at one time, but how long has it been since you considered what it means? How many of us have signed boarding agreements, instructor release forms, or sale contracts without reading it closely? I know that I have. I've thought that after owning horses for 49 years these documents are all the same.

Well, I'm here to tell you that they aren't. I've been advised that they are worth the paper they are written on...and more. We all need to take the time to read and understand them.

As horse riders and owners we need to think about what we sign. We each need to understand our Colorado laws regarding equine activities. You can find it easily enough with a quick search on the internet and the time is well worth it. But since I accept money for some things I do, I think that a chat with my attorney is best. Although the Colorado statute mainly protects us, I believe it is good idea to have added protection.

For example, I think about the number of bones that I have broken during equestrian activities. It never crossed my mind to sue my instructor. Just because I was doing gymnastic jumping in a pasture with my reins knotted and my arms outstretched.

Who could predict my horse would step in a hole then buck me off? Broken arms happen, so do broken noses.

Was my instructor negligent? Not in my mind, but it could be in someone else's. Most people are like me. We wouldn't even think of suing. But, a few would.

Please take a minute to ponder this serious subject. We all know that accidents happen. I just thought that I would bring this fact to everyone's attention at the beginning of a new year. Now, let's all get on our horses and enjoy a little warmer riding weather.

Happy Riding.

Thanks,

Jane McBride

The Scoop from the Editor's Stall...

Just this past month, a friend lost her horse to a pasture accident. Sprocket was a big, black draft-cross gelding of undistinguished breeding. But what he lacked on paper, he more than made up for in personality.

I met him last summer at an RMDS camp in Colorado Springs that was held for the riders with disabilities program.

Sprocket was one of the volunteer horses, and he did his job in a workman fashion. Despite long, dusty, hot days with an unfamiliar rider who lacked the fine motor controls necessary to give legs cues and aids, Sprocket went out there and worked his way through the simple training-level tests without hesitation or complaint.

Sprocket carried Matt Trott, a young man with a rare but debilitating nerve disease, to victory that day. I wrote about Matt's triumphant afternoon in the first edition of *The Centaur* that I produced as the new editor. The picture on the cover - with Matt's infectious smile beaming in pleasure - spoke volumes about what that moment meant to that young man.

Thinking about Sprocket and how he contributed so greatly to Matt's happiness literally brings tears to my eyes.

When I worked on a horse farm back in

the 1980s, we had 65 horses. With that many animals, deaths - both natural and accidental - were a common occurrence. Each year, it seemed, we lost one or two horses.

Each loss caused me to grieve in a different way. Because each horse had a different personality and impacted my life in a different way.

I particularly remember Ol' Buck, a big horse with a big old head, who lived well past the age of 30. He wasn't too bright, but he was kind, and he was the horse you could put a four year old on (way up high, because Buck went at least 17 hands), and never worry about the kid getting into trouble. A child could flail his small legs and work the reins like he was playing with a yo-yo, and Buck would just amble along in a quiet, contented way.

I imagine Sprocket would have grown old and lived out life just like Ol' Buck - a modest career in the dressage arena followed by the sunset years carrying little kids and maybe even making some little girl's heart feel love for the first time.

Other passings were much harder to take - a young colt who didn't even have a name getting caught in a fence trying to get back to his mother, who was out on the trail.

This particular colt was a real beauty,

with good straight long legs and a beautiful chestnut coat. When we see such potential lost, we can't help but feel a profound sense of loss and sadness.

We all know horses are prone to accidents - no matter how hard we try to make them safe, they just seem to find the sharp edges. And they find the most ingenious ways to turn seemingly safe objects into lethal weapons.

Who among us can say we haven't seen at least one of our horses in mortal danger, despite our very best efforts to ensure their safety?

When a horse manages to escape from these situations, we breath a sigh of relief. When they don't, it can be very hard not to assign blame, even when there is none to be had. Horses, like humans, don't always get to enjoy full, long lives.

When one of them passes, it stirs the most profound and human emotions. We may not cry at the passing of a little-known neighbor, but who didn't feel sadness when Barbaro had to be put down?

In my own mind, Sprocket - the big mutt - was every bit as great as the Kentucky Derby winner. He had his moment and shined. I'll sure miss seeing him.

USET Dressage Masters - Kathleen Raine and Jan Ebeling - in Colorado!

Colorado dressage riders now have the opportunity to meet and ride with two internationally successful dressage riders as the beautiful facility of Triple Creek Ranch in Longmont regularly hosts clinics with Kathleen Raine and Jan Ebeling.

When Stephanie Leahey made Triple Creek Ranch the home of her business, Leahey Dressage, she brightened the future of many riders and other trainers by arranging these two dressage greats to come train Coloradoans. Both Kathleen and Jan continue their own training consistently with USET coach Klaus Balkenhol and pass their experience on in the clinics. Leahey Dressage and Triple Creek Ranch host the clinics in a warm and welcome manner. Food, drinks, and friendly question and answer sessions with the clinician add to the great learning atmosphere.

Jan Ebeling, a Pan Am gold medalist, was here in January and surpassed all rider and spectator expectations with his ability to help dressage riders of all levels. For the lower level riders, Jan focused on the basics—forwardness, suppleness, straightness. He then moved on to helping many riders with their tempis, pirouettes, and half passes. Jan is generous with his vast experience and knowledge and welcomes all questions. Mr. Ebeling will be back to Triple Creek Ranch in April 2007.

Kathleen Raine, a USET member for more than 13 years including the 1996 and 2000 Olympics as alternate, returned on February 8th and 9th. Kathleen is quite personable and also focuses on the basics and correctness of dressage. She is phenomenal in creating confidence in the horse and rider, especially in getting the horse/rider combination ready for the show ring. Kathleen will be returning to Triple Creek Ranch on March 5th and 6th.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to ride or audit these regular clinics! Trainers are welcome and encouraged to ride. If you are interested in participating either as a rider or auditor, please contact Stephanie Leahey at 720-984-5301 or visit www.leahydressage.com\clinics.

By Laura Speer, Riverside Stables.

RMDS breaks ground with teacher training program

A Review of Rachel Saavedra's February RMDS education clinic

The RMDS once again has stepped forward to introduce a pilot program for the USDF and the country in providing continuing education for their trainers and teachers. Using the USDF Teaching Certification workshops as a loose model, about 60 participants gathered at the Fort Collins Equestrian Center on Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18, 2007. For the first time in about two months the weather actually complied with no snow falling on the weekend!

USDF faculty and workshop leader Rachel Saavedra was brought in from her home in California to lead the program. Rachel has a broad-based education and has both ridden and trained many horses to Grand Prix. Her horse Laitin was the 2006 USDF Horse of The Year with a median score of 73.6%.

A USDF faculty member and workshop leader since 1996, Rachel has a kind and open demeanor that encourages rather than critiques. Both participating trainers and auditors were enthusiastic in their view of Rachel's ability to communicate training theory and to encourage the use of a wide range of approaches in solving training issues.

In this new and unusual format, participants were invited to apply as either a rider or a trainer. Trainers were assigned riders or were invited to teach their own student. Riders submitted an application describing their level and a topic they wanted help on, and then were assigned to trainers who were comfortable teaching those topics.

Similar to a workshop, trainers would observe the rider warming up the horse, and then discuss with Rachel and the auditors what they saw and chose to work on. From there, each lesson progressed with input coming from Rachel sometimes as questions, sometimes as comments and occasionally with actual directions if the wrong path was starting to evolve.

One hour was allowed for each teaching session, and then an extra 15 minutes for discussion and summary, where auditors were invited to ask their own questions and clarify topics or exercises that they were unsure of. The difficult aspect of this approach, of course, is that a lesson can get interrupted from its usual flow, and it takes a lot of focus for a trainer to keep tabs on

their rider, answer questions and still direct the lesson. It also can be disconcerting for a rider to be following along in a lesson and then hit a 2 minute pause caused by the turn of conversation. However riders and trainers alike were flexible and also demonstrated their ability to function on their own during the brief interruptions that the format created.

Riders presented horses from training level to Prix St George, providing a wide array of issues from increasing engagement in canter pirouettes, to clearing up a very slight rhythm problem in collected canter, to rebalancing a young horse in the canter depart.

The workshop was truly an open and warm exchange of ideas and technique, where the classical approach to training and the training scale were emphasized. However, the realities of what was possible in the moment were also strongly underscored. This approach in which the auditors were encouraged to ask questions and give input also allowed for a day where discussion and theory were emphasized more than an individual trainer's technique.

Saturday evening the trainers returned to Jill Cantor's home for dinner and an opportunity to discuss professional issues in the intimate setting of Jill's home. Goals for the clinic, suggestions for improvement, ideas for the future and immediate issues were all rolled across the room as the evening progressed.

The over all sentiment was summarized by Rachel at the end of the evening when she commented "We have just spent the day and this whole evening with a group that is here not to compete, not to say who is best, but to expand their education and pursue the opportunity to share information on this sport/art form/ profession we are all so passionate about. This is everything I had hoped for when we discussed what this clinic might be."

From the organizers and participants, we whole heartedly agree. Thank you, RMDS, for once again stepping up and stepping out with your support for the horse, rider and trainer in dressage!

For more information on scheduled RMDS education events, see Heather Petersen's article on page 10 of The Centaur.

Andria Allen

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Seldom will you find such a blend of sophistication, panache and rural ambience. 8 acres, with a further 10 leased, a 10-stall custom barn with apartment, an indoor arena and multiple outside facilities including 2 outdoor arenas, loafing sheds and runs. Access to riding and the Broomfield trail system from the property. The 5 bedroom residence is a masterpiece of high end design and functionality with countless custom features and mountain views.



\$3,850,000 | MLS# 511350

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HORSE PROPERTY

Easily maintained 4.5 acre equine facility! Includes a 3 bed, 2 bath brick ranch with mature tree screening, 9 loafing sheds, paddocks and outdoor arena.

\$625,000 | MLS# 502386



6 ACRE ESTATE

Shape your dream only 5 minutes from downtown Boulder! 5 bed, 3 bath ranch house, a 3 bed, 1 bath guest house, a studio, a 2-stall barn and fenced paddocks.

\$1,150,000 | MLS# 511006



20 ACRES

Experience the peaceful life in scenic Spring Gulch. Fenced pastures, several outbuildings and paddocks plus a cozy, three bedroom 3 bath home.

\$499,000 | MLS# 515435



RARE 20 ACRE FARM

20 acres of lush, fertile pastures with fantastic views. Charming 2 bed, 1 bath Southwestern style home. Conveniently located to Boulder and Open Space trails.

\$939,000 | MLS# 469047



TWO SPRUCE FARM

Tudor style 5 bed, 5 bath home with river frontage. Horse facilities include a 7 stall barn, outdoor arena, fenced pastures, loafing sheds, and much more!

\$945,000 | MLS# 515182



31 ACRES

This home is situated on 31 acres. The property is perfect for horses, with easy access to future open space trails. Includes 15 shares of Swede and 10 units of BigT.

\$1,149,000 | MLS# 478749



OPEN SPACE VIEWS

Sitting on some of the most picturesque property in Boulder County. This 3 bedroom, 3 bath farmhouse has excellent water rights and trail access.

\$1,525,000 | MLS# 511739



FANTASTIC LOCATION

This distinguished 4 bedroom, 4 bath home on 2 acres adjoins large parcels that cannot be developed. Included is a 3 stall barn, tack room and more!

\$1,350,000 | MLS# 489438



UNIQUE PROPERTY

3 bed, 2 bath ranch house with stocked pond on 3 acres surrounded by a historic farm preserve! Includes one share of Left Hand Ditch.

\$649,900 | MLS# 509564



2 BUILDING SITES

At approximately two acres each and less than half a mile outside Boulder County, these parcels present a great opportunity to develop your dream home.

From \$209,000 | MLS# 491329



EQUESTRIAN LIVING

Tantalizing 35 acres with a 5400 sq. ft. log home, 5 stall barn, a detached garage, an outdoor arena, hot-fenced pastures, cross country course and more!

\$849,000 | MLS# 494815



10 ACRE FARM

Perfectly located, irrigated 10 acres on a quiet country road 10 minutes from Boulder. Includes water rights, fenced pastures, barns and 2100 sq. ft. home.

\$950,000 | MLS# 501247

Call us today for a free market analysis of your property

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RMDS Education Programs in Full Swing!

by RMDS Education Director Heather Petersen

As this month's Centaur goes to print, RMDS events are jumping! We have already had three events, with two more to come in the next few weeks.

We started off the year with the "View from C", our continuing education opportunity for RMDS L Graduates. We were very lucky to have local USEF R dressage judge and sport horse breeding judge Kristi Wysocki lead this session. Freedom Farms donated their facility for our use, and even though it was quite cold outside, we learned in a cozy, highly interactive environment. Many thanks also go to our great demonstration riders, Meredith Mathers and Gigi Brittan.

The following weekend saw us attending our first session of the 2007 USDF L program - the A session. This session dealt heavily with the rules, protocol and etiquette of judging and then covered extensively the biomechanics of the horse through all the gaits. Attendance was great and I think everyone went home with a lot to think about! Once again, our thanks

must go out to Paragon Equestrian, LLC. and the owners, Jane and Vance Diggins, for donating their gorgeous facility and providing a scrumptious lunch to the participants, auditors and demonstration riders. We had a great group of demonstration riders: Ursula Hotz, Sandy Hotz, Natalie Roach, Kathleen Donnelly, Christina Rudman, Lauren Rudman, Susie Reed, Vance Diggins and Danielle Culver. Thanks again - I'll never be ever to say that enough!

This past Saturday we had the Technical Delegate and Show Manager Continuing Education programs. These were well attended and again, I think everyone went home with a lot to think about! Thanks go to Cat Siemiet, Joan Clay and Jane Donnelly for donating their time to this great event. We also appreciate Robin Gay, Valerie Eric and Laura Quakenbush for demonstrating saddlery, clothing and equipment!

Happening during the publication of the Centaur will be our Instructors' Continuing Education program with Rachel

Saavdra (*see review in this issue*). Thanks to Fort Collins Equestrian Center for the use of their facility and Jill Cantor Lee for helping with housing of Rachel!

Many more events are coming - mark your calendars for the next couple sessions of the L program (March 10-11 and April 14-15) and stay tuned for other upcoming opportunities.

As you read through this, you'll note all the exceptional donations we've received already this year from our facilities and our members. RMDS really couldn't do it without these people and we couldn't do it without our members! I know I'm very thankful for our strong educational program and for all of you out there that help support it.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any programs you'd like to see or any ideas you might have - 719.683.8435 or slush@drgw.net.

Happy Spring!

Heather

Sign Up to audit the L program!!!

If you are interested in auditing or participating as a demonstration rider, you can obtain more information from Heather Petersen (719-683-8435 or slush@drgw.net) or auditors can mail the registration form below with a check for \$60 made out to RMDS and send it to Heather Petersen, 12395 Gull Lane, Peyton, CO 80831. Session B is March 10-11, 2007 in Longmont/Berthoud, CO and Session C will be in Elbert, CO at Somewhere Farms on April 14-15, 2007.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address_____

Email_____ Which Session? _____

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

Saddle Fitting *cont. from pg 1*

jumper who showed extreme discomfort over her withers, thoracic spine, and especially her sternum. Ultimately, Dr. John Nolan discovered a chronic displacement of her cervical spine located behind her scapula.

Sounds painful. How did you correct it?

As an elite athlete, this mare is afforded the best care. Her management program includes a customized saddle that accommodates her sensitivities, regular chiropractic work, and swimming 3 times a week. If only all of our horses could be so lucky!

Does the fit of a saddle ever change?

Your saddle fit will change as often as your horse does. If your horse is growing, aging, or just had a stressful winter it's likely that your saddle fit has changed. Horses in their prime and under consistent management will change less. In addition, the fit of flocked saddles will be influenced by the compression of the materials.

How do you check for changes in fit?

The first indications would be a change in seat balance and a change in your horse's performance.

What are some indications of a poorly fit saddle?

There are endless symptoms of a poorly fitted saddle. One horse might drag their toes, another might buck violently. Rider problems will range from a chair seat to rub marks in unmentionable regions. The most common indications I see are lumbar and hock pain, upside down top lines, lack of forward impulsion, and general body tension and defensiveness.

Do you recommend using keyhole pads and bump-up pads to correct a poorly fit saddle?

I applaud any effort to correct a poor fit and rebalancing pads might offer some solutions and buy some time. My biggest concern with these pads is they are used to address seat balance issues for the rider and little attention is paid to the fit of the horse. I only like to rebalance the saddle when the tree shape is correct. Rebalancing a saddle that has the wrong tree for your horse will only transfer the problem somewhere else.

Is there a difference in the panel stuffing of different saddles?

Panels can be constructed of various materials including felt, foam, natural or synthetic wool, air, or a combination of these materials. I've even opened a saddle stuffed with sawdust.

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages between the different materials?

In my opinion, the material that a panel is made of is less important than the shape of the panel and the tolerance of the horse beneath it. I prefer a high quality wool flocking for many horses. Wool can easily be adjusted and communicates well between horse and rider. Wool does require a bit more maintenance than other materials. Foam is cut and mounted at prefixed angles and a well-designed foam panel can distribute pressure nicely.

Unfortunately, foam panels are not adjustable and the angles can be intolerable for some horses. Air panels can work well however, they can sometimes feel bouncy and some riders complain of a dull or delayed response from their horse. When considering panel materials you should also be thinking about panel attachment, gullet width, shoulder biomechanics, and general muscle condition of the topline, etc...

My saddle is a bit too narrow in the fork. What should I do?

Like a shoe that's too small, there is very little you can do for a saddle that is too narrow.

My saddle is too wide. Is there anything I can do?

If the tree of your saddle is the right shape for your horse and the points are a bit to wide you can usually use a $\frac{1}{2}$ pad to support the saddle providing *continued on pg. 13*

THE MULTIMEDIA DRESSAGE SERIES

THE THEORY OF COLLECTION

BY KATHRYN KING JOHNSON, M.ED.



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Too many riders are stuck at training and first level because they don't always understand the theory of collection. Trainers don't have time to teach them and students want to ride in lessons, not to listen to a lecture.

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*Sale applies to in stock merchandise only and will not apply to custom work, repairs or
consignment items. No custom chap or boot measuring during the sale.
20% instant rebate calculated at checkout on all regularly priced items.

Saddle Fitting cont. from pg 11

clearance for your horses spine and withers.

I've been having a hard time finding a saddle to fit my horse and a friend said to try a tree-less saddle. What do you think?

I believe that all saddles offer solutions and limitations that depend on endless factors. The most important factor is your horse's comfort. I work with many clients that find tree-less saddle are the best option and their horses are relaxed and happy. I also embrace the purpose of a spring tree; to distribute pressure across a broader surface, provide controlled flexibility, and compensate for rider error.

Where can I find out more about tree-less saddles?

Go to ansursaddle.com to find a region representative.

Is there a type of billet or girth that you tend to recommend?

The type of billets and girths that I recommend vary depending on the conformation of the horse that I am working with. Generally, I like a hinge or fulcrum 'V' billet system and a good quality leather girth that is wide across the horse's sternum.

Any thought on safety checks and daily care of my saddle?

The most important safety feature of your saddle is the fit. A fitted saddle is secure on your horse's back and will eliminate many unsafe behavioral issues. The billets of your saddle should be made of good quality leather, show minimal stretching and unevenness, and should be well attached to the saddle. The billet holes should be clearly punched and free of tears. Your stirrup bars should be symmetrical and securely attached to the tree.

While stitch work on your saddle is a more cosmetic issue, paying attention to these details will help you recognize bigger problems. In our dry climate I like to maintain saddles with a light conditioner after every ride. I tend to avoid oils and heavy conditioners and I only clean my saddles when they are actually dirty. If you store your saddle in an area that receives direct sun light or houses cats, I would strongly recommend keeping it covered.

Jennifer Wright is a Certified Saddle Fitter under the guidance of equine biomechanics expert and saddle designer, Peter Menet. She has worked professionally in the horse industry for over 20 years and holds a degree in Equestrian Studies from the University of Findlay. She currently owns and operates the Happy Horse Tack Shop in Ft. Collins, Colorado. www.happyhorsetack.com

News Brief**Popular Colorado Vet Re-cuperating after fall**

Dr. Marvin Beeman of Littleton Large Animal Clinic suffered a severe injury to his neck in a fall from a horse. He has had surgery fusing C3 and 4 and will need an extensive recovery period, perhaps as long as 6 months.

Dr. Beeman was resting at home after surgery. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery, and extend our best to he and his wife, Unis. Anyone wishing to send cards, flowers, etc. is asked to send them to:

Dr. Marvin Beeman c/o Littleton Large Animal Clinic, 8025 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, CO 80120

The folks at the clinic will be sure they get delivered, and this will save constant disruptions at his home address.

"Olympic Dream" accepting scholarship apps

The U.S. Dressage Federation "Olympic Dream" program is accepting applications from Young Riders for the July 2007 trip to Germany.

This is a full scholarship for a 10-day trip around Germany to visit top trainers Klaus Balkenhol, Ingrid Klimke, Hubertus Schmidt and Jean Bemelman's. The tour is followed by 3 days at the European Young Riders Championships.

Contact the Dressage Foundation for an application at john@dressage-foundation.org

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRESSAGE SOCIETY

2007/2008 Shows & Events

MARCH 2007

- 3 **CANCELLED! High Plains Spring into Dressage Show-**
Freedom Farm - Elizabeth (RMDS) Contact Alex Curnutt
303-906-7083 curnutt@msn.com
- 3 **Sun Prairie Farms Schooling Show** - Peyton
Contact Cici Lee 719-495-3802
- 6 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or
reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com
- 8 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting**-6: 30 pm Perkins Restaurant
I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 10-11 **USDF 'L' Program-Session B**-Janet Foy-Longmont & Singletree,
Boulder. Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
- 17 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show** - Longmont
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291
- 22 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen
719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com
- 24-25 **RMDS Winter Wake-Up** Colorado Springs, CO-USEF-YR
Qualifier Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
Note: Now a possible High Performance Qualifier - check the RMDS web site for details, class listings, and prices.
- 31 **Mariah Farms Dressage Schooling Show Series**-Castle Rock
Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 llamke@msn.com
- 31 **Schooling Dressage Show** - Whispering Winds Farm
Monument, Colo. Judge Simone Windeler
Contact 719-593-7310 horsingarounedevents@yahoo.com
- 31-Apr. 1 **USDF FEI JR/ YR Clinic** - George Williams
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org or USDF

APRIL 2007

- 3 **Janet Foy Clinic - Reiterhof Ranch**
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or
reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com
- 6-9 **Peter Borggreve Clinic**, Meadow Creek, Erie.
Contact Gwen Dordick 303-885-3363 gwendordick@msn.com
- 12 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen
719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com
- 14 **Triple Creek Ranch Schooling Show** - Longmont
Contact Lynn McChesney 303-444-4291
lyntriplecreek@cs.com
- 14-15 **Paul Belasik Clinic**-Cottonwood Farm-Grand Junction
Contact Lynea Schultz-Ela 970-872-3961 lynea@direcway.com
- 14-15 **USDF 'L' Program**-Session C-Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez-
Somewhere Farm-Elbert Contact Heather Petersen
719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
- 15 **Freestyle Clinic with Barbara Gardner** - Phantom Hill Farm
Fort Collins (snow date April 29) Contact Janet Duvall
jsduvall@deepwatercommunication.com
- 21 **Mariah Farms Dressage Schooling Show Series** - Castle
Rock Contact Lisa Lamke 303-660-2456 llamke@msn.com
- 21-22 **World Cup-Las Vegas**
- 24 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or
reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com

- 28-29 **Dressage at the Peak Mid-Spring**-Colorado Springs-USEF-YR Qualifier Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435
slush@drgw.net

- 28 **Boulder Valley Schooling Show**- Singletree-Boulder
Contact Patti Taylor 303-772-3087 patti_taylor@earthlink.net

- 29 **Boulder Valley Spring Fling**-Singletree-Boulder-RMDS
Contact Patti Taylor 303-772-3087 patti_taylor@earthlink.net

MAY 2007

- 5-6 **Columbine Show #1**-Columbine Equest. Center-Littleton- USEF Contact Dorothy Rohrbach 303-646-2309
- 8 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or
reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com
- 10 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting**-6: 30 pm Perkins Restaurant I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825
- 11-13 **Grand Valley Spring Show #1 & 2**-Grand Junction-USEF
Contact Candace Graus 970-245-2886
- 12 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series #1**-Saturday-Longmont- RMDS
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033
- 12 **Dressage for the Cure**-Cottonwood Riding Club-Littleton RMDS Contact Tara Gandomcar 303-791-7656
- 13 **Dressage in the Four Corners** - Farmington, N.M. USEF
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net
- 20 **Foothills Spring Dressage Show**-Table Mtn Ranch-Golden
RMDS Contact Kathy King Johnson 303-494-0905
- 22 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or
reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com
- 24 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen
719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com
- 25-27 **Dressage in the Plains I & II**-Peyton-USEF
Contact Camille Griffin 719-488-2812 camillegriffin@msn.com
- 26-27 **Dalwhinnie Dressage Show I & II**-Ridgway-USEF-YR Qualifier
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

JUNE 2007

- 5 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or
reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com
- 5-7 **Karl Mikolka Clinic**-Ft Collins Equestrian Center
Contact Ann Hagaman 970-493-4662
- 8-10 **Dressage at High Prairie #1,#2,#3**-Parker-USEF-YR Qualifier
Contact Glenda McElroy 818-841-3554
- 9-10 **USDF 'L' Program-Session D1**-Lois Yukins-Colorado Horse Park Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net
- 16-17 **NCDA Rocky Mountain Dressage Classic**-Ft Collins-USEF
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033
- 16-17 **Black Hills Dressage Show**-Rapid City, SD USEF
Contact Sue Hinker 605-348-2816 thinker@rapidnet.com
- 21 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen
719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com
- 22-23 **Sage Creek #1 & #2**-Charleston,UT-USEF-YR Qualifier
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

2007/2008 Shows & Events

23-24 **Columbine Show #2** - Columbine Equest. Center-Littleton- USEF Contact Dorothy Rohrbach 303-646-2309

26 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com

30-7/1 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festival I**-Longmont, CO-USEF-YR Qual. Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033

JULY 2007

5-8 **Boulder Valley's Adult Camp** - Autumn Hill IEC - Longmont Contact Claudia Barkmeier 303-786-7240 cbarkmeier@rwbaird.com or Barb Goldman 303-666-4528 barbara.r.goldman@chase.com

8-13 **Junior Camp**-CSU-Ft Collins Contact Hollee Price 720-275-8311 - hollee24k@comcast.net

12 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting**-6: 30 pm Perkins Restaurant I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825

15 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series #2**-Longmont- RMDS Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033

17 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com

19 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen 719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com

20-22 **Dressage at the Peak Summer Warm-Up & Show**-Colorado Springs-USEF Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

27-29 **Autumn Hill Dressage Festival II**-Longmont, CO-USEF Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033

28-29 **Sage Creek #3 & 4**-Charleston, UT-USEF
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

31 **Janet Foy Clinic** - Reiterhoff Ranch
Contact Jody 303-646-9520 www.geocities.com/ingolfin/ or reiterhoffranch@yahoo.com

AUGUST 2007

3-5 **Dressage in the Rockies #1,2,3**-Parker-USEF
Contact Glenda McElroy 818-841-3554

11-12 **Cheyenne Dressage & Eventing Dressage Show CANCELLED** Expect to return in 2008 - Contact rlheckert@msn.com

18 **Dressage at Sun Prairie**-Sun Prairie Farm-Peyton-USEF
Contact Camille Griffin 303-663-0041 719-488-2812 camille.griffin@msn.com

19 **Autumn Hill Sunday Series #3**-Longmont - RMDS
Contact Julie Barringer-Richers 720-341-5033

23 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen 719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com

24-26 **Paragon Dressage I,II,III**-Colorado Horse Park-Parker-USEF
Contact Martha Fischer

25-26 **Utah Dressage Society Annual Show I II**-Charleston, UT- USEF Contact Eva-Maria Adolphi 801-254-3247 adolphi@redrock.net

SEPTEMBER 2007

1 **Aspen Ridge Schooling Show**-Monument, CO Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

1 **Grand Valley Fall Show**-Grand Junction-USEF
Contact Candace Graus 970-245-2886

2 **Western Slope Championship & Open Show** RMDS
Contact Candace Graus 970-245-28862

2 **Aspen Ridge Dressage**-Monument, CO-RMDS
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

8 **Boulder Valley Schooling Show** Somerset-Longmont
Contact Jeannette Hillary 303-494-7718 jmhillary915@comcast.net

9 **Boulder Valley So Long to Summer Show** Somerset-
Longmont-RMDS Contact Jeannette Hillary 303-494-7718 jmhillary915@comcast.net

13 **RMDS Executive Board Meeting**-6: 30 pm Perkins Restaurant I-25 & Buchtel-Denver Contact Central Office 720-890-7825

14 **Rocky Mountain Iberian Dressage Show** - Castle Rock
RMDS Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435 slush@drgw.net

16 **Foothills Chapter Last Chance Show** Table Mountain - Golden
Contact Suzanne Koczon-Shipley 303-697-0552

20 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen 719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com

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

27-30 **RMDS Dressage Championships & Dressage Open Show** -
Parker-USEF Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net

27-30 **Region V Championships**-Parker-USEF
Contact Heather Petersen 719-683-8435, slush@drgw.net

OCTOBER 2007

11 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen 719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com

13-14 **Paul Belasik Clinic**-Cottonwood Farm-Grand Junction
Contact Lynea Schultz-Ela 970-872-3961 lynea@direcway.com

13-14 **USDF Adult Jane Savoie Clinic**-Phantom Hill Farm-Ft Collins
Contact RMDS Central Office 720-890-7825 rmds@rmds.org

NOVEMBER 2007

8 **Janet Foy Clinic**-Black Forest Area Contact Patricia Janssen 719-749-9866 patricia@parfaitranch.com

10 **RMDS Board of Directors & Awards Banquet** -
NCDA Chapter

DECEMBER 2007

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

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

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

THE CENTAUR NEWSLETTER

The Centaur Newsletter is published monthly. To guarantee that ads and articles will run in a given month, they must be received by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. January 10 for the February edition. If not received by the deadline, articles and ads may be placed in the following issue, if not time sensitive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For article suggestions, articles, columns, letters to the editor: Centaur editor Gavin Ehringer, PO Box 9, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 ph. 719-471-8764, e-mail gavinehringer@earthlink.net.

ADVERTISING

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

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

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

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

No substitutions may be accepted. If your ad is submitted in a file format other than those listed above, you will be contacted regarding an additional charge for reformatting or redesign. Hourly charge for redesign/reformat is \$35, in minimal units of one hour.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

PAYMENT AND AD COPY DELIVERY

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

AD RATES AND SIZE SPECIFICATIONS.

Classified....\$12 per item for sale.

w/photo\$22 per item for sale.

Full page\$125.....7.5" x 9.5"

Half page\$85.....7.5" x 4.75"

Outside back half.....\$100.....7.5" x 4.75"

1/4 page.....\$50.....3.75" x 4.25"

1/8 page (business card)\$25.....3.625" x 2.25"

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS - Get on the World Wide Web and Build New Business.

If you wish to increase business, you can place your information on the RMDS website at very low cost. Send information to: Michael Petersen, 12395 Gull Lane, Peyton, CO 80831, ph. 719-683-8435 or e-mail: webmaster@rmds.org (note on the subject line "trainer info").

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

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

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

ADVERTISE EVENTS ON THE RMDS WEBSITE

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

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

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

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

Get Wealthy Writing at Home!

Okay, you're not really gonna get wealthy writing for *The Centaur* - you're not even gonna get paid. But you will get the admiration and respect of your peers and contribute meaningfully to the dressage community.

And that's worth its weight in gold! Contact editor Gavin Ehringer with articles, news bits, clinic reviews, equipment features, how-tos, or whatever strikes your fancy. Photographers, you can get in on the act too.

Centauro editor Gavin Ehringer,
gavinehringer@earthlink.net

2007 Omnibus Corrections

C-29 Boulder Valley Spring Fling -
Judge: Schooling Show RaeAnn Cook

RMDS 2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Prior and renewing members add \$5 after Jan. 1).

- INDIVIDUAL = \$50 BUSINESS = \$75
 LIFETIME = \$650 CENTAUR ONLY = \$35
 FAMILY = \$50 FOR FIRST MEMBER, \$35 FOR EACH ADD'L MEMBER.

Please include all information for the person designated as representative. All individual members receive The Centaur newsletter and the RMDS Omnibus. RMDS is a group member organization of the United States Dressage Federation and RMDS members are automatically USDF members.

Indicate local chapter:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Boulder Valley | <input type="radio"/> Northern Colorado (Ft. Collins) |
| <input type="radio"/> Colorado Springs | <input type="radio"/> Foothills (Golden, Evergreen) |
| <input type="radio"/> Penrose (Canon City) | <input type="radio"/> Grand Valley (Grand Junct.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Western CO (Aspen/Roaring Fork Valley) | |
| <input type="radio"/> High Plains (Parker, Littleton, Aurora) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Tri-State (Wyoming, adjacent states) | |

- Renewing Member - Need new Binder (\$6)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

e-mail address _____

USDF # _____

Occupation _____

Total Fees \$ _____ (Please include check).

- DO NOT include my name on RMDS mailing lists.

NOTE: Be sure to send a copy of your 2007 Adult Amateur Card from USEF along with this membership form! RMDS is a USDF Group Member Organization and RMDS members are automatically USDF Group Members.

2007 Horse Registration Form

Horses must be registered with the RMDS to be eligible for RMDS Year-End Awards and for Horse-of-the-Year Award. To be eligible, the owner and rider must both be RMDS members and the horse must be registered with the RMDS. The name on the horse registration must be the same used on horse show entry forms. Cost: \$35 for a lifetime registration, \$10 change fee.

Horse name _____ Sex _____
Breed (if known) _____
Breed Regis. # (include papers) _____
Owner (at least one must be RMDS member) _____
Owner's Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Home phone _____ E-Mail _____
Name of Representative, if owned by a business _____

Mail form and payment to: **RMDS Central Office, 2942 Park Lake Dr., Boulder, CO 80301**
Ph. 720-890-7825 Membership forms received after Oct. 1 will be issued for the following year.

RMDS Meeting Schedules**RMDS Executive Board**

All RMDS Executive Board meetings occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Steering committee meetings are held on the second Monday of every even-numbered month. Board of Governor's meeting is held the second Saturday of Nov. Contact the Central Office for precise dates.

RMDS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Boulder Valley, 2nd Mon., even months
Claudia Barkmeier 303-417-1675
cbarkmeier@rbaird.com

Colorado Springs, 3rd Tues, location TBD.

(Check CSDressage.org website).
Simone Windeler 719-540-2000
wjsimone@msn.com

Foothills, 2nd Wed. each month.

Kathy King Johnson 303-494-0905
kathykingjohnson@uswest.net

Grand Valley, 1st Tues. each month, location TBD.

Tiger Adams, 970-523-7464
tiger@thehorseinsport.com

High Plains, 3rd Tues. each month, 7 pm, location TBD.

Alex Curnutt 303-663-0358
curnutt@msn.com

Northern Colo., 3rd Tues. each month, location TBD.

Laura Speer 970-378-7573
riversidestables_evans@yahoo.com

Penrose, 1st Wed, each month, location TBD.

Cat Siemiet 719-942-5311
catsbarn@aim.com

Tri State, TBA, contact Tammy Fagan 307-856-5451 tfagan@wyoming.com**Western Colorado**, contact Judith Family, 970-923-8832 dns@rof.net**Show Info**

Always contact the individual to check show info, as dates, times and places may change. ALL COMPETITORS SHOULD DO A SCORE CHECK WITH THE CENTRAL OFFICE OR ON-LINE at www.rmds.org.

Calendar Submissions: Submissions of events for the RMDS calendar need to be received no later than the 5th of the month prior to the date of the calendar listing. Please be sure to correctly spell all proper names (clinician/judge/location/contact) and include a phone number where you can be reached with questions. Send calendar items and events requiring RMDS sanction to Beth Geier, RMDS Central Office, 720-890-7825.

advertisement

Spring 2007 Dressage Clinic with German Master Trainer Peter Borggreve

Master trainer and international competitor Peter Borggreve arrives to clinic during March 30th through April 12th in various locations of Southern California and Colorado for riders of all levels.



Eine der Faszination von Peter Borggreve ist Pferde zu trainieren. Foto: S. Röder.

Since fall of 2004, Peter Borggreve has held the position of "First Riding and Training Master" at the world-famous Landgestüt in Warendorf, Germany. Peter is in charge of the training of all the 96 breeding stallions at the Landgestüt. His responsibilities include choosing the best rider for each stallion, deciding which ones are to represent the Landgestüt at competitions, coaching the stallions and their riders who are competing nationally, and designing a training schedule for each stallion.

He also designs all of the parade programs, including the quadrille of 64 stallions at the opening ceremony at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen in 2006, as well as the famous "Warendorfer Hengstparaden" or Stallion Parades

which traditionally take place on the grounds of the The North Rhine-State Stud at the end and the beginning of year. In the setting of autumn weather, thousands of visitors colorful, three hour in their historical uniforms, the staff of present more than stallions) in 20

Westphalian of September October each marvelous several tens of enjoy the show. Dressed parade the State Stud 100 breeding (thoroughbred, cold-blood different acts.



Peter has been a member of the examination committee for aspiring professional horse trainers (Bereiter), and riding master candidates, as well as judges, for the last decade, and remains active in this position.

He holds the master degree in riding and teaching which he received in 1990 with distinctions. He was director and riding instructor at the RV Heiden from 1988 to 2004, teaching numerous students the art of dressage while competing successfully at the Grand Prix level. Today he continues to show top stallions, Floribot and Rheingau, at competitions in Germany.

Peter Borggreve started his professional career at the jumping barn of Rainer Suttmann and Horst Rumpf before he became more interested in dressage while doing his apprenticeship, to become a Bereiter at Hartmut Röders breeding facility. Since 1985 dressage has been his primary focus. Teaching this intricate interaction between horse and rider is his passion, which he even pursues in his free time on the weekends at his own barn in Heiden. He is accomplished, sincere, patient, and an excellent teacher.

Please contact Gwen Dordick, Colorado Clinic Manager at (303) 885-3363 or e-mail at gwendordick@msn.com to make your reservations. <http://www.landgestuet.nrw.de/>





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Regina, we are so sorry for your loss, we all loved him.

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On a great horse of gold
into the silver dawn
e.e. cummings*

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"r"	Recorded	Training-Second
"R"	Registered	Training-Fourth

* May only judge at RMDS shows.

Status	Status	Levels
"S"	Senior	All Levels
"I"	International	All Levels
"O"	Olympic	All Levels

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

FEI 'I' Janet Foy 719-260-1566	Simone Ahern-Harless* 719-749-9274	Sarah Martin * 719-379-3716
	Francie Brashear 303-840-7626	Linda Ohlson-Gross * 303-840-9818
USEF 'S' Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 303-642-7708	Gigi Brittain 303-681-2516	KC Parkins-Kyle 303-841-9953
Sandra Hotz 303-817-2030	Julie Burt 719-852-5269	Sally Robertson 303-237-6915
	Rae Ann Cook *	Kathy Simard* 970-225-1408
USEF 'R' Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-919-4112	Emmy Detlof 719-495-4188	Maria Wasson 303-682-9594
Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877	Kathleen Donnelly* 970-310-8729	Regina Wendler 970-879-7505
	Marti Foster * 303-277-1132	Simone Windeler 719-540-2000
USEF 'r' Amy Jablonovsky 970-493-2833	Beth Geier 303-673-9840	*Denotes graduating with distinction
Suzanne Zimmer 303-478-8325	Ilyse Gold 970-588-3859	Dressage Sport Horse
USDF 'L' Graduate - Schooling & RMDS only recognized shows	Jan Goodrich-Spear 303-664-0152	Breeding Judge
	Gwen Ka'awaloa * 303-646-4363	Janet Foy 'R' 719-260-1566
	Linda Coates-Markle 303-469-0279	Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'R' 303-642-7708

Kristi Wysocki 'r' 303-648-9877	Jane McBride 719-598-4496	Kathryn Meistrell 303-646-9059
TECHNICAL DELEGATES	Susan Selby 970-227-9530	Bridget Milnes 303-660-4986
USEF	Eva-Maria Adolphi (UT) - r 801-254-3247	M. Elaine Thomas 719-495-1510
	Veronica Holt - R 303-646-3829	Kristi Wysocki 303-648-9877
	Laurie Mactavish - R 970-390-5160	
	Deeda Randle (WY) - R 307-638-6737	Julie Burt 719-852-5269
	Catherine Siemiet - r 719-942-5311	Jill Cantor Lee 970-686-9163
	Dianne Stanley (MT) - 406-652-4061	RaeAnn Cook 970-225-1408
	Libby Stokes - r 303-688-2795	Janet "Dolly" Hannon 303-279-4546
RMDS-(RMDS sanctioned shows only)	Sabine Kallas 307-733-9497	Sarah Martin 719-379-3716
	Joan Clay 970-490-1927	Kathy Simard 720-981-4448
	Rusty Cook 505-877-1456	Clayton Martin 719-379-3716
	Jeannette Hillery 303-494-7718	Sheri Mattei-Mead 970-669-3733

Classified Ads

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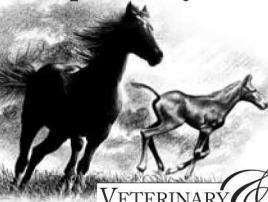
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Schoolmaster for partial lease. Includes lessons. Horse is boarded in the east Parker area. Linda Ohlson Gross 303-840-9818.

TACK/EQUIPMENT

Great Dressage Arena for Sale A Premier Classic Arena is available from Tri State Dressage. Used for three shows, will stand up to extreme wind. Please call Tammy Fagen 307-856-5451 or tfagen@wyoming.com

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Region 5

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Funding support provided by The Dressage Foundation

For more information, and registration go to
www.usdf.org or call 859-971-7047



Chapter News

Boulder Valley Dressage

Thanks to the hard work of Glenda Needles our 2006 year end banquet was a roaring success. Close to fifty of our members gathered for a great evening of wonderful food, delicious drinks, terrific friends, and to share congratulations for our successes during the show season. Glenda Needles did a wonderful job putting together not only the banquet but a new addition this year – a silent auction.

We had some very enthusiastic bidding, and a good time was had by all. Donations came from many sponsors including The Tack Collection, Upscale Tails, Boulder Valley Vet Clinic, Progressive Nutrition, Front Range Pet and Supply and Rock Bottom Restaurants. Please make sure that you take a moment to thank our generous sponsors for all of their support.

We also want to thank Single Tree Farms and Somerset Farms for donating their facilities for our Spring Fling and So Long To Summer shows. During our awards presentation Autumn Hill Farms generously donated their facility for our Adult Amateur Camp which we will hold in the summer. 2007 is shaping up to be one of our best years ever – please consider volunteering to help out with one of the shows, adult amateur camp or any other activities you would like to see us organize. Don't forget to sign up for our Spring Fling Schooling Show on April 28 and our Spring Fling regular show on April 29 the show manager is Patti Taylor and she can be contacted at 303-772-3087 or patti_taylor@earthlink.net

Our next meeting will be held on Monday April 9 at a location to be announced. Please check the website for more details and for a complete listing of all the year end award winners.

*Claudia Barkmeier
President Boulder Valley Dressage
cbarkmeier@rwbaird.com
303-417-1675 h
303-786-7240 w*

Foothills Dressage

Foothills is planning two RMDS shows, May 20th, 2007, and Sept. 16th 2007. Check for details at our website

Foothills will be offering another scholar-

ship this year, so check back to the website for announcements. www.foothillsdressage.org

Thanks to the members who assisted at the RMDS TD training seminar! It was like an episode of "What Not To Wear."

Due to difficulties finding a cooperative venue, the annual Ride-A-Test will be on hold until further notice, and may be reformatted.

The laptop has resurfaced in good working order, complete with show software, so the club is ready to train new secretaries.

Our last meeting was cancelled due to weather, but officers are meeting online and will be back with the latest news and plans. Have a great show season!

Kathy King Johnson

Tri State Dressage

Up here in the frozen north, we are planning our schooling series and looking forward to SPRING!!! Please check out our web site if you would like to be a part of this fun opportunity. www.tristatedressage.net We unfortunately have to step back from having recognized shows for the time being. The cost for us has become prohibitive both financially and in terms of volunteer hours compared to the number of riders that want to compete. Our schooling shows are always full and fun. This year will see us returning to Casper for one show of the series. Plan on joining us!

Please check out our ad for an arena in the classified section. It is in great shape and available immediately.

High Plains

High Plains decided to cancel the Spring Into Dressage Show that was to be held on March 3. We think that all of you can figure out why - SNOW! The warmup arena was full of snow and the parking area was a combination of snow, mud, and ice. To those of you who were planning on attending, we apologize for the short notice.

In June, we are planning a combination show/clinic at the Colorado Horse Park. Snow will hopefully not be an issue at that time! We are looking for members to help get the show together so if you are interested please contact Alex Curnutte, 303-663-0358.

In February, the chapter held a show readiness clinic that was well attended. We had Bridgit Milnes and Kathrine Mistral teach scribing, Terri Wallace taught scoring, Kate Engel went through filling out entries and several other members helped with Ring Steward information. Francis Carbonelle had a wonderful presentation on correct braiding, Colleen Diamond was there to give information about Young Riders and the upcoming RMDS Jr. Camp. Our thanks go out to all the members who volunteered their time to put this on and to those current members and non-members who attended.

The next few months we will be concentrating on the June show and discussing if we want to do any other events. Member input is very important, so try and attend the meetings. The March meeting will be on March 20, 7 pm at Jock'n'Jills in Parker. We will have the April meeting in Elizabeth on April 17, place TBA. Our hope is that some of you will attend and use these opportunities to voice your interests.

Alex Curnutte, President

Northern Colorado Dressage Assoc.

NCDA Announces Two Schooling Shows; March 11 and April 15

Due to their perennial popularity, several schooling shows are going to be sponsored again this spring by Northern Colorado Dressage Association. NCDA's spring series has a well-deserved reputation as a great place to start up the show season in a fun, positive, and supportive environment. And with changes being debuted by USDF this year for tests at all the levels, even seasoned competitors may be looking for an early chance to ride the tests in front of a judge.

Show manager Paula Lunberry has lined up a favorite venue, Fort Collins Equestrian Center, as the location for both the March 11th (Sunday) and April 15th (also Sunday) shows. It's a privilege for NCDA to be among the first to use the recently remodeled FCEC facilities, which were upgraded with the addition of a show-quality outdoor arena and new footing in the indoor arena. For those competitors who plan to enter NCDA's Rocky Mountain Dressage Classic in June, take note of the fact that this show

Chapter News

will also be held at FREC (nice for your horse to recognize the facility from having participated in the schooling shows!).

While Paula is still working on a judge for the March show, she has enlisted Steamboat Springs' Regina Wendler to judge the April show. The schooling show series prize-list can be e-mailed upon request (contact susiegordon@comcast.net). Don't miss the opportunity to enter these shows; after a long, cold, snowy winter that created limited riding conditions for many of us, they're bound to fill up quickly!

Penrose

Our meeting for February was held at Diritos Restaurant. We were delighted to have Jane McBride, new RMDS president as our guest speaker. She showed us a USDF video on the new headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, and answered many questions about how it adds to our sport and also gave us a new awareness of the pledge made by RMDS.

Our officers for the year are: President: Cat Siemiet, VP: Marlene Coonradt, Treasurer: Debbie, and Secretary: Sis Harmon.

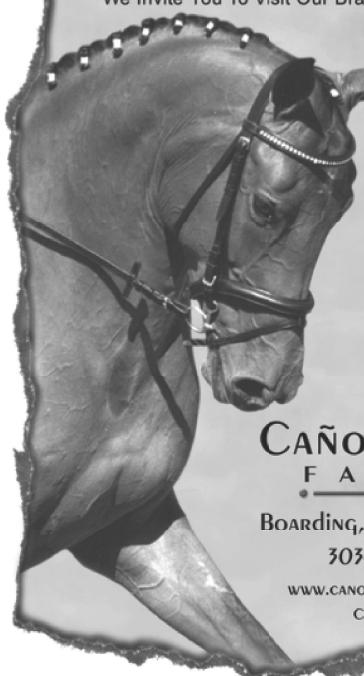
Members expressed interest in having clinics this year, a membership drive, and fundraisers. Scheduled events thus far are a lunging/riding clinic by Karen Randall, a tack sale, a ride a test/show, and a trail ride and picnic. A newsletter has been created by new member Marcy Wadlington, called "The Percolater". It will be distributed around town; with the goal of attracting new members. We will encourage businesses and individuals to advertise in it. A club website is also in the plans.

We are hoping to create a support group within the club to encourage the sharing of ideas and to possibly go as a group to educational clinics and shows. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 7.

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We are also currently booking spaces for upscale vendors for the upcoming **Polo for the Cure on June 23rd and 24th**.

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact Tara or Erica at the number listed below.

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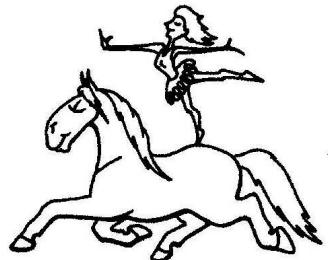
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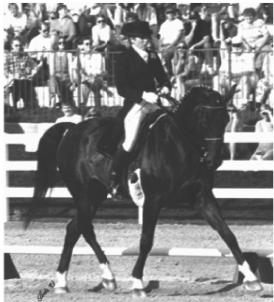
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